



FOR RELEASE
September 25, 2013

Ministers collaborate to help people affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham is in Edmonton this week meeting with his colleagues from the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership.

The partnership comprises Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, along with Yukon.

"Since its beginnings in 1999, the seven members of this partnership have worked collaboratively on the issue of FASD to determine best practices both in prevention and intervention and how we can best care for and support individuals living with the disability," Graham said.

During the meeting, ministers will hear from Institute of Health Economics chief executive officer and University of Alberta professor Dr. Egon Jonsson on the incidence, prevalence and economics of FASD.

The Canada FASD Research Network will also provide an update on its work. Originally established by the partnership and now independent, the network involves the seven partnership jurisdictions in its work in the areas of prevention, intervention and mentoring.

Graham will also attend the Prevention of FASD Conference held in conjunction with the ministers' meeting. This international conference is the first to address the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of FASD.

"FASD is something that can impact all of us in some way or another and I hope to come back with information on promising and innovative approaches for prevention, as well as hearing more about the barriers to prevention," Graham said. "We can only benefit from this international knowledge exchange and networking forum."

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