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July 10th, 2025

Reeve Barry Kalinski
Municipal District of Bonnyville

Dear Reeve,

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month and September 9th marks the Annual International FASD Awareness Day. FASD is a lifelong disability that affects the brain and body of individuals who were prenatally exposed to alcohol. Though individuals can have many strengths and challenges, early diagnosis and support can foster healthier outcomes.

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 81% 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 work to reduce stigma by recognizing that there are many reasons a woman may consume alcohol during pregnancy. Lakeland Centre for FASD is a safe and non-judgmental support for women, caregivers of, and individuals who may have been prenatally exposed to alcohol.

During 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 www.lcfasd.com and 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 month in the MD 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 Admin@lcfasd.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and review the proclamation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Murphy".

Lisa Murphy
Executive Director
Lakeland Centre for FASD

PROCLAMATION

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month and International FASD Day

September 2025

WHEREAS: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a diagnostic term that describes the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol; and

WHEREAS: Children and adults with FASD in Canada and around the world experience lifelong physical, mental, and behavioural difficulties, as well as learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Caregivers, families, professionals, and individuals living with FASD, as well as others around the world, will observe International FASD Awareness Month in September and Day on September 9, 2025, with a minute of reflection at 9:09 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Barry Kalinski, Reeve for the Municipal District of Bonnyville, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2025 to be

“Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day”

and September 2025 to be

“Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month”

in the Municipal District of Bonnyville.

I encourage everyone to act with compassion and understanding towards individuals who have experienced prenatal alcohol exposure and to take both personal and professional responsibility to become better informed about FASD and prevention strategies.

Signed,

Barry Kalinski

Reeve

Dated this 22th day of July, 2025