

News Release

For Immediate Release
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Grants Totalling \$762,120 Awarded for FASD

VICTORIA – Five grants totalling \$762,120 have been awarded from the \$10-million Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Fund established by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development and held by the Victoria Foundation.

“FASD is the most common birth defect occurring in the western world,” said the fund’s advisory committee chair Jan Lutke. “This brain injury is permanent and results in lifelong challenges in all areas across the lifespan.”

September is FASD awareness month in Canada. Health Canada estimates that for every 1,000 births, nine infants will be affected by FASD.

“These grants will promote prevention and education on FASD, and fund projects designed to improve the quality of life for people living with the disorder,” said Victoria Foundation board chair Chuck Burkett.

The FASD Action Fund was established in 2006 with three focuses: \$2 million to promote prevention, public education, and parent and caregiver education; \$7 million for projects that focus on improving outcomes for children and youth with FASD; and \$1 million in an endowment fund to help attract additional funding through community contributions.

“This government is committed to supporting the healthy development of every child, youth and family in B.C.,” said Children and Family Development Minister Mary Polak. “Development of FASD prevention programs and support systems for children and youth living with FASD and their families is included in the Province’s Strong, Safe and Supported action plan, and we’re pleased to partner with the Victoria Foundation in addressing this need.”

The Victoria Foundation is a community foundation 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 through grants for charitable purposes.

Since 2003, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has provided the Victoria Foundation with \$57 million to help communities throughout B.C. meet the needs of children, youth and their families. More than 180 organizations and thousands of British Columbians have benefited from these funds.

For more information on the FASD Action Fund or to donate to it, visit the Foundation website at www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca or call 250-381-5532.

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List of funded projects below.

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Fund Grants
for Promoting Prevention, Public Education, and Parent and Caregiver Education**

Recipient	Grant Purpose	Amount
John Howard Society of the Central And South Okanagan	This project will educate front-line workers in the criminal justice system on identifying and responding to young adults with FASD, and provide a point of referral and professional support for affected individuals.	\$219,168
Pacific Community Resources Society	This project will develop an Aboriginal approach to preventing FASD and engaging parents and caregivers. Police-specific FASD training will also be adapted for all service agencies in the criminal justice system.	\$179,610
Women's Health Research Institute	This project will support mothers with substance use problems who have permanently lost a child and who are at risk of having a future child with FASD through education and support.	\$156,300
Alberni Valley FASD Community Action Group	This initiative aims to reduce continued involvement of Aboriginal youth affected by FASD in the criminal justice system through awareness and education for both youth and professionals.	\$110,042
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Society of BC	This project will develop and pilot FASD training for professionals and service providers who help youth navigate the criminal justice system, specifically for those with a language disability and associated reasoning impairment.	\$97,000