

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 26, 2025

Family Support Institute of BC (FSI) condemns President Trump’s false claim linking Tylenol to autism

(September 26, 2025 – Vancouver, BC)— The Family Support Institute of BC (FSI) is deeply troubled by U.S. President Donald Trump’s recent claim that Tylenol (acetaminophen) causes autism, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s decision to update its guidance in response—actions that amplify stigma and fear. These claims are not supported by credible science. They risk fueling harmful myths that unfairly target mothers, trans and nonbinary parents, and anyone who has been pregnant, while shifting attention away from the real supports autistic people and their families need to thrive.

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental condition with no single cause. The study Trump cited was inconclusive; in fact, extensive research has consistently found no association between acetaminophen and autism. Health Canada has affirmed that acetaminophen remains the recommended treatment for fever during pregnancy, as untreated high fever can pose significant risks to both parent and baby. Continuing to circulate misinformation perpetuates ableism, dehumanizes autistic people, dismisses the needs of pregnant people, and echoes a long history of colonization, eugenics and policing of bodies.

“Families deserve compassion, inclusion, and access to trustworthy information in a format that works for them—not shame or fear,” says Angela Clancy, Executive Director of FSI. “At FSI, we recognize that every person has inherent worth and dignity. In some Indigenous societies and other cultures, people with diverse and complex needs are not labeled or set apart, but honoured for their gifts and roles in community. That is the future we are working toward: where difference is not a deficit, but a valued part of the richness of human diversity.”

As a family-to-family disability organization, FSI’s mandate is to come alongside families, celebrate diversity, and champion inclusion across the province. Every year, FSI provides peer support, navigation, and advocacy for thousands of families with disabilities. Families are already fighting uphill systemic battles; they deserve to feel seen, respected, and valued—not targeted by stigmatizing rhetoric.

“Blaming parents, and blaming autism—both are harmful,” adds Tracy Humphreys, FSI’s Director of Operations. “As an autistic parent of three autistic young adults, I see how this rhetoric hurts families and autistic people directly. Popular theories about the ‘causes’ of autism, from vaccines to refrigerator mothers to Tylenol, are smokescreens to hide the real need for autism acceptance. This was done by design. Families like mine end up carrying guilt and stress instead of receiving support. What autistic people and our families need is dignity, accurate information, and a world designed to include us — not prevent our existence. Rigorous scientific research can be valuable; blatant misinformation is not.”

FSI calls on leaders, media, and the public to reject unfounded claims and stand in solidarity with the autistic community. Clancy concludes, “We should be focused on funding real solutions. Promote media literacy, and how to spot and counter misinformation. Invest in inclusive education, housing, employment, mental health care, and community supports, working toward a society that values all abilities, embraces neurodiversity, and ensures families receive the respect and support they deserve.”

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About Family Support Institute of BC:

The Family Support Institute (FSI) supports families who have family members with disabilities and mental health challenges. FSI is unique in Canada and is the only grass-roots, family-to-family support organization. FSI believes families are the best resource to support one another and the most vital voice for their family members. FSI supports all families with children of all ages, disabilities, and concurrent conditions. FSI's supports are free to any family.

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