

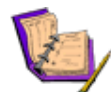


Friday, June 24th, 2016

*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.*

Statutory Holiday Closure - Canada Day

Please note that our offices will be closed on Friday July 1st for the Canada Day statutory holiday. We wish all of our families a safe and fun-filled long weekend! Our offices will reopen at 8:30 am on Monday July 4th, 2016.



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Happy Belated Father's Day, June 19, 2016:

Warm greetings are extended to all of our wonderful father's for all you do each and every day in the lives of your children!

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Forest E. Witcraft

New Post Adoption Consultation Service:

Post Adoption Consultation Service - The Children's Bridge is pleased to offer our Post Adoption Consultation service for adoptive families that includes: scheduled telephone/skype call, email correspondence and identification of resources specific to the needs of the family, child or youth or the country the child has been adopted from.

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

Please note that this fee is not charged for our initial 6 months post adoption follow-up call when The Children's Bridge families are first home from country with their child.

To book a Post Adoption Consultation, please contact [Karyn Bakelaar](#), [Darlene Catton](#) or [Cathy Murphy](#).

Adoption Study - Chinese Adoptees (over 12 years of age)

My name is Emily Robinson and I was adopted from China as an infant. I am currently a first-year honors student majoring in Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. I plan on continuing my interest in science by applying to medical school to specialize in orthopedic surgery. In the future, I hope to help adoptees and those still in orphanages with birth defects and limb discrepancies. In addition to taking classes, I am collaborating with Professor Tony Tan at the University of South Florida to study the post-adoption social and emotional adjustment of children adopted.

Professor Tan is the principal investigator of the study titled "Well-Being of Adopted Youth" (IRB Pro#00026088). Professor Tan grew up in China and was trained at Harvard University to study adoptees' well-being. He has been studying adopted children for over 10 years. As many adoptees are reaching adolescence and young adulthood, Professor Tan and I want to learn more about how you are doing. We hope to compare the overall wellbeing of those who were adopted as infants with those who were adopted at an older age. Our ultimate goal is to use research findings to help develop steps to maximize positive outcomes in adoptees.

In the current study, we are looking for 1000 adoptees who are 12-22 years old to share your experiences pertaining to school and family, as well as your overall wellbeing. If you volunteer to participate in the study, you will be asked to fill out an online survey that will take 10-20 minutes. Your help may benefit younger and future children in the adoption community. If you are interested in participating in the study or are interested in learning more about the study, please email me at erobinson3@mail.usf.edu

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in June: Information Session for prospective adoptive parents - June 26th in Newmarket, Ontario.

Social Media:

Please check out this wonderful workshop from Dr. Cheng on Social Media and its impact on our youth. Dr. Cheng is at The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and is a wonderful resource for families!

Here is the link for the Dr. Cheng May 30, 2016 presentation:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/596510/Raising%20Resilient%20Kids%20-%20Presentation%20for%20Mother%20Teresa%202016-04-14%20-%20090-min.pptx>

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 Maria Fulford to ensure you meet the requirements for these adoption programs darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com, Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Adoption Program News

Book List and Recommended Reading

Below you will find a list of books related to adoption, race, culture, ethnicity or just every day stories that feature kids of colour. I will be adding to the list monthly, and if you have favourite books that you'd like to share, please feel free to email them to me at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com.

Keep in mind these books are good for every child to have as part of their library - adopted or not, person of colour or not - as exposure to diversity, different ways to make a family, etc. can only lead to more tolerance and acceptance for everyone!

MARCH BOOKLIST

1. Seventeen Cute Children's Books About Adoption: <http://www.todayparent.com/family/17-cute-kids-books-about-adoption/image/2/>
2. Great Books for Black Teenage Boys: <http://mybrownbaby.com/2011/08/books-for-african-american-teenage-boy/>
3. Strong Nations - Books that Feature First Nations Children: http://www.strongnations.com/store/item_list.php?it=3&cat=6
4. Mighty Girl Booklist - Top Books that Feature Latino/Hispanic Girls: <http://www.amightygirl.com/mighty-girl-picks/top-latino-hispanic-american-mighty-girl-books>
5. Books on Mayan Culture (Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, etc.): http://www.terraexperience.com/b_books_childrens.htm
6. Children's Book Tour of Central Africa (CAR, DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda): <https://www.librarything.com/list/1047/all/A-Childs-Book-Tour-of-Central-Africa-Congo-Cameroon-Rwanda-Chad>
7. Books that Celebrate Haitian Children: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
8. African-American Children's Movies: <http://movies.lovetoknow.com/african-american-childrens-movies>
9. Books that Feature Children from the Pacific Islands (Pacific Islands, Polynesia, Tahiti, Marshall Islands): <http://www.pacificislandbooks.com/children.htm>
10. Exploring East Asia Through Children's Books: http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child_booklist.shtml

APRIL BOOKLIST

1. Top Five "Go To" Books for Trauma Informed Parenting: <http://beachildsadvocate.blogspot.ca/2016/04/my-top-5-go-to-books-for-trauma.html?spref=fb>

2. Top Ten Kids Books for Mixed Race/Biracial Children: <http://www.mixedremixed.org/top-10-favorite-kids-books-for-multiracial-kids-and-teens/>
3. Books About and Written By New Immigrants: <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/new-fiction-from-new-immigrants>
4. Southeast Asian (middle school fiction): http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/92237.Southeast_Asians_in_YA_Middle_Grade_Fiction
5. Middle School and Young Adult Fiction with Muslim Protagonists: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16325.Muslimah_YA_fiction
6. Books for Latino/a/x Kids and Teens: <http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=2000155101>

MAY BOOKLIST

1. Top Ten Books of Filipino Stories for Children: <http://tagaloglang.com/top-10-books-of-filipino-stories-for-children/>
2. Best Books on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/12/best-books-democratic-republic-congo-review>
3. 82 Children's Books that Depict Multi-racial Families: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/50576.Children_s_Books_Depicting_Multiracial_Families
4. 13 Children's Books About Bullying: <http://humaneeducation.org/blog/2014/10/09/13-childrens-picture-books-bullying/>
5. Many Languages, Many Alphabets - Books that Expose Children to Different Alphabets Around the World: <https://litforkids.wordpress.com/2009/05/03/many-languages-many-alphabets/>

JUNE BOOKLIST

1. Multi-racial Asian Families - books that consider race, families, children and the intersection of Mixed ID/Asian identity: <http://multiasianfamilies.blogspot.ca/p/books-for-kids.html>
2. 50 Picture Books About Mixed Race Families: <http://coloursofus.com/picture-books-about-mixed-race-families/>
3. LGBTQ Positive Books That Kids Need to Read: <http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/06/lgbtq-books-for-kids.html>
4. 25 Books for Black/African-American Little Boys: <http://www.watchtheyard.com/list/childrens-books-for-african-american-boys/>
5. 25 Empowering Books for Black Little Girls: <http://www.forharriet.com/2013/10/25-empowering-books-for-little-black.html#axzz4CHIMDr5S>
6. Children's Books Set in Haiti: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children_s_Fiction_set_in_Haiti
7. Top Ten Indigenous Books for your Summer Reading List: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/10-top-indigenous-books-for-your-summer-reading-list-1.2695671>
8. #Indigenous Reads: Your Picks for the best Indigenous Books: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/celebrating-indigenous-book-club-month-1.3624136/indigenousreads-your-picks-for-the-best-indigenous-books-1.3624580>



USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Adoption Program News

I spent the week of June 6th - 10th in Orlando, Hollywood, and North Miami Beach, Florida meeting with our two partner agencies, discussing details of the programs and visiting various hotels and short-term accommodations which our families might utilize while in Florida meeting their children.

Both programs are currently running very smoothly with average wait-time being between 12 - 24 months from dossier submission to placement. I have included some photos below of Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC), who we have partnered with since 2012, and completed a total of 8 newborn adoptions.

ORLANDO OFFICE



Amy at her Desk - Front Entrance



Terri Maikkula



Front of Building - Entrance

ASC - HOLLYWOOD OFFICE





Front Entrance - Waiting Room



I was also able to meet with the Director and staff at our new partner agency in North Miami Beach, ACF Adoptions. I enjoyed my time with them, and am very much looking forward to working with them! The Children's Bridge currently has one family in process with our new partner agency, which means we still have 2 available spaces for prospective adoptive families. This program is open to married couples, 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:

- ACF Adoptions 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)

The Children's Bridge currently has 2 (two) families in process to adopt through ASC in 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.

Congratulations are extended to John and Aimee who just arrived back home in Canada with their new baby boy, Liam!

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family V & N	Waiting to be matched
2	Family D & C	Waiting to be matched

ACF ADOPTIONS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family A & M	Compiling dossier for USA

****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

This fantastic resource (below) was recently brought to my attention by one of our families. It contains excellent information for kids living with HIV, as well as training and information for caregivers/parents:

<http://steppingstonesfeedback.org/index.php/page/Resources/gb?resourceid=67>

Manulife has become the first insurance company to provide life insurance to HIV+ Canadians, as HIV is now considered to be a chronic but manageable condition: <http://www.thestar.com/business/2016/04/22/manulife-to-offer-life-insurance-to-hiv-positive-canadians.html?referrer=> or <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/manulife-insurance-hiv-1.3548690>

To see what it might be like to parent a child living with HIV, check out “Lily’s Story” available on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0pOU54h1bo>

To see an adoption story from the Agape Home in Thailand, please see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPUS-2U2ALs>

Program Possibilities

- **India** - all ages of children living with HIV are waiting for families, other program requirements may be waived. Please contact Karyn Bakelaar for more information (karyn.bakelaar@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)
- **Zambia** - We are currently accepting applications for this program from families that are open to adopting a child aged 4+ living with HIV.

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

Welcome home to Tyler and Erica and their new daughter, Sarah, who arrived in Canada this past weekend! Their stay in Zambia was just over 6-months from start to finish.

I will be compiling much of the information that this family was able to share with me about the process in-country and updating our information booklets over the coming months (mainly our Referral and Travel Guide). I will distribute this to our waiting families once it is ready. For now, I have cut and pasted a few tips and some information shared over the past 6 months about the in-country process.

1) Two clauses in the Adoption Act must be satisfied before the Adoption Hearing (court) can occur:

- Families must foster the child for 90 days (Committal Order);
 - Some DSW social workers will also request families complete a bonding period of 2-4 weeks before a Committal Order will be granted.
- You must apply to adopt the child 90 days prior to attending court (Effective Date Letter).
- **Therefore, it is very important that all families file for adoption (File for the Effective Date Letter) as soon as you have the Committal Order.** It is possible that district social welfare offices will not be aware of this process, and say that you must wait until after the Committal/Fostering period has ended, but this is incorrect and will add at least 3-months to your time in Zambia. Be patient but persistent in letting them know that you must apply for the Effective Date Letter as soon as you have the Committal Order.

2) You must have your visa/passport stamped every 30 days while in Zambia, and renew your Visitor's Visa every 90 days. See below for steps to take and items to bring with you each visit. If travelling as a couple, both applicants must get their own visa renewal in person at the renewal office.

30 Day Visa Stamp Process:

- Go to the immigration regional office located in Pension House on Cairo Rd. on the monthly anniversary of your entry stamp (i.e. if you arrive in Zambia on the 15th of the month, go to the office on the 15th of the following month).
- Sign in at the front entrance with your passport information.
- Go to the second floor, the first door immediately on your left at the top of the stairs is the immigration office. If there is no line it takes 30 seconds to get a stamp from the officer at the desk.

Visiting Permit/Visa Renewal Process:

- When you go to get the visa stamp for the second time (60 days in Zambia) also plan to go to the Immigration Headquarters that same day to apply for the Visiting Permit. (you need to apply 30 days before your 90 days is up)
- Immigration Headquarters is located in the Kent Building on Haile Selassie Ave
- Items Required for Visiting Permit:
 1. Application from the Zambian Immigration Website
 2. Certified Copy of Passport Photo & Stamped Pages (we had a certified copy of our passport page that we brought from Canada and then just got a photocopy of our stamped pages and they accepted that) They however don't want the original certified copy, they want a photocopy of the certified copy!
 3. Copy of Committal Order
 4. Copy of Flight Ticket Home
 5. Copy of Invitation Letter from Host (Davern or Rosina at CCASZ) & a photocopy of Host's National Registration Card (NRC)
 6. **TYPED** cover letter stating why you want to stay in Zambia (they will not accept hand-written letters)
 7. Two (2) Passport photos (signed by a guarantor - we did this in Canada and brought them with us)
 8. K1000 each adult applicant (one order in the amount of K2000 is fine is two applicants) via money order written to "The Director General of Immigration" - This can be done at Investbank across the street from Arcades behind the fuel station. Not all the banks will give you one if you don't have a bank account, but Investbank does, just bring the K1000 (or K2000) in cash.
 9. Children are listed on one of the adults' passports so you don't have to apply for a separate one for them, but do bring a passport photo for the children.
 10. Everything is to be a copy, they don't want originals. You can bring originals as back-up in case asked for, however.
- This process may take some time and patience. Please be persistent and yet calm and patient when dealing with officers at the Immigration Headquarters.

3) Families should bring several full copies of their adoption dossier with them to country, and they will be needed to submit at several points throughout the adoption process.

4) The immigration/citizenship process is now being completed through Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. More details will be shared with waiting families once they are known.

ZAMBIA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

FAMILY NAME	STAGE OF PROCESS
Josh and Laura	Dossier 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 Maria: Maria.Fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

Vacation Alert

Please be advised that I will be on vacation starting Thursday June 30, 2016 and will return to the office on Monday July 25, 2016. In my absence please contact Cathy Murphy at ext. 6 or by email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com.

Welcome home!

Good news from SWS this past Wednesday morning! Ready to Travel was received for one of our families and they can now travel to Korea to receive their son. They are thrilled! Their referral was received mid-June 2015, court date end of March 2015, EP approved mid-December 2015, Court date March 25 2016, PRC received June 23 2016. It's been a long wait for this family and we are so happy that they can now be united as a family.

Court dates

The timeline from referral acceptance until travel for court has been a bit unpredictable. Families who travelled in April waited about 6 months between their referral acceptance being sent back to SWS and receiving the news that they had a court date. There were 4 families whose dossiers were submitted for EP approval in April and we hope to have news about their court dates soon as well!

One dossier is in Korea and we are waiting for this family to be matched with a child soon. Several home studies are at MCYS pending approval.

Updated information on what to expect at the court hearing

Below is some 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.

Adoption Order Finalization and Confirmation of Permanent Residence

Historically, the estimated time for COPR issuing is 4 to 6 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. However, recently some families have waited closer to 8 weeks for the visa to be issued. SWS will send the immigration paperwork to Manila approximately 1 week after the confirmed adoption order has been issued as there is translation required. SWS will inform us when a family is 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

Referral!

Congratulations are extended to Michael and Michelle on the referral of their gorgeous daughter! This family waited 2 ½ years. They should travel within the next 3 - 4 months.

Two family's files are at the Ministry awaiting approval and four families are currently working on their dossiers, one of which does not fall under the quota (9 files this year).

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.

There are many children in Thailand with special medical needs that are waiting for families. If you are interested in this program, please contact me for more detailed information.

MCYS

The timeline at The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Ontario, to process a home study (or update) has increased to 16 weeks. However, they have hired more staff and we anticipate that this timeline will improve.

DSDW

We have been advised that the Department of Social Development and Welfare have changed their name to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY). The adoption unit under the DCY is now known as the Child Adoption Center (CAC).

The CAC indicated to us that proposals may begin coming sooner than the 3 years we have known for quite some time. At this time we don't know exactly how much sooner but will ensure all families have their paperwork in order in case this happens. If/when this happens; we will advise all families that may be affected.

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.

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 will not be accepting any new applications for our Jamaica Adoption Program. Our staff and Board of Directors have decided that The Children's Bridge will not reapply for a Jamaica adoption license this fall and we will be closing this adoption program. We currently have no families in process to adopt from Jamaica. The Child Development Agency (CDA) is the Central Authority in Jamaica in charge of all international and domestic adoptions in Jamaica.



India Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

A note from Karyn

I wanted to introduce myself to those families who may not know me as I have taken over the India Adoption Program as Program Manager. I have been with The Children's Bridge for 6 years now, and over the years have managed our programs in Ethiopia, Jamaica, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda and Ghana, as well as our HIV+ Kids Adoption Program. I also help to facilitate AdoptTALK along with Darlene and Cathy. I am very much looking forward to my new role as the Program Manager for India! I appreciate everyone's patience as I learn the details of this program moving forward.

If you would like any information about the India Adoption program, please contact me at 613-226-2112 ext. 2, or at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com.

Finalization in country

Congratulations to Amanda and Paul who arrived in Canada this past weekend with their daughter, Harsheela.

We currently have 2 other families that are in India and are at the final stages of their adoption process in-country and hoping to return to Canada with their children soon.

Most families in the India program will go through the citizenship process with CIC and the final stage, applying for citizenship after the adoption order is issued, has taken up to 2 months for some families. Each family has a slightly different process and we will do our best to assist families through this stage.

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

Once families are home in Canada with their children, they must complete a formal process renouncing Indian citizenship (dual citizenship is not possible in this adoption program). This **must** be done within 3 years of receiving Canadian Citizenship (or Record of Landing if you complete the Permanent Resident Visa route). It is **very important** to complete this step, as failure to do so may result in penalties when your child travels back to India at any point in their life. It is a punishable offence under the Indian Passport Act, 1967, to apply for an Indian passport, continue to hold an Indian passport, get an Indian passport re-issued or travel on an Indian passport after acquiring foreign citizenship. Under Indian law, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have acquired foreign citizenship are required to surrender their Indian passports to the nearest Indian Mission/Post immediately after acquisition of foreign citizenship.

Please see this link for more information on relinquishing Indian citizenship and relinquishing your child's Indian passport: http://www.blsindia-canada.com/renunciation_ppt.php

Foreigners Regional Registration Office and NOC

There has been a new requirement put in place by the Indian government that all families must obtain a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) before you bring your child home from India. This is also a requirement for adoptive parents who hold OCI status and will travel on a Canadian passport. This NOC is essentially an exit permit and families will need to apply for it at the FRRO before departing India.

The adoptive parents are advised to first contact the FRRO office to request an appointment date and bring along with them the printout of the online application form and relevant documents pertaining to their adoption. The exit permit(s) shall be granted within three working days after submission.

I am happy to provide travelling families with more detailed information about this process once they are at this stage in their adoption process. **Please note:** It is highly recommended that all families travel to Delhi in order to apply to the Delhi FRRO office. The Delhi office is more familiar with the process and has been able to keep to the 3-day turnaround time. As well, the CARA office is close in proximity, which means documents that are needed can be accessed in person and in a timely fashion by the adoptive family or the FRRO officers.

CARA has advised that parents can contact the FRRO support desk by telephone at 91 11 2671-1443 or by e-mail at frrodli.support@nic.in OR frrodli.support@gov.in for assistance in obtaining this document.

The address for the FRRO office in Delhi is as follows:

Foreigners Regional Registration Office
East Block VIII Level II ,
Sec 1, R K Puram, Delhi - 110066
+(91)-(11)-26711074, 26711384, 26711443, 26711348

Citizenship process - part 1

The citizenship process through CIC is now taking up to 12 months 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.

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.

It seems that the CCCWA are still matching families whose files were registered in January 2007.

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

Our family that is participating in the summer tour is getting very excited about their departure only 1 week away!

I'd like to wish them a fantastic trip!

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me.



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 which you can find on our website.

We are offering both English and French guided tours again 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.

Our March Break tour participants returned home a few weeks ago and from their updates I can see they had a very memorable and fabulous time.

One family of four has just confirmed for this summer's tour and I'm waiting for confirmation from two more.

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



Waiting Children Program China

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

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

Congratulations to the Chan-Leung and Oxley-de Sousa families on the referrals of their children this month!

We wish the Stoter and Cote-Zanetti families a wonderful adoption journey when they travel to China to receive their sons!
We wish them a safe 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.

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. The children waiting for families in our WC China Program are toddlers and preschoolers. On average the boys have been between 2-3 years of age and the girls between 3 -5 years of age at time of referral.

We currently have 22 families in process in our WC China program. From referral/proposal to travel is approximately 4-6 months.

We currently have 16 families on our WC callback list. The waiting time from callback list to being active in our WC Program is approximately 2 years for families wanting to adopt a girl.

CIC Immigration Sponsorship links:

Please click onto the link provided:

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

Many of our families are frustrated with the CIC process and have found the web site is not user friendly. Please remember, you can advocate for change and can speak with your Member of Parliament about your concerns.

Many thanks to Jan Gravelle who continues to act as a volunteer mentor to assist our families with the CIC 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



Domestic Program

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Cathy: Cathy.Murphy@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

For more information about private domestic adoption in Ontario, please contact Cathy Murphy at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com



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). Watch for our events in Ottawa this fall!

AdopTALK

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 other areas of the country (as required).

- Newmarket, ON - September 24/25 (with Darlene Catton)

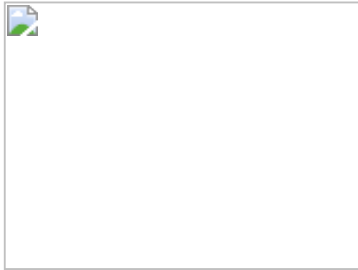
Post Adoption Follow Up Calls:

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.

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.

