



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Sea to Sky Community Services partners up for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day September 9**

Squamish - Sea to Sky Community Services is pleased to be partnering with the BC Liquor Store in the 'Think of Me' bag program to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol on children leading up to FASD Awareness Day September 9th. Children in the community have decorated paper bags that will be distributed with customer purchases with the goal of provoking the public to consider the impact alcohol could have on that child and others.

Says Shaelene Raffaele, FASD Key Worker,

“FASD is one of the leading causes of preventable birth defects and developmental delays in Canada and most countries in the world. FASD affects approximately 9 in every 1000 infants born in Canada. It is found in all economic and racial groups. We believe awareness is the first step in prevention and are glad to be once again working with BC Liquor stores to raise awareness of the risk of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.”

Some children with FASD have physical disabilities, but many of the effects are not visible and may include problems with learning, memory, attention, problem solving, behaviours, vision, and hearing. Many children may not understand social situations as easily as their peers and their behaviour is often interpreted as problematic, rather than a symptom of an underlying condition. Children and youth affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol do not grow out of it, they become adults affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol.

FASD is not curable, but it is preventable.

Sea to Sky Community Services Society offers the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program with a Key Worker available to support children, youth, and families in the Corridor. The Key Worker assists families by providing information and resources, providing emotional and practical support, consulting with a child/youth's school team and referring to other professionals if needed. The program is free of charge.

For more information about the FASD Program please contact Shaelene Raffaele, Key Worker at Sea to Sky Community Services Society at 604-892-8454 extension 30.

For more information on Sea to Sky Community Services programs, visit [www.sscs.ca](http://www.sscs.ca)

*Sea to Sky Community Services Society is a registered charity founded in 1978. We believe all individuals have the right to meaningful work, affordable housing and support in times of crisis and to meet every day challenges. [www.sscs.ca](http://www.sscs.ca).*

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