



Friday, January 22nd, 2016

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Office Closure for Ontario Family Day in February 2016:
 Please note that The Children's Bridge office
 will be closed on Monday February 15, 2016 for the Family Day holiday.
 We will reopen at 8:30 am on February 16, 2016.



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Adoptee Study Ryerson

The Children's Bridge supports your participation in this study that can be a benefit to our adoption community!
[Ryerson Study: More info on how you can join!](#)

Lunar New Year Celebrations February 7 - 13, 2016!

How will your family celebrate the Lunar New Year? Please share your celebrations and traditions with us and we will include your stories and photos in our upcoming March Newsletter! Kindly send all submissions to us by February 16th.

In **China**, Chinese New Year is celebrated from February 7-13, 2016. Twenty sixten (2016) marks the Year of the Monkey in the Chinese zodiac calendar.

The most important food during Chinese New Year is the dumpling (jiaozi). Made with flour and stuffed with different fillings, dumplings are usually eaten on the eve. Because their shape resembles the Yuanbao (a kind of money used in ancient times), dumplings are eaten to bring wealth in the coming year. Red envelopes/packets with money placed inside are given to kids from their parents, grandparents and extended family members as New Year gifts. They are called hongbao in Mandarin and laisee in Cantonese. Sending red packets is a well-observed custom during Chinese New Year.

In **South Korea**, Lunar New Year is celebrated from February 7 - 10, 2016.

The holiday is called Seollal in Korean. In South Korea, Seollal is a day to gather with family members. Seollal begins with an ancestral rite called charea. The rite starts with preparing many foods, including a variety of wild herbs, meat, fish, fruits, alcohol, and the Korean New Year dish tteokguk, a soup made with sliced rice cake. After greeting the ancestors, all family members eat the food. Then the younger generation pays respect to the older generation by bowing down, which we call

saebae. Usually the older family members give words of blessing—and money—to the children.

In **Thailand**, Chinese Lunar New Year is celebrated for three consecutive days from February 7 - 10, 2016.

Celebrations throughout Bangkok are mainly centred around Chinatown (Yaowarat). The main 3 days of the festival is on Chinese Lunar New Year, but stretches over 2 weeks until the Lantern Festival. Lion dancers, drummers, and vendors can be found in Bangkok's Chinatown. Mid-day is a good time to visit local temples. Dragon parades can also be seen where traditional Chinese and Thai dancers join a long dragon snaking through Yaowarat Road.

In **Vietnam**, Lunar New Year and Tet are celebrated from February 7 - 13, 2016.

Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet for short, is considered the biggest and most popular festival of the year in Vietnam. Celebrated on the first day of the first month in the Lunar Calendar, Tet's celebration is the longest holiday which may last up to seven days.

Vietnamese will begin their preparations well in advance of the upcoming New Year. In an effort to get rid of the bad luck of the old year, people will spend a few days cleaning their homes, and decorate their house with branches of peach blossom, and many other colorful flowers. The ancestral altar is especially taken care of, with careful decorations of five kinds of fruits and votive papers, along with many religious rituals.

Like other Asian countries, Vietnamese believe that the color of red and yellow will bring good fortune, which may explain why these colors can be seen everywhere during the Lunar New Year. People consider that what they do on the dawn of Tet will determine their fate for the whole year, hence people always smile and behave as nicely as they can in the hope for a better year. Gifts can be exchanged between family members and friends and relatives, while children receive lucky money kept in red envelope.

Lunar New Year Celebrations in Toronto and Ottawa:

(Please check your local community calendars for celebrations in your region.)

Chinese New Celebrations at Pacific Mall, Toronto, Ontario

www.pacificmalltoronto.com

Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Free Fei Chun by Renowned Calligraphers

Sunday, February 8, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.
The Booming Year of The Dazzling Monkey Celebration

Saturday, February 13, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
The Thrilling Door-to-Door Lion Dance Performances

Chinese New Celebrations at Markham Pan Am Centre

16 Main Street Unionville South

Friday, February 5 & Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 8 p.m.
Lunar Festival Celebration

Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 9:30 p.m.
Lunar New Year's Eve Countdown Bash
(With Special Guest Lee Lung Kei)

Ottawa, Ontario/Hull, Quebec

<https://www.ottawatourism.ca/events/asian-lunar-new-year-festival/>

Lunar New Year Events at the Hilton Lac Lemay, Quebec

There will be an opening ceremony to commemorate the event on Saturday, January 23rd at 3pm. We will have our popular lion dance followed by an exciting Asian fashion show. Also in attendance will be embassy representatives from China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand.

One of the main highlights of the show will be the noodle pulling demonstration.

Friday, January 22 - 7 p.m. to midnight
Saturday, January 23 - 12 p.m. to midnight
Sunday, January 24 - 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Hilton Lac-Leamy Casino, 1, boulevard du Casino

Gatineau, Québec

Admission: Only \$5 in advance (purchased through Eventbrite), \$10 at the door. Free admission for children under 10 yrs when accompanied by an adult. FREE PARKING!

For more information regarding the entertainment schedule and specific entertainers, please refer to:

www.ottawaasianfest.com

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

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge hosted the following workshops and post adoption groups this month: Ottawa Parent Support Group, Toronto Parent Support Group (numbers of enrollment were too low to host session - please contact Darlene Catton darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com). Connect-A-Kid, mentoring program in Ottawa and an Information Session for prospective adoptive parents will be held on February 1, 2016 in Ottawa and on February 28, 2016 in Newmarket.

AdopTALK Ottawa will be held on March 4 and 5, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy.



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 to Andrew and Meadow who arrived home in Canada with their new baby girl in August!

Further congratulations are extended to Ella and Gerry who arrived in Canada with their new daughter in November!

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	Waiting to be matched
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

Immigration and Travel to Canada for People Living with HIV - Question and Answer Guide:
<http://www.catie.ca/en/resources/immigration-and-travel-canada-people-living-hiv-questions-and-answers?>

utm_source=tce&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en&utm_campaign=100715pm

An HIV Adoption Story: <http://www.parenting.com/article/hiv-adoption-story>

Sinethemba Facebook Page - A resource for families considering adopting or parenting a child living with HIV:
<https://www.facebook.com/Sinethemba-110775402319545/>

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 coming up in February, 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	Dossier in-country/Zambian approval issued
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 finally are seeing some movement for the families who are waiting to finalize their adoptions in Korea. One family is currently in Seoul awaiting the court process and we hope to have court dates for more families soon! The family who is attending court this month waited almost 9 months after receiving their referral for the court date, and we wish them the best of luck!

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.

Lunar New Year Celebration - Ottawa

Happy New Year!!!

The Korean Community Association of Ottawa (KCAO) cordially invites you to the 2016 version of our annual Lunar New Year's celebration. Although this is the Year of the Monkey according to the Asian zodiac, don't be shy about joining us in this year's celebration of the Lunar New Year featuring Korean food, entertainment and games.

Once again we invite you to wear your traditional Korean costume, Hanbok, if you have one.

As in past years, we ask each family to bring one dish of food for the potluck dinner. Also this evening, we will be collecting the annual KCAO membership fee which is \$40 per family or \$20 for individuals.

The details of the event are as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Ron Kolbus Centre

102 Greenview Ave. Ottawa, ON K2B 8J8 (near Britannia Beach)

For more information contact: 613-263-2717 or 613-400-8149

email: ott.korean@gmail.com

Lunar New Year Celebration - Toronto

KCCA 2016 Lunar New Year Celebration - February 6, 2016

Our annual Lunar New Year celebration is on Saturday, February 6th, 2016 10:00 am at MilAl Church at 405 Gordon Baker Road, Toronto.

Vincent Lim and the church team are preparing a wonderful Lunar New Year celebration program for KCCA families. Families can RSVP by January 31st to Stephen Kranabetter at kranny@rogers.com.

There will be \$10 charge per adult.

Thank You Everyone.

Dae Kang

South Korea Homeland Tours



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Adoption Program News

We sent five files to Thailand in 2015. Our quota was actually 9. I do not have a quota yet for this year but hope to have some information soon. I anticipate that it will be the same as the previous two years which is 9.

Four families are currently working on their dossiers and one family's file is being processed at the Thai Embassy.

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

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

We received another NOC for one of our families this month and have another family whose case is being heard in court this week. Each state in India has a slightly different process regarding court hearings and timelines. We hope that things will continue to move forward for all of our families with referrals as we await news regarding NOC's, court dates and finalization.

It is very important that all families complete the CIC process (part one) for either the citizenship or sponsorship route. This process should be complete before families receive 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>).

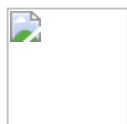
If you applied for immigration sponsorship (therefore your child entered Canada as a Permanent Resident), you will fill out a citizenship **application** (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/CIT0003E2.asp>).

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

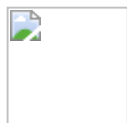
Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

I'm very excited to announce that we have scheduled our next homeland tour for **March 11 - 25, 2016**. This tour will include 5 days in Beijing, provincial visits, a cruise down the Yangtze River and a couple of days in Shanghai. Fantastic!

We currently have 5 families registered for this March trip.

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



HOMELAND VISIT - SOUTH KOREA

Email Maria: mariaf598@yahoo.com

We've had two very successful Homeland Visits this year 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

Congratulations to the Lawlor-Chau and Yeung families who have received their daughters in China!

The Children's Bridge received 4 individual children's files through the CCCWA this past month!

Warm congratulations are extended to the following families on receiving their referral/child proposals through our WC China Program this month: Wong-Huynh, Cheng-Lau, Hitchcock-Kim and Au-Yeung-Chan.

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. We encourage families in this program to be open to either gender, as there are equal numbers of boys and girls 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. The children in our WC China Program waiting for families are toddlers and preschoolers between 2.5 - 6 years of age.

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

We currently have 13 families on our WC callback list. The waiting time from callback list to being active in our WC Program is approximately 1 - 2 years for families wanting to adopt a girl and families open to adopting a boy can move directly into our WC China program.

CIC Immigration Sponsorship links:

Please click onto the link provided:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/index.asp>

Once on this link, go to the gray text box on the left hand side of the page and click onto "Choose a process" and then "Use the immigration process".

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/residents/canadians/adoption/immigration.asp>

Once on this link click onto "Apply" "begin the immigration process" and download all of the forms from the following link <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/apply-how.asp>

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

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



Domestic Program

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.



Adoption Services

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).

Our next Ottawa Connect-A-Kid event will be held February in Ottawa. Thank you to Anika Clark, Maryfrances Carton and our teen volunteers for making this program a success!

Post Adoption Follow Up Calls:

You will be contacted by one of our TCB staff approximately 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.



AdopTALK

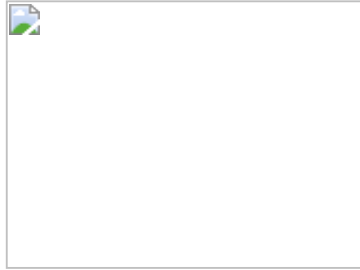
Cathy Murphy, Darlene Catton & Karyn Bakelaar

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.

