



Enhancing the lives of BC's  
children and youth with FASD

# Promoting Prevention, Providing Support



The Victoria Foundation is pleased to be helping enhance the lives of children and youth living with FASD and their families. In 2006, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development asked the Foundation to manage and distribute the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Fund.

The Fund was created to promote prevention and support projects for children and youth with FASD. The Ministry selected the Victoria Foundation to host this fund because of its proven granting experience, administrative capabilities and prudent financial investment policy.

## Education and Better Outcomes Forever

The FASD Action Fund has three focuses:

- » To promote prevention, public education, and parent and caregiver education;
- » To improve outcomes for children and youth with FASD; and
- » To support the ministry's goals forever by creating a place where people can donate funds to address the needs of children and youth with FASD.

FASD is the most common form of preventable brain injury to infants in the western world. It's preventable because there is no safe time and no safe amount of alcohol to consume while pregnant or when trying to conceive.

## Community-Based Decision-Making

An advisory committee made up of people representative of the community served by the fund promoted its availability, evaluated applications and made granting decisions. The Victoria Foundation supported the work of this committee and distributed the funds based on their decisions.

The advisory committee's funding objectives were to:

- » Reduce the incidence of FASD;
- » Improve the quality of life for people living and working with FASD;
- » Provide appropriate and readily available information and resources; and
- » Increase public education about FASD.

Committee members put in countless hours of thorough review and thoughtful deliberation, ensuring that the funds were used efficiently and effectively – supporting as many individuals, families and communities as possible.

FASD is not isolated to a specific demographic – it touches all social classes, ethnic groups and communities throughout BC and the world.



#### Grant Use

Grants from the FASD Action Fund were used for education, support services, research and more. Non-profit societies, universities, health authorities and school districts developed projects and programs to provide support, promote prevention and meet the needs of their communities.

### Building Supports & Services

Grants from the FASD Action Fund funded a range of demonstration projects – from a small 8-month photography project to a large research project on the effects of FASD on sleeping patterns. As demonstration projects, their activities and results are being documented and evaluated through a formal evaluation process led by an academic research team.

Grants were also awarded for a series of projects to promote prevention and education for parents, caregivers and the public.

These grants have helped build relationships, services and individualized support for people with FASD.

#### Grant Distribution

The FASD Action Fund has reached thousands of individuals and families living and dealing with FASD in BC. To date, 45 projects have been funded across the province, injecting almost \$9 million into FASD support, education and resources. An endowment fund established by the Province will continue to provide resources for FASD in perpetuity.

### Benefiting people throughout BC

There are many benefits of this fund:

**Supports and services.** Over 110 communities throughout BC identified and responded to the needs in their community.

**Awareness and understanding.** Within communities, cultures, classrooms and government, people have developed a deeper understanding of FASD.

**Belonging and community.** People living with FASD developed skills, confidence and new connections.

**Capacity-building.** Communities and organizations used the fund to build their capacity to respond to the needs of those living with FASD.

**Relationships.** Community organizations made connections and long-lasting relationships that support innovative thinking on how to support people and families with FASD.

**Efficiency.** By having this fund held by the Victoria Foundation it was managed efficiently and effectively, ultimately putting more dollars into communities.

**Return on investment.** Interest earned on the fund provided more funding for projects and communities.



The results of FASD are lifelong and irreversible. Health Canada estimates that for every 1,000 births in our province, nine infants will be affected in some way.



“I have a daughter who we adopted and she has FASD. What I learned here will help me be a better parent. Not just me; the whole family will have tools in dealing with her. I used to think she just doesn’t get it and now I know why. Her brain is different and we as a family have to talk and teach her differently”

– Dad, Vancouver, *Sleeping Gifts, Circle of Eagles Lodge Society*

“Getting the FASD diagnosis has made a vast difference in my life. It has given me a bit of closure and opened lots of doors. I now understand where some of my problems lie and where to go from here. It feels good that there is scientific data behind the assessment.”

– Participant, Victoria, *FASD Diagnostic and Assessment Clinic, Beacon Community Services*



## For more information or to give

To learn more about the FASD Action Fund or to give to a fund for FASD, contact the Victoria Foundation at 250-381-5532 or visit our web site at [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca).



CONNECTING PEOPLE  
WHO CARE WITH CAUSES  
THAT MATTER®

Founded in 1936, the Victoria Foundation is a charitable organization that manages funds gifted to them either in perpetuity or for specific purposes, such as the FASD Action Fund. The funds or the earnings from them are then distributed as grants for charitable purposes.