



**FASD**  
The Northwest Alberta  
Service Network

# The Northwest Knot

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**T**he *Northwest Knot* is the first newsletter created on behalf of the Northwest Alberta Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Service Network.

The goal of this publication is to provide news and information about FASD and FASD-related activities in the northwestern region of Alberta.

We also hope that the circulation of this newsletter will help raise awareness about FASD and the supports that are available in our communities.

In this first issue we have provided some background information about the Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network, and the province-wide FASD initiative.

We have also showcased the community agencies that the Network has contracted with this year to enhance and develop FASD supports and services for individuals and families.

In addition to the agencies featured within this issue, the Northwest Alberta region is home to a variety of community agencies, organizations, and volunteers that are committed to improving the lives of individuals affected by FASD.

If you are looking for supports in your community, we encourage you to contact the FASD Coordinator who will assist you with finding the appropriate supports given the needs of yourself or your family.



## Getting to know ... The Alberta FASD Initiative

**F**etal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is believed to affect approximately 23,000 Albertans. For this reason, FASD is recognized as an important health and social issue affecting Albertans today.

As a result of the growing concern related to FASD, the Government of Alberta has established the Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee. The Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee (FASD-CMC) was formed in 2002 from a partnership of government ministries, provincial and community organizations. The FASD-CMC has developed an integrated government-wide 10-Year FASD Strategic Plan for the prevention and management of FASD in Alberta.

Part of the Strategic Plan has included the development and enhancement of 12 FASD Service Networks across the province (see map on Page 6).

The Strategic Plan also includes guiding principles for the co-ordination and implementation of FASD services across Alberta in the following areas:

- Awareness and Prevention
- Assessment and Diagnosis
- Supports for Individuals and Caregivers
- Research and Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Training and Education
- Stakeholder Engagement

Please visit the following website for more information about the FASD Initiative, Strategic Plan and the FASD Education Series available in your community: <http://www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca/>

## Getting to know...

# The Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network

The Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network formed in 2007 with support and funding from the Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee.

The goals of the Network are to build community capacity and enhance collaboration in addressing the following issues:

- **Targeted and Indicated Prevention:** Providing mentorship to women at risk of giving birth to a child affected by FASD
- **Assessment and Diagnosis:** Providing assessments and diagnoses for children, youth and adults across the lifespan
- **Supports for Individuals and Caregivers:** Providing continuous supports and services across the life span and respectful of cultural differences

This year (Year 2 of Network funding), the Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network was awarded a grant of approximately \$950,000 by the Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee.

These funds have been used to support the **enhancement** and delivery of FASD-related services throughout the Northwest Alberta Service Network.

A total of five (5) agencies were awarded contracts for Year 2 of the Network. All five agencies have vast experience providing quality services and supports to persons with disabilities, including FASD.



# A Warm Welcome to Our Service Providers!

**Below you will find more details and contact information about each of the Service Providers that have been awarded funding by the FASD Network this year.**

## **Accredited Supportive Living Services — FASD Diagnostic and Support Services:**

Accredited Supportive Living Services Limited (ASLS), established in 1969, is an accredited agency located in Grimshaw, AB.

The ASLS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program offers FASD services to the following communities: Peace River, Grimshaw, Manning, Fairview, and Nampa areas.

Services offered in the Peace River, Grimshaw, Manning, Fairview, and Nampa areas include:

- Diagnostic and Assessment Services
- Mentorship for At-Risk Mothers
- Support for Individuals with FASD (Birth to 18 years)
- Support for Caregivers of Individuals with FASD/suspected FASD
- Referrals & Education
- Resource Library
- Intervention and Prevention

Contact information:

- Katherine Diebold, FASD Support Worker and Mentor, (780) 624-1943
- Julie Langlois, FASD Diagnostic Coordinator, (780) 332-4183 ext. 112

The ASLS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program also offers the following services in the Grande Prairie and surrounding area:

- Diagnostic and Assessment Services
- Support for Individuals with FASD
- Mentorship for At-Risk Mothers
- Support for Caregivers of Individuals with FASD/suspected FASD (for caregivers with children ages 6 and up).
- Referrals
- Intervention and Prevention

Contact information:

Lori Woodford, FASD Diagnostic Coordinator, (780) 539-0433 ext 110  
Sacha Balaski, FASD Support Worker/Mentor, (780) 539-0433 ext 109

## **Alberta Health Services—Aboriginal Health FASD program:**

The Aboriginal Health Program offers liaison between Aboriginal clients and health care providers in order to reduce barriers to service for Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal Health Program will be enhanced to include an Aboriginal FASD Support Worker. The Aboriginal FASD Support Worker will provide the following supports to the community of Grande Cache and surrounding Cooperatives and Enterprises:

- Mentorship for At-Risk Mothers
- Support for Caregivers of Individuals affected by FASD/suspected FASD
- Support for Individuals affected by FASD
- Transitional support for males affected by FASD who are leaving the prison system.

Contact information:

Please call the FASD Coordinator for more information about this program at 780-513-7544.

## **Goodwill Industries of Alberta— FASD REACH Program:**

Goodwill Industries of Alberta is a registered charity and not for profit society. The FASD REACH program will provide individuals with diagnosed or suspected FASD with the opportunity to enhance their employability skills in order to obtain and maintain viable employment.

Goodwill Industries of Alberta offers the following services to the Grande Prairie and surrounding area:

- Life skills training
- Employability skills such as work experience
- Resume development and interview techniques
- Job search techniques and on-the-job training

Contact information:

Kerri Woodgate, Employment Counsellor, (780) 402-6348  
Cathy Boyd, Manager, (780) 402-6348

# A Warm Welcome to Our Service Providers!

## The Northern Association for FASD—FASD Circle of Community Supports & Diagnosis

The Northern Association for FASD is a non-profit society formed in 2002.

The mission of the Northern Association for FASD is to provide awareness and understanding of FASD within the community through prevention, diagnosis and support services.

This association offers the following services to the communities of High Prairie, Fox Creek and Valleyview areas:

- Diagnostic and Assessment Services
- Mentorship for At-Risk Mothers
- Support for Individuals with FASD
- Support for Caregivers of Individuals with FASD/suspected FASD
- Resource Library & Education
- Intervention and Prevention

Contact information:

Charlene McLay, FASD Diagnostic/Support Coordinator and Supervisor  
(780) 523-3699; [nafasd@telus.net](mailto:nafasd@telus.net)

Shaun Briand, FASD Family Support and Mentorship, (780) 523-3699; [s\\_nafasd@telus.net](mailto:s_nafasd@telus.net)  
Internet Fax # (866) 233-0582



## WJS Generations FASD Program

WJS provided supports and services to the Northwest Alberta FASD Service network in 2008. The Network is very excited that WJS will be providing a range of supports to the Network area again this year.

WJS is a multi-service organization providing supports to a variety of client populations across the country. The Generations FASD Program offers the following services to the communities of Peace River, Grimshaw, Fairview, Manning and Nampa area:

- Follow-up diagnostic supports for youth and adults who have been diagnosed with FASD
- Supports to adults affected by FASD (or suspected of being affected by FASD)
- Supports to youth in transition to adulthood who are affected by FASD

Contact information:

Kathy Archer, Program Manager, (780)624-8550; [karcher@wjsgroup.com](mailto:karcher@wjsgroup.com)

Peter Hock, FASD Community Specialist, (780)624-8550; [phock@wjsgroup.com](mailto:phock@wjsgroup.com)

**NORTHWEST  
ALBERTA FASD  
SERVICE NETWORK**

If you have any ideas for newsletter articles, or questions about FASD services in your area please contact the FASD Network Coordinator at the number below:

Contact Information:  
Carey Williams,  
FASD Network Coordinator

Phone: (780) 513-7544  
Fax: (780) 402-8149  
E-mail: [info@nwfasdnetwork.ca](mailto:info@nwfasdnetwork.ca)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.nwfasdnetwork.ca](http://www.nwfasdnetwork.ca)

# Who is served by the Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network?

The Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network is one of 12 networks established in 2007 by the Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee.

The Northwest Alberta FASD Service Network is responsible for the comprehensive coordination and delivery of FASD-related services in the Northwest Alberta Service Network catchment area.

The Network's service area includes the three major service areas of Peace River, High Prairie, and Grande Prairie.

The network boundaries reach north to Manning, east to Kinuso, south to Fox Creek and Grande Cache, and west to the border of British Columbia.



- Network Boundary**
- Mackenzie Regional FASD Network
  - Northwest Alberta FASD Network
  - Northeast Alberta FASD Network
  - Northwest Central Alberta FASD Network
  - Lakeland Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Society
  - Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network
  - Prairie Central FASD Network
  - Central Alberta FASD Network
  - Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network
  - Southeast Alberta FASD Network
  - South Alberta FASD Network
  - South Alberta FASD Network
  - Métis Settlements FASD Network