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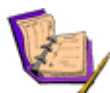
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This email is being delivered via an email address used exclusively for distribution purposes.

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.

February 23rd, 2018



## *Notes From Cathy's Desk*

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

### Happy Lunar New Year!

2018 is the year of the Dog. How will your family celebrate?



In China the Lunar New Year will be celebrated from February 16 - 23, 2018.

The Lunar New Year is a time for Chinese families to gather for their annual reunion dinner with extended family. Favourite dishes may include noodles, dumplings, tangyuan (sweet rice balls), niangao (rice cake), fish and oranges. It is also a tradition for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for incoming good luck. Windows and doors are decorated with red color paper-cuts - "good fortune" or "happiness", "wealth", and "longevity". Other activities include lighting firecrackers and giving money in red paper envelopes.

In Korea, Seollal will fall on February 19 - 21, 2018. Seollal refers to Eumnyeok Seollal (음력 설날, lunar new year), also known as Gujeong. The Korean New Year holiday lasts for three days. Seollal is a time to gather with family members to enjoy some of the following foods Tteokguk (떡국, Korean Rice Cake Soup), Manduguk (만둣국, Korean Dumpling Soup), Kimchi Mandu (김치만두, Kimchi Dumplings), Heart Matsal Jeon (하트 맛살전, Heart Shaped Imitation Crab Omelettes), Pyogo Beoseot-Jeon (표고버섯전, Stuffed Shiitake Mushrooms) and Bulgogi (불고기, Korean BBQ Beef). Festivities may include fireworks, parties and some families may play Yunnori, a traditional board game.

In Thailand, on February 16, 2018, the Chinese community in Bangkok celebrates the Chinese New Year with parades, traditional food and fireworks.

### Financial Matters:

### 1. Final Trust Statements:

The following note is relevant to all families whom will be claiming the Adoption Tax Credit by April 30, 2018 on their T1 Tax Return for the 2017 year.

Final trust statements had been forwarded through-out the 2016 year to all families who had completed their adoption in that year (January 1 - December 31, 2017). Please note that you will require this final trust statement to be able to claim the above tax credit. Please keep all your travel receipts, orphanage donation receipt, etc. for your records (and in a safe place) as we have seen many families in the past year being audited by Canada Revenue Agency. In the event that you misplaced your final trust statement kindly email me to request a copy.

#### **Adoption Tax Credit**

If your family has completed your child's adoption in the 2017 fiscal year, please check the CRA web site for information about the adoption tax credit.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/line-313-adoption-expenses.html>

#### Line 313 - Adoption expenses

As a parent, you can claim an amount for eligible adoption expenses related to the adoption of a child who is under 18 years of age. The maximum claim for each child is \$15,670. You can only claim these incurred expenses in the tax year including the end of the adoption period for the child.

### 2. Annual Administration Fee (for all families in process, 2nd year and onwards):

The annual administration fee invoices for all families in process - 2nd year and onwards, would be issued on March 1, 2018. A majority of our families whom are still in process will be impacted by this administration fee. As we have done for the past many years, accompanied with your annual administration fee invoice for the period March 2018 - February 2019, will be a payment plan option. I urge all families to use this plan so as to lessen the financial burden of this fee over the course of the year. Payments should be made quarterly on March 31, 2018, June 1, 2018, September 1, 2018 and December 1, 2018 in the members section of our website, or by post-dated cheques mailed to our office accompanied by the signed Payment Plan.

The Children's Bridge is a licensed, non-profit adoption agency. In order to treat its members fairly and equitably, all families need to pay their fair share of the costs associated with adoption. Failure to do so places an unfair burden on other families.

If you have any questions pertaining to the above please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is: [Liddell.Malan-Bennett@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Liddell.Malan-Bennett@childrensbridge.com) and my regular working days are Monday and Tuesday of every week.

I will attend to your email at my earliest opportunity.

#### 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**

Fanshaw students are presently seeking parents with children who are adopted, both domestically and internationally, between the ages of 2-12.

The purpose of the research study is to understand how the use of the outdoors supports attachment among

adoptive families. In order to be considered for the study, it is required that you and your family use the outdoors regularly. Your participation would consist of sharing your experiences in an approximately 60-minute interview via face-to-face, Skype, and/or telephone. Your participation in this study will contribute to the advancement and understanding of how to best support families of diverse backgrounds using the outdoor environment.

[Download the Letter of Informed Consent](#)

[Download the Consent Form](#)

Thank you for your time,

Ellen Livingstone ([e\\_livingstone2@fanshaweonline.ca](mailto:e_livingstone2@fanshaweonline.ca))

Samantha Smith ([s\\_smith232@fanshaweonline.ca](mailto:s_smith232@fanshaweonline.ca))

Jahmoyia Smith ([j\\_smith266@fanshaweonline.ca](mailto:j_smith266@fanshaweonline.ca))

(Honours Bachelor of Early Childhood Leadership Students)



## *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: Adoption Panel 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](http://www.childrensbridge.com) under 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](mailto: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](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

This month's focus will be on books for the Black community, as it is Black History Month.

### 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](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>

### January Booklist - Focus on HIV+ Kids

1. Book Series for Children on Living with HIV:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/search/advanced?seriesId=713953>

2. Best Books About HIV (Fiction and Non-fiction):

[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14344.Best\\_Books\\_about\\_HIV\\_AIDS\\_Fiction\\_and\\_Non\\_Fiction](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14344.Best_Books_about_HIV_AIDS_Fiction_and_Non_Fiction)

3. Amazon Bestsellers List on HIV and AIDS:

<https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Books-AIDS-HIV/zgbs/books/14117>

4. Be a Friend - Children Living with HIV Speak:

<https://www.amazon.com/Be-Friend-Children-Whitman-Prairie/dp/0807505919>

5. Our Little Soldiers - A Book for Kids Living with HIV:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1019799244/our-little-soldiers-a-book-for-children-living-wit>

6. \_ Books on HIV by the Book Depository: <https://www.bookdepository.com/category/1332/HIV-AIDS>

7. Recommended by Families:

a. A positive superhero" by Desiree Thompson

b. Hugs for Sammy by Eva Lallo

### 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>



## Rwanda Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto: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](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) to be placed on the wait list (applicants will be called once the program is open to accepting applications).



## USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto: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 three available spaces and we have 2 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](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](#)) 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

##### 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](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto: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](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/UCueIBFEU40Imtn2oejnWIOw>



- 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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com))



#### AIDS COMMITTEE OF OTTAWA - COMMUNITY FORUM (OTTAWA)

March 24, 2018 10:00am to 4:00pm

The AIDS Committee of Ottawa is excited to announce that we will be hosting a community forum in celebration of U = U, undetectable equals untransmittable!

For more information, <http://www.childrensbridge.com/pages/generalevents.html>

If you would like any information on the HIV+ Kids adoption program, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 4 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](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com).

#### Family's Progress

We currently have one family who just returned to Canada with their new daughter from India. Congratulations Shereeni and Sukanti!

We have one family that has been matched with a child in India, and one family currently waiting for a child proposal. Our fourth family is currently 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](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](mailto:frrodli.support@nic.in) OR [frrodli.support@gov.in](mailto: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](mailto:Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com).



## South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

### Referral News

A referral for a very cute 7-month old boy arrived mid month and his new parents are over the moon!

### Court Dates and Travel Notices

One of our families waiting for the COPR, chose to travel to Korea before this important immigration document was issued. They understood that the wait could be long but decided to take the risk and be in Korea with their child and begin the bonding process. As the Adoption Order was confirmed and the COPR application was submitted SWS was able to place the child in his parents' care. Please know that if you do decide to go travel before the COPR is issued we cannot guarantee the issuing timeline. We've seen as short as 4 weeks and as long as 12 weeks.

At this time we have two families, who both are both waiting to make their second trip to Korea to each receive their child. Their child's adoption order was confirmed mid month and the COPR request was sent to Manila the same day.

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	Jun	July 28/16	Nov	Feb	Feb	June	June	July	July	Aug

	19/16	26/16		18/16	24/17	24/17	8/17	15/17	6/17	25/17	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	Jan 18/18	Feb 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	Jan 5/18	Dec 28/17
I	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Jul 24/17	Aug 30/17	Oct 23/17	Oct 30/17	Jan 18/18		Feb 12/18		
J	Mar 23/17	Dec 5/17	Dec 21/17	Mid Feb/18							
K	Apr 19/17	July 26/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18					
L	May 11/17	July 10/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18					
M	June 8/17	Sept 28/17	Oct 19/17	Mid Feb/18							
N	July 20/17	Oct 2/17	Oct 19/17	Mid Feb/18							
O	July 20/17	Feb 15/18									
P	Dec 7/17	Jan 8/18	Jan 25/18								
Q	Feb 8/18										
R	Feb 8/18										

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 October 27th and 28th, 2018 in Newmarket, Ontario.

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](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](mailto: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 recently returned from a custom homeland. They described it as an "outstanding trip", "a trip of a lifetime". A custom itinerary was created that covered history, culture, sports, adventure in nature, cuisine, and of course the highly anticipated SWS visit.

See Hana's touching and eloquently written homeland story in our upcoming March Newsletter. This is "A MUST READ".

The July/August 2018 South Korea registration packages are now on-line (check out the link below). July/August tour dates are July 27th to August 5th. This tour 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>

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](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](mailto: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:

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

**Please Note:** I will be travelling and visiting South Korea from March 8 - March 17. I will be back in the office the week of March 19. I will have access to email from March 11 to March 15. If your matter requires immediate assistance, please contact Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com).



*Thailand Adoption Program*

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Since the next update is coming out at the end of March, I would like to wish you all a happy March break!

### 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	Dec. 25, 2017	ON		

Four families have sent in their retainers and are working on their dossiers. These files will be part of the 2018 quota.

I have sent a retainer to one family and will have that back within the month. This file will also be part of the 2018 quota.

I do not have our quota yet from the DCY for this year but will let you know as soon as I get it. I am hoping it will be similar to previous years (9 files).

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 workshop in the GTA will be held October 27th and 28th in Newmarket. 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.



*China Program*

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

Tel: (905) 836-6776

#### 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

At this time we have 8 families participating in the March homeland tour. They are leaving beginning on March 7th !

Our summer homeland tour dates are June 29th - July 13th. The registration package will be available next month.

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

<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](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com)  
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

Warm congratulations are extended to the Liu-Jiang and Vandermeer families who have received referrals/child proposals from the CCCWA for their children!

Safe travel to the Leslie-Paine family who will travel to China in March to receive their son!

We currently have 10 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.

**For any new families** registering with The Children's Bridge, the China WC program has changed dramatically over the past two years and the program has become an older boy with non-correctable special medical needs adoption program. I have attached a link which outlines the changes in the program <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/tv/tvshows/get-real-s15/china-s-new-unwanted/3595038.html>

China ratified the Hague in 2008 and the one child policy was lifted almost two years ago. Domestic adoption continues to rise within China and more domestic adoptions have taken place in the past year. International adoption in China continues to decline.

Most of our families who are remaining in this adoption program are looking at expanding their SN` s (missing limbs, missing hands, club foot, congenital heart disease, developmental delays etc. ), and increasing their age range if they are open to adopting an older boy (over 7 years of age). The children currently waiting for families on the CCCWA Online System have high non-correctable special medical needs or are older children between 10-14 years of age.

If you would like to set up a telephone conference call or an in-person meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me at [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](mailto:cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com).

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### 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](http://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