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December 23, 2016

Happy Holidays from The Children's Bridge team and Board of Directors:
We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday! Our offices will be closed from December 23, 2016 - January 2, 2017.
We will reopen on January 3, 2017 at 8:30 am.



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

The Importance of Traditions - New and Old: (taken from The Birth of Tradition by JoAnne Solchany, Ph.D.)

" The holidays are a time of tradition and ritual. They remind us to connect, celebrate, and remember, and offer opportunities to strengthen family bonds. The special holiday rituals we create - indeed, the traditions and routines forged for any time of the year - reflect a family's love, comfort, and attachment. Children thrive on family rituals, consistent routines that include added meaning and emotion.

We may think that young children won't remember being a part of a ritual, but the truth is the opposite. From day one, babies learn - and make memories. They live, interact, and create memories through all of their senses. These early memories are visceral, through the body, and affective, through emotion.

Our children come to us with a set of memories, formed during their adoption journeys. We must create lasting family memories for them, involve them in traditions and rituals. These rites honor who we are, and celebrate seasons, faith, culture, holidays - and family.

Infants are often at the center of rituals, such as christenings and naming ceremonies. Our children also need rituals that celebrate the wonderful way our families are formed, such as coming-home celebrations, the creation of adoption lifebooks, and traditional tellings of "the day we met you."

Families are thrilled and eager to include babies into holiday rituals. Some of these reflect longstanding family tradition, often honoring cultural or religious backgrounds and beliefs.

These rituals can be modified and enhanced to include your child in special ways. If, for example, your child's birth culture is different from yours, December holidays may include new dimensions. Or you may choose to add a ritual in recognition of your child's birth parents.

Let your toddler or preschooler play a role in family holiday rituals early on. Bring them into the holiday-meal preparations, placing them in a safe place near you as you work. Let them see and hear the interactions, feel the warmth of foods cooking, smell the aromas, and taste what's being prepared.

Let your child see and touch the adoption-journey photo album you're making. Tell your child their story over and over again.

Rituals reflect who you are as a family. By involving your child in existing and new traditions, you show them that they belong to a family and a society, and that they are important and cherished for who they are."

The Importance of Completing Your Child's Canadian Citizenship!

Many of us in Canada and around the world have watched in horror as Adam Crapser was deported from the USA to South Korea. The system and his adoptive parents have failed this young man, and he is now stateless.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/world/adopted+from+south+korea+brought+back/12400820/story.html>

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/17/world/asia/korea-adoption-adam-crapser.html?_r=1

Please ensure you complete your child's Citizenship once they arrive in Canada - this is your commitment and obligation. 98% of our families complete this process, but 2% don't - we need 100% compliance!!

CIC Record of Landing Form

Every person who lands in Canada as a permanent resident is given an IMM 1000 Record of Landing document. The way this document looks has changed many times, but it always shows the immigrant's name, date of birth, and the date they landed in Canada as a permanent resident.

Adoptees will need to show a copy of the IMM 1000 to get their Old Age Pension through Service Canada. If a person was not born in Canada, the Old Age Pension application will not be processed without a copy of the IMM 1000 because you must show that you have lived in Canada for at least 10 years to collect Old Age Pension.

The Children's Bridge recommends all adoptive families keep their child's Record of Landing form, original adoption paperwork, birth certificate, citizenship and passport in a home safe or safety deposit box for safe keeping.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Reminder (from the CIC web site):

As prospective adoptive parents we recommend you learn about CIC's role in intercountry adoption. The Children's Bridge is not able to influence the CIC process. CIC will complete a thorough review before issuing a permanent resident visa, or a Canadian passport through a grant of citizenship. The length of time a review usually takes can be provided by The Children's Bridge for your adoption program but you must keep in mind each CIC Mission has different processing times and any CIC application can take longer to review if CIC deems it necessary to do so.

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

CIC's first priority is to ensure that the child's rights are protected in accordance with our international obligations in adoption cases and our obligations under Canadian law.

In some parts of the world, child trafficking is a serious concern, documentation is non-existent or unreliable, there is evidence of wrongdoing in the adoption system or infrastructure to protect children is limited. In these cases, CIC must take more steps to verify that the best interests of children being adopted by Canadian citizens and permanent residents are respected.

Intercountry adoption procedures put in place by CIC are meant to protect the best interests of the child. These include requiring proof that the biological parents have given their free and informed consent to the adoption before it takes place, and confirming that the adoption follows the laws of both countries.

With respect to children who may be orphaned, it is international policy and practice to try to first find homes for them in their own country before uprooting and placing them in a foreign country. The United Nation's Children's Fund's UNICEF position on cases of children separated from their parents and communities during war or natural disasters is that such children should not be considered for inter-country adoption, and family tracing should be the priority.

Canadians planning to adopt a child from another country must follow their province or territory's regulations for international adoptions and abide by the laws of the child's country of origin. CIC wants to eliminate any shortcuts in the adoption process that could enable unscrupulous people to obtain children for the purpose of human trafficking.

To avoid unnecessary expense and disappointment, adoptive parents should not plan to return to Canada with the adopted child until they know for certain that all immigration or citizenship requirements have been met.

CIC plays no role in the first step of the intercountry adoption process. The immigration or citizenship process cannot begin until the adoption has been finalized. Once the adoption has been finalized, you can begin the immigration or citizenship process to bring your adopted child to Canada.

Does an adopted child need a travel document, like a visa, to come to Canada?

Yes. Before bringing your child to Canada, you must apply for the necessary travel document in order for your child to legally enter Canada. The document is either a permanent resident visa, or a Canadian passport through a grant of citizenship. To avoid unnecessary delays and costs, adoptive parents should not plan to return to Canada with the adopted child until they know with certainty that all immigration or citizenship requirements have been met.

If my adopted child's application is refused, what can I do?

The process to appeal the decision is different for the immigration and citizenship process.

Immigration

If your adopted child's application for permanent residence is refused, you may appeal the decision to the Immigration Appeal Division at the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Citizenship

If your adopted child's application for a grant of citizenship is refused, you may apply for a judicial review of the decision to the Federal Court of Canada.

CIC Links:

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

Differences between the CIC Immigration Sponsorship and Canadian Citizenship processes

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

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

New Post Adoption Consultation Service:

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

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

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

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

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming

months: Information Session for prospective adoptive parents - December 6th in Ottawa, Ontario and **January 29th in the GTA**, AdopTALK on March 4th and 5th, 2017 in Ottawa ([Karyn Bakelaar](#) and [Cathy Murphy](#)) and Connect-A-Kid Ottawa Mentoring Program events are posted on our web site at www.childrensbridge.com Many thanks to Maryfrances Carton and Anika Clark for leading this group!

Florida, and South Korea Adoption Programs

The Children's Bridge currently has openings in our Florida and South Korea adoption programs. Please contact Program Managers, Karyn Bakelaar or Maria Fulford to ensure you meet the requirements for these adoption programs karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com



Adoption Services

Cathy Murphy

Pre and Post Adoption Services

EVENTS

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 adop tees! For more information please go to our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events or contact Cathy (Ottawa) or Darlene (GTA). Our winter events [flyer](#) has now been posted for Ottawa!

AdopTALK

Please ensure you register for AdopTALK in the year your family will be travelling to receive your child. AdopTALK sessions are hosted every 6 months in Ottawa and the GTA and once per year in other areas of the country (as required). http://www.childrensbridge.com/adoptalk/at_dates.html

- Ottawa, ON - March 4th & 5th, 2017 ([download flyer](#))

Post Adoption Follow Up Calls

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

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 lists 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!

MARCH BOOKLIST:

1. Seventeen Cute Children's Books About Adoption:
1. <http://www.todaysparent.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:
10. http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child_booklist.shtml

APRIL BOOKLIST

1. Top Five "Go To" Books for Trauma Informed Parenting:
<http://beachildsadvocate.blogspot.ca/2016/04/my-top-5-go-to-books-for-trauma.html?sref=fb>
2. Top Ten Kids Books for Mixed Race/Biracial Children: <http://www.mixedremixed.org/top-10-favorite-kids-books-for-multiracial-kids-and-teens/>
3. Books About and Written By New Immigrants: <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/new-fiction-from-new-immigrants>
4. Southeast Asian (middle school fiction):
http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/92237.Southeast_Asians_in_YA_Middle_Grade_Fiction
5. Middle School and Young Adult Fiction with Muslim Protagonists:
http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/16325.Muslimah_YA_fiction
6. Books for Latino/a/x Kids and Teens: <http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=2000155101>

MAY BOOKLIST:

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

JUNE BOOKLIST

1. Multi-racial Asian Families - books that consider race, families, children and the intersection of Mixed ID/Asian identity: <http://multiasianfamilies.blogspot.ca/p/books-for-kids.html>
2. 50 Picture Books About Mixed Race Families: <http://coloursofus.com/picture-books-about-mixed-race-families/>
3. LGBTQ Positive Books That Kids Need to Read:
<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/06/lgbtq-books-for-kids.html>
4. 25 Books for Black/African-American Little Boys: <http://www.watchtheyard.com/list/childrens-books-for-african-american-boys/>

5. 25 Empowering Books for Black Little Girls: <http://www.forharriet.com/2013/10/25-empowering-books-for-little-black.html#axzz4CHIMDr5S>
6. Children's Books Set in Haiti: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children_s_Fiction_set_in_Haiti
7. Top Ten Indigenous Books for your Summer Reading List: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/10-top-indigenous-books-for-your-summer-reading-list-1.2695671>
8. #Indigenous Reads: Your Picks for the best Indigenous Books: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/celebrating-indigenous-book-club-month-1.3624136/indigenousreads-your-picks-for-the-best-indigenous-books-1.3624580>

JULY BOOKLIST:

1. Best Novels on Racism and Discrimination: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/21184.Best_Novels_on_Racism_and_Discrimination
2. 13 Latina Young Adult Authors to Know: <http://www.latina.com/entertainment/book-club/latino-young-adult-authors-know>
3. Popular Korean American Books: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/korean-american>
4. Top Ten Books About Adoption (Chosen by Adopted Children): <https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/oct/22/top-10-books-about-adoption-chosen-by-adopted-children>
5. Books on Transracial Adoption for Adoptive Parents: <https://creatingafamily.org/adoption/adoptionsuggestedbooks/transracial-adoption/>
6. Best Children's Book about Transracial Adoption: <https://www.babble.com/babble-voices/best-books-for-transracial-families/>
7. 10 Most Empowering Books for Girls in 2016: <http://coolmompicks.com/blog/2016/07/13/empowering-books-for-girls/>
8. A Great Place to Get Discount Books Listed Above: <http://bookoutlet.ca/>

SEPTEMBER BOOKLIST:

1. Ten Children's Books with Black Girl Protagonists: <http://www.bustle.com/articles/144443-10-childrens-books-with-black-girl-protagonists>
2. Ten Must Have Books for Muslim Children: <http://www.aquila-style.com/lifestyle/10-must-have-books-for-muslim-children/45518/>
3. Best Books on Buddhism for Kids: <http://www.criticalcactus.com/best-books-on-buddhism-for-children/>
4. Children's Books Featuring Kids of Color Just Being Themselves - Because That's Enough: <https://medium.com/embrace-race/childrens-books-featuring-kids-of-color-being-themselves-because-that-s-enough-36aa15c94d44#.hpch29xk7>

Ultimate Stats on White Privilege: <http://www.jbwttucker.com/ultimate-white-privilege-statistics/>

NOVEMBER BOOKLIST:

1. Book List for Black Girls: Promoting Self-Love and Empowering Young Black Women: <https://mediadiversified.org/2013/09/09/book-list-for-black-girls-promoting-self-love-and-empowering-young-black-women/>
2. Take Me Away...To Guatemala!: <http://imlostinbooks.blogspot.ca/2009/11/take-me-awayto-guatemala.html>
3. Celebrate Young Adult Books That Feature Haitian Culture: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
4. Social Justice Reading List for Adults: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1By9bUjJ78snEeZuLXNGBdIVMJgEOWMEJR-Gfx8ER7lw/mobilebasic>
5. Arm your Mind with These Books on Activism and Social Justice:

http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/stop-trump-reading-list/?utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=paid&utm_medium=cpc

DECEMBER BOOKLIST:

1. Books about Kwanzaa: <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Books-Childrens-Kwanzaa/zgbs/books/3087>
2. Books that teach about Las Posadas for Latin(x) families: <https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/2012/12/03/mira-look-books-for-teaching-about-las-posadas/>
3. Books about Hanukkah - a Diverse Dozen: <http://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2015/11/27/hanukkah-books-diverse-dozen/>
4. Christmas Books Around the World: <http://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2013/12/10/christmas-books-around-world/>
5. Top Ten Diwali Kids Books: <http://coloursofus.com/top-10-diwali-childrens-books/>



USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

ADOPTION PROGRAM NEWS

Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)

This adoption program is now full, and a call-back list is in place. We currently have two (2) families on the call-back list. Please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for further information on this adoption program.

ACF Adoptions

This adoption program is now full, and a call-back list is in place. ACF hopes to be able to take more applications as of January/February 2017. Please contact the Program Manager (Karyn Bakelaar) for further information on this adoption program.

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family V & N	Waiting to be Matched
2	Family S and L	Waiting for Home Study Approval
3	Family A & M	Compiling Dossier for USA

ACF ADOPTIONS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
	N/A	On Hold to New Applications

****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.



HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

I will be hosting an HIV Information Session in Newmarket, Ontario on Sunday, January 29th from 3:30 - 5:00. The session is free to attend (with suggested donation to a charity that works with HIV+ children in South Africa), but registration is mandatory. Please see our website for a detailed [flyer and registration information](#).

Program Possibilities

- **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 (karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)
- **Thailand** - children will be 3+ years at time of adoption, program requirements may be waived, and single applicants (female only) may apply. Please contact the Thailand Program Manager, Darlene Catton, for more information (Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com).
- **China** - We are currently working with an orphanage in China that is able to place children living with HIV into adoptive families.
 - 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.



Republic of Zambia Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Adoption Program News

We are not accepting application for this adoption program at this time. If you are interested in this adoption program, please feel free to check back with me within the next 3 - 6 months in case anything changes.

So far we have completed one adoption from Zambia, and have one relative adoption in the final stages of visa processing. Two families are currently waiting for a child proposal from Zambia.

ZAMBIA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

FAMILY NAME	STAGE OF PROCESS
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.



India Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

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

Finalization in country

We currently have one other family in India that is at the final stages of their adoption process in-country and hoping to return to Canada with their child soon. Most families in the India program will go through the citizenship process with CIC and the final stage, applying for citizenship after the adoption order is issued, has taken up to 2 months for some families. Each family has a slightly different process and we will do our best to assist families through this stage.

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

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

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

Foreigners Regional Registration Office and NOC

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

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

I am happy to provide 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

Citizenship process - part 1

The citizenship process through CIC is now taking up to 12-months for families to be approved for part 1. Because of the lengthening timelines, it is important that families apply to CIC at the very beginning of their adoption process to ensure there is enough time to be approved before receiving a referral from their orphanage so that there will not be a delay when accepting a referral/finalizing the adoption process.

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

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

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



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

South Korean Christmas Fun Fact:

There are more Christians in South Korea (the Republic of Korea) than in other Asian countries such as China and Japan, so Christmas is celebrated more widely. (Christians make up about 25-30% of the population.) However, the other 70% of people in South Korea are Buddhist (about 25%) or don't have a religion.

Unlike Japan, Christmas is an official public holiday - so people have the day off work and school! But they go back on the 26th (Boxing Day). There's a longer official winter break in the New Year.

Churches are decorated with lights and will have a service on Christmas day. Going to Church for Christmas is becoming more popular, even among non-Christians.

Department stores have big displays of decorations. Apparently, there's also an amazing display of lights in the capital city, Seoul. The lights are all over the city center including the bridges over the Han River.

Some people (especially Christians and westerners who live in South Korea) will have decorations at home including a Christmas tree.

Presents are exchanged and a popular present is money! Giving actually gifts has become more popular, but giving money is still very common.

Santa Claus can also be seen around Korea, but he might be wearing red or blue! He's also known as 산타 클로스 (santa kullosu) or 산타 할아버지 (Santa Grandfather).

A popular Christmas food is a Christmas Cake, but it's often a sponge cake covered in cream purchased from a local bakery. Or, you might even have an ice cream cake from a shop like 'Baskin Robbins'!

Happy/Merry Christmas in Korean is 'Meri krismas' (메리 크리스마스) or 'Jeulgaeun krismas doeseyo' (즐거운 크리스마스 되세요). Christians can say 'Sungtan chukhahaeyo' (성탄 축하해요) to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Wishing you the best of the holiday season and a very happy New Year!

(Homeland and resources can be found towards to the end of the South Korea section)

COURT DATES AND TRAVEL NOTICES

Timelines from referral acceptance to travel for court (first trip) can take 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 16 weeks from court date.

SWS Guest House Update: The SWS Guesthouse is closed for an indefinite period and we are unsure as to why. I have recently updated the Referral Booklet/Travel guide current hotel/accommodation information.

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. 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!

INFORMATION ON ADOPTING A SECOND CHILD FROM S. 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 4 to 6 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.

APPLYING FOR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ARRIVAL HOME

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 VISIT

Several successful South Korea Homeland Visits have taken place and families have shared their unique and personal experiences which you can find on our website - most recent one, from this summers' visit: http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonials.html

March and July 2017 Homeland Visit details are now finalized. Please contact me if you'd like information or registration details.

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

KOREAN CULTURE GROUPS AND EVENTS - GTA AND OTTAWA

KCCA in GTA

The Korean Canadian Children's Association (KCCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Canadian adoptive families with Korean children. John Lim founded this organization after attending a 'Canadopt' summer camp in London, Ontario, 1991.

Their main goal is connecting adoptive families to other adoptive families as well as organizing various cultural events and annual summer Culture Camp focused on embracing Korean culture.

You can contact them directly through their website and be put on their regular email list and sign up for the Facebook page. <http://www.kccato.com/>

2016-2017 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa
<http://www.childrensbridge.com/data/2016-2017ProgramAssocFamKoreanAdoptees.pdf>



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

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

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday and all the best in 2017! It has been a pleasure working with you all.

Adoption Program News

I am happy to report that we have signed an agreement with Manitoba so can now begin processing adoptions. We already have a family working on their home study!

Families with Referral/Travelling

Family	Dossier to Thailand	Referral Rec'd	Date of Travel
M & M	March 14, 2014	June 21, 2016	HOME!
J & A	November 21, 2013	July 11, 2016	TBA (TRCCH)
R & M		March 10, 2016	TBA (FFAC)
H & L	March 2014	Nov. 26, 2016	Feb. 2, 2016
W & Y	Sept. 11, 2015	Dec. 17, 2016	TBA

Welcome home to Michael and Michelle! After a bit of a rough start (jet lag?) things are finally

starting to improve and I think they are all now getting some sleep!

Congratulations to Harvey and Lori on accepting the proposal of their gorgeous 2-year-old son! Jirapat. The family will be travelling to Songkhla province to pick up their son.

Congratulations to Watcharin and Yiwa on the very recent proposal of their beautiful son Korn! Korn is just over 4 years old and currently living in Chiang Mai province.

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Dossier to DCY	Province
K & J	December 2014	NL
J & L	November 2015	NS
G & E	November 2015	ON
M & J	November 2015	ON
T & A	December 2015	ON
J & C	March 2016	NS
J & K	August 2016	ON

There are currently 11 families working on their dossiers and I hope to send 1 of these to Thailand this year. Two of these 11 files are not part of the quota.

If I receive all of the files above, we will have filled the quota for the DCY but can still accept files for the Thai Red Cross.

Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they are processing files in 4 - 6 weeks.

Family A & B's LOA was received on November 30th (received by MCYS on Aug. 31/16) and is currently being processed at the Thai Embassy.

Family P & R's home study was received at the Ministry on November 14th.

Family C & L's home study was received by the Ministry on November 18th.

Waiting Children Program

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.

Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

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

Immigration Sponsorship

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

Citizenship and Immigration 1-888-242 2100

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

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



Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

CCCWA

At this time, we only have five (5) families remaining in the mainstream/expedited China program. Due to the unpredictability of the program, we are unsure when they will receive a proposal.

The CCCWA have matched up to January 10, 2007. They are unable to tell us when any family can expect a referral. They are not even matching 1 day/month and in the last 4 months they did not match 1 child.

We would strongly recommend that the families still in this program consider other options. Please do call me to discuss your individual situation.

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.

CHINA HOMELAND VISIT

The next tour has been scheduled for March 10 - 24th , 2017. The registration package for this tour is now available on-line. You can also contact me if you'd like a package.

This tour begins with sightseeing in Beijing (Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace) and also includes a visit to the Chongqing Zoo to see the pandas, a cruise down the Yangtze River and ends in

beautiful Shanghai.

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact [me](#).



Waiting Children Program China

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Cathy: cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

Welcome home to the Ho family who arrived home on December 23, 2016!

The Chim family will travel to China in January 2017 to receive their son. We wish the family a safe adoption journey!

The Children's Bridge has received three Letters of Seeking Confirmation for the KirbyYee, Palmer and Thompson families. The families will travel to China to receive their sons in February 2017. Congratulations to the families on receiving their LSC's!

I will be travelling to China in March 2017 to visit with officials at the CCCWA, in-country staff and our adoption travel services team.

All of the families in the WC China Program must now be open to adopting a child of either gender, 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's Bridge has placed children with the following special medical needs over the past two years: cleft lip and cleft palate, congenital heart disease, missing hand, club foot, visual impairment, hearing impairment, Hep B and developmental delay. The children waiting for families in our WC China Program are toddlers and preschoolers. On average, the boys have been between 2-3 years of age and the girls between 3 -5 years of age at time of referral.

Our WC China Program is currently full and we will be accepting names on our call back list in January 2017.

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 .

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://www.childrensbridge.com/members/nlarchive.html>

Cathy Murphy and the Children's Bridge staff.



MAKING FAMILIES HAPPEN