

To: Ed Picco MLA, Iqaluit *Janice Mary West*

epicco@nunanet.com,,FAS/E

To: epicco@nunanet.com
From: nakasuk@nunanet.com (Nakasuk Elementary School)
Subject: FAS/E

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Dear Ed,

Further to our conversation, here is the information you requested.

Presently the Baffin Fetal Alcohol Network is a nonprofit volunteer organization working to promote greater awareness and understanding of FAS/E. We believe greater awareness will lead to prevention and that understanding will lead to diagnosis, support systems, intervention strategies to help families and individuals dealing with FAS/E.

Currently, we need money to create a series of public service announcements aimed at educating the public. There are material, translation and production costs estimated at \$5000.00 to create these TV announcements. These need to be in Inuktitut and be culturally relevant to Baffin. Other projects that we are working on that need funding are creating information packages for various groups such as educators, parents, public health professionals and other care givers. As well we want to develop our resource library of videos and printed material for community members to borrow. We are also working on an individual basis to inform educators, social services, high school students, parents, and correctional officers about characteristics of FAS/E and strategies that might be helpful in working and helping these individuals. In order to best do this we need better communication systems such as a dedicated line and answering machine.

This is what we are presently working at as volunteers.

What is really needed in Iqaluit and the Baffin is a full time individual or individuals to provide consultation, information, advocacy, support and training services to birth, foster and adoptive families of the children with FAS/E, and to those front line professionals working with them. Other ideas include a drop in centre where parents could come to receive support, information and meet other parents that have similar experiences. As well, after school programming for students with FAS/E have been found to be effective in helping maintain academic level and behaviour in classrooms. This person would need to be available to the day cares, schools, early childhood intervention programs, the Children's Group Home, the Women's Shelter and Social Services. Programs must be viable in both Inuktitut and English.

If you have any further questions you can contact Mary West at 979-7766 or Janice Beddard at 979-0741(BFAN). Thanks Ed.

Janice and Mary

