



p: 780-594-9905 tf: 1-877-594-5454 f: 780-594-9907 Box 479, Cold Lake, AB T9M 1P1 **lcfasd.com**

July 31, 2023

Reeve Barry Kalinski Municipal District of Bonnyville

Dear Reeve,

This September 9th marks the Annual International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day. FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of individuals who were exposed to alcohol in the womb. Early identification and intervention can foster healthier outcomes for individuals with FASD.

FASD continues to be the leading disability in Canada. Research has shown FASD is more common than Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and Tourette's Syndrome combined. With 61% of pregnancies unplanned and 80% of Albertan women reporting drinking in the last year, the Lakeland Centre for FASD wants to ensure that our communities know the risk of alcohol use during pregnancy. We also recognize that there are many reasons a woman may consume alcohol during pregnancy, and the Lakeland Centre for FASD is a safe and non-judgmental support to any individual that may have been prenatally exposed to alcohol.

During the month of September, we will be sending encouraging messages on the importance of alcohol-free pregnancies. The Lakeland Centre for FASD will be hosting several events around the Lakeland region on FASD awareness. A list of events will be posted on our website at <u>www.lcfasd.com</u> along with our Facebook page.

As a leader in your community, we ask that you consider signing the attached proclamation to acknowledge International FASD Awareness Day and FASD day in the Municipal District of Bonnyville. We would be happy to arrange an opportunity to send a representative to witness the signing of the proclamation. This can be arranged by contacting the Lakeland Centre for FASD at 780-594-9905 or <u>Admin@lcfasd.com</u>.

Thank you for taking the time to read and review this proclamation and for your interest in supporting our efforts, along with FASD day. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Marilyne Thir FASD Day Committee Lakeland Centre for FASD