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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.

March 30th, 2018

Holiday Closure

Our offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 30th and Easter Monday, April 2nd.

We will reopen on Tuesday April 3rd at 8:30am.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful long weekend.

*Notes From Cathy's Desk*


Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

TCB's New Web Site will be revealed in April 2018!

The Children's Bridge is excited to announce that our new website will be going live at the end of April 2018! We look forward to sharing our new web site with you, and will be sending an email message to all families in process and members once it is live.

Adoption Panels in Ottawa and Toronto on April 21st and 22nd, 2018

We hope you will join us for our Adoption Panel in Ottawa on Saturday April 21, 2018 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm and our Adoption Panel in the GTA on Sunday April 22, 2018 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. To register, please complete the attached flyer or contact Cathy Murphy cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com or Darlene Catton darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com



AdoptionPANEL Ottawa

The Children's Bridge is pleased to present an Adoption Panel
Adult adoptees share their stories and personal thoughts.
Our panel consists of 3 adoptees and will be moderated by a registered psychologist/therapist.

Date: Saturday, April 21st, 2018
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Place: The Children's Bridge Office
1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221
Ottawa, ON
Cost: \$40.00 per person (CB members)
\$50.00 per person (non-members)


ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY APRIL 12th, 2018
Please make cheques payable to: The Children's Bridge, 1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2
Please mail registration form and cheque or please call The Children's Bridge with your credit information at (613) 281-2112 x 6
RSVP to Cathy Murphy cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com
Adults only event (13+). Non-refundable. Non-transferable.

ADOPTION PANEL - Ottawa		
Please Note: This is an ADULTS ONLY event (13+). No Refunds or Transfers Cost is \$40.00/person for CB Members or \$50.00/person for non-CB Members		
Attendee(s) Name(s) :	Phone	Email Address

My cheque is enclosed for:
 \$40.00 = _____
 \$50.00 = _____
TOTAL _____

Non-Children's Bridge Members - To benefit from the member's prices of our events, pay only \$50 per year and become a member of Children's Bridge.
For questions about this event, registration or becoming a member of Children's Bridge, please email Cathy Murphy at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com

OTTAWA Adoption Panel



AdoptionPANEL gta

The Children's Bridge is pleased to present an Adoption Panel
Adult adoptees share their stories and personal thoughts.
Our panel consists of 3 adoptees and will be moderated by a registered psychologist/therapist.

Date: Sunday, April 22nd, 2018
Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Place: Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Program Room "C"
135 Industrial Parkway North
Aurora, ON L4G 4C4
905-841-7529
Cost: \$40.00 per person (CB members)
\$50.00 per person (non-members)

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY APRIL 12th, 2018
Please make cheques payable to and direct to: The Children's Bridge, 1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2
Contact Doreen Catton for further information and to register at Doreen.catton@childrensbridge.com or 905-838-6776.
Adults only event (13+). Non-refundable. Non-transferable.

ADOPTION PANEL - Aurora		
Please Note: This is an ADULTS ONLY event (13+). No Refunds or Transfers Cost is \$40.00/person for CB Members or \$50.00/person for non-CB Members		
Attendee(s) Name(s) :	Phone	Email Address

Please indicate:
 Program: China WC Florida Jamaica Thailand Domestic India Vietnam Zambia
 OTHER: _____

My cheque is enclosed for:
 \$40.00 = _____
 \$50.00 = _____
TOTAL _____

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For questions about this event, registration or becoming a member of Children's Bridge, please email Doreen Catton at doreen.catton@childrensbridge.com

AURORA Adoption Panel

Adoption Tax Credit

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

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

Line 313 - Adoption expenses

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

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

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

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

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

I will attend to your email at my earliest opportunity.

Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) is replaces the Record of Landing

Every person who lands in Canada as a permanent resident is no longer given an IMM 1000 Record of Landing document. The COPR now is the document issued at time of entry and replaces the Record of Landing.

The COPR must be kept as part of your child's adoption records as they'll require it when applying for Old Age Pension through Service Canada.

For more information on the COPR:

<https://recordoflanding.ca/faqs/what-is-a-confirmation-of-permanent-residence/>

The Children's Bridge recommends all families keep their child's COPR, original adoption paperwork, legal documents, citizenship and passport in a home safe or safety deposit box for safe keeping as these documents are irreplaceable.

Did You Know

Unicef Statistics for India, China, Thailand, and Zambia:

<https://data.unicef.org/country/ind/>

<https://data.unicef.org/country/chn/>

<https://data.unicef.org/country/tha/>

<https://data.unicef.org/country/zmb/>



Pre and Post Adoption Services

Post Adoption Consultation Service:

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

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

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

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

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming months: Adoption Panels in Ottawa and the GTA, Parent Support Group in Ottawa, Connect-A-Kid Ottawa and Information Sessions. Please check our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under events.

Book List and Recommended Reading

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

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

March Booklist:

1. Nine Books with South Asians Characters to Read: <https://www.teenvogue.com/gallery/9-south-asian-characters-books-2018>
2. 17 Beautiful Indigenous Comic Books and Video Games For Kids: <http://www.cbc.ca/parents/learning/view/how-the-comic-book-and-gaming-community-is-reclaiming-indigenous-perspectiv>
3. Teaching Kids about Decolonization - Resource Material:

<http://nationalhistorycenter.org/teaching-decolonization-resource-collection/>

4. Games - The Toolbox for Social Action: <http://store.toolboxfored.org/games-1/>
5. Opinion (and resources) - Black Kids Don't Want to Read About Harriet Tubman All the Time: <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/opinion/sunday/children-literature-books-blacks.html?referer=http%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com>

February Booklist:

- 1) 28 More Black Picture Books that Aren't about boycott's, busses or basketball (2018): <https://scottwoodsmakeslists.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/28-more-black-picture-books-that-arent-about-boycotts-buses-or-basketball-2018/>
- 2) Children's Books That Are About or Mention Ethiopia: <https://www.pinterest.ca/omayao/children-s-books-ethiopia/>
- 3) 20 Children's Books Set in the Middle East or Northern Africa: <http://coloursofus.com/20-childrens-books-set-in-the-middle-east-northern-africa/>
- 4) How I Got a Black Boy to Read (10 Great Books for Black Boys): <http://mybrownbaby.com/2015/03/got-black-boy-read-plus-10-great-books-black-boys/>
- 5) Four Great Articles About why the new Black Panther Movie is more than "just a movie":
 - a. Wakanda is Fake, but the Language (IsiXhosa) is Real: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/16/us/wakanda-black-panther.html>
 - b. 'Black Panther': Why the relationship between Africans and black Americans is so messed up: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2018/02/16/black-panther-why-the-relationship-between-africans-and-african-americans-is-so-messed-up/?utm_term=.302422c88c47
 - c. The Importance of Black Panther's Acceptance of Natural Hair: <http://www.laineygossip.com/the-importance-of-black-panther-embrace-of-natural-black-hair/49125>
 - d. The Revolutionary Power of Black Panther: <http://time.com/black-panther/?xid=fbshare>

January Booklist - Focus on HIV+ Kids

1. Book Series for Children on Living with HIV: <https://www.bookdepository.com/search/advanced?seriesId=713953>
2. Best Books About HIV (Fiction and Non-fiction): https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14344.Best_Books_about_HIV_AIDS_Fiction_and_Non_Fiction
3. Amazon Bestsellers List on HIV and AIDS: <https://www.amazon.com/Best-Sellers-Books-AIDS-HIV/zgbs/books/14117>
4. Be a Friend - Children Living with HIV Speak: <https://www.amazon.com/Be-Friend-Children-Whitman-Prairie/dp/0807505919>
5. Our Little Soldiers - A Book for Kids Living with HIV: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1019799244/our-little-soldiers-a-book-for-children-living-wit>
6. _ Books on HIV by the Book Depository: <https://www.bookdepository.com/category/1332/HIV-AIDS>
7. Recommended by Families:
 - a. A positive superhero" by Desiree Thompson
 - b. Hugs for Sammy by Eva Lallo

December Booklist:

1. 26 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance: <https://medium.com/embrace-race/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance-15b189c1bab9>
2. Books with Characters of Colour: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/books-with-characters-of-color>

3. Multicultural List of Graphic Novels for teens: <https://wcls.bibliocommons.com/list/share/140592142/164138262>
4. Afro-Latinx Titles - Elementary to High School: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/afro-latinx/>
5. Books on Jewish Identity and History: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/jewish-identity/>
6. Black Excellence: Honouring Kwanzaa Through Science Fiction and Fantasy: <https://www.tor.com/2017/12/05/black-excellence-honoring-kwanzaa-through-science-fiction-and-fantasy/>
7. Kwanzaa For Kids - 9 Kwanzaa Books Every Family Should Have: <http://blackartblog.blackartdepot.com/features/featured-books/9-kwanzaa-children-books.html>



Rwanda Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

Rwanda has recently lifted its moratorium on international adoption, and The Children's Bridge is currently undergoing the relicensing process for this adoption program. Although we will not have official information available until our license has been approved, some basic requirements for this program include:

- Requirements:
 - Applicants must be married for a minimum of one-year at time of dossier submission
 - Must be over age 21, with minimum 7-year difference between adoptive applicant and child to be adopted
 - Applicants must be free from criminal record.
 - Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health.
- Children will be 18+ months at time of referral
- Children with various special needs such as HIV, Hepatitis, hearing and vision loss etc are also available for adoption.
- One trip of approximately 6-weeks is required.

Please contact Program Manager at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com to be placed on the wait list (applicants will be called once the program is open to accepting applications).

Please Note: I will be working remotely over the next few months, but will be available as per usual via email and by telephone/Skype. If you need to speak to someone in our office for urgent matters, please contact Cathy Murphy at 613-226-2112 ext. 6.



USA / Florida Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

ADOPTION PROGRAM NEWS

The Children's Bridge is now able to work with any Hague accredited adoption services providers in the State of Florida. Please contact us with specific requests or if you would like assistance with

completing an adoption from Florida.

Adoption by Shepherd Care (ASC)

This adoption program has spaces available for families hoping to adopt from Florida. The timelines remain consistent with families being selected by expectant mothers approximately 9 - 18 months after their file is active in Florida. Babies are approximately 5 - 10 days old when placed in their adoptive families. Please review requirements for this program carefully, as Florida is quite strict on requirements for adoptive families.

Please contact the Program Manager, [Karyn Bakelaar](#), for further information on this adoption program.

Program Changes

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

ACF Adoptions

We are now able to accept a small number of applications for this adoption program. We will be prioritizing same-sex applicants as well as singles for this adoption program. Please contact the Program Manager ([Karyn Bakelaar](#)) for further information on this adoption program.

USA ADOPTIONS - CHART OF FAMILY PROGRESS

ADOPTION BY SHEPHERD CARE (ASC)

	FAMILY	STAGE OF PROCESS
1	Family R & R	File Active - Waiting to be Matched
2	Family A & B	Completing Homestudy
3	Family C & P	Completing Homestudy

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 working remotely over the next few months, but will be available as per usual via email and by telephone/Skype. If you need to speak to someone in our office for urgent matters, please contact Cathy Murphy at 613-226-2112 ext. 6.



HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

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

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

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

- Listen to Stuff I've Learned from Raising Children With HIV from The Honestly Speaking

Parenting Podcast in Podcasts. <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-honestly-speaking-parenting-podcast/id1053243866?mt=2&i=1000389292062>

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

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

- You Tube
 - Jason Brophy and others about Transition from adolescent care to adult care
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCueIBFFU40Imtn2oejnWIOw>

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

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

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

Program Possibilities

- **Zambia** - we are currently accepting applications for this adoption program, and will prioritize applications for those open to children living with HIV. Please note: spaces available are for married couples only (no single applicant spaces available at this time).

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

- **Thailand** - children will be 3+ years at time of adoption, program requirements may be waived, and single applicants (female only) may apply. Please contact the Thailand Program Manager, Darlene Catton, for more information (Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com).

- **China** - We are currently working with an orphanage in China that is able to place children living with HIV into adoptive families.
 - For further information, please contact Cathy Murphy (cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com)

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

Please Note: I will be working remotely over the next few months, but will be available as per usual via email and by telephone/Skype. If you need to speak to someone in our office for urgent matters, please contact Cathy Murphy at 613-226-2112 ext. 6.



Republic of Zambia Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

We are now able to accept two (2) new families into this adoption program. Applicants must be married (our quota for singles is currently full), and live in a diverse area of the country. Please review the Zambia program requirements before inquiring about this adoption program - you must meet all requirements and be able to complete the long in-country stay (6 - 7 months). Applicants are able to begin parental leave through EI once they take custody of their child in Zambia (approximately 3 - 4 weeks after arrival).

At this point, The Children's Bridge has completed two adoptions from Zambia, and we have one relative adoption in the final stages of visa processing. We have one family currently waiting for a child proposal from Zambia. There are two spaces available in this adoption program.

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

Please Note: I will be working remotely over the next few months, but will be available as per usual via email and by telephone/Skype. If you need to speak to someone in our office for urgent matters, please contact Cathy Murphy at 613-226-2112 ext. 6.



India Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program. We currently have 4 families in process to adopt from India. We are currently working on expanding this adoption program so that we are able to work with families across Canada. A good overview of this adoption process was published in the Indo-Canadian Voice: <http://www.voiceonline.com/india-is-open-for-international-adoption/>

CARA is now accepting families for both their mainstream program and their special needs stream. Most children are over age 2 at time of referral, and they have still emphasized the need for families for older children. There are many older children waiting for families in India so CARA is able to match families fairly quickly who are open to children over the age of 7 or 8 years old.

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

Family's Progress

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

We have one family that has been matched with a child in India, and one family currently waiting for a child proposal. Our fourth family is currently completing the homestudy process.

OCI Status:

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

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

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

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

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

Please see this link for more information on relinquishing Indian citizenship and relinquishing your child's Indian passport: http://www.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.

Please Note: I will be working remotely over the next few months, but will be available as per usual via email and by telephone/Skype. If you need to speak to someone in our office for urgent matters, please contact Cathy Murphy at 613-226-2112 ext. 6.



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

Spring is in the air, and with that I hope you all had a lovely March Break!

March break in Korea! While my primary purpose was business, I did take some vacation time with my son (Korean adoptee) and got reacquainted with Seoul. Temperatures in Ottawa were below 0, but in Korea we were greeted to mid teen sunny weather. The Cherry Blossoms should be blooming soon!

I had the pleasure of visiting SWS and meeting with Mrs. Peak, Adoption Manager, Mr. Yoon, President and Ms. Kang, Manager Post Adoption Services. In the Intercountry Adoption Section, they are six staff in total: section manager, 2 case workers, court process manager, emigration permission manager, and one nurse. The Domestic Adoption Section also has six staff members and both sections are run under the direction of Ms. KIM, Soo Jin.

SWS is running much leaner these days and they are all now in one building which houses all the SWS departments, Baby Reception Home, and Han Suh Hospital. The SWS Guest House was closed just over one year ago as the costs to maintain it were very high. They have finally found a tenant who is renovating it and will move in shortly. The incoming rent will certainly help SWS financially. The only funding received is for baby care in the Baby Reception Home, some Post Adoption Services, and support for their Single Mom programs. No funding is provided for the adoption work.

They have baby reception homes in the following cities:

Seoul - capacity for 15 children. They are at capacity now.

Busan - No longer has a baby reception home. They have 15 approved foster homes. Children are cared for here for a few months after birth and then transferred to SWS in Seoul for foster parent placement.

Daegu - No longer has a baby reception home. They have 3 approved foster homes. Children are transferred to Seoul shortly after birth.

Kwangju - capacity for 35 babies.

Naju and Ujeongbu - each have capacity for 30 and the babies here do not have birth parent consent to adoption. The government may approve some for domestic adoption and most will continue to stay in care.

All birth mother homes were closed in 2015.

SWS currently has several single mom homes (single moms raising their child) and they do get funding for this. This gives single mothers a safe and accepting place to raise their children. They can either work or pursue education in the trades field. With the help of some generous sponsors, SWS has set up a business at the Seoul Branch for some single moms to manufacture and assemble scent diffusers. These make beautiful gifts, so I purchased several smaller diffusers. Something families in process may want to consider when looking to buy souvenirs while in Korea.

With pressure to ratify The Hague, Mrs. Peak confirmed that the government will be changing the Special Adoption Law but doesn't have timing or details. The current law states that children with consent or without may be considered for either domestic or international placement but so far those without consents have either been placed domestically or are moved to a facility.

TCB will continue to receive close to the same number of referrals as in 2017. In 2017 they placed 150 children domestically.

Currently they do not have many babies eligible for international placement so wait for referrals may take up to 8 months. SWS is asking if our families could be open to more medical conditions i.e., CMV, high levels of GOT/GOP (Hepatitis B or C), and heart murmur. They are hoping that some families will consider these conditions, and some of our families have in the past and some recently. If these are conditions you'd be open to please contact me for further discussion.

Mrs. KANG, Post Adoption Services, stressed the importance and urgency of completing Canadian Citizenship as soon a child is home and have their child's PR Card. She will continue to work with TCB and Korea Adoption Services (under the MOHW) to support birth parent searches.

PAS receives support from the government for some of their programs i.e., Welcome Home, Language programs (one is 3 weeks and one is 9 days).

I had the special opportunity to visit the Baby Reception Home and though a glass window saw 15 little babies being lovingly cared for. They don't allow visitors in the actual room any longer. There were 8 pink clad care givers tending to the wee ones.

During my visit an American couple was there receiving their son and it was heart-breaking to see foster mom and family in tears as foster mom bid farewell to the child she'd been caring for. There was also a 9-day old teeny baby girl who was just getting put into their care.

The Children's Bridge and SWS continue to have a strong working relationship with the focus being the best interest of the child. TCB will continue to keep families updated on the program.

Referral News

No referral news at this time. Timelines can take up to 8 months estimated from time file is received in Korea.

Court Dates and Travel Notices

Two of our families received court dates last week of April 19. This is fantastic news for them!

Our two families who had court dates in January were united with their children in Korea this week.

On your first trip to Korea SWS will arrange for two visits with baby and foster family, a third may be squeezed in depending on your travel timeline and SWS schedules.

There are many stages of waiting during an adoption journey, and waiting to travel to receive your child (second trip) can be the toughest one - my advice is to stay busy and continue to get ready to welcome the newest addition to your family. If you need support during this wait please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Timeline summary:

Family	Dossier to Korea	Referral received	Acceptance to Korea	EP to MOHW	EP App'd	Docs to Court	Court Date	AO App'd	AO Conf'd	COPR	Placed
A	April 12/16	May 5/16	June 16/16	Sept 8/16	Dec 19/16	Dec 20/16	Mar 9/17	Mar 19/17	Apr 10/17	Apr 27/17	May 8/17
B	April 19/16	Jun 26/16	July 28/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
C	Jul 28/16	Aug 16/16	Sept 20/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
D	Aug 18/16	Sept 29/16	Oct 27/16	Nov 18/16	Feb 24/17	Feb 24/17	June 8/17	June 15/17	July 6/17	July 25/17	Aug 1/17
E	Dec 8/16	Jan 3/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	June 1/17	June 5/17	Sept 7/17	Sept 11/17	Oct 11/17	Oct 23/17	Nov 1/17
F	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	May 12/17	May 22/17	Aug 24/17	Aug 25/17	Sept 14/17	Oct 11/17	Oct 17/17
G	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17	May 18/17	Aug 30/17	Nov 1/17	Nov 14/17	Jan 12/18	Jan 18/18	Feb 12/18	Mar 16/18	Mar 27/18
H	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17	Apr 13/17	June 13/17	Aug 8/17	Aug 10/17	Oct 20/17	Oct 30/17	Nov 17/17	Jan 5/18	Dec 28/17
I	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Jul 24/17	Aug 30/17	Oct 23/17	Oct 30/17	Jan 18/18	Jan 22/18	Feb 12/18	Mar 16/18	Mar 26/18
J	Mar 23/17	Dec 5/17	Dec 21/17	Feb 14/18							
K	Apr 19/17	July 26/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18	Apr 19/18				
L	May 11/17	July 10/17	Aug 24/17	Nov 10/17	Jan 5/18	Jan 17/18	Apr 19/18				
M	June 8/17	Sept 28/17	Oct 19/17	Feb 14/18							
N	July 20/17	Oct 2/17	Oct 19/17	Feb 14/18							
O	July 20/17	Feb 15/18	Mar 5/18								
P	Dec 7/17	Jan 8/18	Jan 25/18	Apr /18							
Q	Feb 8/18										
R	Feb 8/18										
S	Mar 7/18										

Referral timelines can take anywhere from 2 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.

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop before or shortly after your completed home study

is submitted, as the certificate must be included in your dossier for Korea. All details for [AdopTALK](#) are on our website.

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK will be held October 27th and 28th, 2018 in Newmarket, Ontario.

Registration details: <http://www.childrensbridge.com/adoptalk/index.html> .

What to Expect at the Adoption Court Hearing:

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

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

1. Did you meet with your prospective adoptive child? How was it? How did the child do?
2. If you have a child/children, does he/she/they know about this adoption? How did he/she/they respond?
3. After meeting with the prospective adoptive child, was there any change in your decision to adopt?
4. Questions about the occupations of the parents
5. Who is going to be the primary caretaker?
6. How are you going to raise your child (your parenting plan)?
7. What is your motivation to adopt from Korea? Is there any community around you or your neighborhood that can support your adoption?
8. How long has it been since you first applied for adoption?
9. When were you matched with your child? Or how long has it been since the matching?
10. Was there any difficulty in pursuing the adoption process?
11. Will you complete your child's Canadian Citizenship once you've arrived home? Do you understand the process and requirement of Canadian Citizenship?
12. 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 2 to 12 weeks after Manila receives paperwork from SWS. However, we've seen as long as 16 weeks for a few cases. SWS will send the immigration paperwork to Manila approximately 1 week after the confirmed adoption order has been issued as there is translation required. SWS will inform us when a family is ready to travel for the second trip once they have received the COPR, not when Manila says they have issued it as we do not want families waiting in Korea for an indefinite and longer stay.

Health Card Application

Please contact Service Ontario before you submit your application to ensure you submit the correct supporting documents with regard to your child's adoption and permanent residence. One of the documents you'll need to bring with you is a copy of the Letter of No Objection issued by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services when they approved the proposed placement shortly after your referral arrived.

Service Ontario will issue the Health Card in your child's Korean birth name. You'll then need to complete a name change on the card once you've completed a legal name change one year after placement and once Canadian Citizenship has been received.

All internationally adopted children are exempt from the 3 month waiting period, please refer to this link and have the information handy when you go to Service Ontario:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ohip/international_adoptions.aspx

Applying for Canadian Citizenship

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

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

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

CIC Links:

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

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

Families who have arrived home with their children after November 2016 have been instructed by CIC to have the Adoption Order officially translated. We find this very strange as two original Adoption Orders are given to the adoptive parents, one in Korean and one in English. Families have also had to provide a translated Adoption Order in order to apply for a Canadian Passport. If you have any difficulties, we suggest that you contact CIC to ask specific questions about your application.

If you have any questions about the South Korea adoption program, please do not hesitate to contact me at maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

**KOREAN HOMELAND - KOREAN CULTURE GROUPS - CLASSES AND EVENTS:
OTTAWA, GTA**

Homeland Visit - South Korea

Christmas in Korea! One of our families recently returned from a custom homeland. They described it as an "outstanding trip", "a trip of a lifetime". A custom itinerary was created that covered history, culture, sports, adventure in nature, cuisine, and of course the highly anticipated SWS visit.

See Hana's touching and eloquently written homeland story in our March Newsletter. This is "A MUST READ".
http://www.childrensbridge.com/data/newsletters/CBNEWS_Vol27March2018.pdf

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

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

Several successful South Korea Homeland Visits have taken place and families have shared their unique and personal experiences which you can find on our website. Visit:

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

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact me.

maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

2018 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa

<http://www.childrensbridge.com/data/2017-2018summerProgAssocFamKoreanAdopt.pdf>

April 14, 2018 - Taekwondo lesson

Time: 12:30pm - 03:00 pm Saturdays

Place: Korean Cultural Centre, 150 Elgin St, unit 101,

Ottawa Underground parking available in the building (\$)

Fee: \$15/family/session

Registration: On site or via email (please let us know about food allergy concerns when registering)

Our April 14 program will include a Taekwondo demo and practise. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We'll also have a short Korean language lesson on numbers and children's songs. Lunch will start at 12:30 sharp. If you can't make it on time, please give a call to Yun Sook (613 277-6305) so that we can save your lunch.

The schedule is as follows:

12:30 - 01:00	Gimbap (seaweed rice rolls) lunch
01:00 - 01:20	Lesson on children's songs and number
01:20 - 02:00	Taekwondo lesson (children and adults)
02:10 - 03:00	K-story & crafts

Please RSVP no later than April 5.

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



Thailand Adoption Program

Darlene Catton - Program Manager

Email Darlene: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (905) 836-6776

Please note that my work days/hours have changed. Effective immediately I will be working Monday - Wednesday from 8:30 - 4:30.

The Children's Bridge offices will be closed on Easter Monday.

I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Waiting Children

There is a little girl living in Thailand who is waiting for a family. She is 9 years old and has some special needs (upper respiratory issues, reactive airway disease and bronchiectasis in lower lobe of her left lung). She is a lovely, active little girl.

If you are interested in receiving more information on this child, please do contact me.

Adoption Program News

Referral!

Congratulations to Matthew and Jeanette on the referral of a gorgeous little 4 year old boy! This proposal came as expected at about 28 months. Matthew and Jeanette are very excited to be the proud parents of a son! Their son is currently residing in the Kanthon Children's Home in Khon Kaen province.

The family are still completing paperwork and we hope they will travel in late May or June.

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Log-in-Date	Province	Referral	Home
J & L	November 2015	NS		
G & E	November 2015	ON		
M & J	November 2015	ON	Mar. 21, 2018	
T & A	December 2015	ON	Aug. 22, 2017	Oct. 20, 2017
J & C	March 2016	NS		
J & K	August 2016	ON		
A & B	December 2016	ON		
P & R	February 2017	ON		
T & P	February 2017	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017	MB		
G & I	June 30, 2017	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017	ON		
W & M	August 28, 2017	AB		
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017	ON		
KS	Nov. 20, 2017	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017	ON		
A & K	Dec. 25, 2017	ON		

I am currently processing one dossier that should be sent to Thailand in April.

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

Four families have completed their consultation call and have indicated that they will be proceeding.

We have been given our quota from the Department of Children and Youth and it remains at 9. This means that we can send 9 files in 2018. This quota does not include those adopting older child (over the age of 4) or those adopting a child with special medical needs.

Our quota from the Thai Red Cross Children's Home is 3 again this year.

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

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

Finalization

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

Paperwork Change - Dossier - Effective Immediately

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

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop about 6 - 8 months before you anticipate receiving your proposal. All details for AdopTALK are on our [website](#) .

Attendance at AdopTALK is mandatory no matter where a family live or what other training they take.

The next AdopTALK workshop in the GTA will be held October 27th and 28th in Newmarket. All details are now [on-line](#) .

Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they continue to process home studies and updates in 4 - 6 weeks and proposals in 5 - 10 business days.

Waiting Children Program

If you are interested in adopting an older child (over 4 years of age) or a child with special medical needs, this type of adoption will not count in the same quota for mainstream adoptions and the requirements for families adopting older children or those with special needs are not as restrictive (for example, the age of the adoptive applicants and/or other children in the home could be amended). The timeline could be quicker but we don't know by how much.

Please note that this program is also open to single applicants.

If you are interested in this program, please contact me for more detailed information.

Travelling outside of Canada (before adoption finalization)

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

Immigration Sponsorship

Please ensure that you have applied for Immigration Sponsorship approximately 12 - 18 months after your dossier has gone to Thailand. Timelines have become a little unpredictable and we want to make sure that you have been approved to sponsor well before a referral is received. We have just learned that Immigration Sponsorship approvals expire after 2 years and so we have changed when you apply for this.

Citizenship and Immigration 1-888-242 2100

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

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

to take it to Thailand with you. Immigration paperwork must be completed well before you receive your referral.



Darlene Catton - Program Manager

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

CCCWA

The CCCWA have advised us that they have matched up to February 7, 2007. They are unable to tell us when our one remaining family can expect a referral and in fact, issued a memo to all agencies stating that they will no longer be matching by date stamp.

Homeland - China

The families on our last homeland trip came home on the 23rd. By all accounts they had a great time!

Our summer homeland tour dates are June 29th - July 13th. The registration package is now available here:

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

Check out this new story on the website:

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

If you wish to participate in a tour, please complete the required documents and scan and email them directly to me or give me a call to customize your trip.

Some of the feedback:

"Excellent trip. It was particularly enjoyable knowing that our daughter was getting so much out of it."

"We had an absolutely wonderful trip!"

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

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

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

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



Waiting Children Program China

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

Email Cathy: cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com
Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 6

Welcome home to the Leslie-Paine family who arrived home in Canada with their son!

Safe travel to the Vandermeer and Liu-Jiang families who will travel to China in April to receive their children!

I have included the US State Department's link about "soft referrals"
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/Intercountry-Adoption-News/adoption-notice--guidance-on-soft-referrals.html>. The final "individual" files were shared with agencies on December 31, 2017 and we

have been able to match 4 waiting children with our families in our China WC Program since November 2017. However, we still have 7 waiting families with dossiers logged in at the CCCWA. Transfers have happened between agencies and 2 of our 4 families who have been matched were transferred children's files from other US agencies. We do anticipate more children's files to be posted to the CCCWA Online System during the month of April and we will continue to be in touch with other US agencies.

The Civil Affairs Department in China has eliminated all Hosting Camps and Individual children's files moving forward. This means all children's files will be posted onto the CCCWA Online System as multiple children's files by approx. May 1, 2018 when the individual children's files released on December 31, 2017 have expired with the adoption agencies (4 months).

Our meetings at the CCCWA in 2017 also confirm these changes to the adoption program. The Children's Bridge will only be accepting new applicants for the China WC Program who are open to adopting an older boy (over 7 years of age) with or without special medical needs. The CCCWA is very clear this program is becoming an older child special needs (more older boys waiting for families) adoption program.

If you would like to speak with me about the China WC Program I would be pleased to hear from you. I am in the office Monday - Thursday or you can reach me by email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com

GENERAL EVENTS:

Please also check the General Events section of our web site for pre and post adoption events in your community at www.childrensbridge.com under "General Events".



The CB newsletters are online! Please visit:
<https://www.childrensbridge.com/members/nlarchive.html>

Cathy Murphy and the Children's Bridge staff.



MAKING FAMILIES HAPPEN