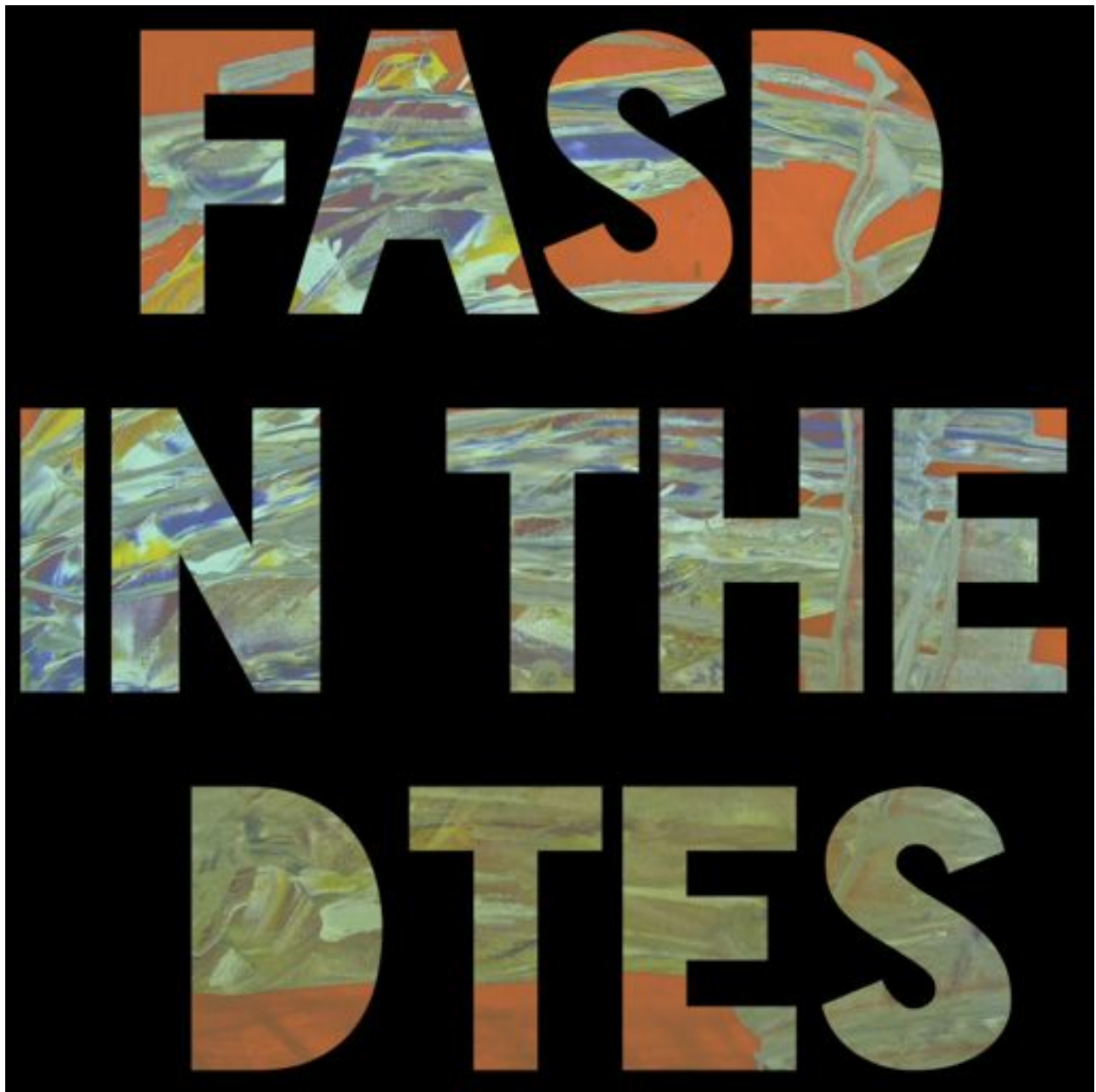


**Accommodating Fetal
Alcohol Spectrum
Disorders:**

**Hearts and Minds in
the Downtown
Eastside**



<https://fasdinthedtes.org>

Acknowledgements



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



Vancouver Native Health Society



In Partnership with:
Forest and the Femme Society
John Howard Society
YWCA Crabtree Corner
Vancouver Native Health Society
Ministry of Children and Family Development

About The Conference

Individuals employed in front-line and primary care in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) face the task of engaging and building relationships with clients who navigate their world in a seemingly chaotic manner. In order to better access and support these clients, it is crucial that individuals involved in this line of work have an understanding of the reasons behind much of the challenging behaviour they encounter on a day-to-day basis. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), attachment disorder, and complex trauma are examples of neurobehavioural conditions that can bring about challenging behaviour. This conference will not only provide insight into the daily struggles that these clients face, it will also provide relevant information for working with and alongside them in strengths-based ways.

The goal of this conference is to equip service providers with relevant and up-to-date information about neurobehavioural disabilities, while providing the skills necessary to improve outcomes for clients. This conference will present as an opportunity to bring together a variety of service providers who are currently working with marginalized populations in varying capacities in the lower mainland. In addition, this conference aims to highlight the existing programs in Vancouver that are working to support individuals with neurobehavioural conditions in innovative and inspiring ways. Our hope is that this conference will serve as an opportunity for the Vancouver community to come together and begin the task of bridging the gaps in service for individuals living in poverty, with addictions and a street-entrenched life.

Objectives

- Discuss and explain the root causes underlying challenging behaviour exhibited by individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, attachment disorders, sensory disorders, complex trauma, and other neurobehavioural disabilities.
- Explore the consequences and shortcomings of behavioural interventions implemented by standard programs aimed at serving clients with neurobehavioural disabilities in the Vancouver community.
- Consider and explore new, strengths-based, and proactive ways of working with the unique needs and challenging behaviours of clients.

Audience

The conference will be essential for service workers who work with adults with FASD and other neurobehavioural conditions. It will be of particular interest to the following professionals/ individuals listed below.

- Shelter support workers
- Housing support workers
- Aboriginal workers
- Outreach workers
- Social service providers
- Advocates
- Social workers
- Probation officers
- Community mental health workers
- Home support workers
- Alcohol and drug counsellors
- Nurses
- Community court workers

9:00 am to 9:30 am Registration

9:30 am - 9:40 am - Opening Ceremony

Coast Salish Opening Ceremony with Eugene Harry

9:40 am to 10:00 am - Opening Speech

Dr Evan Adams, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health

Dr Evan Adams is a Coast Salish actor and physician from the Sliammon Band near Powell River, BC, Canada. Since 2012, Dr Evan Adams has been appointed the Deputy Provincial Health Officer (DPHO) with responsibility for Aboriginal Health. In this role, he supports the work of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), reports on the health of Aboriginal people in BC, and supports the development and operations of

10:00 am - 10:15 am - Break

10:15 am to 12:15 am - Keynote Presentation

Kim Barthel

Sensation and Connection

Individuals experiencing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder often experience invisible disabilities that are frequently misunderstood. This keynote address provides understanding of the often debilitating sensory processing issues and their complex influence on challenging behaviours. Integrated interventions that combine regulation through relationship and sensory processing allows our clients to be better supported through a compassionate and holistic lens.

Kim Barthel, Occupational Therapist, Neurobiology of Attachment and Attunement, Sensory and NDT Instructor, is a world-renowned teacher and therapist, most active in the fields of relational trauma and sensory processing. Her revolutionary process reinforces the importance of relationship in therapy; blending the art of intuitive inquiry with cutting edge developments in neuroscience.

Highly sought after as a teacher and speaker, she collaborates with many different cultures, age-groups and nationalities including Keynote Speaking at the International Association for Study of Attachment in Cambridge, England and Bertinoro, Italy and presenting at the Science of Compassion Conference and Delegate at His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings in Mundgod, India. She travels extensively around the world developing services for children with developmental disabilities and trauma throughout India, Singapore, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong and supported non-partisan caregiver agencies dealing with child trauma based in Israel.

In her own country of Canada she has developed a mental health system for children in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut, expanded services supporting high-risk youth in Winnipeg and was the keynote speaker at the Conference of Resilience for First Nations Healing, to name a few. Barthel was the instructor in attachment theory and treatment through the Aulneau Centre in Winnipeg, the Canadian Restitution Centre for healing residential school trauma. She is the Author of "Evidence and Art" as well as contributing many chapters in different textbooks related to Occupational Therapy. Kim has taught widely on the topic of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and its effect upon function and

12:15pm to 1:15 pm Catered Lunch Break

Lunch hour includes the launch of a 15 minute FASD video release, followed by 4 FASD Trained Elders doing a question and answer period.

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm - Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Afternoon Breakout Session 1

Allison Pooley

Starting the Conversation: FASD, Mental Health and Addictions

The over-representation of mental health and addictions concerns among individuals with FASD has long been acknowledged, but the extent of the connection has only been more recently recognized. High prevalence rates of concerns were primarily considered to be due to environmental causes, including a poor fit between needs and supports. While this remains true for many people, there is now evidence demonstrating that many concerns are directly related to prenatal alcohol exposure. This session will explore some of the physiological causes of mental health and addictions for people with FASD, as well as some promising practices for support based on the 2013 Asante Centre study on the substance abuse treatment needs of justice-involved youth with FASD.

Bio:

Allison, B.Ed., B.A., joined the Asante Centre in 2009 as the Family and Community Support Coordinator, and became Program Director in 2011. Her role is multifaceted, combining aspects of program development and coordination, communications, client and family support, and Centre management. Allison assists individuals, family members and service providers in understanding the diagnostic process as well as the implications for providing integrated post-assessment supports and services. Allison has been involved in FASD prevention and intervention efforts for numerous years both in northern BC and the Lower Mainland, including work in early childhood education, the public school system, the criminal justice system, and adult support settings. She has provided direct support for families raising children and youth with FASD, and applies her experience to inform her practice in terms of education, consultation and resource development opportunities throughout the province.

Afternoon Breakout Session 2

Kim Barthel

Regulation Through Relationship

Attachment theory offers an understanding of our most basic relationship patterns. This session will explain how we can support complex clients through therapeutically-attuned relationships. It will outline the various self-protective strategies that emerge through early developmental trauma, and explore therapeutic relationship skills to help reorganize and rewire these strategies towards function and health.

Afternoon Breakout Session 3

Leslie Germain

Strategies for Housing and Community Success

Strategies for Housing and Community Success is a beginner level presentation that attempts to unravel some of the mysteries of challenging behaviours frequently encountered by service providers in the Downtown Eastside. In particular, those behaviours that result from, often undiagnosed, neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Recognizing that change needs to start with changing the attitudes of those who provide valuable services in the community, this presentation describes why the behaviours that result from an FASD are often challenging and misunderstood, using practical, relevant examples. Most importantly, this presentation outlines strength-based strategies and interventions for working alongside clients with an FASD that can be easily implemented to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviours, as well as significantly increase the quality of life of some of our communities most vulnerable members.

Bio:

Leslie Germain, a clinical counsellor and registered teacher, has been working in Mental Health and Addiction Services in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for several years. During this time Leslie has seen the incredible, positive impact of having access to population-specific FASD training and education. Those that work closely with FASD affected individuals in the DTES have little to no relevant training, which too often ends in evictions, being barred from important resources, inadequate access to health care, isolation and increasing vulnerability. These and many other social injustices moved Leslie to undertake the position of Education Coordinator with Forest and the Femme Society. In addition to her work in the Downtown Eastside, Leslie has been working in various educational roles since 2005. She is currently a counsellor with the Vancouver School Board.

Dr Barry Stanley MB Ch.B. F.R.C.S.[C]

Perseveration - The lens by which those afflicted with FASD interpret their relationships and environment.

This presentation relates the history, origin and concept of perseveration from 1900 to the present day. It describes the recognized types in relation to clinical conditions and diagnoses. Brain based research is included with its commonality to all the conditions associated with perseveration.

The relationship of perseveration to adaptive and executive functioning is emphasized. The place of FASD and prenatal alcohol exposure within these contexts is discussed with actual clinical examples.

Research on prenatal alcohol exposure continues to lag behind research on other related and relevant subjects, in spite of its pivotal place in the development of brain based disabilities and illnesses. This is seen in research on Perseveration, prenatal alcohol exposure and FASD compared to other conditions: it is minimal, although the threads that form the connections are well established. These threads are followed and related to the clinical cases that are described. The Implications and consequences of perseveration for the judicial and penitentiary systems are discussed.

Bio:

Founding Member of FASD Hamilton Support Group

Previous member of the FASD- Study Group of the Research Society on Alcoholism

Founding member and previous co chair of the diagnostic section of the FASD Ontario Stakeholders, now titled FASD ONE- FASD Ontario Network of Expertise.

Presentations made Ontario, B.C, England, Wales and N. Ireland.

Recognized as an expert witness for FASD by the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario.

FASD referrals were from social agencies, justice system, diagnostic clinics, schools, as well as self referrals.

FASD Clinics- five locations in Southern Ontario. Ceased work 2011.

2:45pm - 3:00 pm - Break

Afternoon Panel 1

Community Living British Columbia

Accessing Personalized Supports

This presentation will provide an overview of the services and supports that individuals with developmental disabilities can access through Community Living British Columbia (CLBC). The panel presentation will define who can qualify for these individualized supports and highlight the eligibility process.

Bio:

CLBC delivers supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities and their families in British Columbia. Created in 2005 by Government, in consultation with individuals and families, their mission is to provide a single focus agency to support people with developmental disabilities and their unique needs. CLBC's vision is one in which people with developmental disabilities are accepted and valued as citizens, lead good lives, have rich relationships with friends and family, financial security, choices in how they live their lives and employment opportunities. This is best described as people leading "good lives in welcoming communities". As a steward of this vision, CLBC is committed to fostering the growth of inclusive, supportive communities.

CLBC's mission is to respond to the needs and goals of individuals and families by recognizing their abilities and contributions, sharing leadership with communities, and funding supports that honour individual choice. CLBC's core values include: respect for individuals and their families, honesty, fairness, fostering creativity and innovation, accountability to those they serve and the promotion of a culture of responsibility and trust. More than just a job, CLBC is about compassion, commitment, contribution, collaboration, community and location. CLBC funds services that support more than 15,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Services are delivered through a network of 3,100 contracted service providers around the province.

Name of Presenters

Susan Fasse
Denise Burrowes Mash
Jay Townsend
James White
Brennan Nearing
Ric Matthews

3:45pm - 4:30 pm Afternoon Panel Session 2

Afternoon Panel 2

Compassionate Grandmother's Group

The YWCA Crabtree Corner FASD grandmother's group panel will be talking about what has worked or not worked for their FASD affected family members or those they know who are living with an FASD, and how workers in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver could accommodate those living with a life-long physical brain based disability like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Negative and positive life experiences, and suggestions how service providing could improve, will highlight the panel's presentation. A question and answer discussion period will follow the group presentation.

Name of Presenters:

Georgia Brown
Violet Bittern
Cindy Stephens
Shirley Ware
Dawn Cook

4:30 pm - Closing Ceremony

Four Fires Society

closing drum group

Program Highlights

Table Presentations will be available throughout the day, highlighting programs and organizations that are working with FASD affected individuals. Presenters will be available to discuss their resources, referral processes and best practices.

First Nations Health Authority

CLBC

NeuroDevNet

John Howard Society

Asante Centre

Forest and the Femme

Representative of Children and Youth

FASD Collaboration Roundtable

Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC

Legal Services Society

Minga Marketplace Will Be There

MINGA MARKETPLACE: THE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR FASD AND RELATED DISABILITIES

Minga Marketplace will be offering a broad variety of resources and gift items related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and other related disabilities.

Please see www.mingamarketplace.com for more information, as well as a full listing of items available.

Registration fee - 20.00 includes full day conference and catered lunch

Methods of Payment: Please visit our website at <https://fasdinthedtes.org> for links on registering for this conference or go straight to the Eventbrite registration page at <https://fasdinthedtes.eventbrite.ca>

Due to the fact that this is a volunteer organized event we unfortunately do not have the capacity to handle cash or cheque registration. We recognize this may be an issue for some and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Conference Time: October 15, 2014 9 am - 5 pm

Travel Information

The Maritime Labour Centre is located at 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver BC. Turn north off Hastings onto Victoria Drive. Limited, free parking at Pandora and Victoria. The entrance to the hall is on Triumph Street.



Victoria @ Triumph Street

Buses **4, 7, 14, 16, 20** all stop within a few blocks of the Maritime Labour Centre. Go to <http://www.translink.ca> to plan your bus route

The Maritime Labour Centre is fully wheelchair accessible

HAVE QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT FASDINTHEDTES@GMAIL.COM