



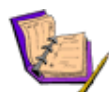
Friday, February 26th, 2016

*Please Note: This email is being delivered via an email address used exclusively for distribution purposes. Please **DO NOT** reply to this email even though this is now the MONTHLY UPDATE it will still be distributed through the weeklyupdate@childrensbridge.com email address as many spam filters have approved this address.*

Holiday Closure

The Children's Bridge office will be closed on Monday March 28th, 2016 for Easter Monday. Our office will reopen on Tuesday, March 29th at 8:30 am.

The Children's Bridge office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. We are closed on Fridays.



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Adoption Citizenship Petition

While The Children's Bridge cannot act as an advocacy body, we are happy to offer information on the petition that has been launched regarding our children's citizenship. In case you're not aware of it, this is a petition that has started on the Parliament of Canada e-petition website. The petition is meant to address the current discriminatory regulations around adoption and 2nd generation citizenship. We request a change to the citizenship act to ensure that our children are not victims of discrimination and can pass on their citizenship to their children even if born outside of Canada. Signatories' identities are confidential and are not published. The link to the petition is:

<https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-119>

Post Adoption Issues and Resources

Older child adoption brings with it many joys and challenges. In our roles at The Children's Bridge we have the honour of working with and supporting our adoptive families through their journey and post adoption. One of our challenges is to assist and support our families in accessing appropriate resources for their children and family. We have a list of child psychologists, counsellors and psychiatrists who have worked with other adoptive families and while we cannot recommend a particular person, we can guide you and suggest resources. Please know that many of us are also adoptive parents and recognize your struggles as our families too, have at times struggled. We hope you see our agency and team as a resource and a place for support. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time post adoption.

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge hosted the following workshops and post adoption groups this month: Connect-A-Kid, mentoring program in Ottawa; Information Session for prospective adoptive parents on February 28, 2016 in Newmarket.

AdopTALK Ottawa will be held on March 5 and 6, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy.

Social Media:

Please check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/The-Childrens-Bridge-International-Adoption-Consultants-178559728886597/>

Thailand, Florida and South Korea Adoption Programs

The Children's Bridge currently has openings in our Thailand, Florida and South Korea adoption programs. Please contact Program Managers, Darlene Catton, Karyn Bakelaar or Krista Hall to ensure you meet the requirements for these adoption programs darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com, Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or krista.hall@childrensbridge.com

Financial Matters

1. Final Trust Statements:

The following note is relevant to all families whom will be claiming the Adoption Tax Credit by April 30, 2016 on their T1 Tax Return for the 2015 year.

Final trust statements had been forwarded through-out the 2015 year to all families who had completed their adoption in that year (January 1 - December 31, 2015). Please note that you will require this final trust statement to be able to claim the above tax credit. Please keep all your travel receipts, orphanage donation receipt, etc. for your records (and in a safe place) as we have seen many families in the past year being audited by Canada Revenue Agency.

In the event that you misplaced your final trust statement kindly email me to request a copy.

2. Annual Administration Fee (for all families in process, 2nd year and onwards):

I refer to the communication as provided by the Board of Directors of The Children's Bridge dated March 2010. A copy of this is available in the members section of the website.

The annual administration fee invoices for all families in process - 2nd year and onwards, will be issued on March 1, 2016. A majority of our families whom are still in process will be impacted by this administration fee. As we have done for the past many years, accompanied with your annual administration fee invoice for the period March 2016 - February 2017, will be a payment plan option. I urge all families to use this plan so as to lessen the financial burden of this fee over the course of the year. Payments should be made quarterly on March 31, 2016, June 1, 2016, September 1, 2016 and December 1, 2016 in the members section of our website, or by post-dated cheques mailed to our office accompanied by the signed Payment Plan.

The Children's Bridge is a licensed, non-profit adoption agency. In order to treat its members fairly and equitably, all families need to pay their fair share of the costs associated with adoption. Failure to do so places an unfair burden on other families.

If you have any questions pertaining to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

My email address is: Liddell.Malan-Bennett@childrensbridge.com and my regular working days are Monday and Tuesday of every week. I will attend to your email at my earliest opportunity.



Email Karyn: Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Adoption Program News

I am excited to announcement that The Children's Bridge is now working with a second adoption agency, Advocates for Children and Families, based in Florida, USA. We are now accepting files for this adoption program. This program will be open to same-sex couples, as well as single women. Due to the limited options available for same-sex families and single applicants, priority will be given to these applicants.

General Information:

- Advocates for Children and Families is a not-for-profit adoption agency licensed by the State of Florida since 1992;

- Families must be open to parenting a child from any race or ethnic background, as well as to either gender;
- Prospective adoptive families typically wait anywhere from 12 - 24 months from dossier submission to being matched with an expectant mother
- Adoptive families are chosen by an expectant mother in Florida - families must be open to semi and/or open adoptions for this program;
- Once selected by an expectant mother, the adoptive family will be provided with written information about the prospective child and a cost estimate for the adoption which they may accept or reject;
- Each case has a somewhat different cost due to the variance in living and medical expenses for the birth mother. Counseling is also a variable in some cases;
- Three post-placement reports are required once returning home to Canada. The adoption cannot be finalized until this occurs;
- Finalization of the adoption will be in the Florida court that issued the approval of placement, which the family will attend via teleconference, approximately 6 - 8 months following placement.

Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)

We currently have five (5) families in process to adopt from ASC, Florida, USA, and have no families waiting on the call-back list. There are currently five (5) spaces available in the program should a family be ready to begin the process. We are able to have up to ten (10) families on the call-back list for this adoption program.

Congratulations are extended to Brandon and Alexandra who are currently in Florida with their new baby boy!

OHIP Information

Babies arriving into Canada from the USA will be arriving on a temporary or visitor's visa which you will obtain at the border as you pass through the Port of Entry. Most families have had no trouble obtaining OHIP once arriving in Canada, but a few have had to visit the OHIP office several times in order to secure health care for their children.

One of our most recent families home has compiled a helpful list of "Do's" and "Don'ts" for families who will be applying for OHIP in the GTA. Please see below:

DO NOT:

- Go to the Scarborough Service Ontario
- Go to the Bay Street Service Ontario
- Appeal to the Review Committee
- Contact the Minister's Office

DO:

- Go to the Yonge / Sheppard Service Ontario
- Take these 5 documents to Service Ontario:
 - Parent's identity document that includes a name and signature (e.g. a credit card)
 - Parent's proof of residency document (e.g. a driver's licence or a utility bill showing address)
 - Parent's proof of Canadian citizenship (passport or birth certificate)
 - Document issued by the USA confirming parents' guardianship and the date that guardianship began (I used the Order Granting Verified Motion for Approval of Immediate Placement of Minor Child with Prospective Adoptive Parents Residing Outside the United States)
 - One of the following (sorry, I didn't get the exact document names down but these are close): Letter of No Objection; Letter of Approval; Notification of Agreement; Director's Approval for Central Agency; Notice of a Director's Decision; Letter of Recommendation. (I used the Notice of a Director's Decision).
- Contact Brian at 1-800-268-1154 ext. 1771, or Chantal (sorry, can't find extension) in Kingston OHIP office for list of documents required.
- When you arrive at Service Ontario, go to the counter and state that you are there to get OHIP for your child, and tell them you have the 5 documents that the Kingston office had said are required.
- If the Officer asks if your child has an immigration document, tell them that it isn't necessary at this time, and that the Kingston office said only these 5 documents are required.

Changes to Medic-Aid Policies in USA

Some of the information below was recently sent to us by our partner agency, Adoption by Shepherd Care, and I have added information that will be relevant to Ontario adoptive families. All families waiting for a match should take note that they should begin to look into insurance policies or extended benefits for their baby while in the USA (this is a change from what was previously possible).

Healthcare in the US has been undergoing changes, and in Florida we have seen this affect the medical coverage of babies who are being adopted. When a baby is born, because ASC is a not-for-profit agency, they are able to apply for medical coverage for the baby that is effective until the baby gets discharged from the hospital. In the past, ASC was able to use the Medicaid number to pay for a visit if the baby needed to be seen before arriving in

Canada. They have recently run into several situations and have found that the Medicaid number can no longer be used once the baby is discharged from the hospital and the parents have taken placement of the baby.

Florida law requires a family to take responsibility of all the needs of a child at the time of placement. Please ensure that once you take placement of your baby, you are accepting all the rights and the responsibilities of parenthood including any necessary medical care.

The average cost of a self-pay for a pediatrician is under \$200 USD. We know that in the case of an emergency room visit or critical care, the cost would be higher. Some families have looked into medical care for their time in the USA before travelling back to Canada. In one family's case, they were told they needed to have their paper work filled out ahead of time for adding the baby to their company medical plan. They were told that as soon as they have guardianship of the child (when adoptive parents sign paperwork and take "placement" of the baby and thus assume all the rights and all the responsibilities of the child,) it would be the exact same as having a child in Canada which means that the rights to the medical plan come into effect right away which includes "travel medical insurance".

Each plan will vary slightly but in their case and in most, this covers the majority of all costs for your medical emergency (or in this case, the babies immediate medical care needed) until you can get your baby back into Canada. As with your personal travel medical insurance, there are some requirements such as making sure you have your insurance numbers on hand and in some cases phoning ahead of time to get approval as opposed to sending receipts after. Please ensure you make a phone call or do a detailed review of your plan to make sure you know which requirements are needed for your individual plan.

If you do not have benefits through work that will cover your child while in the USA, another option is to purchase coverage through Blue Cross or another service provider. Here is the contact information:

- Blue Cross/Blue Cross Ontario for visitors to Canada:
 - 1-888-873-2583 or
 - 1-866-732-2583
- Although the representative you speak with may at first say the child needs a provincial health card before they can offer to cover him/her, keep asking until you speak to the right person who will help with this. It is possible, but not all employees are aware of the regulations for adoptive families.
- Be sure to mention you are looking for coverage for an international adoption.

Because most international adoptions are finalized in the country of the adoption, your insurance representative may reference the finalization date and/or use finalization terminology, and therefore say coverage begins after the adoption is finalized and you are in Canada. Your adoption won't be finalized until 6-8 months after you become guardian of your child at placement. Please ensure you discuss guardianship dates and placement dates, and not finalization dates during your research.

I hope this is helpful, but please do not hesitate to be in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family B & A	Currently in Florida
2	Family V & N	Waiting to be matched
3	Family J & A	Waiting to be matched
4	Family G & E	Home with baby - completing post placement
5	Family A & M	Home with baby - completing post placement

Several USA files are also currently "on hold":

1	Family D & T	File on hold
2	Family G & A	File on hold
3	Family J & A	File on hold

****Please Note:** The above chart will not be updated when waiting families are matched with expectant parents in Florida, as there are still too many unknowns at that point in the process. The chart will be updated after the birth of the child, following the signing of final consents in the USA.

If you would like any information on the Florida adoption program, please contact the Florida Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



Email Karyn: Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

“Foreign Born Adoptees with HIV Show Few Serious Health Problems:

<http://www.healio.com/pediatrics/hiv-aids/news/online/%7Bead0971f-5d0d-472c-8fd5-2072f857cd03%7D/foreign-born-adoptees-with-hiv-show-few-serious-health-conditions>”

India Adoptions: Children Living with HIV “There is a particular group of children that we have been advocating for that just haven’t been able to find their families yet. These children are healthy, beautiful, attending school and the only problem they have is being labeled HIV+. In fact, these children are all on the proper medication and have a normal life expectancy! These children love to sing and dance, play sports and draw. They are so full of life and love and deserve to be in a loving forever family.

<http://www.rainbowkids.com/adoption-stories/india-s-waiting-children-hiv-adoption-1497>”

“Adopting HIV+ Twins: <http://www.rainbowkids.com/adoption-stories/adopting-hiv-twins-1422>”

Sinethemba Facebook Page - A resource for families considering adopting or parenting a child living with HIV:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sinethemba-110775402319545/>

Also, Canadian Resources for Canadian Families: <https://sinethemba2010.wordpress.com/>

Program Possibilities

- **India** - families must be open to an older child (4-5 years +), other program requirements may be waived (maximum age, marital status). Please contact Krista Hall for more information (krista.hall@childrensbridge.com)
- **Thailand** - Children will be 3+ years at time of adoption, program requirements may be waived, and single applicants (female only) may apply. Please contact the Thailand Program Manager, Darlene Catton, for more information (Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com).
- **China** - We are currently working with an orphanage in China that is able to place children living with HIV into adoptive families. There are currently two children that are paper-ready and may be able to be matched with a prospective adoptive family through this program. For further information, please contact Cathy Murphy (cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com)

If you would like any information on the HIV+ Kids adoption program, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



Email Karyn: Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Adoption Program News

I am happy to be able to tell you that our family who is adopting a pre-identified child has received all of their referral documents and are currently in Zambia completing their fostering period. We wish them very safe travel and all the best in Lusaka!

Black History Month

Black History month is a month in which events and festivities are held in honour of the lives of Black Canadians in the past and present. If you are interested in attending some events, movie screenings, lectures, etc. celebrating Black History, here are a few resources to get you started:

- <http://blackhistorycanada.ca/>
- <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/index.asp>
- http://www.blackhistorysociety.ca/black_history_month_en_209cms.htm
- https://www.nfb.ca/playlist/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/
- <http://blackottawa411.weebly.com/>

Ratification of The Hague Convention

The Hague Convention is considered to be “in force” under Zambia law as of October 1st, 2015. Any new information on how adoptions will be processed under The Hague will be communicated to families as it becomes known.

<http://www.adoptionpolicy.org/>

<http://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/alerts-and-notice/zambia15-10-01.html>

ZAMBIA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

FAMILY NAME	STAGE OF PROCESS
Josh and Laura	Dossier in-country/Zambian approval issued
Nick and Shauna	Dossier in-country/Zambian approval issued
Heather and Brendan	File on hold
Susan	Dossier in-country/Zambian approval issued
Graeme and Kat	Dossier in-country/Zambian approval issued

If you would like any information on the Zambian adoption program, please contact the Zambian Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Krista: Krista.Hall@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 3

We currently have one family awaiting confirmation of permanent residency and will finally complete their adoption process soon, and two families traveling for court dates in March! SWS has also informed me of the other files that have been submitted for EP approval so far, so we are thrilled that there is now movement happening for our families who are in the finalization stages of the adoption process. So far our families have waited anywhere from 6-9 months between the date of referral acceptance being sent to Korea (not date that referral was received) to their court date.

We are now accepting families into the program who will be a part of our 2016 quota. As the requirements are still strict, we still recommend speaking with the program manager prior to beginning the adoption process to discuss the criteria and eligibility of prospective adoptive parents.

Updated information on what to expect at the court hearing

I have recently received some updated information from SWS regarding what to expect at the court hearings in Korea. We hope that all families will feel prepared as they attend court for the finalization of their adoption, and encourage all families to review the questions below and how they would answer each one. Families will either attend court on a Thursday or Friday, and SWS has compiled some questions that families have been asked by each judge. We advise that families should prepare themselves for all questions regardless of which day they attend court.

The following are questions that we were told have been asked by the Thursday judge:

1. Did you meet with your prospective adoptive child? How was it? How did the child do?
2. If you have a child/children, does he/she/they know about this adoption? How did he/she/they respond?

3. After meeting with the prospective adoptive child, was there any change in your decision to adopt?
4. Questions about the occupations of the parents
5. Who is going to be the primary caretaker?
6. How are you going to raise your child (your parenting plan)?
7. What is your motivation to adopt from Korea? Is there any community around you or your neighborhood that can support your adoption?
8. How long has it been since you first applied for adoption?
9. When were you matched with your child? Or how long has it been since the matching?
10. Was there any difficulty in pursuing the adoption process?
11. Lastly do you have anything to say?

Friday judge:

During Friday court hearings, the judge asks questions based on the homestudy and psychological evaluation. Reviewing your own homestudy and psychological evaluation report beforehand would be very helpful.

When you answer the judge, you should be looking at him/her, not the translator, although he/she may not be able to understand what you say. And please smile! Don't be nervous! You just show how much you love your child and just be truthful!

Information on adopting a 2nd child from South Korea

We have received information recently from SWS about families that are interested in pursuing a second adoption from South Korea. The Ministry of Health and Welfare has agreed to accept families who are under the age of 50 at time of placement for second adoptions, or for first adoptions if the family is of Korean heritage or an adult adoptee.

Prospective adoptive parents would be required to receive special permission regarding their age in advance. If a family is interested in completing an adoption and is over the age of 45, SWS will ask the Ministry for permission before the family can proceed.

The conditions in which the upper age limit for adoptive parents may be 50 at time of placement are as follows:

- Both parents are of Korean heritage, OR
- Either parent is an adoptee themselves (of any heritage), OR
- Parents (of any heritage) already have previously adopted a child from Korea.

Due to the approximate time frame for adoptions from South Korea, SWS has informed us that they would require the family's dossier before they turn 48.

If you meet these requirements and are interested in adopting from South Korea, please do not hesitate to contact me for further details.

Timelines

Timelines are only estimated and cannot be guaranteed throughout the adoption process.

About the EP submission: Ministry of Health and Welfare in Seoul (MOHW) controls the numbers of files submitted to them and the time when they are submitted, therefore SWS cannot decide when they submit to the Ministry and how many files they can submit at once. Typically SWS processes the documents according to the order they are received.

About the Court dates: The Family Court in Seoul tries to set the court date based on the date the referral was issued to the family. Remember that the court receives cases from SWS, Eastern, and Holt who all work with several countries, and various states in the US.

Court Adoption Order Finalization and Confirmation of Permanent Residence

Estimated time for COPR issuing is 4 to 6 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. SWS will send this to Manila approximately 1 week after the confirmed adoption order has been issued as there is translation required. There seems to be no consistency with the Visa office with timelines and they request certain paperwork for some applications and not for others. We have decided to now send them the Appendix A/B as we do not want to cause further delay to families and children uniting. I've tried to get clarification from Manila but their replies are vague and unclear. SWS will now issue ready to travel for the second trip once they have received the COPR at SWS, not when Manila says they have issued it as we do not want families waiting in Korea for an indefinite and longer stay where costs can accumulate for the family.

APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ARRIVING IN CANADA:

Families who have returned home must complete the application for Canadian citizenship for their child within 30 days of arriving home. All of the children adopted from Korea will be returning to Canada as permanent residents and therefore families will need to apply for citizenship as it is not automatically granted to internationally adopted children.

A copy of the completed application should be scanned and emailed to our agency and I will forward to SWS. The family court in Seoul will not issue Adoption Orders if families do not comply and apply for citizenship. Not applying for citizenship will affect all families in process waiting for their Adoption Order.

Please note that CIC has updated their website and their forms as of June 2015. The current citizenship application that should be completed by families when they return home is found here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/citizen/CIT0003E-2.pdf>.

If you have any difficulties, we suggest that you contact CIC to ask specific questions about your application.

[South Korea Homeland Tours](#)



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Adoption Program News

I am happy to report that we have received our quota for this year and once again, it is 9.

Four families are currently working on their dossiers and one family's file is being processed at the Thai Embassy. It generally takes 10 business days to process a file at the Embassy.

Referral News

I would like to congratulate Vinesh and Jill on accepting the proposal of their son from the Thai Red Cross! He's a beautiful little boy! The family will travel in approximately 9 months. This proposal was received in the expected timeframe of 3 years (after dossier was received in country).

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age), this does not fall in the same quota for mainstream adoptions. Please contact me to see if you qualify. The requirements for families adopting older children are not as restrictive (for example, the age of the adoptive applicants and/or other children in the home could be amended) so please contact me for more information about this.

DSDW

Families are receiving their finalization letters from the DSDW approximately one year after placement. Finalization takes place at the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa.

Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

When you come home with your child and you want to travel with him/her outside of Canada, you are required to obtain a Statutory Declaration from our office to travel since the adoption is not finalized. The Children's Bridge is the guardian of the child until the adoption is finalized. Finalization happens approximately 1 year after you arrive home. Please contact me if you are travelling outside of Canada. Children travelling to the US before finalization need to obtain a US visitor's Visa as they are not Canadian Citizens. Please call your local US consulate for further details.

Immigration Sponsorship

Please ensure that you have applied for Immigration Sponsorship approximately two years after your dossier has gone to Thailand. Timelines have become a little unpredictable and we want to make sure that you have been approved to sponsor well before a referral is received. We have just learned that Immigration Sponsorship approvals expire after 2 years and so we have changed when you apply for this. Please apply after two years of being in process.

Citizenship and Immigration 1-888-242 2100

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/family.asp>

Once you submit this to immigration you will receive a letter with a UCI # and Application Number on it. Please note these used to be called Kit and Client ID #. Please email this number to me and/or scan and email me a copy of the document. Keep the package that CIC sends to you in a safe place, as you will need to take it to Thailand with you. Immigration

paperwork must be completed well before you receive your referral.



Jamaica Adoption Program

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Cathy: Cathy.Murphy@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

The Children's Bridge Jamaica Program is mostly an older child or relative adoption program. The Jamaica program is unpredictable with no definite timelines. Most families complete their adoptions within three years, but there are variations in how each adoption is processed. The Child Development Agency (CDA) is the Central Authority in Jamaica in charge of all international and domestic adoptions in Jamaica.

If you are completing an older child adoption in Jamaica, a child study must be completed to determine the adoption plan is in the best interests of the child.

If you are open to adopting an older child (over 6 years of age), or completing a relative adoption, please contact Cathy Murphy cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com



India Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Krista: Krista.Hall@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 3

At this time we have 4 families who are waiting to complete their adoptions, and 3 of these families have now received their NOCs from CARA. The court process in India is quite unpredictable in terms of the timeline from the issuance of the NOC to the dates of the court hearing. We will do our best to keep families informed based on the information we receive from the orphanage directors.

We hope that we will have families traveling very soon to complete their adoptions!

The citizenship process through CIC is now taking a year for families to be approved for part 1. Because of the lengthening timelines, it is important that families apply to CIC at the very beginning of their adoption process to ensure there is enough time to be approved before receiving a referral from their orphanage so that there will not be a delay when accepting a referral/finalizing the adoption process.

If you have questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me. Once an approval by CIC for part one is received by the adoptive parents, a copy should be emailed to me for your file.

CARA is now accepting families for both their mainstream program and their special needs stream. Most children are over 3 at time of referral, and they have still emphasized the need for families for older children. There are many older children waiting for families in India so CARA is able to match families fairly quickly who are open to children over the age of 7 or 8 years old.

Families open to special needs placements do not need to be NRI or OCI status, however they must contact me prior to beginning the homestudy process for India to complete a screening process and ensure they are eligible for the program.

If you have any questions about the India adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me



China Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

CCCWA

At this time, we only have six families remaining in the mainstream/expedited China program. Due to the unpredictability

of the program, we are unsure when they will receive a proposal.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC):

If you have applied for direct citizenship (as opposed to immigration sponsorship), please remember that your application is only valid for 2 years. If you are close to expiry, you can simply write them a letter asking for an extension.

Applying for Citizenship

Once home, everyone will have to apply for citizenship (in some form) for their child. There are two ways to apply for citizenship now. One would entitle Canadian citizenship to your child's future children should they be born outside of Canada, the other application wouldn't. This new system has caused much confusion for families and even CIC don't always give the correct information.

It's critical that you complete the correct form. If you applied for direct citizenship, you will apply for a citizenship certificate (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/cit-adoption.asp>).

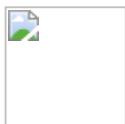
If you applied for immigration sponsorship (therefore your child entered Canada as a Permanent Resident), you will fill out a citizenship application (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/CIT0003E2.asp>).

If you are unclear, please call CIC and explain that you would like to apply for his/her Canadian citizenship at this time. You would like to apply to ensure that if your child was to have children while living outside of Canada, that their children will be granted Canadian citizenship status.

If you have applied for citizenship (to the wrong process) but it has not yet been granted, you can call CIC to stop the process and switch to another. This cannot happen if citizenship has already been granted.

It generally takes less than a year to receive citizenship.

If you do NOT apply for citizenship, your child remains a Chinese citizen, cannot vote, cannot hold certain jobs and can be deported. As well, you cannot apply for a passport unless you have citizenship.



HOMELAND VISIT - CHINA

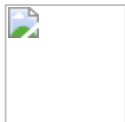
Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Participants in our March tour depart beginning March 9th. This tour will include 5 days in Beijing, provincial visits, a cruise down the Yangtze River and a couple of days in Shanghai. Fantastic!

Our final total is 7 families that include 25 people visiting many provinces and 7 orphanages!

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me or check out the [website](#) for a registration package.



HOMELAND VISIT - SOUTH KOREA

Email Maria: mariaf598@yahoo.com

We coordinated two very successful South Korea Homeland Visits in 2015 and all families have shared their unique and personal experiences on our website and in the quarterly Newsletter.

We are offering both English and French guided tours again in 2016 for March Break and in the summer (first week of July). The Information Package and testimonials are now posted to the website: [Children's Bridge - South Korea Homeland Tours - Introduction](#)

I have also customized excursions in the past for families to participate in after the basic tour and can coordinate a customized tour at any other time of year that is convenient for your family.

We have three families so far that have expressed a serious interest to participate in the Spring Break tour.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: mariaf598@yahoo.com



Email Cathy: Cathy.Murphy@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

Welcome home to the Lawlor-Chau and Yeung families and their children!

The Children's Bridge received 4 "individual agency" children's files through the CCCWA in January 2016!

The Wong-Huynh and Cheng-Lau families will be travelling to China at the end of April to receive their children.

The Hitchcock-Kim and Au-Yeung-Chan are awaiting their Letters of Seeking Confirmation from the CCCWA before we can plan their adoption travel journey.

The Children's Bridge encourages all of our families in the WC China Program to be open to adopting a boy or a girl as there are equal numbers of boys and girls in this program waiting for families. Our goal as an agency is to find the right family for a waiting child, and not a specific child for a waiting family.

We currently have 22 families in process in our WC China program. From referral/proposal to travel is approximately 6 months.

We have 14 families on our Call Back List. Families who are only open to adopting a girl will be on the call back list for approx. 1.5 - 2 years.

Families considering our WC China Program must be open to considering a variety of special medical needs keeping in mind cleft lip and cleft palate continues to be the most common special medical need in our program over the past 10 years. The children in our WC China Program waiting for families are toddlers and preschoolers between 2 - 6 years of age. Girls are older (3.5 - 6 years of age) and boys are younger (2- 3 years of age) at time of referral/child proposal.

CIC Immigration Sponsorship links:

TCB does suggest completing the Immigration Sponsorship Application Process as direct CDN Citizenship is taking more than one year to process and this will not be timely enough for your adoption process.

Please download the forms from the CIC web site for the Immigration Sponsorship Process at the following new link:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5196ETOC.asp>

If you have any questions about the CIC application you can contact the CIC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100.

Adoption agencies are not permitted to give advice on completing these forms (this is a CIC regulation). We have volunteer families who are willing to assist our families complete this process and you can reach Jan Gravelle at jan.gravelle@rogers.com with questions you may have about the process.

For more information on our WC China Program or to set up a screening call for the WC China Program, please contact me at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com



Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Krista: Krista.Hall@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 3

The Children's Bridge domestic adoption program is still accepting new families into the program at this time. Families are required to have their homestudy and PRIDE training completed prior to registering in the domestic program. Private domestic adoption is completed as prospective birth parents choose adoptive families based on family profiles that are presented to birth parents, therefore timelines are unpredictable for domestic adoption programs across Ontario.

I would be happy to speak further with prospective families about the domestic adoption program.

For more information about private domestic adoption in Ontario, please contact me.



Cathy Murphy

Post Adoption Events and Seminars strengthen our adoption community and support us and our children in our journey. I encourage you to attend events and or host events in your region.

Connect-A-Kid Mentoring Program

Connect-A-Kid is running in Ottawa and we are thrilled to have our teen and adult mentors facilitating this wonderful program for adoptees! For more information please go to our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events or contact [Cathy](#) (Ottawa) or [Darlene](#) (GTA).

Post Adoption Follow Up Calls:

You will be contacted by one of our TCB staff within 6 months after arriving home in Canada. The purpose of our call is to touch base with your family and see how your child and family are doing. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to touch base before this time or if you require any supports or resources for your family.



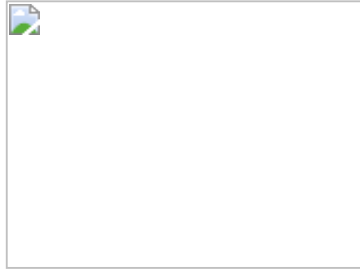
Cathy Murphy, Darlene Catton & Karyn Bakelaar

Please ensure you [register for AdopTALK](#) in the year your family will be travelling to receive your child. AdopTALK sessions are hosted every 6 months in Ottawa and the GTA and once per year in the Maritimes (as required).

Ottawa, Ontario - March 5th and 6th, 2016 (with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy)

GENERAL EVENTS:

Please also check the *General Events* section of our web site for pre and post adoption events in your community at www.childrensbridge.com under "General Events".



CB Newsletters!

The CB newsletters are online! Please visit:

<https://www.childrensbridge.com/newsletters>

Cathy Murphy and the Children's Bridge staff.

