



Friday, April 1st, 2016

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Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Adoption Citizenship Petition Update and Resource Links

I have received many emails and calls this month from families inquiring about the petition and trying to understand the issue. I thought I would include the links below to assist your family with understanding the history behind the failed bills.

The first link shows the differences between Immigration Sponsorship and CDN Citizenship and the last two are from parliament archives regarding the bills that have been brought to Parliament, but not passed:

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

http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?Language=E&ls=C57&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=1&source=library_prb

http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?lang=F&ls=c45&Parl=40&Ses=2&source=library_prb

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>

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 on March 27th, 2016. An Information Session for prospective adoptive parents will be held on April 11th, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario.

AdopTALK Ottawa was held on March 5 and 6, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy. Thank you to our families who attended from our South Korea and WC China Programs and to our wonderful volunteer families Steven Bittle and Ruth Code, Peter and Andy Thompson and Stephen and Noreen Wang!

Social Media:

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

RBC TOP 25 IMMIGRANT AWARDS

Announcing RBC's Top 75 finalists for the 8th annual RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards. Each nomination was inspiring and deserving which made it a challenging task to narrow it down to a shortlist of 75 finalists. Here are the 75 most outstanding stories. [CLICK HERE](#) to vote for your top finalists.



Cleo Page 17, a member of the Canadian National Rhythmic Gymnastics Team (and part of a Children's Bridge family) has been nominated! Read Cleo's biography and vote by following this [link](#).

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, were 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.

Ryerson still looking for families!

In the Early Childhood Cognition (ECC) Lab, we are interested in how young children think about the world, and how they learn from different sources of information (e.g., firsthand experience, the testimony of others, media). We offer unique opportunities for families to gain exposure to the science of psychology.

In an ongoing study, we look at the role of ethnic identity in transracially-adopted children's trust in others. Transracially-adopted children may experience a unique developmental trajectory of ethnic identity, which in turn may impact how they weigh information from individuals of different ethnicities, ultimately influencing their trust in others and social learning. Findings of this research will have practical implications in educational and forensic settings.

We are looking for families with transracially-adopted children to help us with this research. If you are interested in having your child participate, please feel free to contact us!

This study is open to transracially adopted children between the ages of 3 - 6 years and only one session of 20 - 30 minutes is required. You can participate at the lab (Ryerson), your home or a local centre. Please contact Kyla McDonald for more info. Kyla.mcdonald@psych.ryerson.ca or 905-706-6215.

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!

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



USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

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, ACF Adoptions, 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:

- 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)

Due to some very recent matches/placements we now only have one (1) family in process to adopt from 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!

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	Home with baby - completing post placement
2	Family V & N	Waiting to be matched
3	Family J & A	Home with baby - completing post placement
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

There is no news for this adoption program this month.

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 have received 2 referrals for beautiful baby boys in the last month. Our families are thrilled to be matched and moving forward with the adoption process, and we are very happy for them as well!

We still have one family awaiting confirmation of permanent residency who attended court at the end of January. Two other families have had court dates in March and we are hoping for more news for the rest of our matched families soon.

The timeline from referral acceptance until travel for court has been a bit unpredictable. We now have 6 families waiting for court dates so we hope that there will be more movement for these families soon.

SWS continue to accept new family files and we are also 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

Four families are currently working on their dossiers, one of which does not fall under the quota (9 files this year). I sent one file to Thailand this month.

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.

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 a 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.

We do not currently have any families in process for Jamaica.

If you are 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 still have 4 families who are waiting to complete their adoptions and bring their children home from India. Two of our families have completed court hearings and will be able to submit their paperwork for the citizenship step soon. 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.

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.

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>).

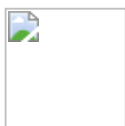
If you applied for immigration sponsorship (therefore your child entered Canada as a Permanent Resident), you will fill out a citizenship application (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/CIT0003E2.asp>).

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

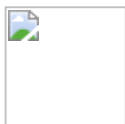
Email Darlene: Darlene.Catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Participants in our March tour came home last week-end. By all accounts they had an exceptional time!

The summer tour has been scheduled for July 1 - 15, 2016 and the registration package is on our website. Check it out!

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 Stoter and Cote-Zanetti families on receiving the child proposals for their sons in our WC China Program! The Children's Bridge received two individual children's files this month from the CCCWA and was pleased to be able to match these two boys with families!

Bon voyage to the Wong-Tuyet and Cheng-Lau families who will travel to China to receive their children in April! We wish them a safe and wonderful adoption journey!

Congratulations to the Hitchcock-Kim and Au-Yeung-Chan families who have received their Letters of Seeking Confirmation from the CCCWA. Tentative travel date for these families is the end of May 2016.

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 between 2.5 - 6 years of age.

We currently have 23 families in process in our WC China program. From referral/proposal to travel is approximately 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 1.5 - 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 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

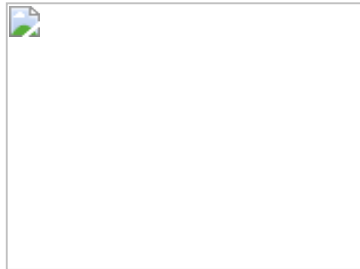
Connect-A-Kid is running in Ottawa and we are thrilled to have our teen and adult mentors facilitating this wonderful program for adoptees! For more information please go to our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events or contact [Cathy](#) (Ottawa) or [Darlene](#) (GTA).

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.

