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## LIVING WITH FASD: A Mother's Plea for her Children with FASD

A problem only for our native peoples?  
This is not the case  
I see the ignorance everyday  
"But your child has a normal face!"

Don't they see the travesty,  
The need for services there?  
As an adoptive parent I fight hard each day  
It seems like so few care.

If my children had been brain injured  
in an accident  
Or even born with Down's  
I wouldn't have to fight SO hard  
Or deal with placating frowns.

Their poisoned brains are damaged!  
Their deficits not their choice!  
They *can* succeed when supported  
They need an external voice!

The cracks my children fall through  
Are w-i-d-e and have no funds  
They're bridged with inappropriate programs  
For those where change can be done.

Ignoring FASD costs money  
But more than you can see  
It breaks our children's spirits,  
their families and communities.

Prevention, diagnosis and care will cost  
But this you must know well  
*Nothing* costs more than breaking a child  
Who innocently was born into hell.

My heart screams loudly for them  
They must get the help they need.  
As mother I made a sacred pact.  
And for your commitment I plead.

A problem only for our native peoples?  
Again I say not true  
The travesty of FASD  
Is part of me and YOU!

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