

Share:



Join Email List

Powered by
Constant Contact



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 (THIS Month at a Glance), it will still be distributed through the weeklyupdate@childrensbridge.com email address as many spam filters have approved this address.

August 31st, 2018



Notes From Karyn's Desk

Karyn Bakelaar - Executive Director

I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.

Please note: my regular work week will be Monday to Thursday. Families wishing to contact me can do so at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Event Updates

An Education Seminar for Extended Family and Friends - Saturday September 29, 2018 - Toronto

Adoption Resources

An Education Seminar for Extended Family and Friends

For Your: Parents & In-laws • Siblings • Older Children • Other Family Members • Nannies • Friends

Finally - a seminar to help family and friends understand adoption. This seminar will be helpful during the adoption process, or after the adoption has been completed. The seminar will help involve family and friends, and will provide education about the different aspects of adoption:

- Positive adoption language
- How to answer questions - Privacy vs Secrecy
- Adjustments of internationally adopted children
- Understanding open adoption relationships
- Loss - adoption and the older child
- Growing up adopted - what the child understands
- How family and friends can be supportive

Date - Saturday September 29th, 2018 -- Toronto

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$65 per person (includes HST)

Refreshments served • Free parking

About the presenter: Sofie Stergianis, MSW, RSW, is a private adoption professional who has worked in the field of adoption since 1981. Sofie is an experienced trainer, and her adoption seminars are based on years of accumulated knowledge in child welfare, international adoption and private domestic adoption. Sofie is also the co-author of the children's book entitled "What is Adoption? Helping non-adopted children understand adoption", which has sold worldwide. As well, Sofie is a parent through adoption.

For further information and to register, contact **Sofie Stergianis**

adoption@rogers.com or **(416) 483-0003**



www.adoptioeducation.ca

Searching - presented by The Children's Bridge - Sunday, October 14, 2018

The Children's Bridge
is pleased to present the following workshop:

"Searching"

If you want more information on how to initiate DNA testing, how to find more information on an orphanage, foster family and/or birth family or information on a homeland tour, this might be the workshop for you.

Please note that this workshop will focus mainly on searching in China.

Sunday, October 14th, 2018
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jan Gravelle
Adoptive Parent, Educator

Art Ferguson Clubhouse
16195 Bayview Avenue,
Newmarket, ON

To RSVP and for more information please contact Darlene Catton at
darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com , Tel.: 905-836-6776
(Check out our website too at www.childrensbridge.com)

The Children's Bridge is an experienced, non-profit adoption agency that has facilitated more than 4500 adoptions over the last 20 years.

This workshop is intended to provide information only on how to initiate a DNA search (what are the best websites, what to look for, etc.), research techniques that may assist you in obtaining more information on a particular orphanage and/or foster family, how to get started on a birth parent search and visiting your homeland.

Cost: \$30/members, \$40/non-members, Payable by cheque to The Children's Bridge

The Children's Bridge
221-1400 Clyde Avenue Ottawa Ontario K2G 3J2
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Fax: (613) 226-8843
Email: info@childrensbridge.com www.childrensbridge.com

Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) is replaces the Record of Landing

Every person who lands in Canada as a permanent resident is no longer given an IMM 1000 Record of Landing document. The COPR now is the document issued at time of entry and replaces the Record of Landing.

The COPR must be kept as part of your child's adoption records as they'll require it when applying for Old Age Pension through Service Canada.

For more information on the COPR:

<https://recordoflanding.ca/faqs/what-is-a-confirmation-of-permanent-residence/>

The Children's Bridge recommends all families keep their child's COPR, original adoption paperwork, legal documents, citizenship and passport in a home safe or safety deposit box for safe keeping as these documents are irreplaceable.



Pre and Post Adoption Services

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](#) or [Darlene Catton](#).

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming months: Adoption Panels in Ottawa and the GTA, Parent Support Group in Ottawa, Connect-A-Kid Ottawa and Information Sessions. Please check our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events.

Connect-A-Kid Ottawa

Please check our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events for our Fall upcoming events! If you are an adoptee in the Ottawa area we welcome your participation in our events!

Book List and Recommended Reading

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

We encourage families to 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!

Previous Booklists have been archived and can be accessed through the Member's Area of our website, or by emailing Karyn at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

June Booklist:

1. Top Ten Books About South Korea (Adult Reading): <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/feb/14/top-10-books-about-south-korea>
2. Five Korean Novels (written by Korean Authors) That You Should Read Right Now: <https://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2015/11/korean-novelists-han-kang-suki-kim-krys-lee>
3. 31 Books to Read About Thailand Before You Travel There (Adult Reading): <https://www.kohsamuisunset.com/books-about-thailand/>
4. Five Recommended Books Featuring Thailand: <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/thailand/articles/5-recommended-books-featuring-thailand/>
5. 34 Books by Indian authors Everyone Should Read: https://www.buzzfeed.com/andreborges/kitaabein?utm_term=.vdB3NQRML#.veNB8dIPV

May Booklist:

1. Adoption Reading for adoptive parents (Please note all of these books listed are from the adoptive family's perspective): <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption/adoptionsuggestedbooks/adoption-books-parents/>
2. Adoption Themed Children's Books: <https://chls.org/blog/favorite-adoption-themed-books/>
3. Blogs by Adoptees: <https://www.healthline.com/health/best-adoptee-blogs#3>
4. 100 Adoption Blogs and Websites to Follow: https://blog.feedspot.com/adoption_blogs/
5. Five Adoption Trauma Books You Must Read: <https://www.child-psychotherapy.com/single-post/2017/10/09/Top-5-Adoption-Trauma-Books-You-Must-Read>

April Booklist:

1. Massive Free Catalogue of Indigenous Films With 6 Picks to Get You Started: <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/there-s-a-massive-free-catalogue-of-indigenous-films-online-and-we-have-6-picks-to-get-you-started-1.4623884>
2. 12 Children's Books About Life in Africa: <https://delightfulchildrensbooks.com/2011/03/31/africa/>
3. 23 Children's Books Set in South Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/23-childrens-books-set-south-africa/>
4. Books Set in North and South Korea (adult reading): <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/647334-korea-north-and-south>
5. 7 Essential Books for Adoptive Parents and Waiting Families: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/susanne-antonetta-/seven-essential-books-for_b_4943590.html
6. 5 Great Books for Making Sense of Trauma: <https://wearyourvoicemag.com/body-politics/5-books-understanding-trauma>

March Booklist:

1. Nine Books with South Asians Characters to Read: <https://www.teenvogue.com/gallery/9-south-asian-characters-books-2018>
2. 17 Beautiful Indigenous Comic Books and Video Games For Kids: <http://www.cbc.ca/parents/learning/view/how-the-comic-book-and-gaming-community-is-reclaiming-indigenous-perspectiv>
3. Teaching Kids about Decolonization - Resource Material: <http://nationalhistorycenter.org/teaching-decolonization-resource-collection/>
4. Games - The Toolbox for Social Action: <http://store.toolboxford.org/games-1/>
5. Opinion (and resources) - Black Kids Don't Want to Read About Harriet Tubman All the Time: <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/opinion/sunday/children-literature-books-blacks.html?referer=http%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com>

February Booklist:

- 1) 28 More Black Picture Books that Aren't about boycott's, busses or basketball (2018): <https://scottwoodsmakeslists.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/28-more-black-picture-books-that-arent-about-boycotts-buses-or-basketball-2018/>
- 2) Children's Books That Are About or Mention Ethiopia: <https://www.pinterest.ca/omayao/children-s-books-ethiopia/>
- 3) 20 Children's Books Set in the Middle East or Northern Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/20-childrens-books-set-in-the-middle-east-northern-africa/>
- 4) How I Got a Black Boy to Read (10 Great Books for Black Boys): <http://mybrownbaby.com/2015/03/got-black-boy-read-plus-10-great-books-black-boys/>
- 5) Four Great Articles About why the new Black Panther Movie is more than "just a movie":
 - a. Wakanda is Fake, but the Language (IsiXhosa) is Real: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/16/us/wakanda-black-panther.html>
 - b. 'Black Panther': Why the relationship between Africans and black Americans is so messed up: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2018/02/16/black-panther-why-the-relationship-between-africans-and-african-americans-is-so-messed-up/?utm_term=.302422c88c47
 - c. The Importance of Black Panther's Acceptance of Natural Hair: <http://www.laineygossip.com/the-importance-of-black-panther-embrace-of-natural-black-hair/49125>
 - d. The Revolutionary Power of Black Panther: <http://time.com/black-panther/?xid=fbshare>



Rwanda Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Rwanda has recently lifted its moratorium on international adoption, and The Children's Bridge is currently undergoing the relicensing process for this adoption program. Although we will not have official information available until our license has been approved, some basic requirements for this program include:

- Requirements:
 - Applicants must be married for a minimum of one-year at time of dossier submission
 - Must be over age 21, with minimum 7-year difference between adoptive applicant and child to be adopted
 - Applicants must be free from criminal record.
 - Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health.
- Children will be 18+ months at time of referral

- Children with various special needs such as HIV, Hepatitis, hearing and vision loss etc are also available for adoption.
- One trip of approximately 6-weeks is required.

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.

Please contact Program Manager at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com to be placed on the wait list (applicants will be called once the program is open to accepting applications).



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

The Children's Bridge is now able to work with any Hague accredited adoption services providers in the State of Florida. Please contact us with specific requests or if you would like assistance with completing an adoption from Florida.

Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)

This adoption program is currently full, and a call-back list (wait list) is now in effect. The cost to being placed on a call-back list is \$100/annually, plus an annual membership with The Children's Bridge. The timelines remain consistent with families being selected by expectant mothers approximately 9 - 18 months after their file is active in Florida. Babies are approximately 5 - 10 days old when placed in their adoptive families. Please review requirements for this program carefully, as Florida is quite strict on requirements for adoptive families.

Please contact the Program Manager, [Karyn Bakelaar](mailto:Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com), for further information on this adoption program.

Program Changes

Adoption by Shepherd's Care has made some recent changes in their policies, and will now be prioritizing the files of families with known infertility issues, are childless, are experiencing secondary infertility, or have previously adopted a child through ASC or another adoption program.

ACF Adoptions

We are now able to accept a small number of applications for this adoption program. We will be prioritizing same-sex applicants as well as singles for this adoption program. Please contact the Program Manager ([Karyn Bakelaar](mailto:Karyn.Bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)) for further information on this adoption program.

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family R & R	File Active - Waiting to be Matched
2	Family A & B	Completing Homestudy
3	Family C & P	Completing Homestudy
4	Family K & K	Homestudy Submitted to MCYS
5	Family A & T	Completing Homestudy
6	Family D & S	Completing Homestudy

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.

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have

limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.

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 program is available to families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV. It is not a program on its own but runs in conjunction with whichever country/adoption program the family has chosen to adopt from. The Children's Bridge is able to offer information, education, support and resources to families in process to adopt a child living with HIV.

Resources and Interesting Articles:

1. An Adoptive Mother Answers 5 Common Questions People Have About HIV: <https://chss.org/blog/answering-5-common-questions-about-hiv-and-adoption/>
2. Adoption Medicine Clinic - Adopting a Child with HIV or HIV Exposure: <https://adoption.umn.edu/hiv>
3. From HIV Abandonment to Adoption: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3074889/>
4. Project Hopeful - Canada: <https://projecthopefulcanada.wordpress.com/>
5. Sinethemba: Canadian specific resources for Canadian families: <https://sinethemba2010.wordpress.com/>

Program Options with The Children's Bridge

- **Zambia** - we are currently accepting applications for this adoption program, and will prioritize applications for those open to children living with HIV. Please note: spaces available are for married couples only (no single applicant spaces available at this time).
- **India** - all ages of children living with HIV are available for adoption, other program requirements may be waived (maximum age, marital status). Please contact Karyn Bakelaar for more information

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.

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

We are now able to accept two (2) new families into this adoption program. Applicants must be married (our quota for singles is currently full), and live in a diverse area of the country. Please review the Zambia program requirements before inquiring about this adoption program - you must meet all requirements and be able to complete the long in-country stay (6 - 7 months). Applicants are able to begin parental leave through EI once they take custody of their child in Zambia (approximately 3 - 4 weeks after arrival).

At this point, The Children's Bridge has completed two adoptions from Zambia, and we have one relative adoption in the final stages of visa processing. Our waiting family was recently matched with a child in Zambia. There are two spaces available in this adoption program.

Sincere congratulations are extended to our waiting family who was recently matched with a waiting child in Zambia! They will be traveling to Zambia sometime in July to begin the 3-month mandatory fostering period with their child.

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.

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.



India Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 6 families in process to adopt from India, and are able to work with adoptive families across Canada (except for Quebec). This program is open to families of non-Indian descent, as well as those who are of Indian descent.

CARA is now accepting families for both their mainstream program and their special needs stream. Timelines and age of children available will depend on which stream a prospective adoptive family applies to.

In the mainstream program, most children are over age 2 at time of referral, while in the special needs stream children are sometimes a bit younger when placed. Special needs vary widely, and can include (but are not limited to): hearing and/or vision issues, HIV, Hepatitis B, developmental delays, heart issues such as ASD or VSD, etc.

Many older children without known health issues are also available for immediate placement. 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 would like any information about the India Adoption program, please contact me at 613-226-2112 ext. 2, or at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com.

Family's Progress

- Congratulations to Sarah and Lucas who are now home in Canada with their new daughter.
- Family P and A were matched with a waiting child in March 2018. CARA has issued their NOC, and they are currently awaiting a court date in India.
- Family K and M have been matched with a waiting child, and are currently waiting for their NOC to be issued, and a court date to be scheduled in India.
- Family S has received home study approval, and we are currently processing their dossier to be approved by CARA.
- Family A and B are currently completing a home study.
- Family A and M have a complete home study, and are compiling their dossier for India.

OCI Status:

CARA's guideline's certainly say that adopted children are eligible for OCI status - this is from the US State department: CARA's [Guidelines Governing the Adoption of Children, 2015](#) state that an adopted Indian child shall be entitled to receive an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, if found eligible. For more information about the procedure for applying for OCI status for your child, please contact the nearest Indian Embassy or consulate.

Families can apply online for OCI status here : <https://passport.gov.in/oci/welcome>

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 traveling 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

If you have any questions about the India adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com .

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from Monday, August 27th until September 4th. I will have limited access to email during this week. I will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 5th. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112 ext 0.



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

Hoping that you all have had a wonderful summer and made the most of the seasonal weather. Some of us have kids who will be entering their last year of high school, I am one of them. I remember my son's first day of kindergarten clearly, just like it was yesterday....blink....he's now going into grade 12. Wishing the best to all the kids starting school for the first time and those heading back.

Chuseok, a thanksgiving celebration in Korea, September 23 to 25, 2018

Chuseok is one of the largest and most widely celebrated holidays in South Korea. This holiday is a time of happiness and reconnecting as families gather, chat, and have great feasts.

The primary reason for Chuseok in South Korea is to honour ancestors and deceased relatives, but the holiday also serves the purpose of keeping the family together in a time when work and other obligations may separate people.

Traditionally, Chuseok also allowed South Koreans to celebrate the Autumn harvest after a season of hard work. Chuseok is held on the 15th day of the 8th month on the lunar calendar, or the fall equinox.

Traditions : Chuseok is a holiday that is largely centered around the culture and history of South Korea. Because of this, many South Korean families will honor traditions that allow them to reconnect to their

family roots.

- Visit Ancestral Homes

Many South Koreans are very meticulous when it comes to knowing where their heritage comes from. Those that know where their family originated may visit their ancestors' village. This allows South Koreans to respect those that came before them while enjoying a holiday trip with family members.

- Charye

On the day of Chuseok, it is necessary to honor ancestors for the opportunities that have come throughout the year. The Charye is one of the most important memorial rites to be performed. Performed in the morning, the Charye ceremony consists of placing various tribute foods in an arrangement on a table before saying a good prayer. In general, rice is placed on the northern end of the table, fruits and vegetables on the southern end, meat on the western end, and rice cakes and drinks on the eastern end. The Charye rite honors the past four generations and calls upon their spirits' protection for the future.

- Seongmyo

Along with visiting ancestral homes and paying respect through rites, it is also a tradition to honor ancestors by visiting graves or urns. South Korean people usually say a few words to pay respects to their fallen relatives' spirits. It is also common to leave a tribute such as food or wine.

- Beolcho

While visiting graves during seongmyo, South Koreans will clean headstones and the area around the grave through a process known as beolcho. During beolcho, people may pull weeds, plant flowers, scrub dirt off of headstones, and rake fresh dirt to the surface of the grave plot. This is a process that is representative of the filial piety and respect for ancestors that is common in South Korean culture.

- Feast

To relax and enjoy the company of family after a busy summer and spring, people in South Korea celebrate Chuseok through a great feast. This elaborate meal consists of local vegetables that are in season along with some favorites that have become a regular aspect of the Chuseok holiday.

- Chuseokbim

Just as the Chinese purchase new clothes during the lunar New Year, it is a custom of South Korean to buy new outfits before Chuseok. Traditionally, South Koreans would purchase traditional garb to celebrate the holiday. While some people still do uphold the old traditions of Chuseokbim, many South Koreans opt to purchase Western style dresses and suits instead. This allows them to celebrate the mid-autumn holiday in nice clothes while also having practical clothing for the future.

- Ssireum

A popular sport in many South Korean regions for a long time, Ssireum is a type of wrestling that has strong ties to the Chuseok holiday. In some areas of South Korea, large Ssireum competitions are held to determine the strongest man among the villages. The way the contest works is that two men enter the ring and wrestle until one of their upper bodies' touches the ground. The person whose upper body touched the ground is eliminated and a new challenger enters the ring. This continues until there are no more challengers. The last person standing in the ring when all of the challengers have been eliminated is considered the winner and the strongest man. This winner receives a title declaring him as the strongest man and some kind of prize depending on the village and region. Sometimes this prize is a calf, large supply of rice, or other useful item.

- Ganggangsullae

Traditionally, Korean women would wear hanboks and gather in a large circle while linking hands. While in this circle, the women would participate in a circle dance called ganggangsullae. This dance is very rhythmic and typically performed while singing a song. It is common for the Ganggangsullae to be performed during Chuseok for fun and to honor the cultural traditions that surround the holiday.

Food: Since Chuseok is a holiday oriented around a great feast, there is also a large selection of unique South Korean food that is eaten. One of the most common holiday foods of Chuseok is songpyeon. Songpyeon is a sweet rice cake that is enjoyed as a snack or dessert. It is consisted of rice powder dough that has been stuffed with sesame seeds, red beans, chestnuts, and other fillings that vary from region to region. Songpyeon is steamed and covered with pine needles for a fresh scent. During Chuseok, South Koreans also

enjoy rice liquor with their friends and family.

Places of Celebration: Many activities such as ancestral rites, live performances, songpyeon making, and martial arts performances can be enjoyed throughout Korea. Some of the most popular locations to celebrate Chuseok include:

- Korean Folk Village
- Changdeokgung Palace and Huwan
- Jongmyo Shrine

Chuseok is an autumn holiday centered around rich cultural traditions and family bonds.

Ontario Ministry Name Change

Please note that the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services have changed their name, effective July 27, 2018, to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Referral News

A referral for a very adorable 6 month old boy arrived this past week and family B&L are beyond thrilled. Wait for referral was 6 ½ months from time dossier was sent to Korea.

Court Dates and Travel Notices

Two families attended court on July 26 and one on August 19. Each had the opportunity to fit in two to three visits with their child and foster family. They are eager to receive notice that COPR has been issued so they can make their second trip to receive their child.

Family D&J have received a court date of September 14. Their travel plans are confirmed and are very much looking forward to meeting their son next month.

On your first trip to Korea SWS will arrange for two visits with baby and foster family, a third may be squeezed in depending on your travel timeline and SWS schedules.

There are many stages of waiting during an adoption journey, and waiting to travel to receive your child (second trip) can be the toughest one - my advice is to stay busy and continue to get ready to welcome the newest addition to your family. If you need support during this wait please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Timeline summary:

Family	Dossier to Korea	Referral received	Acceptance to Korea	EP to MOHW	EP App'd	Docs to Court	Court Date	AO App'd	AO Conf'd	COPR	Placed
I & S	Dec 8/16	Jan 3/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	June 1/17	June 5/17	Sept 7/17	Sept 11/17	Oct 11/17	Oct 23/17	Nov 1/17
D & J	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	May 12/17	May 22/17	Aug 24/17	Aug 25/17	Sept 14/17	Oct 11/17	Oct 17/17
S & K	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17	May 18/17	Aug 30/17	Nov 1/17	Nov 14/17	Jan 12/18	Jan 18/18	Feb 12/18	Mar 16/18	Mar 27/18
E & C	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17	Apr 13/17	June 13/17	Aug 8/17	Aug 10/17	Oct 20/17	Oct 30/17	Nov 17/17	Jan 5/18	Dec 28/17
D & L	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Jul 24/17	Aug 30/17	Oct 23/17	Oct 30/17	Jan 18/18	Jan 22/18	Feb 12/18	Mar 16/18	Mar 26/18
R & E	Mar 23/17	Dec 5/17	Dec 21/17	Feb 14/18	May 30/18	Early June	Aug 17/18				
M & L	Apr 19/17	July 26/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18	Apr 19/18	Apr 20/18	May 10/18	Jun 8/18	Jun 22/18
B & E	May 11/17	July 10/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18	Apr 19/18	Apr 20/18	May 10/18	July 8/18	July 13/18

T & O	June 8/17	Sept 28/17	Oct 19/17	Feb 14/18	May 18/18		July 26/18				
O & J	July 20/17	Oct 2/17	Oct 19/17	Feb 14/18	May 18/18		July 26/18				
D & L	July 20/17	Feb 15/18	Mar 5/18	Jun 4/18							
D & J	Dec 7/17	Jan 8/18	Jan 25/18	Apr 9/18	Jun 18/18	Jun 29/18	Sept 14/18				
D & A	Feb 8/18	Apr 16/18	May 3/18								
B & L	Feb 8/18	Aug 27/18									
J & A	Mar 7/18	July 3/18	July 26/18								
A & A	Apr 26/18										
R & N	Apr 30/18										
S & D	July 5/18										
J & S	July 26/18										

Referral timelines can take anywhere from 2 to 8 months, estimated, and matching is not completed in any order. Timelines from referral acceptance to travel for court (first trip) can take an estimated 7 to 12 months once referral acceptance is submitted to SWS. Each case is different and court date notices can be set out of order. Timelines cannot be guaranteed.

Estimated second travel notice is issued once Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) is received by SWS can take anywhere from 6 to 12 weeks from court date.

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop before or shortly after your completed home study is submitted, as the certificate must be included in your dossier for Korea. All details for [AdopTALK](#) are on our website.

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK will be held October 27th and 28th, 2018 in Newmarket, Ontario and Ottawa AdopTALK (January 26/27) . Registration details: <https://childrensbridge.com/events/category/adoptalk/> .

What to Expect at the Adoption 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 examples of questions that a judge may ask:

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. Will you complete your child's Canadian Citizenship once you've arrived home? Do you understand the process and requirement of Canadian Citizenship?
12. Lastly do you have anything to say?

Some judges may ask 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!

Families may be permitted to leave the Court House right after their short hearing. After court, families find their own way back to their hotel either via taxi or subway.

Information on Adopting a Second Child from South Korea

We have received information 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 and Confirmation of Permanent Residence

Historically, the estimated time for COPR issuing is 2 to 12 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. However, we've seen as long as 16 weeks for a few cases. 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, not when Manila says they have issued it as we do not want families waiting in Korea for an indefinite and longer stay.

Health Card Application

Please contact Service Ontario before you submit your application to ensure you submit the correct supporting documents with regard to your child's adoption and permanent residence. One of the documents you'll need to bring with you is a copy of the Letter of No Objection issued by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services when they approved the proposed placement shortly after your referral arrived.

Service Ontario will issue the Health Card in your child's Korean birth name. You'll then need to complete a name change on the card once you've completed a legal name change one year after placement and once Canadian Citizenship has been received.

All internationally adopted children are exempt from the 3 month waiting period, please refer to this link and have the information handy when you go to Service Ontario:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ohip/international_adoptions.aspx

Applying for Canadian Citizenship

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 IRCC has updated their website and their forms. The current citizenship application that should be completed by families when they return home is found here:

IRCC Links:

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

IRCC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

Families who have arrived home with their children after November 2016 have been instructed by IRCC to have the Adoption Order officially translated. We find this very strange as two original Adoption Orders are given to the adoptive parents, one in Korean and one in English. Families have also had to provide a translated Adoption Order in order to apply for a Canadian Passport. If you have any difficulties, we suggest that you contact IRCC to ask specific questions about your application.

If you have any questions about the South Korea adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me at maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

KOREAN HOMELAND - KOREAN CULTURE GROUPS - CLASSES AND EVENTS: OTTAWA, GTA

Homeland Visit - South Korea

Welcome back to our family who participated in a two-week homeland journey that began at the end of July.

Here's what William had to say:

"It was amazing and I would want to go back again and again!"
- William, age 12

For the full story, pictures and more Homeland details please go to:
<https://childrensbridge.com/homelandvisitsk/>

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me.
maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

2018 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa

Go to the events section of our website:
<https://childrensbridge.com/>



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

I'd like to wish those heading back to school (students, teachers and parents) an easy and stress free transition! My youngest is starting university and is moving in on September 1st . A big step for both of us!

Out of Office Alert

Please note that I will be at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Annual Business Meeting on September 17th and 18th and I will be in our Ottawa office on September 19th .

I will be on vacation on September 24th and 25th .

During my absence, if you require immediate assistance, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112, Ext. 0 or via email at Kayden.cullum@childrensbridge.com

Ontario Ministry Change

Please note that the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services have changed their name, effective July 27, 2018, to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Adoption Program News**Travel**

Jason and Leslie have had a very successful trip and a wonderful homeland trip for their daughter. They are heading home on September 2nd . I'd like to wish them a great, uneventful trip home!

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Log-in-Date	Province	Referral	Home
J & L	November 2015 (DCY)	NS	June 14, 2018	Sept. 2, 2018
G & E	November 2015 (DCY)	ON		
M & J	November 2015 (DCY)	ON	Mar. 21, 2018	June 30, 2018
T & A	December 2015 (DCY)	ON	Aug. 22, 2017	Oct. 20, 2017
J & C	March 2016 (DCY)	NS		
J & K	August 2016 (DCY)	ON		
A & B	December 2016 (DCY)	ON		
P & R	February 2017 (DCY)	ON		
T & P	February 2017 (DCY)	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017 (DCY)	MB		
G & I	June 30, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
W & N	August 28, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017 (DCY)	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
KS	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
A & K	Dec. 25, 2017 (TRCCH)	ON		
J & A	May 3, 2018 (DCY)	AB		
Z & N	July 31, 2018 (TRCCH)	ON		

One family's dossier is waiting for an addendum at the AB Ministry and will then be sent to Thailand. Four families have sent in their retainers and are working on their dossiers. These files will be part of the 2018 quota. Three families have a retainer and are working on their dossier. One other family has begun the process.

Finalization

Adoptions are finalized at the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate General in Vancouver.

Paperwork Change - Dossier - Effective Immediately - ONTARIO ONLY

The Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services have asked that, along with the home study and Thailand medical, we must also submit the psychological assessment. Please begin the steps to complete this assessment when you start your home study.

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop about 6 - 8 months before you anticipate receiving your proposal. All details for AdopTALK are on our [website](#) .

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK workshop in the GTA will be held October 27th and 28th in Newmarket and in Ottawa on January 26th and 27th, 2019. All details are now [on-line](#) .

Ontario Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they continue to process home studies and updates in 4 - 6 weeks and proposals in 5 - 10 business days.

Waiting Children Program

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age) or a child with special medical needs, this type of adoption will not count in the same quota for mainstream adoptions and the requirements for families adopting older children or those with special needs are not as restrictive (for example, the age of the adoptive applicants and/or other children in the home could be amended). The timeline could be quicker but we don't know by how much.

Please note that this program is also open to single applicants.

If you are interested in this program, please contact me for more detailed information.

Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

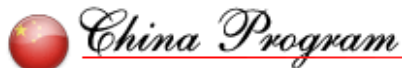
When you come home with your child and you want to travel with him/her outside of Canada, you are required to obtain a Statutory Declaration from our office (or your provincial ministry for those outside of Ontario) to travel since the adoption is not finalized. The Children's Bridge (or the provincial ministry) 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 12 months after your dossier has gone to Thailand. (I will send you details). 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.

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada 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 email this number to me and/or scan and email me a copy of the document. Keep the package that IRCC 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.



Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (905) 836-6776

Out of Office Alert

Please note that I will be at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Annual Business Meeting on September 17th and 18th and I will be in our Ottawa office on September 19th.

I will be on vacation on September 24th and 25th .

During my absence, if you require immediate assistance, please contact Kayden Cullum at 613-226-2112, Ext. 0 or via email at Kayden.cullum@childrensbridge.com

Ontario Ministry Change

Please note that the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services have changed their name, effective July 27, 2018, to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

CCCWA

The CCCWA have advised us that they have matched up to February 7, 2007. They are unable to tell us when our one remaining family can expect a referral and in fact, issued a memo to all agencies stating that they will no longer be matching by date stamp.

Homeland - China

Families from our summer tour are home! Based on emails I received during the trip, they had a fabulous time!

Check out the stories [on the website](#)

Our March 2019 tour dates are March 1st - 15th . On this tour, we will include a trip to Xi'an and the beautiful city of Guilin! The registration package will be on the website by September 1st .

Searching - presented by The Children's Bridge - Sunday, October 14, 2018

The Children's Bridge
is pleased to present the following workshop:

"Searching"

If you want more information on how to initiate DNA testing, how to find more information on an orphanage, foster family and/or birth family or information on a homeland tour, this might be the workshop for you.

Please note that this workshop will focus mainly on searching in China.

Sunday, October 14th, 2018
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jan Gravelle
Adoptive Parent, Educator

Art Ferguson Clubhouse
16195 Bayview Avenue,
Newmarket, ON

To RSVP and for more information please contact Darlene Catton at
darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com , Tel.: 905-836-6776
(Check out our website too at www.childrensbridge.com)

The Children's Bridge is an experienced, non-profit adoption agency that has facilitated more than 4500 adoptions over the last 20 years.

This workshop is intended to provide information only on how to initiate a DNA search (what are the best websites, what to look for, etc.), research techniques that may assist you in obtaining more information on a particular orphanage and/or foster family, how to get started on a birth parent search and visiting your homeland.

Cost: \$30/members, \$40/non-members, Payable by cheque to The Children's Bridge

The Children's Bridge
221-1400 Clyde Avenue Ottawa Ontario K2G 3J2
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Fax: (613) 226-8843
Email: info@childrensbridge.com www.childrensbridge.com



Waiting Children Program China

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 4

We currently have 5 families in process in our China WC Program (2 families with dossiers logged in at the CCCWA in Beijing and 3 families who are beginning the process to adopt older boys between 10-14 years of age). Three families have very recently made the decision to withdraw from the program.

The CCCWA continues to post new files on their shared list every month. There are currently over 3,000 children's files on the shared list but the majority of these children have high non-correctable special medical needs or are older children (mostly boys between 12 - 14 years of age). Families who are not open to expanding their age range to 12-14 years of age have been encouraged to look at other adoption options for their family.

Please note, the CCCWA is no longer sending individual children's files to agencies and all Hosting Camps have been cancelled by Civil Affairs, PR of China.

Please note, as of July 2nd, 2018 Maria Fulford will be managing the China WC Program. You can reach Maria at maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

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".



The CB newsletters are online! Please visit:
<https://childrensbridge.com/memhome/>

Karyn Bakelaar and the Children's Bridge staff.



MAKING FAMILIES HAPPEN