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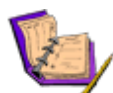
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March 31st, 2017



## *Notes From Cathy's Desk*

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

### Adoption Tax Credit

If your family has completed your child's adoption in the 2016 fiscal year, please check the CRA web site for information about the adoption tax credit.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns300-350/313/menu-eng.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 \$15,453. You can only claim these incurred expenses in the tax year including the end of the adoption period for the child.

### 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, 2017 on their T1 Tax Return for the 2016 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, 2016). 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.

#### 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, were issued on March 1, 2017. 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 2017 - February 2018, 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, 2017, June 1, 2017, September 1, 2017 and December 1, 2017 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.

### CIC Record of Landing Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Immigration

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

#### Citizenship

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

CIC Links:

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

Differences between the CIC Immigration Sponsorship and Canadian Citizenship processes

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

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

#### 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](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com) or [maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com](mailto:maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com)

#### Did you know?

A recent study published in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine found that adolescents adopted as infants were twice as likely as non adoptees to be diagnosed with externalizing disorders such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity (ADHD) and oppositional defiant disorder. This did not surprise Dr. Margaret Keyes, the study's lead author.

"We have always known adoptees are overrepresented in mental health settings, often at two-and-a-half to six times the rate of children from the general population," says Keyes, who conducts research at the University of Minnesota's Department of Psychology.



*Adoption Services*

Cathy Murphy

#### PRE AND POST ADOPTION SERVICES

##### New Post Adoption Consultation Service:

Post Adoption Consultation Service - The Children's Bridge is pleased to offer our Post Adoption Consultation

service for adoptive families that includes: scheduled telephone/skype call, email correspondence and identification of resources specific to the needs of the family, child or youth or the country the child has been adopted from.

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

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

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

### **Pre and Post Adoption Events**

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming months: Information Session for prospective adoptive parents - AdoptTALK Fall 2017 to be announced, and Connect-A-Kid Ottawa Mentoring Program events are posted on our web site at

[www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) Many thanks to Maryfrances Carton and Anika Clark for leading this group! Congratulations to Anika and her husband Mike on the birth of their son Spencer!

### **EVENTS**

Post Adoption Events and Seminars strengthen our adoption community and support us and our children in our journey. I encourage you to attend events and or host events in your region.

#### **Connect-A-Kid Mentoring Program**

Connect-A-Kid is running in Ottawa and we are thrilled to have our teen and adult mentors facilitating this wonderful program for adop tees! For more information please go to our web site at [www.childrensbridge.com](http://www.childrensbridge.com) under events or contact Cathy (Ottawa) or Darlene (GTA). Our winter events [flyer](#) has now been posted for Ottawa!

#### **AdopTALK**

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

- Ottawa, ON - Fall 2017 date to be announced

#### **Post Adoption Follow Up Calls**

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

### **Book List and Recommended Reading**

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

#### **March Booklist**

1. Seventeen Cute Children's Books About Adoption: <http://www.todaysparent.com/family/17-cute-kids-books-about-adoption/image/2/>
2. Great Books for Black Teenage Boys: <http://mybrownbaby.com/2011/08/books-for-african-american-teenage-boy/>
3. Strong Nations - Books that Feature First Nations Children: [http://www.strongnations.com/store/item\\_list.php?it=3&cat=6](http://www.strongnations.com/store/item_list.php?it=3&cat=6)
4. Mighty Girl Booklist - Top Books that Feature Latino/Hispanic Girls:

- <http://www.amightygirl.com/mighty-girl-picks/top-latino-hispanic-american-mighty-girl-books>
5. Books on Mayan Culture (Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, etc.):  
[http://www.terraexperience.com/b\\_books\\_childrens.htm](http://www.terraexperience.com/b_books_childrens.htm)
  6. Children's Book Tour of Central Africa (CAR, DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda):  
<https://www.librarything.com/list/1047/all/A-Childs-Book-Tour-of-Central-Africa-Congo-Cameroon-Rwanda-Chad>
  7. Books that Celebrate Haitian Children: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
  8. African-American Children's Movies: <http://movies.lovetoknow.com/african-american-childrens-movies>
  9. Books that Feature Children from the Pacific Islands (Pacific Islands, Polynesia, Tahiti, Marshall Islands): <http://www.pacificislandbooks.com/children.htm>
  10. Exploring East Asia Through Children's Books:  
[http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child\\_booklist.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/outreach/educators/storytelling/child_booklist.shtml)

### April Booklist

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

### May Booklist

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

### June Booklist

1. Multi-racial Asian Families - books that consider race, families, children and the intersection of Mixed ID/Asian identity: <http://multiasianfamilies.blogspot.ca/p/books-for-kids.html>
2. 50 Picture Books About Mixed Race Families: <http://coloursofus.com/picture-books-about-mixed-race-families/>
3. LGBTQ Positive Books That Kids Need to Read: <http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/06/lgbtq-books-for-kids.html>
4. 25 Books for Black/African-American Little Boys: <http://www.watchtheyard.com/list/childrens-books-for-african-american-boys/>
5. 25 Empowering Books for Black Little Girls: <http://www.forharriet.com/2013/10/25-empowering->



[books-for-little-black.html#axzz4CHIMDr5S](#)

6. Children's Books Set in Haiti: [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children s Fiction set in Haiti](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/82951.Children_s_Fiction_set_in_Haiti)
7. Top Ten Indigenous Books for your Summer Reading List: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/10-top-indigenous-books-for-your-summer-reading-list-1.2695671>
8. #Indigenous Reads: Your Picks for the best Indigenous Books: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/celebrating-indigenous-book-club-month-1.3624136/indigenousreads-your-picks-for-the-best-indigenous-books-1.3624580>

### July Booklist

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

### September Booklist

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

### November Booklist

1. Book List for Black Girls: Promoting Self-Love and Empowering Young Black Women: <https://mediadiversified.org/2013/09/09/book-list-for-black-girls-promoting-self-love-and-empowering-young-black-women/>
2. Take Me Away...To Guatemala!: <http://imlostinbooks.blogspot.ca/2009/11/take-me-awayto-guatemala.html>
3. Celebrate Young Adult Books That Feature Haitian Culture: <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/05/14/celebrate-ya-books-that-feature-haitian-culture/>
4. Social Justice Reading List for Adults: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1By9bUjJ78snEeZuLXNGBdIVMJgEQWMEjR-Gfx8ER7lw/mobilebasic>
5. Arm your Mind with These Books on Activism and Social Justice: [http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/stop-trump-reading-list/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=paid&utm\\_medium=cpc](http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/stop-trump-reading-list/?utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=paid&utm_medium=cpc)

### December Booklist

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

### 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&](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.ameightygirl.com/books>
4. 23 Kids Books Set in South Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/23-childrens-books-set-south-africa/>
5. Fabulous Children's Picture Books with Diverse Representation Sacraparental: <http://sacraparental.com/2017/01/22/childrens-picture-books-with-diverse-representation/>

### 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?ws3e63wnhsniv0a4i%3Futm\\_hp\\_ref=black-voices&ir=Black%2BVoices&ion=black-voices&ncid=fcbkInkushpmg00000047](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/10-new-books-by-women-writers-of-color-to-add-to-your-must-read-list_us_58b49a75e4b060480e0b1184?ws3e63wnhsniv0a4i%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](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/22/books/23racebooks.html?_r=0)



**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**

#### **Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)**

This adoption program is currently full and a call-back (wait) list is in effect. Please contact the Program

Manager, Karyn Bakelaar, for further information on this adoption program.

## PROGRAM CHANGES

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

## 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/article19140900/71488999885865>
- <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

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

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family V & N	In Florida completing adoption
2	Family S and L	Compiling Dossier for USA
3	Family C & M	Completing homestudy process
4	Family R & R	Completing pre-service application process
5	Family R & K	Completing pre-service application process

ACF ADOPTIONS

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

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

If you would like any information on the Florida adoption program, please contact the Florida Program Manager, Karyn Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](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

Program Possibilities

- **India** - all ages of children living with HIV are available for adoption, other program requirements may be waived (maximum age, marital status). Please contact Karyn Bakelaar for more information ( [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](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) )

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

### Adoption Program News

I am thrilled to announce that one of our families in the Zambia program have been matched with a waiting child. They have arrived in Zambia and have begun the fostering process which is a requirement of this program.

We will now be accepting 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](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-2112 ext. 2 for further information.



## *India Program*

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

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

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

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

If you 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) .

### Camp Masala

This was shared with me from one of our wonderful families that have completed an adoption from India, and it looks like a really great opportunity for adopted children to be immersed in Indian culture and to share this experience with other adoptive children and families.

<http://www.campmasala.org/page/show/1059053-camp-masala-a-special-weekend-your-family-will-never-forget->

### 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.

### 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](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](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!!!**

We received a referral last week for a sweet 7 month-old baby boy. Wait for referral was 1 ½ months from dossier submission. Wishing a big congratulation to his new parents!

**COURT DATES AND TRAVEL NOTICES**

Our family with a court date of March 9 arrived home late last week after spending an extra week visiting and touring in lovely South Korea. The last two families to attend court were 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.

**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				

B	April 19/16	Jun 26/16	July 28/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
C	Jul 28/16	Aug 16/16	Sept 20/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
D	Aug 18/16	Sept 29/16	Oct 27/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17					
E	Dec 8/16	Jan 3/17	Feb 14/17								
F	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17								
G	Nov 3/16										
H	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17									
I	Feb 14/17										
J	Mar 23/17										

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 7 to 12 months once referral acceptance is submitted to SWS. Each case is different and court date notices can be set out of order. Timelines cannot be guaranteed.

Estimated second travel notice is issued once Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) is received by SWS can take anywhere from 6 to 16 weeks from court date.

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

**WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE ADOPTION COURT HEARING:**

Below is some information from SWS regarding what to expect at the court hearings in Korea. We hope that all families will feel prepared as they attend court for the finalization of their adoption, and encourage all families to review the questions below and how they would answer each one. Families will either attend court on a Thursday or Friday, and SWS has compiled some questions that families have been asked by each judge. We advise that families should prepare themselves for all questions regardless of which day they attend court.

The following are examples of questions that a judge may ask:

1. Did you meet with your prospective adoptive child? How was it? How did the child do?
2. If you have a child/children, does he/she/they know about this adoption? How did he/she/they respond?
3. After meeting with the prospective adoptive child, was there any change in your decision to adopt?
4. Questions about the occupations of the parents
5. Who is going to be the primary caretaker?
6. How are you going to raise your child (your parenting plan)?
7. What is your motivation to adopt from Korea? Is there any community around you or your neighborhood that can support your adoption?
8. How long has it been since you first applied for adoption?
9. When were you matched with your child? Or how long has it been since the matching?
10. Was there any difficulty in pursuing the adoption process?
11. Lastly do you have anything to say?

Some judges may ask questions based on the homestudy and psychological evaluation. Reviewing your own homestudy and psychological evaluation report beforehand would be very helpful.

When you answer the judge, you should be looking at him/her, not the translator, although he/she may not be able to understand what you say. And please smile! Don't be nervous! You just show how much you love your child and just be truthful!

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 S. KOREA**

We have received information from SWS about families that are interested in pursuing a second adoption from South Korea. The Ministry of Health and Welfare has agreed to accept families who are under the age of 50 at time of placement for second adoptions, or for first adoptions if the family is of Korean heritage or an adult adoptee.

Prospective adoptive parents would be required to receive special permission regarding their age in advance. If a family is interested in completing an adoption and is over the age of 45, SWS will ask the Ministry for permission before the family can proceed.

The conditions in which the upper age limit for adoptive parents may be 50 at time of placement are as follows:

- Both parents are of Korean heritage, OR
- Either parent is an adoptee themselves (of any heritage), OR
- Parents (of any heritage) already have previously adopted a child from Korea.

Due to the approximate time frame for adoptions from South Korea, SWS has informed us that they would require the family's dossier before they turn 48.

If you meet these requirements and are interested in adopting from South Korea, please do not hesitate to contact me for further details.

### **ADOPTION ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE**

Historically, the estimated time for COPR issuing is 4 to 6 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. However, we've seen as long as 16 weeks for a few cases. SWS will send the immigration paperwork to Manila approximately 1 week after the confirmed adoption order has been issued as there is translation required. SWS will inform us when a family is ready to travel for the second trip once they have received the COPR, not when Manila says they have issued it as we do not want families waiting in Korea for an indefinite and longer stay.

### **APPLYING FOR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ARRIVAL HOME**

Families who have returned home must complete the application for Canadian citizenship for their child within 30 days of arriving home. All of the children adopted from Korea will be returning to Canada as permanent residents and therefore families will need to apply for citizenship as it is **not automatically granted** to internationally adopted children.

A copy of the completed application should be scanned and emailed to our agency and I will forward to SWS. The family court in Seoul will not issue Adoption Orders if families do not comply and apply for citizenship. Not applying for citizenship will affect all families in process waiting for their Adoption Order.

Please note that CIC has updated their website and their forms. 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.

### **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](http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonial)



s.html

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

Currently we have two families participating in a May and July custom Homeland Visit.

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)

## KOREAN CULTURE GROUPS AND EVENTS - GTA AND OTTAWA

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

We are meeting at the Korean Community Church at 241 Bell St., Ottawa (closest Queensway exit is near Bronson) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Our program for the April 1st class includes a Korean musical instrument show case and a performance by the Samulnori team, followed by a lesson. Each one of you will get a chance to learn the instruments and the lyrics. It will be a hands on experience of a kind we have never had before. I would like to provide as many instruments as the number of families planning to attend. Therefore, please RSVP to me at [minsook@rogers.com](mailto:minsook@rogers.com) at your earliest convenience. I would like to urge older children to come and try it out. Who knows, the experience could develop into a hobby in their future and we may have our own Samulnori team. A very exciting project !!!

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

Looking forward to seeing many of you,  
Min Sook

### Korean Canadian Adoptee Association (KCAA), GTA

A new name for KCCA - Message from Vincent Lim:

At our Board meeting held in Nov 19, 2016, the Board of Directors approved the change in our name from KCCA to **Korean Canadian Adoptee Association (KCAA)**. It was not an easy decision since KCCA held so much meaning to me personally but after 25 years it is clear that those who identify with KCCA are no longer children and we wish to reflect in our name that our organization is intended to serve all Korean Canadian adoptees not just Korean Canadian children adoptees. We announced our new name at the Christmas Party which was received with tremendous support of all its attendees.

Below is a list of our upcoming event and some detail:

#### **Summer Heritage Camp 2017- July 21-23, 2017**

Held at Pine Orchard Camp 4088 Vivian Road, Cedar Valley, Ontario <http://pineorchardcamp.com/> . Many families have been asking about this year's camp since we announced that we will be relocating to a new location. Due to the popularity of this site, we were only able to reserve in July for 2017 but we have already reserved this site for 3rd week of August in 2018 as per our usual camp schedule. I apologize for any inconvenience and conflict with your summer holiday planning.

This location has wonderful amenities such as basketball court, swimming pool, and campfire area with large seating. Also, we will be spoiled by modern air-conditioned cafeteria and individual rustic cabins for each family. This site also has camp trailer areas too.

Spaces are limited so register as early as possible with Stephen Kranabetter at [kranny@rogers.com](mailto:kranny@rogers.com) since cabins and trailer areas will be assigned at time of registration. We intend to keep the fees affordable and only modestly higher than the fees charged during previous camps. More details will follow in the months leading up to the camp.

I hope 2017 brings much peace and happiness to all your families.

Best Regards,  
Vincent Lim, President  
Korean Canadian Adoptee Association



*Thailand Adoption Program*

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

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

Tel: (905) 836-6776

#### Trip Update

I had a very successful trip to Thailand! What a beautiful country! I was very lucky that I was able to bring my daughter Kelly with me who took notes during our meetings and was the trip photographer.

The food was very good and fairly inexpensive and the fruit was amazing!

We were very happy to also have the opportunity to spend some time with Jon, Allison and Tyler who are in Thailand adopting their daughter/sister. They are heading home on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and I'd like to wish them a safe journey home.

Some general information:

#### Children's Homes

- Every children/baby home we visited was clean, well-organized, bright and well run.
- The children in every home we visited were well looked after and well loved.
- Not all of the children in care can be adopted as they may not have their paperwork in order or some are living at the children's home temporarily as their parents are going through a difficult time.
- Some children are born and left in a hospital while others may have been apprehended by social services.
- Some of the children's homes include a small apartment (Home for Memories) where the adoptive parents can stay for a couple of days to ease the transition of their child.

#### Department of Children and Youth (DCY)

- Our quota for 2017 is 9 files. This does not include families adopting children over the age of 4 or with special medical needs.
- The DCY works with 8 orphanages throughout Thailand with up to 300 children in each
- All children receive regular medical and dental check-ups and other therapies, if needed
- The DCY processes 300 - 400 international files per year
- The DCY would like a copy of all home study update LOA's
- In cases where clients don't meet all requirements, the file will be presented to the Adoption Board for pre-approval. This now includes all single applicants. The Board meets once per month.



### Hotels

- We stayed at the Bliston Hotel, The Rim (Chiangmai) and Anantara Resort - all places that our families stay. All are excellent hotels with good locations. We also visited the Chatrium Hotel which I think will be another great option for families.

### Bliston Pool and Living Room







Anantara Resort



Below are some highlights and details of specific places we visited:

Thai Red Cross Children's Home (TRCCH) - Bangkok

We have a quota of 3 files that we can send to the TRCCH in 2017. At this time, 2 families are working on their files for the TRCCH.

The TRCCH generally has 50 children living there but currently there are 54. The children range from 0 - 10 years of age and at this time, there are more boys than girls.

There are 5 children living at the TRCCH who have special medical needs.

There are no sibling groups.

There are 39 caregivers and 5 nurses on staff. One nurse is on duty overnight.

The TRCCH processes only 15 international adoptions per year.

The TRCCH wants families to visit their child 6 times over 2 days prior to taking them from the home to ease the transition for the child. We will include these visits now for all families going forward.

Although only 3 post placement reports are required, the TRCCH would appreciate receiving an update with pictures every year. They have a whole bookcase of albums from families and genuinely love to look at them.

The TRCCH indicated that the time from proposal to travel should decrease to 4 - 6 months (it is currently 7 - 9).

Time from receipt of dossier to proposal is still 2 ½ years.

#### TRCCH Staff



#### Pakkred Babies Home - Bangkok

This is a very large facility that currently houses 330 children.

Approximately 80% of the children have respiratory illnesses and many receive treatment 3 times per week.

The children receive massage therapy, participate in dancing and cooking classes and enjoy sports days.

This home also overseas 3 foster homes in 3 other provinces.

There is 100 staff, 7 - 10 nannies and 80 - 90 volunteers along with 4 registered nurses.

Approximately 60% of the children have parents who visit them regularly and not open for adoption.

They process 50 - 60 international adoptions per year.



Pakkred Building



Phayathai Babies Home - Bangkok

There are currently just over 200 children living here.

I don't have specific staff numbers but clearly there were many staff to look after the children. The children are bathed 2 - 3 times each day.







Friends For All Children (FFAC) - Bangkok

This is a very small home that can only support up to 12 infants. When we were there, there were only 6 children living here, under 18 months, and all had been matched.

FFAC also places children from other homes.

Viengping Children's Home (Chiangmai)

This children's home was established 30 years ago.

It's quite a large facility with 140 (30 under age 5) children currently living here. This home also overseas 17 foster homes in Chiangmai and many other foster homes in the countryside (90 - 100 children).

Many children live here temporarily and their parents visit once each month. There is also a program for



children living with their grandparents.

The children can live here up to age 24 if they are attending school, otherwise age 18.

There are 80 staff, 1 registered nurse and 3 nursing assistants on duty.

They complete about 30 international adoptions per year.



Agape Home (Nikki's Place) - Chiangmai

This facility was founded by Avis Rideout more than 20 years ago for children living with HIV.

It's a very big property with a large play area and pool.



There are currently 108 children living here (68 have HIV).

Some of the children will be placed for adoption through FFAC or Viengping.

In addition to staff, some of the older girls help with the babies. They also have a house where volunteers come and stay for many months at a time.







Adoption Program News

As mentioned above, Jonathan and Allison are in Thailand and are now just waiting for their daughter's visa to be issued.

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

Family	Dossier to Thailand	Referral Rec'd	Date of Travel
J & A	November 21, 2013	July 11, 2016	March 2017 (TRCCH)
R & M		March 10, 2016	TBA (FFAC)
H & L	March 2014	Nov. 26, 2016	Jan. 29, 2017
W & Y	Sept. 11, 2015	Dec. 17, 2016	Jan. 27, 2017

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Dossier to DCY	Province
K & J	December 2014	NL
J & L	November 2015	NS
G & E	November 2015	ON
M & J	November 2015	ON
T & A	December 2015	ON
J & C	March 2016	NS
J & K	August 2016	ON
A & B	December 2016	ON
P & R	February 2017	ON
T & P	February 2017	NS

At this time, 9 families continue to work on their dossiers. One of these files has had notary completed and will now be sent off to Foreign Affairs and the Thai Embassy.

#### 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](#).

#### 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.

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.



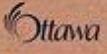
*The Thai Dance Troupe of Ottawa invites you to the*


 **THAI NEW YEAR 2017** 

*Saturday,  
April 22,  
2-5 pm*

*In commemoration of  
the Late King Bhumibol*


*Ottawa City  
Hall  
110 Laurier*



*Tribute to the Late King Bhumibol,  
Homage to Canada's 150th,  
Respect to Elders Ceremony,  
The Art of Fruit & Vegetable Carving,  
The Art of Umbrella Painting,  
Traditional Thai Massage,  
Tourism Information, and  
A Taste of Thai Dishes.*

OPEN TO PUBLIC - ADMISSION FREE



[WWW.THAI-DANCE-TRUPE-OF-OTTAWA.COM](http://WWW.THAI-DANCE-TRUPE-OF-OTTAWA.COM)

## *China Program*

**Darlene Catton - Program Manager**

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

### CCCWA

Cathy Murphy was recently in China and met with many departments at the CCCWA. I had asked Cathy to try to obtain some concrete information on our 5 remaining families in the mainstream program, which she did.

Cathy met with Vice-Director General Chu who said that they could only commit to matching 1 of our

families files over the next two years. There just aren't any "healthy" children waiting for families.

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 last two adoption files.

#### Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC):

If you have applied for direct citizenship (as opposed to immigration sponsorship), please remember that your application is only valid for 2 years. If you are close to expiry, you can simply write them a letter asking for an extension.

#### Applying for Citizenship

Once home, everyone will have to apply for citizenship (in some form) for their child. There are two ways to apply for citizenship now. One would entitle Canadian citizenship to your child's future children should they be born outside of Canada, the other application wouldn't. This new system has caused much confusion for families and even CIC don't always give the correct information.

It's critical that you complete the correct form. If you applied for direct citizenship, you will apply for a citizenship certificate ( <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/cit-adoption.asp> ).

If you applied for immigration sponsorship (therefore your child entered Canada as a Permanent Resident), you will fill out a citizenship application ( <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/CIT0003E2.asp> ).

If you are unclear, please call CIC and explain that you would like to apply for his/her Canadian citizenship at this time. You would like to apply to ensure that if your child was to have children while living outside of Canada, that their children will be granted Canadian citizenship status.

If you have applied for citizenship (to the wrong process) but it has not yet been granted, you can call CIC to stop the process and switch to another. This cannot happen if citizenship has already been granted.

It generally takes less than a year to receive citizenship.

If you do NOT apply for citizenship, your child remains a Chinese citizen, cannot vote, cannot hold certain jobs and can be deported. As well, you cannot apply for a passport unless you have citizenship.

#### CHINA HOMELAND VISIT

We have 3 families that have just come home from the March homeland tour. The feedback I have received so far has been very positive.

*Our trip to China was fantastic!*

*We arrived home late Friday night exhausted yet exhilarated. We had a fabulous trip, well organized, some very good guides and we were very lucky with the weather.  
It was an experience we will never forget!*

We are offering 2 options for the summer tour. Details for both options are available on-line or by contacting me.

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



Welcome Home to the Thompson, Palmer and Kirby/Yee families! Esther Yeung and I enjoyed spending time with your families in Beijing! I returned from China to the office on March 15<sup>th</sup> and look forward to providing our families with a full China trip report update in April!



Cathy Murphy and Esther Yeung in Beijing with the Kirby/Yee, Palmer and Thompson families.



At Elim Group Home in Xi'an Cathy Murphy providing training for caregivers, foster families and parents





In-country staff with Cathy, Joan, Sidney and Esther in Beijing

We currently have 11 families with their dossiers logged in at the CCCWA and 7 families are in the process of completing their Homestudy/Dossier. We have 18 families in process in our WC China Program.

The Children's Bridge expects to receive our next set of individual children's files from the CCCWA in May 2017.

All of the families in the WC China Program must now be open to adopting a child of either gender, as there are equal numbers of boys and girls in this program waiting for families. Our goal as an agency is to find the right family for a waiting child.

New families who are considering and 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. This change will NOT affect WC families who already have signed retainers with The Children's Bridge this will affect any NEW families.

**CIC Immigration Sponsorship links:**

Please click onto the link provided:

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

Once on this link, go to the gray text box on the left hand side of the page and click onto "Choose a process" and then "Use the immigration process".

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/residents/canadians/adoption/immigration.asp>

Once on this link click onto "Apply" "begin the immigration process" and download all of the forms from the following link <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/adoption/apply-how.asp>

If you have any additional questions, you can contact the CIC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100.

Many of our families are frustrated with the CIC process and have found the web site is not user friendly. Please remember, you can advocate for change and can speak with your Member of Parliament about your concerns.

Many thanks to Jan Gravelle who continues to act as a volunteer mentor to assist our families with the CIC process!

For more information on our WC China Program or to set up a screening call for the WC China Program, please contact me at [cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com](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**