



From the Chair of FASD Stakeholders for Ontario

It is my pleasure to support the work of FASD Stakeholders for Ontario as the new Chair. FASD Stakeholders for Ontario is a group that works together to address issues related to FASD in the province. Our membership includes experts and specialists in research, health promotion, diagnosis, substance use, community and policy development, Justice services, FASD service delivery as well as family members who have intimate knowledge of the practical needs of individuals with this disability.

The Stakeholders is comprised of a Leads Group with two representatives from each of the five working groups: Diagnosis & Disability, Intervention & Support, Justice, Prevention, and Urban Aboriginal. Working groups focus on priority areas to strengthen individual, agency, community, provincial and national effectiveness related to FASD. They explore gaps and challenges related to this complex disability to advance knowledge and system support for individuals with FASD and to identify and promote prevention. As

priorities and emerging issues are identified, and as expertise and opportunities develop, it is my hope that the number of initiatives, membership and working groups will grow.

Public Health Agency of Canada has been a committed supporter of the development of the Stakeholders, recognizing not only the expertise at the grassroots level but also the importance of multi-sector collaboration.

With their support, the FASD Stakeholders for Ontario has become more established. Structure, governance, vision and mission have been defined. We are developing a communication strategy which includes this newsletter and the website FASDOntario.ca. Each will highlight resources developed or enhanced through Stakeholders' working groups and will provide an opportunity for further discussion and collaboration. For more information about FASD Stakeholders for Ontario, please contact me at info@fasdontario.ca

Sincerely, **Sheila Burns**, Chair,
FASD Stakeholders for Ontario

FASD Intergovernmental Action Network of Ontario

The FASD Intergovernmental Action Network of Ontario (FIANO) is a network of Ontario and federal government representatives who are working together to develop inter-governmental collaboration on the topic of FASD. They recently updated their terms of reference and are working on plans to increase the profile of FASD in different ministries and departments. The chair of FIANO is Susanne Warren, Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Unit, Children and Youth at Risk Branch, Policy Development & Program Design Division, Ministry of Children and Youth Services. She can be reached at susanne.warren@ontario.ca. The co-chair is

Donna De Filippis, FASD regional lead for Ontario, Public Health Agency of Canada.

FIANO was recently invited to participate in the National Roundtable - Model for Measuring Economic Impact of FASD in Canada. In June representatives of FIANO and FASD Stakeholders for Ontario will be presenting at the 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Education. Using the example of the regional FASD Ontario approach, the presenters will outline best practices to coordinate government and community inter-sectoral partnerships, identify opportunities and challenges and recommend next steps.

PURPOSE

This newsletter provides information that will help people in Ontario work together to address FASD. The newsletter reports on the activities of FASD Stakeholders for Ontario, and shares news of relevance to individuals, caregivers and service providers in Ontario who are working in the area of FASD.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

"FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioural and learning disabilities with lifelong implications."

FASD: Canadian Guidelines for Diagnosis, 2005

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URBAN ABORIGINAL WORKING GROUP

The Urban Aboriginal Working Group recently completed three projects, with the assistance of funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

FASD Housing Feasibility Study: This study looks at different models for supported housing across Canada, as well as current housing options in Ontario. Five hundred copies will be printed and distributed.

Process of FASD Diagnosis: This new manual is an easy-to-read guide geared for families and caregivers on what to expect as they go through an FASD assessment and diagnosis. The resource is available in print. It identifies the roles of clinicians and enhances understanding to reduce fears. The resource was recently distributed to all Ontario Health Units, Early Years Centres, CAPC and CPNP projects. The manual can be accessed

through the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres. Due to birth weight charts we are unable to post it online at this point.

Camp Resource Guide: This new book provides guidelines on how to plan activities for children with FASD. This resource will be useful to service providers who provide programming for children including day, overnight, after-school, weekend programs, camps or activity groups. The book will be made available to all families who participated in the March 2007 FASD camp and is available through the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres.

For More Information:

Kimberly Meawasige, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, kmeawasige@ofifc.org

PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

In 2007 the Prevention Working Group chose to enhance training about preventing and reducing alcohol use in pregnancy in high-risk groups by building on some of the excellent training tools developed previously by Breaking the Cycle and Ontario's North for the Children.

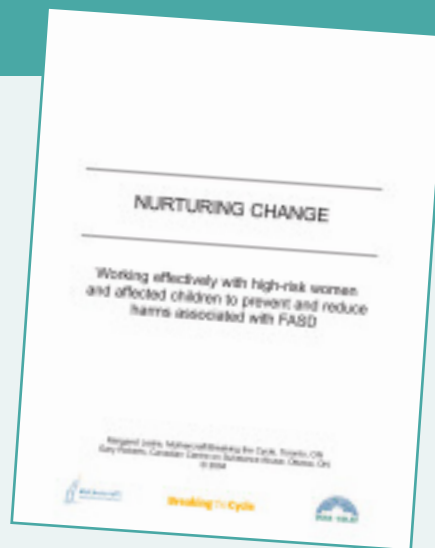
The Working Group produced a boxed set of DVD versions of "Different Directions / Nouvelles directions". These DVDs focus on:

- Different Directions: Understanding FAS
- Different Directions: Community Prevention of FAS
- Different Directions: FAS Prenatal Intervention

In addition, the training manual "Nurturing Change / Encourager le changement" was made available in print in both French and English. This manual was developed for front-line workers and focuses on how to engage and support pregnant women who use alcohol or other substances, and how to identify and support children who may be affected by prenatal alcohol exposure, and their families.

The working group wants to thank the Public Health Agency of Canada for providing the funding necessary to complete these projects. Complementary copies of these resources will

be distributed across Ontario to Healthy Babies Healthy Children programs, Ontario Early Years Centres, Aboriginal Head Start programs, CAPC and CPNP programs. To order hard copies of the Nurturing Change manual, go to btcycle@mothercraft.org. Nurturing Change is also available for free electronic download at www.mothercraft.ca. To order the Different Directions manual, videos or DVDS, go to www.ontariosnorthforthechildren.com



For More Information:

Susan Santiago, Motherisk, susan.santiago@sickkids.ca

Wendy Burgoyne, Best Start Resource Centre, w.burgoyne@beststart.org

INTERVENTION & SUPPORT WORKING GROUP



After the successful 2007 FASD Camp, most staff assembled for a celebration photo. Missing from photo: Greg Flynn, Kim Meawasige, Sonja Moore.

The Intervention & Support Working Group hosted their second successful camp weekend for children with FASD and their families. The camp took place March 16-18, 2007 at the beautiful YMCA Geneva Park facility in Orillia. The weather co-operated, and we had crisp snow and sunshine for all the activities, which took place both indoors and outdoors. The food was excellent, and we all looked forward to the nutritious and delicious meals we enjoyed together in the lakeside dining room.

"I got to make friends and play with kids like me."

Child participant in the FASD camp

Building on learnings from 2006, the Working Group fine-tuned their plans and the program to better meet the needs of families affected by FASD. Some new programming aspects this year included separate wellness workshops designed specifically for Moms and Dads and a Strategies not Solutions parenting session. Educational issues, brain injury workshops, a Mind Masters activity for caregivers and Reiki rounded out some of the new activities for parents and caregivers.

Aboriginal components were organised by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and Native Child and Family Services, Toronto with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada. These activities included drum making and personal shields for the children and the construction and use of an authentic sweat lodge supervised by an Elder.

When asked what they thought of their camp experience, many of the children stated that they thoroughly enjoyed it. In their evaluations, common themes were seen. The children had fun playing outside, they enjoyed spending time with their families and they had the opportunity to make new friends.

The workshops for the parents provided a variety of information, as well as resources for families affected by FASD. Many of the parents stated that one of the most valuable things they learned at camp was they're not alone. Almost every parent evaluation stated that they were comforted in the fact that others were going through similar experiences, and that every person at the camp understood what they were going through.

A total of 197 people attended the camp. This included 82 caregivers and 115 children (81 of the children had FASD and 34 were siblings). We served 47 families, and application forms were distributed as widely as possible across Ontario to gather people from as many parts of Ontario as possible. Our "staff" included 20 young adult YMCA staffers from Geneva Park and 25 volunteers from FASD Ontario.

For the second year, Timiskaming Brighter Futures, a program of Timiskaming Child and Family Services, managed the camp, under the direction of Pat Spadetto. Major funding for the camp came from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A report will be written on this year's camp, including the schedule, background information, planning and implementation details. There is a need for camps in other parts of Ontario. If you would like information about planning a camp for families affected by FASD or a copy of the 2007 FASD Camp report please contact: cunninghammary@rogers.com

FASD Camps:

- Provide support, enjoyment and education for families affected by FASD
- Provide an opportunity for individuals with FASD to make new friends
- Train and encourage those who provide care and support to individuals with FASD

For More Information:

Mary Cunningham, cunninghammary@rogers.com

Laura Spero, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Center, cha@soahac.on.ca

"I learned how to talk to my child, accept them for who they are, and build an effective relationship with them. It was better than anything I could have ever expected. Thank you!"

Parent participant in the FASD camp

DIAGNOSIS & DISABILITY WORKING GROUP



Participants in the meeting for Ontario FASD Diagnostic Clinics

The Diagnosis & Disability Working Group recently initiated three new projects. These projects were made possible through funding support from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Strengthening the Foundation

For the first time in Ontario, FASD Diagnostic Clinics met face to face. Operational FASD clinics and groups endeavoring to start up diagnostic services gathered in Toronto on March 15, 2007. The purpose was to strengthen the network, to explore models of delivery and strengths/ needs of FASD diagnostic services in Ontario. All clinics were present at the meeting, with representatives from many disciplines. The group further explored some of the challenges faced by the clinics with a focus on the psychological component of the FASD diagnostic assessment. The participants left the meeting with a greater understanding of what other teams are doing, how they can assist each other, what is working and what is missing. **Participants feel there is an urgent need for additional FASD diagnostic services in Ontario.**

How common is FASD in Ontario?

Many people ask this question. The answer will help us anticipate and meet needs of families affected by FASD. It has implications

for funding, prevention, intervention, diagnosis, support services, education, health care, etc. A study has been initiated on FASD incidence/prevalence in Ontario. It will be led by Dr. Stade with participation from a research associate Dr. A. Ali.

Role of Parents

FASD diagnosis provides benefits for individuals and families affected by FASD, but can be an emotionally challenging time. Parents often initiate the request for a diagnosis, and may have a role to play in gathering the information needed for the diagnostic process. This project will examine the role of parents in the diagnostic process and will recommend next steps for the involvement of parents.

For More Information:

Judy Kay, Healthy Generations Family Support Program, healthy@slhacl.on.ca

Brenda Stade, FASD Diagnostic Clinic, St Michael's Hospital, stadeb@smh.toronto.on.ca

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

In response to overwhelming requests for the Justice Committee's 2006 CD-ROM FASD and the Justice System, the Justice Committee decided to convert the CD content to a website fasdjustice.on.ca. Public Health Agency of Canada provided the funding for this project.

The CD was distributed to Ontario's judges, lawyers and crown attorneys in 2006 and was extremely well received. The growing requests for the CD from legal sources and FASD agencies and organizations throughout Ontario, Canada and internationally became a reproduction and distribution cost issue. Therefore, the concept of a website offered a very viable option. It also increases the accessibility of the information.

Our website, fasdjustice.on.ca, has many home page features:

- Translation capacity for nine languages
- Links to FASD organizations and justice system websites

- A feedback button to assist with content revision
- Court cases involving FASD-affected individuals
- A search function
- A site map
- Scrolling messages
- Case updates

For More Information:

Joyce Atcheson, Ka:nen Our Children Our Future, joycea@kanen.on.ca

Jonathan Rudin, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto, rudinj@lao.on.ca



FASD NEWS FROM ACROSS ONTARIO

FASD Capacity Building at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto

Four years ago, the Children's Aid Society of Toronto made FASD a service priority. In collaboration with the Catholic Children's Aid Society, funding was accessed from the Child and Youth Mental Health Innovation Fund of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to address FASD. They:

- Launched a series of introductory and advanced case management and screening trainings
- Organized a 2 day, cross-sector, city-wide FASD Community Capacity Building Consultation
- Organized, with Donna Debolt, FASD Specialist, numerous case planning consultations involving the significant adults in a child/youth's life
- Provided leadership to the development of the Toronto FASD Coordinating Network
- Conducted a focus group with foster and adoptive parents to determine respite needs
- Initiated a pilot project for children and youth in long-term care. The research component of the pilot project will measure the impact on greater placement and school stability as well as other positive outcomes for children/youth in care when served by trained and supported staff and caregivers who engage in enhanced case management. The pilot project has changed how service is provided to children affected by FASD. Expectations have become realistic and most importantly, children feel better about themselves, having more good than bad days.

FASD Activities in Algoma

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Committee of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma provides presentations and consultations to agencies, community groups or individuals seeking information about FASD. Education sessions are tailored to meet the specific needs of the group requesting information, but generally include a description of FASD and practical strategies that help affected individuals adapt to various environments. In 2006, the committee met with the following groups and individuals upon request:

- Education Assistants from the Algoma District School Board
- Adult learners taking the Sault College Continuing Education course about FASD
- Crisis Workers at the Sault Area Hospital
- Social Worker at the Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre to offer education opportunities for officers or residents
- Teachers and education assistants who have an FASD-affected child in their classroom

- Initiated a pilot project for improving outcomes for children in short-term care and those living at home. As a first step in appropriate case management and planning, two Toronto Branch, Community Based Pilot Project Teams now immediately refer to diagnostic services children, youth and parents/care providers believed to be affected by FASD. An interesting outcome to date is the self-acknowledged prenatal alcohol use by some parents, who disclose believing that the information will help their children.

The journey of learning, reflection and exploring new practice approaches is an exciting and challenging one. Staff and care providers have learned much from the children, youth, parents and pregnant women affected by FASD. They are our best teachers and CAST is committed to enhancing and expanding our capacity to better serve them. Our pilot projects are already proving that placement and school stability can be achieved when the systems serving children, youth and families work together and understand that FASD is a life-long disability.

Submitted By:

Sharron Richards, Community Development & Prevention Services

Mary Hutchings, Child and Youth Services Pilot Team

Franz Noritz, Community Based Pilot Project Team



FAS Day display at the Sault Ste. Marie Early Years Centre.

- Parents with questions about community services
- Students seeking information for assignments

More information is available on our website: www.adin.org/faisn

Submitted By:

Donna Caputo, Public Health Nurse, Algoma Public Health

FASD PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS IN ONTARIO

Durham FASD Parent Support Group

Location: Ajax
For more information:
edeveau@rfecdurham.com

FAS Treatment and Education Centre Support Group

Location: Belleville
For more information:
jillfastec@netscape.net

FASlink Fetal Alcohol Disorders Society

Location: Bright's Grove
For more information: info@faslink.org
or www.faslink.org

Dryden Native Friendship Centre

Location: Dryden
For more information:
jwessel.dnfc@drytel.net

Guelph FAS Parent/ Caregiver Support Group

Location: Guelph
For more information:
shiona.watson@sympatico.ca

Hamilton FASD Support Group

Location: Hamilton
For more information:
bstanley@cogeco.net

London FASD Foster and Adoptive Parent Support Group

Location: London
For more information:
ktomanec@caslondon.on.ca

Mount Forest FASD Caregiver Support Group

Location: Mount Forest
For more information:
shiona.watson@sympatico.ca

Fetal Alcohol Support and Information Centre

Location: North Bay
For more information:
elainecousineau44@msn.com

FASD Group of Ottawa

Location: Ottawa
For more information: rosse@ncf.ca

Wabano FASD Support Group

Location: Ottawa
For more information:
cipeltier@wabano.com

Peterborough County FASD Committee

Location: Peterborough
For more information:
peterborough_fasd_committee@cogeco.net

Niagara Parent Support Group for Alcohol Related Neuro-developmental Disorders

Location: Port Colborne
For more information:
chaymes@itcanada.com

Fetal Alcohol Information and Support Network

Location: Sault Ste. Marie
For more information:
the1collins.fassm@sympatico.ca

Healthy Generations Parent Support Group

Location: Sioux Lookout, ON
For more information:
healthy@slhacl.on.ca

Elgin-St. Thomas FASD Parent Support Group

Location: St. Thomas
For more information:
diane_white@rogers.com

FASworld Family FASD Support Group

Location: Toronto
For more information:
ogradey@pathcom.com

Fetal Alcohol Support and Information Network

Location: Thunder Bay
For more information:
fulton@northroute.net

FASD Parent Association of Toronto, Support through Education

Location: Toronto
For more information:
smhfasdsupport@aol.com

FASD Caregiver Support Group

Location: Townsend
For more information:
tpinkett@hnreach.on.ca

Waterloo Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Support Group

Location: Waterloo
For more information:
mbonnie@region.waterloo.on.ca

FASD Listservs

FASDay Listserv

Purpose: participants share ideas and activities for international FASD awareness day
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FASDAY/>

FASlink Listserv

Provides support and information to parents, service providers, government policymakers and others
<http://www.faslink.org/faslink.htm>

FASD National Link

To share information and connect with other persons working in the field of FASD across Canada
http://lists.von.ca/mailman/listinfo/fasd_national_link

For other FASD listservs, see:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/search?query=fasd>

Looking for Ways to Promote Your FASD Events?

- **Online Calendar of FASD Events, FASD Information Service:**
Submit event information online at www.ccsa.ca/CCSA/EN/TopNav/Home/Calendar/FASDEvent/
- **Online Journal of FAS International:**
Send an email with event information to susan.santiago@sickkids.ca at least 2 weeks before the event
- **FASD National Link Listserv:**
Send an email to fasd_national_link@lists.von.ca
- **FASD Stakeholders of Ontario Website:** send an email to info@fasdontario.ca

If you want your FASD Parent Support Group added to this list, please sent and email to info@fasdontario.ca

NEW FASD RESOURCES

A Bridge to Adulthood: Maximizing the Independence of Youth in Care with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

BC Government Special Report
www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/down/cyo_fasd_sept28.pdf

Even One is Too Many: A Call for a Comprehensive Action Plan for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Report of the Standing Committee on Health, Canada
<http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/>

Research Update: Alcohol Use in Pregnancy

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/publications_e.html

What We Have Learned: Key Canadian FASD Awareness Campaigns

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/publications_e.html

Mapping FASD Training Opportunities in Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/publications_e.html

Summary Report: National Forum on the FASD Diagnostic Guidelines

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/publications_e.html

Summary Report: National Thematic Workshop on FASD

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/publications_e.html

With Child, Substance Use During Pregnancy: A Women Centered Approach

Edited by Susan C. Boyd (Victoria) and Lenora Marcellus (Alberta)
Released March 2007
Available through:
www.fernwoodpublishing.ca

FASD TRAINING AND EVENTS

ONLINE:

Webcast of the 7th FACE Research Roundtable

www.motherisk.org/JFAS/econtent_commissionDetail.jsp?econtent_id=126

Online Video Tutorial on FASD Diagnosis

www.motherisk.org/prof/elearning.jsp#4

Online Diagnostic Training

Certificate Course, University of Washington
<http://depts.washington.edu/fasdnp/htmls/online-train.htm>

TRAINING EVENTS IN ONTARIO:

John's View of the World

St. Michael's Hospital FASD Clinic
April 14, 2007, Toronto, ON
For more information:
smhfasdsupport@aol.com

FASD: Strategies Not Solutions

The Hamilton FASD Taskforce
April 26, 2007, Hamilton, ON
To register call: 1-905-574-6876 x229

Train-the-trainer event on Problematic Substance Use in Pregnancy

The PRIMA Project
April 27 - 28, 2007, Toronto, ON
www.addictionpregnancy.ca

Legal and Financial Resources

St. Michael's Hospital FASD Clinic
May 12, 2007, Toronto, ON
For more information:
smhfasdsupport@aol.com

Building Resilience in Children with FASD

FASD Durham and Durham Children's Aid Society
June 5 & 6, 2007, Oshawa ON
For a conference brochure:
fasd@rfecdurham.com

OTHER FASD EVENTS

Mocktail and Smartini Party

Hamilton FASD Committee
April, 2007
Hamilton, ON
For more information: 1-905-296-1424

KEY TRAINING EVENTS OUTSIDE ONTARIO:

Colloque international : alcool & grossesse

April 26 - 28, 2007
Saint Louis, Reunion Island, France
For more information:
colloque@reunisaf.com

The 8th FACE Research Roundtable

September 7, 2007
Winnipeg, Manitoba
For more information:
www.motherisk.org/JFAS

Canada Northwest FASD Partnership Conference

May 21 - 24, 2008
Banff, Alberta
For more information:
www.cnfasdpartnership.ca/index.cfm

Photo Gallery – FASD Activities Across Ontario



The 2006 Ottawa FASD Awareness Day event was co-sponsored by The FASD Coalition of Ottawa and The Wabano Centre. It included a gathering on Parliament Hill where a town crier read a proclamation from the Mayor of Ottawa, officially designating the day as FASD Awareness Day in Ottawa. There was also a walk from Parliament Hill to Victoria Island and a family BBQ including children's activities, Aboriginal singing and dancing.



The Family Place Ontario Early Years Centre in Nipigon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitowadge held its 1st Annual FASD North Shore Walk Along on September 7, 2006, as a reminder that children affected with FASD will need someone to walk along with them for the rest of their lives.



FASD knots with bells used in FASD prevention activities in Nipigon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitowadge.



Ad for the first annual Mocktail and Smartini Party in Hamilton, re-scheduled to April, 2007 due to bad weather. It will be a night of live music, treats and a Mocktail Challenge with four local agencies vying for Mocktail Champion 2007. The party was planned by the Hamilton FASD committee.



Toronto FASD Support group honoured Blanche DaCosta, Mary Cunningham and Dr. Barry Stanley for their work in FASD. Bruce Ritchie is shown presenting awards to Mary Cunningham and Blanche DaCosta.

Development of this newsletter was supported by funding provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada or the government of Ontario. Resources mentioned in this publication are not necessarily approved or endorsed by the Public Health Agency of Canada or by the Best Start Resource Centre.

Need Ideas for FASDay?

It is that time again – many groups are busy working on plans for September 9, 2007, International FASDay. For ideas in planning for your 2007 FASDay activities, see:

Get Ready for FASDay

www.fasday.com

Fresh Ideas for FASDay

<http://come-over.to/FASDAY/FreshIdeas.htm>

FASDay Plan

www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/pdf/fasday.pdf

How To Do FASDay Manual

www.come-over.to/FASDAY/manual.htm

FASworld – International FASDay

www.fasworld.com

FASD National Strategic Projects Fund Request for National Proposals

Deadline: April 16, 2007

Proposals must be: National in scope

Priority: Training for FASD diagnosis

For more information:

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/rfp07_e.html

Want FASD Resources? Need FASD Services? Looking for FASD Events?

Go to CCSA's FASD Information and Consultation Service at: www.ccsa.ca/CCSA/EN/Topics/Populations/FASD.htm

Feedback about FASD Ontario News:

If you have any comments about this newsletter, or suggestions for future editions, please contact: wendyb@beststart.org

Also available in French