

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY *of* CANADA  
AGENCE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE *du* CANADA

*Prevention of FASD:  
The Canadian Experience  
October 5, 2010*



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de santé  
publique du Canada

Canada 

# ***Prevention of FASD: The Canadian Experience***

## **Overview of Presentation**

- Why focus on FASD
- Structure and History of FASD in Canada
- FASD in Canada – The Early Years
- FASD Initiative
- Strategic Plans
- Where we are today
- Where we would like to go

## ***Why be concerned about FASD?***

- FASD, serious public health, social & economic issue in Canada
- Leading cause of preventable congenital brain injury and developmental disability
- Estimated incidence is 1%
- More than affected 3500 babies born annually
- Over 300,000 people living with FASD in Canada
- Economic cost over \$21,000 annually per person aged 0 to 53 (total of over \$5.3 billion annually)
- High social costs (17% of children 'in-care', Manitoba)
- Health, Education, Justice, Employment, Social Service costs are high

## *Who is at-risk?*

- All women who consume alcohol, are sexually active and do not use reliable contraception
- Most women stop once they know they are pregnant
- Approximately 50% of pregnancies are not planned
- In 2001 13.9% of women reported drinking during their pregnancy (CCHS), (2003 – 12.4%, 2005 – 10.4) (2006 – 10.5%)
- Study of infant meconium showed 3.7% newborns exposed to significant amounts of alcohol during the last two trimesters

# ***Prevention of FASD: The Canadian Experience***



# Prevention of FASD: The Canadian Experience

## Health Portfolio

**PHAC**  
**FASD Initiative**  
**General Population**

**PHAC**  
Surveillance  
Mental Health

**HC-FNIHB**  
FASD Programs  
Mental Health

**HC-HECSB**  
Policy  
Programming

**CIHR**  
FASD Research  
Alcohol research

Community Based Programs & PHAC Regions

Other Government of Canada Departments  
(Interdepartmental Working Group on FASD)

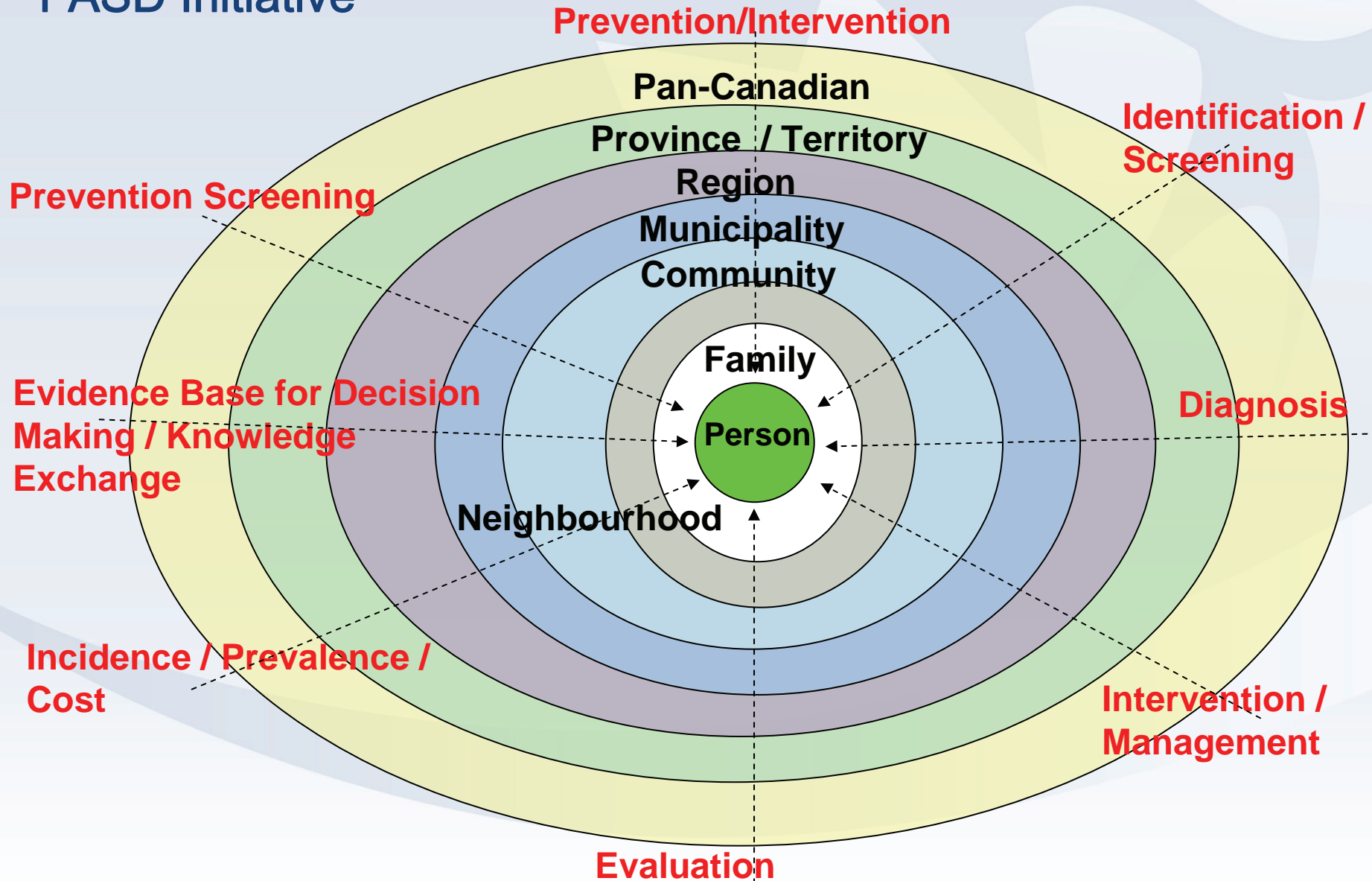
Provincial & Territorial Governments

Canada Northwest  
FASD Partnership &  
Research Network

FASD Inter-  
governmental Action  
Network for Ontario

Atlantic  
Intergovernmental  
FASD Partnership

# FASD Initiative



# Early Action on FASD in Canada



# Early Action on FASD in Canada



## *What were the problems?*

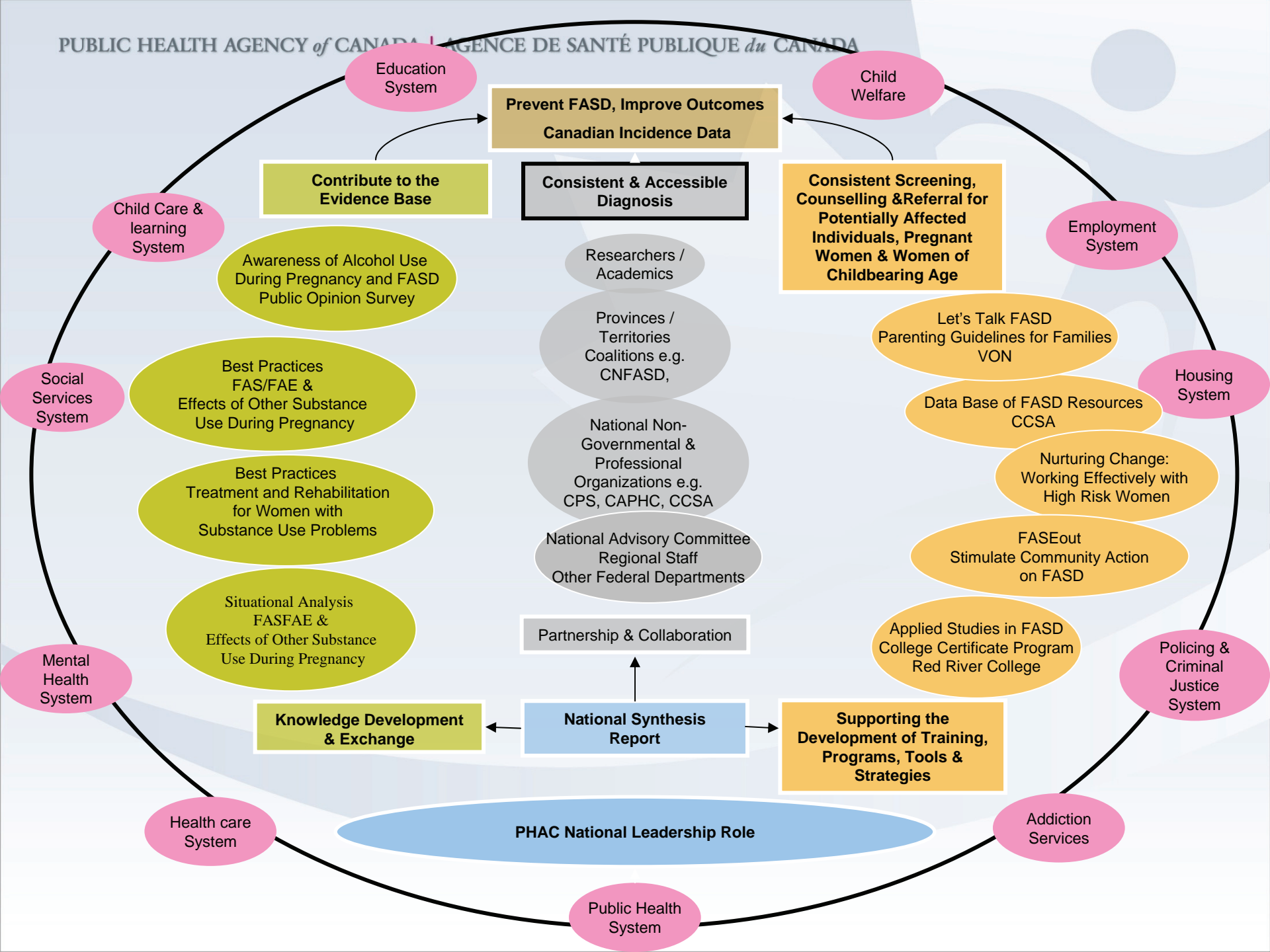
- Lack of consistent diagnosis
- Lack of diagnostic capacity
- No Canadian incidence and prevalence data
- No consistent advice to pregnant women from health care providers (40% health care providers discuss risk of alcohol use during pregnancy)
- Lack of confirmed maternal alcohol consumption
- Lack of consistent prevention activities
- Lack of identification, screening and referral tools
- Lack of consistent, accredited training opportunities

## ***Early Action on FASD in Canada***

- **2001 – First Solicitation – FASD NSPF**
  - Red River College – Applied Studies in FASD - Certificate Program
  - Nurturing Change – Training for front-line community-based staff
  - Let's Talk FASD – Parenting Guidelines and handbook
  - FASEout – Stimulate Community Action – Best Practices
  - PEERS – Networking Project – Support Prostitute Empowerment
  - La Boîte à Outils – French resource kit
  - National Database of FASD Resources

## ***Early Action on FASD in Canada***

- 2001 – Social Marketing Plan
- 2001 – Common F/P/T Messages (Pregnant! No Alcohol!)
- 2001 – Situational Analysis – FASFAE and the Effects of Other Substance Use During Pregnancy
- 2001 – Best Practices – Treatment and Rehabilitation for Women with Substance Use Problems
- 2002 – Best Practices – FAS/FAE and the Effects of Other Substance Use During Pregnancy



## *Early Action on FASD in Canada*

- 2002 – National Advisory Committee Strategic Plan
- 2002-2003 FASD: A Framework for Action



- 2002-2004 Survey of Health Care Providers – Knowledge Attitudes and Behaviours
- (2002-2005) FASD: Canadian Guidelines for Diagnosis
- 2005 – National Forum on Diagnostic Guidelines



# *FASD: A Framework for Action*

## Vision

- Future alcohol affected births are prevented
- Outcomes are improved for those already affected
- Canadian incidence, prevalence and cost data will be available

## Goals

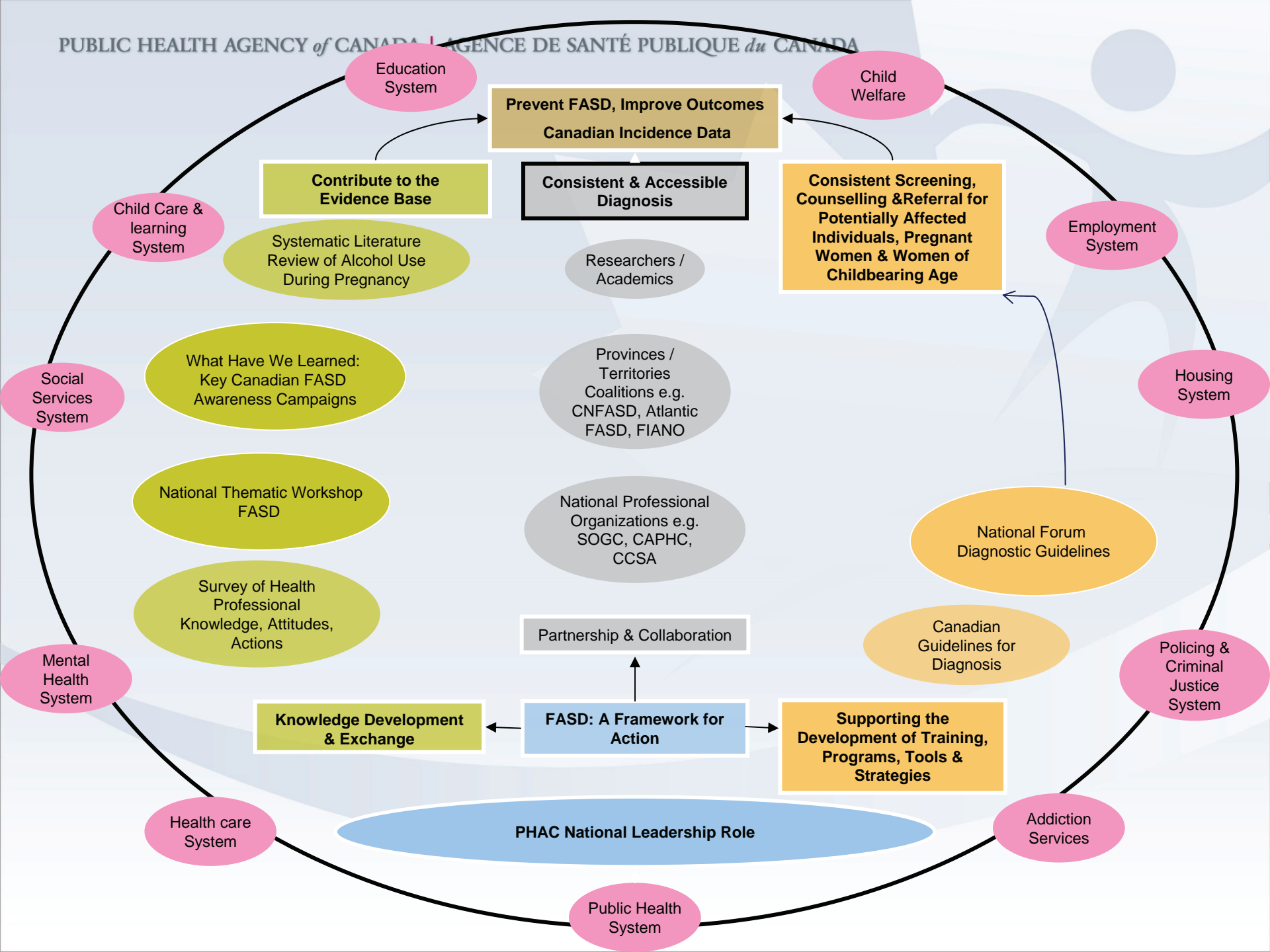
- Increase public and professional awareness
- Develop and increase capacity
- Create effective national screening, diagnostic and data reporting tools and approaches
- Expand the knowledge base and facilitate information exchange
- Increase commitment and support for action on FASD

# Strategic Plan

## Past Projects

- 2005 – National Thematic Meeting on FASD
- 2006 – Research Update – Alcohol Use and Pregnancy: An Important Canadian Public Health and Social Issue
- 2006 – What Have We Learned:  
Key Canadian FASD Awareness Campaigns

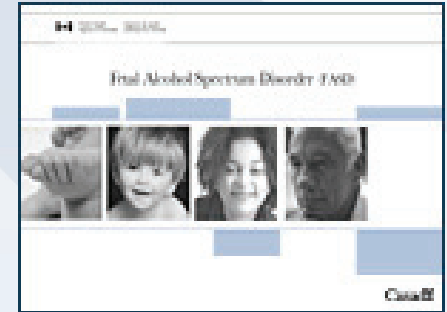




# Strategic Plan

## Recent Past Projects

- FASD Booklet – Frequently Asked Questions
- National Strategic Projects Fund
  - Screening Pregnant Women for Alcohol Use Phase I (SOGC)
  - Training of Trainers (Health Care Providers) Phase II – PRIMA
  - On-line MD-CME Course
  - FASD Training in Canada – Guiding Practice and Impact (CCSA)
  - Screening Tools for Children Phase I (CAPHC)
  - Symposium on Diagnosing the Brain (CNFASDP)
  - Training for the Implementation of the Diagnostic Guidelines
  - Cultural Relevance of Diagnostic Tools
- FASD Prevention: Canadian Perspectives



# *Strategic Plan*

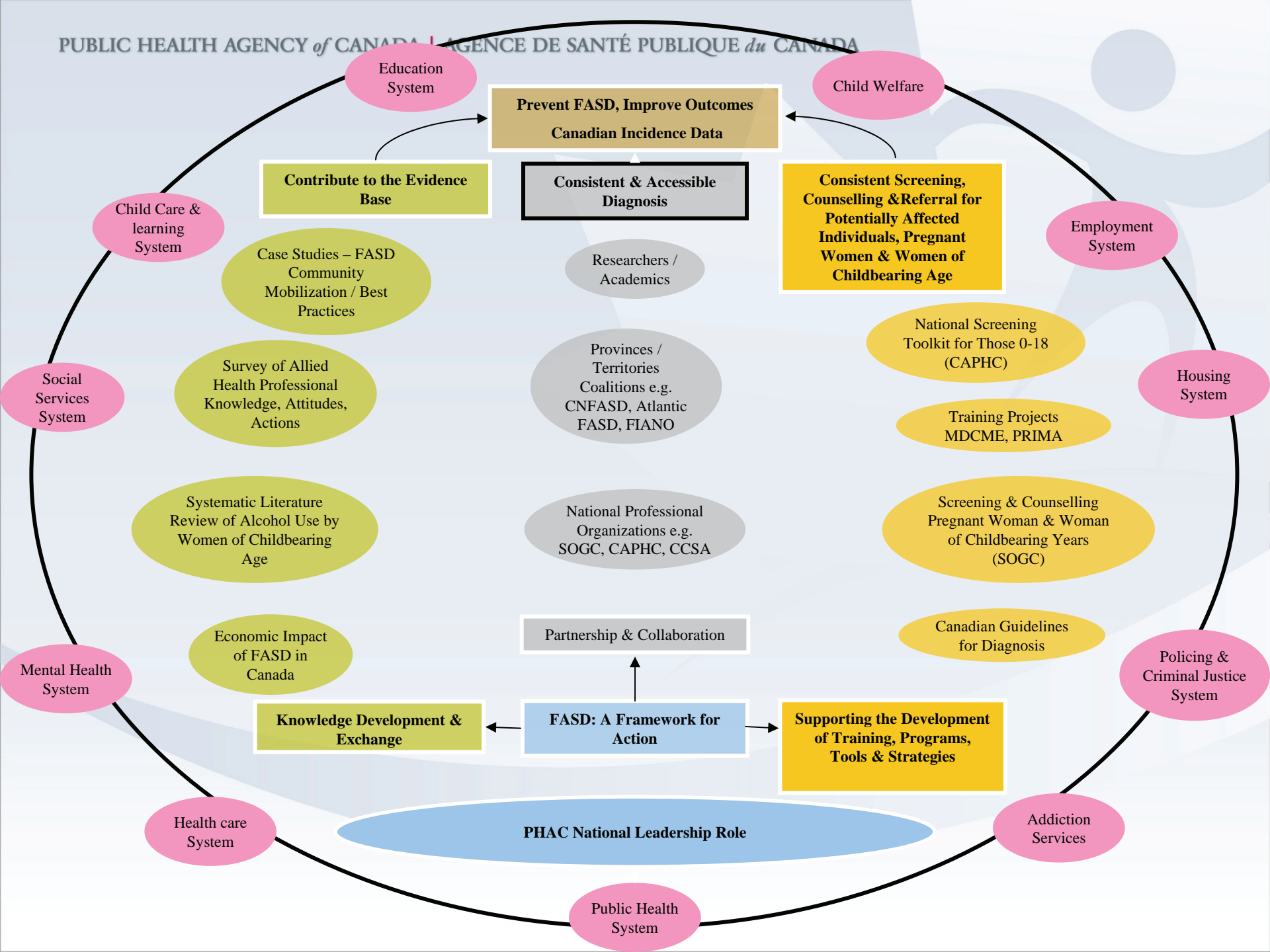
## *Current Projects*

- **National Strategic Projects Fund**
  - Screening and Counselling Pregnant Women & Women of Child Bearing Age for Alcohol Use Phase II (SOGC) (Published in August)
  - Training of Trainers (Health Care Providers) Phase II – PRIMA
  - On-line MD-CME Course Phase II
  - Screening Tools for Children Phase II (CAPHC) (Release in October)
- Literature Review for Adult Assessment and Diagnosis
- Inventory of Training for Judicial /Criminal Justice System
- Secondary Analysis – Early Primary School Outcomes of Prenatal and Post Natal Exposure to Alcohol & Tobacco
- Case Studies of Community Approaches to Addressing FASD
- Systematic Review of Literature and Data – Alcohol Use by Women of Child-bearing Age

# *Strategic Plan*

## *Current Projects*

- Model for Measuring the Economic Impact of FASD in Canada
  - 2007 First Roundtable (Model Components)
  - 2008 Second Roundtable (Youth Justice Costs)
  - 2008 Cost of FASD for Children 'In-Care' in Manitoba – Phase 1
  - 2009 Cost of FASD for Children 'In-Care' in Manitoba – Phase 2
  - Literature Review and Model Testing
  
- Institute for Health Economics (IHE) – Consensus Conference – FASD Across the Life Span



# ***A Decade of Innovation Addressing FASD***

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- <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/index-eng.php>