



# Adoption Council of Ontario

**Parents, Adoption Professionals, Healthcare providers  
and Teachers of Children and Adolescents with FASD**

## **Parents, Adoption Professionals, Healthcare providers and Teachers of Children and Adolescents with FASD**

A number of children who are adopted in Ontario have or are at risk of developing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Adoptive parents willingly accept the responsibility for these children recognizing the importance of these children having the stability, security and support of a caring and nurturing family. Adoptive families and adoption professionals in Ontario believe that “every child deserves a forever family” and particularly these children who have so many strengths that can be developed despite the challenges imposed by the impact of prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol.

However, the parents of these children need the support of government to ensure that each child has the maximum opportunity to experience success. FASD impacts children on many fronts – education, health, social and recreational. Caring for a child with FASD can be tiring and frustrating when families are deprived of the supports they need. Ontario is sadly lacking access to supports that are recognized in other states and provinces as being beneficial for children and families.

### **A Call to ACTION:**

The **FASD Stakeholders Group of Ontario** is a group of parents and professionals who are advocating for supports for the many families who are dealing with children with FASD. ([www.fasdontario.ca](http://www.fasdontario.ca)).

This group needs your help in advocating for services.

You are invited to participate in an online survey of service providers for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

This survey should take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete and your responses are confidential as only the researchers will have access to the data.

The results of this study will be used to prepare recommendations for action to the FASD stakeholders. The report will be available on the website of the FASD Stakeholders of Ontario ([www.fasdontario.ca](http://www.fasdontario.ca)).

This survey will be accessible until **Monday April 13, 2009**.

If you are a parent or caregiver and would like to participate, please click on the link below

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mpkXcnFlvJsTQIE6QuuV2w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mpkXcnFlvJsTQIE6QuuV2w_3d_3d)

Please forward this message on to anyone who may be interested in participating in this survey. We would like to hear from as many people as possible.

If you would like any more information about this study please contact Laurie Whyte at [whytelaurie@rogers.com](mailto:whytelaurie@rogers.com).

**In addition, Paula Schuck of the London Coalition for Adoptive Families has the following request for action:**

“I attended the Alberta FASD Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder conference in Edmonton in Feb. and came back with a good deal of information. Out of that however I learned that in both the U.S and Canada, this is a condition that is not contained in the DSM. The DSM is a tool that psychiatrists, doctors and other medical professionals use as a guide to diagnose and treat conditions. Dan Dubrovsky, a leading FASD expert and father of a son with FASD, said at the conference that FASD needs to be included in the next edition of the DSM - due out in 2010 or 2011 - in order for the condition to be taken more seriously and therefore studied and funded properly.”

I urge you all to write or email: [DSM@psych.org](mailto:DSM@psych.org)

**A suggested letter:**

*It has come to my/ our attention that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is not contained within the current edition of the DSM. There are an estimated 300,000 Canadians with FASD - a number that is greater than the number of people diagnosed with HIV, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida and Down Syndrome all combined. I urge you strongly to include FASD in the next edition of the DSM so that families dealing with this condition get support, diagnosis and services needed.*

**Please take a few minutes to act on these requests!**



Every Child Deserves a Forever Family.

[www.adoption.on.ca](http://www.adoption.on.ca)

