

Share:



Join Email List

Powered by
Constant Contact**Please Note:**

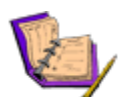
This email is being delivered via an email address used exclusively for distribution purposes. Please **DO NOT** reply to this email even though this is now the MONTHLY UPDATE (THIS Month at a Glance), it will still be distributed through the weeklyupdate@childrensbridge.com email address as many spam filters have approved this address.

December 22nd, 2017

**Holiday Closure**

The Children's Bridge will be closed from December 22, 2017 - January 1, 2018.
We will reopen at 8:30 am on Tuesday January 2, 2018.

**On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of The Children's Bridge
we would like to wish you and your family
a very joyful holiday season with family and friends!**

*Notes From Cathy's Desk*

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Sad News

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of Marcy Lemon-Lawrence's sudden death. Marcy was an Adoption Practitioner for over 20 years and a true advocate for her families and the children she worked with. She will be greatly missed by the adoption community! Our thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

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.

Did You Know

Our celebrations are woven tightly into our cultural identity. The traditions we share with our children may be carried forward for generations to come. As adoptive families we learn and grow as we bring new traditions from our child's culture into our family. So whether you are lighting the menorah, decorating the Christmas tree, or celebrating the seven days of Kwanza remember you are creating long lasting memories for your children and it is those wonderful traditions that weave the fabric of our families together. Wishing you all peace and joy this holiday season!



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](#), [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: AdopTALK January 6 and 7, 2018 in Ottawa, Ontario with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy.

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

December Booklist:

1. 26 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance: <https://medium.com/embrace-race/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance-15b189c1bab9>
2. Books with Characters of Colour: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/books-with-characters-of-color>
3. Multicultural List of Graphic Novels for teens: <https://wcls.bibliocommons.com/list/share/140592142/164138262>
4. Afro-Latinx Titles - Elementary to High School: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/afro-latinx/>
5. Books on Jewish Identity and History: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/jewish-identity/>
6. Black Excellence: Honouring Kwanzaa Through Science Fiction and Fantasy: <https://www.tor.com/2017/12/05/black-excellence-honoring-kwanzaa-through-science-fiction-and-fantasy/>
7. Kwanzaa For Kids - 9 Kwanzaa Books Every Family Should Have: <http://blackartblog.blackartdepot.com/features/featured-books/9-kwanzaa-children-books.html>



Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

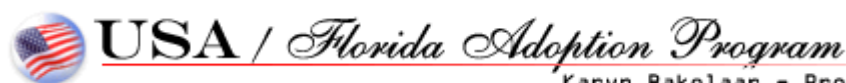
Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

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 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).



Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

ADOPTION PROGRAM NEWS

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 currently has two available spaces and we have 3 families in process to adopt from Florida. 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, 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) 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 R & K	File Active - Waiting to be Matched
3	Family A & B	Completing Homestudy

ACF ADOPTIONS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family A & D	On Hold

****Please Note:** The above chart will not be updated when waiting families are matched with expectant parents in Florida, as there are still too many unknowns at that point in the process. The chart will be updated after the birth of the child, following the signing of final consents in the USA.

If you would like any information on the Florida adoption program, please contact the Florida Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Dr. Jason Brophy, head of Infectious Disease at CHEO has recently created a website for parents of children living with HIV. It can be accessed at: <https://www.cparg.ca/>

A few interesting and informative articles/podcasts and resources on life expectancy and HIV and other relevant issues can be found at:

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-39872530>

- Listen to Stuff I've Learned from Raising Children With HIV from The Honestly Speaking Parenting Podcast in Podcasts. <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-honestly-speaking-parenting-podcast/id1053243866?mt=2&i=1000389292062>

- Documentary - Positive Youth: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0095WK83S/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_dp_FGSExb75Y7808

- On Netflix
 - How to Survive a Plague
 - It's Not Over

- You Tube
 - Jason Brophy and others about Transition from adolescent care to adult care
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuelBFEU4OImtn2oejnWIOw>

- Bilingual Confidentiality, disclosure and the law for youth
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu4F7GAsoM0>

- Free HIV courses
 - Khan Academy: https://www.khanacademy.org/search?referer=%2F&page_search_query=hiv

Recent changes to Ontario law and budget revisions have made ARV's even more accessible and affordable for Ontario residents - this can mean many more opportunities for children living with HIV to be placed into adoptive families: <http://globalnews.ca/news/3410017/ontario-budget-2017-families-get-free-prescriptions-drugs-for-children-more-aid-for-students/>

Program Possibilities

- **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 (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

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. We have one family currently waiting for a child proposal from Zambia. There are two spaces available in this adoption program.

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

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 5 families in process to adopt from India. We are currently working on expanding this adoption program so that we are able to work with families across Canada. A good overview of this adoption process was published in the Indo-Canadian Voice: <http://www.voiceonline.com/india-is-open-for-international-adoption/>

CARA is now accepting families for both their mainstream program and their special needs stream. Most children are over age 2 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 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

We currently have one family in-country finalizing their child's adoption and completing final paperwork in India. We have two families that are currently waiting for a child proposal, and two families completing the homestudy process.

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.blindia-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.



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

South Korea's take on Christmas holidays....

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). 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).

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 2018!

Please note that my last day in the office is Thursday, December 21st. I will return on January 2nd 2018.

Court Dates and Travel Notices

Two court dates were received over the past few weeks for January 12 and January 18. Both families have eagerly made arrangements to arrive in Korea one week ahead to be good and ready for visits with their child and court.

We are waiting a notice to travel (2nd trip) for one of our families. The adoption order has been confirmed and all paperwork is with the Embassy in Manilla to issue the COPR. December is a big travel month so I'm sure the Visa office is very busy which slows the COPR down a bit.

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
A	April 12/16	May 5/16	June 16/16	Sept 8/16	Dec 19/16	Dec 20/16	Mar 9/17	Mar 19/17	Apr 10/17	Apr 27/17	May 8/17
B	April 19/16	Jun 26/16	July 28/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
C	Jul 28/16	Aug 16/16	Sept 20/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
D	Aug 18/16	Sept 29/16	Oct 27/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
E	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
F	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
G	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17	May 18/17	Aug 30/17	Nov 1/17	Nov 14/17	Jan 12/18				

H	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		
I	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Apr 24/17	Aug 30/17	Oct 23/17	Oct 30/17	Jan 18/18				
J	Mar 23/17	Dec 5/17									
K	Apr 19/17	July 26/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17							
L	May 11/17	July 10/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17							
M	June 8/17	Sept 28/17	Oct 19/17	Early 2018							
N	July 20/17	Oct 2/17	Oct 19/17	Early 2018							
O	July 20/17										
P	Dec 7/17										

Referral timelines can take anywhere from 1 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 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.

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 January 6th and 7th, 2018 in Ottawa with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy. Registration details: <http://www.childrensbridge.com/adoptalk/index.html>.

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!

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 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.

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

CIC Links:

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

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

Families who have arrived home with their children after November 2016 have been instructed by CIC 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 CIC 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

Christmas in Korea! One of our families is currently in Korea on their 14 day Homeland Visit. A custom itinerary was created that covers history, culture, sports, cuisine, and of course the highly anticipated SWS visit.

The March 2018 and July/August 2018 South Korea registration packages are now on-line (check out the link below). The March tour dates are 9th to 17th and July/August tour dates are July 27th to August 5th. Both tours will take you to dynamic Seoul where you'll also visit SWS, breathtaking Seoraksan, the 2018 Winter Olympic Village, and other areas of Korea that are rich in history and culture. Of course it's spiced up with Gimchi, K-Pop and some technology. We aim to deliver a homeland that will leave you with life lasting memories and a deep sense of appreciation of your child's birth country.

<http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/SKindex.html>

I have just completed a custom December Homeland Visit package. Our participant family will be spending an exciting period over Christmas touring many areas of South Korea.

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. Visit:

http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonial_s.html

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](#)

This is what's planned for 2018, further details to come:

February 3, 2018 - Lunar New Year - Year of the Dog and traditional games

February TBD, 2018 - KCAO Lunar New Year party

March 03, 2018 - Olympic Games Special Mini Olympiad - Highlighting PyeongChang Olympics

April 7, 2018 - Taekwondo lesson

May 5, 2018 - Children's Day Picnic - Outdoor fun and K-Pop Demonstration



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your family a very happy holiday season!

Please note that my last day in the office is Wednesday, December 20th. I will return on January 2nd 2018.

Adoption Program News

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Log-in-Date	Province	Referral	Home
J & L	November 2015	NS		
G & E	November 2015	ON		
M & J	November 2015	ON		
T & A	December 2015	ON	Aug. 22, 2017	Oct. 20, 2017
J & C	March 2016	NS		
J & K	August 2016	ON		
A & B	December 2016	ON		
P & R	February 2017	ON		
T & P	February 2017	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017	MB		
G & I	June 30, 2017	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017	ON		
W & M	August 28, 2017	AB		
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017	ON		
KS	Nov. 20, 2017	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017	ON		
A & K	Sent December	ON		

Four families have sent in their retainers and are working on their dossiers.

If I do not have a signed retainer on hand, you will not be guaranteed a spot in the program.

Once you have received a retainer agreement, you have 30 days to return it to us.

Finalization

As you know, your adoptions will be finalized at the Thai Embassy. We thought that every family had to travel to Ottawa to complete this process, however, we recently learned that our families in the west now have the opportunity to finalize at the Thai Embassy in Vancouver. Good news!

Paperwork Change - Dossier - Effective Immediately

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

Resource Kit

Once you have paid your initial fees, we will send you your Adoption & Parenting Resource Kit. The kit is generally sent within a month of you signing your retainer. If you haven't yet received your Resource Kit, do let me know.

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 will be held January 6th and 7th 2018 in Ottawa with Karyn Bakelaar and Cathy Murphy. All details are now [on-line](#).

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 - 18 months 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

The CCCWA have matched up to January 15, 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

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday season!

Please note that my last day in the office is Wednesday, December 20th. I will return on January 2nd 2018.

Registrations are coming in now for the March 2018 tour and it looks like there will be several families participating.

If you wish to participate, please complete the required documents and scan and email them directly to me.

The March 2018 registration package is now on-line (check out the link below). This tour begins on March 9th and includes 5 days in Beijing, 2 or 3 days in your child's birth city, a trip down the Yangtze River and ends with 2 nights in Shanghai. It's a fabulous trip!

<http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/CHNindex.html>

Some of the feedback:

"We had an absolutely wonderful trip!"

"My daughter loved her first China experience and has already asked to go back again in a few years. I personally loved that she made a connection with another girl on our trip and that we will get them together in future. Having a friend close in age in an exact same situation that she can talk to as she ages is great for them both. And I made some new friends too!"

"The fact we were able to meet and spend significant time with my daughter's foster parents is amazing."

"It was the most amazing journey and we are very grateful to Children's Bridge and Journey Home Tours for their tremendous organization."

"Our trip was truly awesome. As I've told people since getting back, I think we went through every emotion possible - excitement and anticipation, heartfelt thanks, anxiety, frustration, disappointment, joy, and certainly a special bonding of the three of us as we shared this special time together."

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

Congratulations to the Leslie/Paine family who have received their Letters of Seeking Confirmation (LSC's) from the CCCWA and will soon travel to receive their son.

We currently have 12 families in process with their dossiers logged in at the CCCWA who are awaiting child proposals. Many of our waiting families have updated their Letters of Approval to expand their child recommendation statements. I would be pleased to set up a conference call to speak with your family about expanding your age range and the special medical needs your family may be open to.

The Civil Affairs office in Beijing announced that all individual designated children's files will end as of December 31, 2017 and because of this change, we expect more children's files to appear on the CCCWA Online System between December and January. I will be in the office over the holidays to monitor the CCCWA system. If your family is going to be away over the holiday season please contact me as soon as possible.

The China WC Program is now an older boy (over 7 years of age) special medical needs adoption program. There are currently many children waiting for families with non-correctable medical conditions such as down syndrome, CP, blind or deaf. We will continue to update our families over the next few weeks as we monitor the changes in this program.

To set up a screening call for an older child special needs adoption from the China WC 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.

