



Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation Community of Practice

Event #40: February 11, 2026

CA+PE
CANADIAN ALCOHOL
POLICY EVALUATION

 **CanFASD**
CANADA FASD RESEARCH NETWORK

Let's Act! Bill S-234: A national FASD framework

The views and opinions expressed as part of this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent those of our funders or other organizations acknowledged.



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Use Research

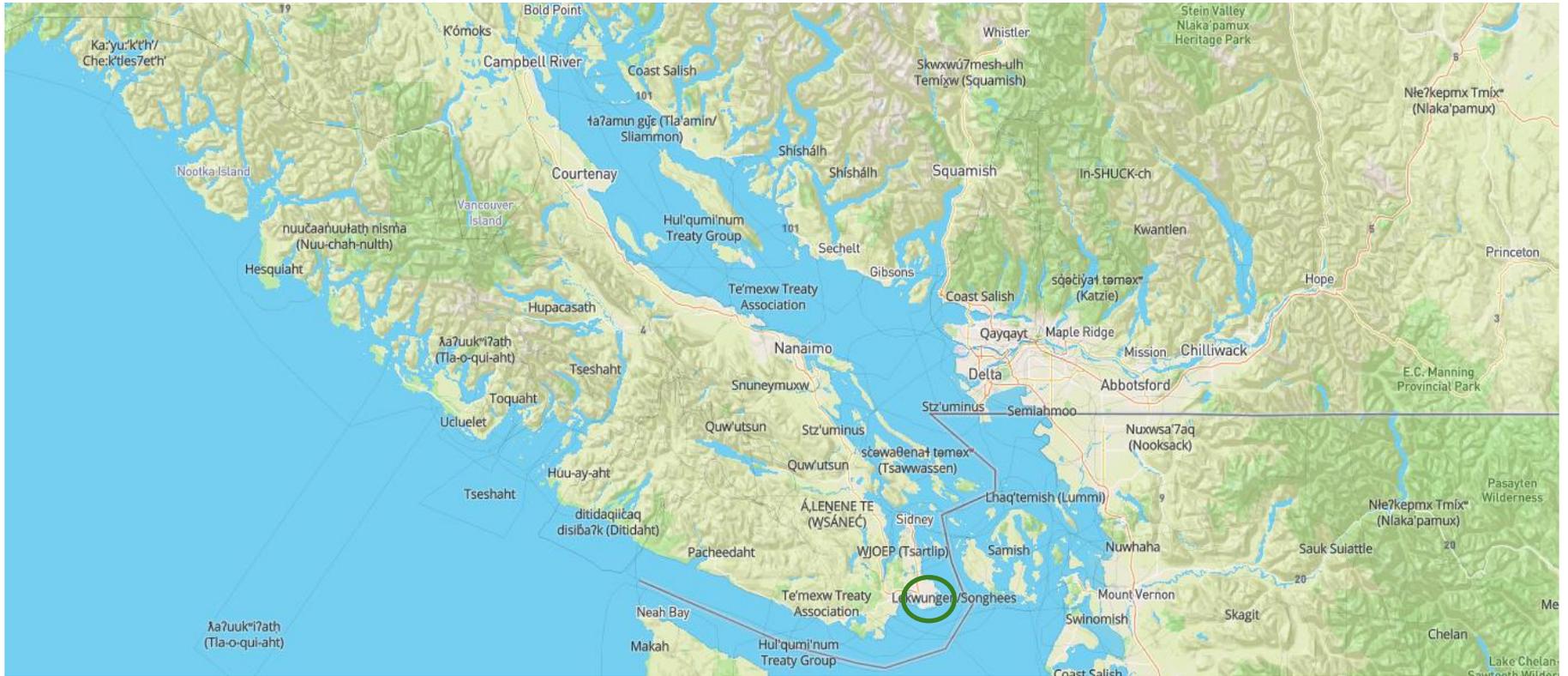
Institut canadien
de recherche sur
l'usage de substances

camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

UVIC



Land acknowledgement



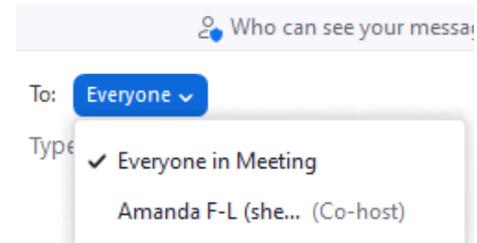
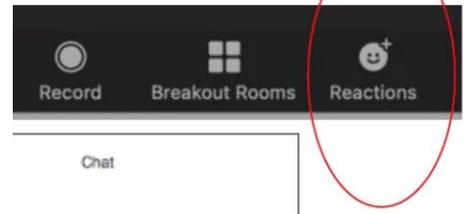
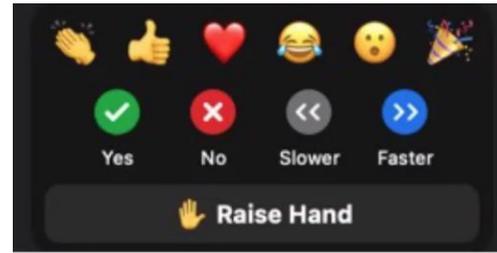


Today's session

- A keynote presentation followed by Q&A, then a panel discussion followed by Q&A, 75mins total.
- The presentations will be recorded, not the Q&A segment.
- We invite your feedback about today's session.
A survey link will be shared in the Chat box and via email.
- To receive persons with lived/living experience honorariums, please email capecopcoord@uvic.ca

Q&A format

- Use chat box to submit a question at any time.
- ‘raise hand’ during Q&A segments.
The moderator may ask you to unmute to pose your question.
- The moderator may read aloud questions typed in the chat box.
- Technical difficulties?
Please message us in the chat.





Keynote Speaker

Senator Mohamed-Iqbal Ravalia, Senate of Canada

Senator Ravalia was appointed to the Senate in 2018 and represents the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. He is a respected physician and medical educator, who immigrated to Canada in 1984 and practiced Family Medicine in Twillingate, NL until his appointment to the Senate. He has received a number of awards including the Order of Canada, Canadian Family Physician of the Year and several community teaching awards.

Senator Ravalia has a focus on rurality, disenfranchised populations, and health needs, and is the Senate Representative of the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus. As an immigrant from a minority population group, his experience enhances his perspective as a Senator.



Q&A





Panelists

Dr. Nancy Poole, Prevention Lead, CanFASD Research Network and Director Centre of Excellence for Women's Health

Kathy Unsworth, Executive Director, CanFASD Research Network

Amanda Farrell-Low, Communications Officer, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR)

What would this legislation mean for FASD prevention?

- **Awareness raising** – Could identify how the federal government could lead on awareness raising through a national campaign, as well as link and support regional context- and culturally-specific efforts
- **Service provision** – Could advance P/T action on how Canada’s multilevel model of FASD prevention can be offered, researched, funded, and coordinated with a national strategy
- **Policy action** – Could promote action on areas of underdeveloped policy enactment, and cross system/sector policies involving justice, health and child welfare jurisdictions that prevent re-traumatization
- **Research** – Could recommend how research funding be instituted on the influences on women’s alcohol use in the preconception and perinatal periods, prevalence of alcohol use by pregnant women, and sex/gender informed treatment and recovery options
- **Strategic Collaboration** – Could propose the organization of KM forums with representatives of provinces, territories, Indigenous Nations and organizations, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, Corrections Canada and other relevant agencies, where understanding and action on FASD prevention can be discussed and acted on

What would this legislation mean for FASD diagnosis, intervention and support?

Diagnosis

- Establish national standards aligned with the Canadian Guidelines for Diagnosis of FASD
- Expand trained multidisciplinary diagnostic teams across Canada
- Reduce misdiagnosis and under-diagnosis; Promote earlier identification as the norm
- Improve equitable access regardless of geography
- Reframe FASD as a brain-based disability, reducing stigma

Intervention

- Promote evidence-based, lifespan interventions
- Align education, health, justice, and social services around FASD-informed practice
- Support early intervention and strength-based approaches
- Translate research into real-world, usable practice

Supports for Individuals & Caregivers

- Improve coordination across systems (health, education, justice, housing, child welfare)
- Reduce crisis-driven responses
- Provide families with navigation support, education, and respite
- Create support trajectories instead of justice trajectories



Q&A





Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) Acknowledgment of funding and support



Health Canada | Santé Canada
Substance Use and Addictions Program | Programme sur l'usage et les dépendances aux substances



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant



Public Health Agency of Canada | Agence de la santé publique du Canada



In-kind funding and support from co-investigator institutions, knowledge users, and government stakeholders



Thank you for attending!

Complete our 3min feedback survey:

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/CV657SK>

French: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/CV657SK?lang=fr>