July 29, 2019
Brantford City Hall
100 Wellington Square, P.O. Box 818
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 5R7

Re: Proclamation-FASD Awareness Day 2019

Dear Mayor Kevin Davis and Members of City Council:

The Brant Community FASD Advisory Committee joins with other communities across Canada and the world in support of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day on September 9. This day, the ninth day of the ninth month, was chosen to underline how important it is to support women to avoid drinking alcohol in the nine months of pregnancy.

FASD is the most common cause of preventable developmental disabilities in Canada. Many Canadians are living with the lifelong effects of FASD and do not know it. FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of harms caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. These may include lifelong physical, mental, behavioural, and/or learning disabilities. FASD has a broad social impact, with many individuals requiring lifelong support to cope with the demands of daily life. It is estimated that every year nine out of every 1,000 babies in Canada are born with FASD. It can affect anyone regardless of income, education, community or background. Health, social, educational and justice systems are involved at the community and provincial levels, with the cost to Canada of approximately $5.3 billion per year.

Community members, health and social service providers, and local decision makers all have a role to play in supporting pregnant women to avoid alcohol during pregnancy and raising awareness that there is no safe amount, no safe type and no safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy. The Brant Community FASD Advisory Committee urges all community members to be a part of raising awareness about FASD and its prevention.

We are requesting that the city of Brantford proclaim September 9, 2019 as FASD Awareness Day.

Thank-you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Linda McFadyen
Co-Chair, Brant Community FASD Advisory Committee
FASD Coordinator, Contact Brant
WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term that describes a range of disabilities resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure that persists throughout the lifespan; and

WHEREAS prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of developmental disabilities in Canada; and

WHEREAS the exact number of people who have FASD is unknown, a conservative estimate is that nine out of every 1000 children are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

WHEREAS health, social, educational and justice systems are involved at the community and provincial levels, with the cost to Canada of approximately $4 billion per year; and

WHEREAS approximately half of all pregnancies are unplanned, resulting in later prenatal care and possible unintentional exposure to alcohol; and

WHEREAS community members, health and social service providers, and local decision makers all have a role to play in supporting pregnant women to avoid alcohol during pregnancy and raising awareness that there is no safe amount, no safe type and no safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS people internationally have begun to observe International FASD Awareness Day on September 9 since 1999, so that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy it is important to abstain from alcohol.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brantford PROCLAIMS September 9, 2019 as “FASD Awareness Day” in the City of Brantford