

Larry has had extensive involvement with many community issues – he chose to become involved with FASD for four reasons: it is an invisible and hidden disability and this means people with FASD are often not understood, It is a lifelong condition that affects many aspects of daily life, FASD is a condition imposed on people by external factors, not by any choices of their own, For many people with FASD, they need help lobbying for themselves.

Larry has been a big supporter of FASSY over the years, and he has attended many FASSY meetings as well as the International FASD conference in Vancouver and others. He has also helped with many fundraising efforts.

His biggest contribution was his support of Private Members' Bill C-235 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (fetal alcohol disorder). The Bill focused on assessments for FASD in the criminal justice system, as well as ensuring that support plans for reintegration were required. While this Bill did not pass, it did receive a great deal of support and discussion across all parties in Canada and confirmed the importance of addressing FASD within the criminal justice system across Canada.

Looking to the future, Larry encourages continued efforts at public education to promote greater understanding of FASD and the required supports. He believes that when citizens organize around issues of importance to them, momentum builds and things get done. Larry has been greatly impacted by the personal stories of people living with FASD and he believes it is important to keep telling these stories. He also thinks research is important, and that more data on the numbers of people affected with FASD is critical to good public policy