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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.

July 28th, 2017



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

Holiday Alert

I will be away on holidays from July 17-28, 2017, returning to the office on Monday July 31, 2017. I will not have access to email during this time. Please contact the office while I am on holidays and you will be directed to the person who is providing ED coverage. Thank you!

The Children's Bridge New Website - Children's Colouring Contest!



The Children's Bridge New Website Children's Colouring Contest!
July 15 - September 30, 2017

The Children's Bridge will be creating a new web site, and we're inviting all children adopted through TCB up to 12 years of age to participate in our colouring contest!

We would like to invite your children to submit drawings of their family using crayons or coloured pencils on an 8 x 11 piece of paper. Please submit all pieces of art work to:

The Children's Bridge
Colouring Contest
1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221
Ottawa, Ontario
K2G 3J2

The winning picture/drawing will be featured
as the Home page of The Children's Bridge new web site!

Once the artwork is received we will send your family an agreement allowing TCB to use your child's artwork on our web site.

Contest details:

www.childrensbridge.com/data/CBwwwChildrensColouringContest2017.pdf

Connect-A-Kid Mentorship Program Ottawa

The Children's Bridge is pleased to partner with Connect-A-Kid to provide a team based mentorship program for adopted children, devoted to connecting the adoption community through mentorship, embracing cultural diversity and celebrating adoption. We are pleased to welcome Kara Eusebio and Natasha Clark as two of our adult mentors. We wish Maryfrances Carton all the best as she begins her Master's this fall at Waterloo and thank her for the past three years of volunteer time with Connect-A-Kid. Please check our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under "events" for our fall events. We just hosted a wonderful teen mentor evening to plan these events for the next year!

Did You Know?

Did You Know the following people are also adoptees?

Nelson Mandela

After his father's death, Nelson Mandela was adopted at the age of nine by Chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the acting regent of the Thembu people.

Sarah McLachlan

Faith Hill

Steve Jobs

Jamie Foxx

Marilyn Munroe

Babe Ruth

John Lennon

Melissa Gilbert

Did you know that many of our children have ongoing sleep issues.

Sleep Issues

Sleep issues and night terrors are quite common in all children and are incredibly challenging. Many of our children have difficulty falling asleep alone and/or may have difficulty sleeping through the night and/or may awaken a few times a night with night terrors. We have found many of these sleep issues are unpredictable. For example, night terrors may increase with changes in routine or they may not. With time, night terrors generally decrease in intensity and duration.

The first thing I would recommend is ruling out any possible physical causes for his/her sleep issues. For example the following issues have affected some of our children's sleep patterns: lactose intolerance, parasites, mucopolysaccharidosis - abnormalities of the airway, frequent upper respiratory infections, ear infections and a constant "runny nose".

Have you completed all of the medical testing and blood work since arriving home in Canada? It is important to rule out any possible physical condition first.

Below are some general tips for establishing a sleep routine:

Sleep/Bedtime Routine

As much as possible, try to keep the sleep/bedtime routine the same each night.

Here is an example of a bedtime routine:

- quiet time play (puzzles, books)
- a warm bath
- baby/child massage with cream while putting on pj's
- turn off bright lights and use "soft lighting" or a night light
- read a story or sing a lullaby or give a bottle (depends on your child's needs)
- ensure all your child's physical needs have been met (diaper wet? hunger? comfort? gassy? ill? teething?)
- attempt to put your baby/child to sleep at the "drowsy" stage in their bed or in the family bed/family room
- If your child awakens, respond and soothe until they fall back to sleep.

Remember, children go through developmental phases, and they can change quickly. A child may need a lot of physical contact in the first few months after arrival but will become more independent later on after the first year at home in their new family.

Sleep disruption is common in children who have been adopted and this may occur when a child is stressed or there are changes in their environment such as school beginnings or endings.

There are some articles on sleep and night terrors in the Adoption and Parenting Resource Kit under "sleep". There is also a new resource book from [EMK Press](#) called "Adoption Parenting, Creating a Toolbox and Building Connections".

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

Florida, Thailand and South Korea Adoption Programs

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



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 October 14 and 15, 2017 in Newmarket, Ontario and AdopTALK January 6 and 7, 2018 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Connect-A-Kid Ottawa Mentoring Program events are posted on our web site at: www.childrensbridge.com. Many thanks to Maryfrances Carton, Anika Clark, Kara Eusebio and Natasha Clark for leading this dynamic group!

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 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

January Booklist

1. Talking to Kids About Protesting: <http://www.westories.org/blog/2016/9/22/talking-to-kids-about-protesting-5-things-i-want-my-kids-to-know>
2. Books for Free in Honour of Women's Marches: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/janet-mock-issa-rae-books-for-free_us_58827a8fe4b096b4a231b051?utm_hp_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&
3. Books for Smart, Confident and Courageous Girls: <http://www.amightygirl.com/books>
4. 23 Kids Books Set in South Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/23-childrens-books-set-south-africa/>

March Booklist

1. Recent Books Written by Women of Colour: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-new-books-by-women-writers-of-color-to-add-to-your-must-read-list_us_58b49a75e4b060480e0b1184?ws3e63wnhnsniv0a4i%3Futm_hp_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&ncid=fcbkInkushpmg00000047
2. Popular Ethiopian Kids Books: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/kids-ethiopia>

3. Top Ten Chinese-American Books: <https://www.momsrising.org/blog/top-10-chinese-american-childrens-books-ages-2-14>
4. Books That Teach Kids Intersectional Feminism: <https://www.romper.com/p/14-books-that-teach-intersectional-feminism-to-kids-43204>
5. 32 Multicultural Kids Books About Strong Female Role Models: <http://coloursofus.com/20-multicultural-picture-books-about-strong-female-role-models/>
6. 10 Books by Indian Authors to Look for in 2017: <https://www.bustle.com/p/10-books-by-indian-authors-to-look-out-for-in-2017-29680>
7. Free Books on Race, Sexuality, Gender and Class for Young Adults: <http://www.tyreebp.com/tbp-blog/2016/01/14/free-books-on-race-gender-sexuality-and-class-that-are-bound-to-get-you-woke>
8. Children's Books that Tackle Race and Ethnicity: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/22/books/23racebooks.html?_r=0

May Booklist:

1. Top Ten Books on the Civil Rights Movement: <http://www.pragmaticmom.com/2012/01/top-10-childrens-fbooks-civil-rights-movement/>
2. Books Set in Taiwan: <http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/647306-taiwan>
3. Young Adult Books That Feature Haitian Culture: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
4. Mobile Directory - Book Lists That Prioritize Diversity: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kaya-thomas-we-read-too-app_us_58dd1361e4b08194e3b7b05b
5. Diverse Poetry Picture Books for Kids: <http://www.readbrightly.com/diverse-poetry-picture-books-for-kids/>
6. Thirteen Young Adult Novels by Latina Authors: <https://www.bustle.com/articles/162477-13-ya-novels-by-latino-authors-everyone-needs-to-read>
7. Top Children's and Young Adult Books Set in Africa: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/12430.Top_Children_s_Y_A_Books_Set_in_Africa

June Booklist:

1. 2017 Social Justice Summer Reading List: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/2017-summer-reading/>
2. LGBTQ Books to Read for PRIDE Month: <http://www.ravishly.com/9-lgbtq-books-read-pride-month>
3. Indigenous writers recommend these books: <http://www.cbc.ca/books/2017/06/books-to-read-during-indigenous-book-club-month.html>
4. Six Books About Juneteenth: <http://bcbooksandauthors.com/six-books-about-juneteenth/>
5. 18 Books for African-Caribbean Heritage Month (June): <http://bcbooksandauthors.com/18-books-for-national-caribbean-american-heritage-month/>
6. Eid Mubarak! 18 Kids Books All About Ramadan: <https://www.thoughtco.com/ramadan-books-for-children-2004627>
7. 10 Indigenous Children's Books to Add to Your Library: <http://www.cbc.ca/parents/learning/view/10-beautiful-indigenous-childrens-books-to-add-to-your-library>



USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

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 spaces available. We currently have two families on the call-back list. Please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for further information on this adoption program.

Congratulations are extended to Michael and Lisa, who are now home in Ontario with their baby girl! Congratulations are also extended to Christine and Darren who recently had their adoption finalized in Florida court.

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.

USA Tax Laws and Dual Citizenship Status

This correspondence was sent to all family's home with children adopted from the USA, and to new families beginning the adoption process. Please feel free to share this information widely.

Under the *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act* (FATCA) which was enacted in the USA in 2010, all US citizens must file annual tax returns, as well as report all foreign financial assets. This law also allows the American government (IRS) to access records and information for US citizens from the CRA or larger Canadian financial institutions (some smaller banks and credit unions are exempt).

In most cases, dual citizens will not owe taxes on US tax returns as Canada has a much higher tax rate than does the US. Some saving accounts are exempt from FATCA, such as RRSP's, etc, thanks to FACTA provisions in Bill-C31. That being said, annual tax returns must be filed, and financial assets in your child's name must be reported.

In previous information that had been shared with adoptive families, three options for adoptive families were stated as follows:

- A. Parents and their adopted children can comply with the US legislation (submit annual tax returns/report assets according to law);
- B. Renounce or relinquish the child's US citizenship once Canadian permanent residency was granted;
- C. Parents and the adopted child could simply not comply.

However, it has recently been brought to my attention that Option B (renouncing or relinquishing US citizenship) is not an option. According to US Immigration Law it is not possible for minors to renounce citizenship, nor is it possible for adults to renounce of behalf of an American Citizen. While this link states the age of renunciation to be 16, I have spoken to a few US Hague attorneys that have stated the age is now 21. Additionally, the process of renunciation is long and is somewhat costly (one website said fee increased to \$2300USD, and more if an immigration attorney is involved (see news articles below). (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal-considerations/us-citizenship-laws-policies/renunciation-of-citizenship.html>)

There has been some advocacy and organizations that are attempting to have this overturned, such as The Alliance for the Defense of Canadian Sovereignty, but for now the law is in tact and applies to all adoptive families. There is a lawyer in the GTA area that holds free Information Seminars on US taxation, and also will advise you on your options as outlined above. His website is: <http://www.citizenshipsolutions.ca/>

I will share any further information with you that comes my way, and this information will be in the Monthly Update for the next few issues. I have two Hague attorneys in the US investigating whether options exist in the cases of adoption, but at this point it seems adopted children fall under the same laws and regulations as other US ex-pats.

Laws and Bills:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal-considerations/us-citizenship-laws-policies/renunciation-of-citizenship.html>

- <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/foreign-account-tax-compliance-act-fatca>

Other Resources and Reading:

- Alliance for the Defense of Canadian Sovereignty: <http://www.adcs-adsc.ca/>
- FAQ Document of FACTA by a Chartered Accountant: <https://www.hutcheson.ca/common-questions-asked-by-us-citizens-in-canada-fatca-and-tax-related/>

Information, Resources and Articles:

- Blog Post - Possible Consequences of Not Filing Annual Tax Returns as an American living abroad (dual citizen): <http://www.expatarrivals.com/article/consequences-for-not-filing-us-income-taxes-as-an-american-expat>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/the-law-page/dual-citizens-launch-legal-challenge-on-canada-us-tax-deal/article20007176/>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-business/impact-of-sweeping-us-tax-crackdown-will-be-felt-by-the-unwitting/article21076723/>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/personal-finance/taxes/attention-american-expats-in-canada-the-irs-has-its-eyes-on-you/article19140900/?1488999885865>
- <http://files4.webydo.com/41/410162/UploadedFiles/454d0e03-b40d-47ab-9d67-314b0c4163ca.pdf>
- <http://www.macleans.ca/economy/business/think-sharing-bank-data-with-the-u-s-only-affects-canadian-americans-think-again/>

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 V & N	Home with Baby!
2	Family S and L	File on Hold
3	Family R & R	Completing homestudy process
4	Family R & K	Completing homestudy process

ACF ADOPTIONS

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
	N/A	Able to accept new applications to this program

****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.

Please Note: I will be away on holidays from July 13th , 2017 until Tuesday September 3rd ,

2017. I will be away on work related travel from September 4th until September 14th , 2017. I will have limited access to email during this time. All inquiries should be directed to Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com .



HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Our mentorship program is slowly growing and we now have 2 families that are able to speak with other adoptive families who are considering, or are adopting, children living with HIV. Please contact the program manager if you would like further information on this program.

The BBC has recently published an article stating that the life expectancy of those living with HIV is now on par with those who are not carriers of the virus: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-39872530>

There is a Facebook support group available for those parenting children living with HIV - it is a "secret" group and can be accessed by invitation only. Please contact [Karyn Bakelaar](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) if you would like to be invited into this group.

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.

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Republic of Zambia Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Adoption Program News

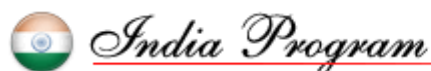
Family G/K are doing well and are now into their third month of fostering their child in Zambia and will soon be completing their court process. They have been able to provide feedback about their experience so far which will be very beneficial to families that follow.

We are now able to accept two (2) new families into this adoption program. Applicants must be married, and live in a diverse area of the country. Please review the Zambia program requirements before enquiring about this adoption program - you must meet all requirements and be able to complete the long in-country stay (6 - 7 months). If you would like more information, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for more information.

So far we have completed one adoption from Zambia, and have one relative adoption in the final stages of visa processing. One family is matched with a child and has begun the adoption process in Zambia, and our second family is currently waiting for a child proposal from Zambia.

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.

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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 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 is 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 waiting to travel to finalize their child's adoption in India, and one family waiting for CARA's approval on their submitted dossier.

Two other families are completing their home study and preparing their dossier for India.

OCI Status:

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

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

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

Once families are home in Canada with their children, they must complete a formal process renouncing Indian citizenship (dual citizenship is not possible in this adoption program). This **must** be done within 3-years of receiving Canadian Citizenship (or Record of Landing if you complete the Permanent Resident Visa route). It is **very important** to complete this step, as failure to do so may result in penalties when your child travels back to India at any point in their life. It is a punishable offence under the Indian Passport Act, 1967, to apply for an Indian passport, continue to hold an

Indian passport, get an Indian passport re-issued or travel on an Indian passport after acquiring foreign citizenship. Under Indian law, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have acquired foreign citizenship are required to surrender their Indian passports to the nearest Indian Mission/Post immediately after acquisition of foreign citizenship.

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

Foreigners Regional Registration Office and NOC

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

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

I am happy to provide traveling families with more detailed information about this process once they are at this stage in their adoption process. **Please note:** It is highly recommended that all families travel to Delhi in order to apply to the Delhi FRRO office. The Delhi office is more familiar with the process and has been able to keep to the 3-day turnaround time. As well, the CARA office is close in proximity, which means documents that are needed can be accessed in person and in a timely fashion by the adoptive family or the FRRO officers.

CARA has advised that parents can contact the FRRO support desk by telephone at 91 11 2671-1443 or by e-mail at frrodli.support@nic.in OR frrodli.support@gov.in for assistance in obtaining this document.

The address for the FRRO office in Delhi is as follows:

Foreigners Regional Registration Office
East Block VIII Level II ,
Sec 1, R K Puram, Delhi - 110066
+(91)-(11)-26711074, 26711384, 26711443, 26711348

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

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South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

Referral News

Two referrals this month! First referral arrived early June for a beautiful 6-month old baby boy. Second referral arrived this past week for a sweet 6-month old baby girl. Both families are thrilled with this news. We extend our heart-felt congratulations to them.

Court Dates and Travel Notices

One family received a court date of August 24. They are super excited to travel to Korea to meet their son, foster family and attend court.

Three families attended court in early June and their immigration paperwork was sent to the Visa office in Manila early this month. This week we received notice from SWS that all three COPR's have been issued. Each family is preparing to leave for Korea very soon and will be united with their child a few days after arrival.

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	
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	
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	
E	Dec 8/16	Jan 3/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	June 1/17	June 5/17					
F	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	May 12/17	May 22/17	Aug 24/17				
G	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17	May 18/17								
H	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17	Apr 13/17	June 13/17							
I	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Apr 24/17								
J	Mar 23/17	May 30/17	June 29/17								
K	Apr 19/17	July 26/17									
L	May 11/17	July 10/17									
M	June 8/17										
N	July 20/17										
O	July 20/17										

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 AdoptTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdoptTALK will be held October 14th and 15th in Newmarket (GTA) and January 6th and 7th, 2018 in Ottawa. All details are now [on-line](#).

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.

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 Culture Groups - Classes and Events - GTA and Ottawa

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 summer's visit: http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonial_s.html

Our family who participated in the May custom homeland visit reported that their trip went very well. Stay tuned for their story in our September Newsletter .

Our family who participated in the July Homeland has just returned home and I really look forward to hearing more details on their adventure.

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

2017 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa

For the monthly class schedule go to: <http://www.childrensbridge.com/pages/generalevents.html>

Korean as a Second Language Opportunities- Ottawa

From Sonia Bouffard:

At the last Korean cultural class weekend we had the chance of meeting Gina, mother of 3 Canadian-Korean children. She is currently in discussion with the Catholic school board to open a new Korean language - beginner level Saturday morning class that would better fit the language level of her kids and that of our children as well.

She is looking for 10 additional children to enroll in the class for September 2017-June 2018. The classes are from 9-12 on Saturday morning and the classes are free (one time 10\$ registration fee only). The board also offers a 5 week summer camp in Korean language and Korean culture that could be expanded to include a beginner level if several families are interested. The cost of the camp is 600\$ but there is subsidy that lower this price to 300\$. Both the Saturday classes and the summer camp take place at St-Patrick high school off Riverside drive.

Please contact Gina directly at ginahasaca@hotmail.com if you are interested in registering your children for this class and fill in the form attached. Hopefully enough families will be interested and the board will put together this class to help children with limited Korean language abilities learn Korean! This is great news given that many of the parents in this group have been looking for Korean language classes for the children.

Sonia



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Holiday Alert

Please be advised that I will be on holiday from July 31st - August 11th. If you need immediate assistance please contact the Ottawa office at 613-226-2112 or via email at info@childrensbridge.com

Adoption Program News

Stats

Over the last 5 years, the average age of child at proposal was 23 months. There have been twice as many boys referred as girls.

Families with Referral/Travelling

Welcome home to Kris, Jessica, Robert, Micheline and their families! These 2 families had relatively smooth trips and their children are coping well, so far.

The process in Thailand was predictable and went according to schedule.

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Dossier to DCY	Province
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
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

Two family's files are currently being processed (notarization, legalization, authentication) and will be going to Thailand by the end of August.

Six families have sent in their retainers and are working on their dossiers. Two of these families have received provincial approval.

Three retainers have been sent to families who are working on their home studies and dossiers and we should have those back by the end of August.

Four families have completed their consultation and will proceed in due time.

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.

Sleep Issues

Sleep issues and night terrors are quite common in all children and are incredibly challenging. Many of our children have difficulty falling asleep alone and/or may have difficulty sleeping through the night and/or may awaken a few times a night with night terrors. We have found many of these sleep issues are unpredictable. For example, night terrors may increase with changes in routine or they may not. With time, night terrors generally decrease in intensity and duration.

The first thing I would recommend is ruling out any possible physical causes for his/her sleep issues. For example the following issues have affected some of our children's sleep patterns: lactose intolerance, parasites, mucopolysaccharidosis - abnormalities of the airway, frequent upper respiratory infections, ear infections and a constant "runny nose".

Have you completed all of the medical testing and blood work since arriving home in Canada? It is important to rule out any possible physical condition first.

Below are some general tips for establishing a sleep routine:

Sleep/Bedtime Routine

As much as possible, try to keep the sleep/bedtime routine the same each night.

Here is an example of a bedtime routine:

- quiet time play (puzzles, books)
- a warm bath
- baby/child massage with cream while putting on pj's
- turn off bright lights and use "soft lighting" or a night light
- read a story or sing a lullaby or give a bottle (depends on your child's needs)
- ensure all your child's physical needs have been met (diaper wet? hunger? comfort? gassy? ill? teething?)
- attempt to put your baby/child to sleep at the "drowsy" stage in their bed or in the family bed/family room
- If your child awakens, respond and soothe until they fall back to sleep.

Remember, children go through developmental phases, and they can change quickly. A child may need

a lot of physical contact in the first few months after arrival but will become more independent later on after the first year at home in their new family.

Sleep disruption is common in children who have been adopted and this may occur when a child is stressed or there are changes in their environment such as school beginnings or endings.

There are some articles on sleep and night terrors in the Adoption and Parenting Resource Kit under "sleep". There is also a new resource book from [EMK Press](#) called "Adoption Parenting, Creating a Toolbox and Building Connections".

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 October 14th and 15th in Newmarket (GTA) and January 6th and 7th 2018 in Ottawa. All details are now on-line.

Ministry

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

Waiting Children Program

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age) or a child with special medical needs, note that this type of adoption does not fall 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) and the timeline may be quicker.

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 two years after your

dossier has gone to Thailand or sooner if in the Waiting Children Program. 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

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CCCWA

Our China liaison, Esther, recently had a conversation with the Deputy Director of the CCCWA who indicated again that there are no "healthy" children waiting for families and very few with minor correctable special needs. The children that are available are in the special focus group (high medical needs).

The CCCWA have matched up to January 15, 2007. They are unable to tell us when any 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.

I know this is probably not the news you wanted to hear but this is the information that we received and important for you all to know.

We have a very good relationship with the CCCWA and will continue to work with them to complete the remaining adoption files.

Homeland - China

Holiday Alert

Please be advised that I will be on holiday from July 31st - August 11th. If you need immediate assistance please contact the Ottawa office at 613-226-2112 or via email at info@childrensbridge.com

Two of our families participating in the July tour are home! I spoke to one family today and she told me that they had an amazing trip!

One family from our second group left on Wednesday, two families left on Thursday and the others will leave today.

I'd like to wish them all a wonderful adoption journey!

The March 2018 registration package will be available at the end of August.

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

Holiday Alert

I will be away on holidays from July 17-28, 2017, returning to the office on Monday July 31, 2017. I will not have access to email during this time. Please contact the office while I am on holidays and you will be directed to the person who is providing ED coverage. Thank you!

Our WC families in process received an updated Memo on July 12, 2017. If you did not receive the Memo please contact us. Many of the children currently on the shared list are children in the Special Focus Group with higher special medical needs.

We currently have 15 families with their dossiers logged in at the CCCWA and 2 families in the process of completing their Homestudy/Dossier. We have 17 families in process in our WC China Program.

All families in process received a Memo from The Children's Bridge regarding the new NGO law which will be implemented by Civil Affairs in China. The CCCWA has said there is currently "a hold" on their operations while this new law is being implemented. We will update our families in the coming weeks as we receive more information on these changes and what they will mean for families in process.

New families coming into this program who are considering an adoption through our WC China Program must be open to adopting a boy over 7 years of age with special medical needs. In the past year, The Children's Bridge has placed a large number of boys with our families, and we have been told by the CCCWA that the WC China Program is becoming an older child adoption program with older boys waiting for families.

Here is a link from China Asia news about the changes in China:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/catch-up-tv/get-real-s15/china-s-new-unwanted-8579500>

For more information on our WC China Program or to set up a screening call for an older child adoption from 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.

