

Call for Abstracts

Stronger Than Stigma: Reframing FASD

Conference Dates: November 3–4, 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline: July 31, 2026

We invite researchers, practitioners, clinicians, educators, community partners and individuals with lived experience to submit abstracts for Stronger Than Stigma: Reframing FASD. This conference focuses on advancing knowledge, practice, and dialogue in the field of FASD and the stigma surrounding FASD.

Why this conference matters:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the leading known neurodevelopmental disability in Canada. Its impacts extend far beyond health care, intersecting with justice, education, child welfare, housing, substance use services, mental health systems, and social policy.

Too often, misunderstanding and stigma overshadow the realities of FASD. Individuals and families frequently face blame, discrimination, and barriers to diagnosis and support. Reframing FASD requires coordinated, cross-sector engagement — and a collective commitment to replacing stigma with knowledge, compassion, and action.

This conference will unite professionals, policymakers, researchers, service providers, caregivers, and people with lived experience to:

- Share emerging research and promising practices
- Strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration
- Address structural stigma and systemic barriers
- Promote strengths-based approaches
- Advance meaningful prevention and support strategies

Audience:

This conference is designed for professionals, service provider, policy makers, researchers, families and adults with FASD. Attendees will come from a wide array of sectors, including Health care, education, family support, disability services, substance use, housing,

solicitor general, justice, mental health, child welfare and others. It is anticipated that there will be 300+ attendees.

About LCFASD:

The Lakeland Centre for FASD serves northeast Alberta and a broad surrounding region, delivering prevention initiatives, diagnostic services, professional training, interventions, and ongoing supports.

As Alberta's first organization dedicated specifically to FASD, LCFASD has developed and implemented service models that continue to influence practice across Canada and internationally.

Learn more at lcfasd.com

Conference details:

November 3–4, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton & Home2 Suites by Hilton West Edmonton
16615 – 109 Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta

The structure of the conference includes:

Nov 3

- 11:00 Registration & Networking
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Plenary Session
- 2:15 Sessions
- 4:30 Wrap Up

Nov 4

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Welcome and Plenary
- *Morning Sessions*
- 12:00 Lunch
- *Afternoon Sessions*
- 3:30 Final Plenary

Presentation Formats

- 60-minute presentation
- 30-minute presentation
- 15-minute presentation

The abstract committee has the discretion to modify the presentation format to accommodate the conference program.

All sessions must allocate at least 25% of time for discussion.

Submission Requirements

1. Presentation title and format preference
2. Submission theme
3. Authors and affiliations plus 75-word biographies for each presenter
4. Abstract (maximum 400 words) including background, methods, results, conclusions where applicable
5. 2–4 learner focused learning objectives
6. Paragraph describing broader relevance to FASD and stigma plus future research questions

Submission Themes

- Addictions
- Biomedical
- Community/Family
- Cultural
- Diagnosis/Screening/Assessment
- Economics
- Education
- Employment
- Ethics/Social Justice
- Etiology
- Indigenous
- Intervention/Support
- Justice/Legal
- Mental and Physical Health
- Policy
- Prevention
- Services
- Women
- Other: please specify

Submission Process

Email submissions to: diagnostics@lcfasd.com (include '**ABSTRACT**' in subject line).

Deadline for submissions is July 31, 2026.

Presenter Information

- Accepted primary presenters will receive early bird registration rate
- Honoraria, travel, and accommodation are not provided
- Presenters must present and answer questions in English
- Audience is expected to have prior knowledge of FASD
- Sessions are 60 minutes, participants will have 3 options to choose from
- Some sessions will be grouped together with common topics
- Sessions will be moderated
- Presenter slides will need to be provided to the planning committee at least one week prior to the event.

Have questions? Give us a call at 780-594-9905