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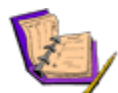
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Please Note: This email is being delivered via an email address used exclusively for distribution purposes. Please DO NOT reply to this email even though this is now the MONTHLY UPDATE (THIS Month at a Glance), it will still be distributed through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

September 29th, 2017

Thanksgiving Day Weekend Holiday
The Children's Bridge will be closed on Monday October 9th, 2017 for Thanksgiving weekend. We wish all of our families a safe and fun-filled long weekend! The Children's Bridge will re-open on Tuesday October 10th, 2017.



Notes From Cathy's Desk

Cathy Murphy - Executive Director

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



**The Children's Bridge New Website Children's Colouring Contest!
The deadline is September 30th, 2017!**

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

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

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

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

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

Contest details:

www.childrensbridge.com/data/CBwwwChildrensColouringContest2017.pdf

Connect-A-Kid Mentorship Program Ottawa

The Children's Bridge is pleased to partner with Connect-A-Kid to provide a team based mentorship program for adopted children, devoted to connecting the adoption community through mentorship, embracing cultural diversity and celebrating adoption. We are pleased to welcome Kara Eusebio and Natasha Clark as two of our adult mentors. We enjoyed Luv2Groove at our September event! Please check our web site at www.childrensbridge.com under "events" for our fall/winter events 2017/1018.

Did You Know?

The NACAC conference is the most comprehensive adoption conference in North America!

Join this year's NACAC Conference in Saint Paul, Minnesota, from August 8-10, 2018
<https://www.nacac.org/get-training/conference/>

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



Pre and Post Adoption Services

Post Adoption Consultation Service:

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

The fee for consultation is \$75.00 per hour.

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

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

Pre and Post Adoption Events

The Children's Bridge will be hosting the following workshops and post adoption groups in the coming months: AdopTALK October 14 and 15, 2017 in Newmarket, Ontario and AdopTALK January 6 and 7, 2018 in Ottawa, Ontario.

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

Post Adoption Follow Up Calls

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

Book List and Recommended Reading

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

We encourage families to keep in mind these books are good for every child to have as part of their library - adopted or not, person of colour or not - as exposure to diversity, different ways to make a family, etc. can only lead to more tolerance and acceptance for everyone!

Previous Booklists have been archived and can be accessed through the Member's Area of our website, or by emailing Karyn at Karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

September Booklist:

1) Favourite Kids Books submitted from a fellow Adoptive Parent:

<https://kimmoir.blog/2017/08/10/a-few-of-my-favourite-kids-books/>

2) Black Boy Joy - 29 Books Featuring Black Male Protagonists:

<http://www.readbrightly.com/picture-books-featuring-black-male-protagonists/>

3) 15 Books Starring Black Girls for Readers of All Ages:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/kids/15-books-starring-black-girls-for-readers-of-all-ages/>

4) Top Ten Korean-American Children's Books:

<https://www.pragmaticmom.com/2011/05/top-10-korean-american-childrens-books-ages-2-16/>

5) 34 Young Adult Novels to Diversify Your Bookshelf:

https://www.buzzfeed.com/zakiyajamal/add-more-color-to-your-shelf?utm_term=.jfy1DDbER#.jyZayyqYw

6) Ten 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>



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 currently has two available spaces. 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.

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	Dossier sent to Florida - pending review
2	Family R and K	Dossier sent to Florida - pending review
3	Family V & R	Completing Finalization Process in Florida court

ACF ADOPTIONS

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

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

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

Please Note:

I will be working remotely from South Africa from September 14th - November 3rd. I will be back in the office the week of November 6th. All program inquiries should take place via email, and I will follow up either by email, phone or Skype as necessary. If your matter requires immediate assistance, please contact Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com.



HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

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

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

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

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

Program Possibilities

- Zambia - we are currently accepting applications for this adoption program, and will prioritize applications for those open to children living with HIV. Please note: spaces available are for married couples only (no single applicant spaces available at this time).
- India - all ages of children living with HIV are available for adoption, other program requirements may be waived (maximum age, marital status). Please contact Karyn Bakelaar for more information (karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)
- Thailand - children will be 3+ years at time of adoption, program requirements may be waived, and single applicants (female only) may apply. Please contact the Thailand Program Manager, Darlene Catton, for more information (Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com).
- China - We are currently working with an orphanage in China that is able to place children living with HIV into adoptive families.
 - For further information, please contact Cathy Murphy (cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com)

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

Please Note:

I will be working remotely from South Africa from September 14th - November 3rd. I will be back in the office the week of November 6th. All program inquiries should take place via email, and I will follow up either by email, phone or Skype as necessary. If your matter requires immediate assistance, please contact Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com.



Republic of Zambia Adoption Program

Karyn Bakelaar - Program Manager

Email Karyn: karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 2

I have just returned from a two-week trip to Zambia, in which I was able to meet with adoption officials, visit baby homes and discuss the new adoption laws that are being ratified to meet The Hague requirements. Until the new laws are promulgated, adoptions will continue as they have in the past. Our partner agency in Zambia, the Child Care and Adoption Society of Zambia (CCASZ) is working diligently to ensure our files are processed, and are excited to move forward under the new laws which should allow for a smoother in-country process for families.

I was also able to spend some time with Family G/K who are currently completing their adoption in Zambia - while I was there they received the news that Canadian Citizenship had been granted to

their son, and they were able to come home to Canada. They will be home by the end of the week. Their entire in-country process took 6 months + a week. Families entering the program should be prepared for 6 - 7 months in Zambia to complete the adoption process.

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 from South Africa from September 14th - November 3rd. I will be back in the office the week of November 6th. All program inquiries should take place via email, and I will follow up either by email, phone or Skype as necessary. If your matter requires immediate assistance, please contact Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com.



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 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 waiting to travel to finalize their child's adoption in India, and one family waiting for CARA's approval on their submitted dossier. We have one family who is currently waiting for a child proposal, and one family preparing their dossier for India.

OCI Status:

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

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

Relinquishing Indian Passport and Renouncing Citizenship

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

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

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

Foreigners Regional Registration Office and NOC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please Note:

I will be working remotely from South Africa from September 14th - November 3rd. I will be back in the office the week of November 6th. All program inquiries should take place via email, and I will follow up either by email, phone or Skype as necessary. If your matter requires immediate assistance, please contact Cathy Murphy, who can be reached at 613-226-2112 ext. 6, or via email at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com .



South Korea Program

Maria Fulford - Program Manager

Email Maria: maria.fulford@childrensbridge.com

Tel: (613) 226-2112 Ext 7

Chuseok 2017 - Celebrating Korean Thanksgiving

Chuseok, celebrated October 3 - 6, is one of the largest and most widely celebrated holidays in South Korea. Chuseok is a time of happiness and reconnecting as families gather, chat, and have great feasts. This year, Chuseok falls on October 4th. The National Foundation Day of South Korea happens to fall on October 3rd, hence the holiday period beginning on this date.

The primary reason for Chuseok in South Korea is to honour ancestors and deceased relatives, but the holiday also serves the purpose of keeping the family together in a time when work and other obligations may separate people.

For families who have adopted children from South Korea, this is an opportunity to celebrate our children's Korea culture. Our family, usually attends a cultural event with other adoptive families or prepares a big Korean feast at home. This holiday is also an ideal to honor birth family. One year we planted a Korean dwarf lilac in our garden, and has bloomed every Spring since.

Traditionally, Chuseok also allowed South Koreans to celebrate the Autumn harvest after a season of hard work. Chuseok is held on the 15th day of the 8th month on the lunar calendar, or the fall equinox.

Want to know more about how Koreans celebrate Chuseok?

http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/ATR/SI_EN_3_6.jsp?cid=811650

"Have a wonderful Chuseok," 추석 잘 지 내세요 . (Chuseok jal ji nae sae yo.),
or 추석 잘 보 내세요 . (Chuseok jal bo nae sae yo.)

So 추석 잘 지 내세요 , everyone!

SWS closure for Chuseok

SWS will be closed for 10 days during the Chuseok holiday period, **from Sep. 30th (Saturday) to Oct. 9th (Tuesday)**. SWS is requesting that families do not send care packages to SWS during this period.

Should urgent matters arise during this time, SWS will be available to communicate directly with foster families and cooperative agencies (TCB) via e-mail or phone call.

PLEASE GO TO BOTTOM OF THIS KOREA SECTION FOR UPDATED CULTURE EVENT DETAILS IN YOUR REGION. THERE'S LOTS HAPPENING!

Referral News

A referral for a darling 6 month-old baby boy arrived late this week. This much awaited news has brought tremendous joy to this waiting family.

Court Dates and Travel Notices

A court date notice for October 20th arrived late last week and the family is busy preparing for their first visit to Korea.

We had one family in Korea earlier this month to attend court. As in the case with other families, they were able to visit with their son on two occasions. This family took some extra time in Korea and using their first trip to explore a bit more of their child's birth country.

Typically, SWS can arrange for two visits with baby and foster family, a third may be squeezed in depending on travel and SWS schedules.

Our family who attended court at the end of August is anxiously awaiting news of when they can make the second trip to receive their son. During their first trip they were fortunately able to meet with their son on three occasions and filled the rest of their time in Seoul exploring and shopping for mementos and souvenirs.

Thank you to all travelling families for the wonderful email updates and photos. They totally make my day!

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				
F	Aug 23/16	Jan 10/17	Feb 14/17	March 2017	May 12/17	May 22/17	Aug 24/17		Sept 24/17		
G	Nov 3/16	Apr 19/17	May 18/17	Aug 30/17							
H	Feb 14/17	Mar 20/17	Apr 13/17	June 13/17	Aug 8/17	Aug 10/17	Oct 20/17				
I	Feb 14/17	June 5/17	Apr 24/17	Aug 30/17							
J	Mar 23/17										
K	Apr 19/17	July 26/17	Aug 24/17								
L	May 11/17	July 10/17	Aug 24/17								
M	June 8/17	Sept 28/17									
N	July 20/17										
O	July 20/17										

Referral timelines can take anywhere from 1 to 8 months, estimated, and matching is not completed in any order. Timelines from referral acceptance to travel for court (first trip) can take an estimated 7 to 12 months once referral acceptance is submitted to SWS. Each case is different and court date notices can be set out of order. Timelines cannot be guaranteed.

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

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

AdopTALK

You should plan to attend our 2 day AdopTALK workshop before or shortly after your completed home study is submitted, as the certificate must be included in your dossier for Korea. All details for [AdopTALK](#) are on our website.

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

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

What to Expect at the Adoption Court Hearing:

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

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

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

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

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

Families may be permitted to leave the Court House right after their short hearing. After court, families find their own way back to their hotel either via taxi or subway.

Information on Adopting a Second Child from South Korea

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adoption Order and Confirmation of Permanent Residence

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

Health Card Application

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

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

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

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

Applying for Canadian Citizenship

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

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

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

CIC Links:

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

CIC Call Centre: 1-888-242-2100

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

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

Korean Culture Groups - Classes and Events - Ottawa, GTA and Southern Ontario

South Korea Homeland Visit

Several successful South Korea Homeland Visits have taken place and families have shared their unique and personal experiences which you can find on our website - most recent one, from this summer's visit: http://www.childrensbridge.com/homelandvisits/homelandvisits_SKtestimonial_s.html

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

2017-2018 Korean Cultural Class - Association for Families of Korean Adoptees, Ottawa

For the 2017/18 monthly class schedule go to:

<http://www.childrensbridge.com/pages/generalevents.html>

CULTURE TOGETHER - London, Ontario

London Korean Christian Church (530 Topping Lane, London, On) is very pleased to offer the CULTURE TOGETHER Program.

Come and meet your friends and be exposed to the Korean Culture. This Program is open to all families which have Korean adopted kids.

Two sessions (fall, spring) a year.
Each session runs for 5 weeks (every Sunday 4pm to 6pm).
The fall session starts from September 24 to October 29. (Thanksgiving break on Oct 8)
It ends with dinner.
Cost: free

For details, contact: Pauline Lee by e-mail @ pajo649@gmail.com



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

Finally! Summer arrived! I hope you all survived the heat wave that spread through many provinces. In Ontario, we're now back to normal temperatures and can get the a/c off and windows open!

It still seems so far away but will happen before the next update so I'd like to now wish you a happy Thanksgiving!

Adoption Program News

Referral and Travel

As you know, the proposal that came for Tyler and Amber came earlier than anticipated and was not in order (as we generally expect).

In order to ensure that every family is ready to travel (paperwork in order and mentally prepared), we need to know what timeline to expect. When the proposal came, I immediately sent an email to the DCY inquiring as to why it came so early. The DCY replied that it's "normal" and depends on the judgment of the Board/Committee.

Based on our own experience, this is not *our* normal and I think families should continue to expect a proposal in 2 ½ years but also ensure that all paperwork is complete and up-to-date.

Tyler and Amber departed yesterday to begin their adoption journey. I'd like to wish them a safe trip and look forward to seeing some pictures on-line and chatting with them when they get back.

Tyler and Amber weren't able to make it to AdopTALK next month as planned so we had to meet and power through many of the workshops. One of the highlights for most families at AdopTALK is having the opportunity to meet with a recently returned family to talk about the trip and of course, they weren't able to do this. However, they were able to spend time talking with Jon and Allison about their two trips.

I'd like to give a shout out to Jon and Allison who immediately offered to contact Tyler and Amber to chat with them, which they did (the same day I asked them!). Thank you Jon and Allison for your support to The Children's Bridge and our families.

Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)

Family	Dossier to DCY	Province	Referral	Home
J & L	November 2015	NS		
G & E	November 2015	ON		
M & J	November 2015	ON		

T & A	December 2015	ON	Aug. 22, 2017	Oct. 20, 2017
J & C	March 2016	NS		
J & K	August 2016	ON		
A & B	December 2016	ON		
P & R	February 2017	ON		
T & P	February 2017	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017	MB		
G & I	June 30, 2017	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017	ON		
W & M	August 28, 2017	AB		
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017	NS		
LG	Sept. 11, 2017	ON		

Two family's home studies are at the Ministry waiting for approval. These two files should be in Thailand this month

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

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

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

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

Finalization

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

Paperwork Change - Dossier - Effective Immediately

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

Resource Kit

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

AdopTALK

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

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

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

Ministry

The Ministry has indicated that they 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 two years after your dossier has gone to Thailand or sooner if in the Waiting Children Program. Timelines have become a little unpredictable and we want to make sure that you have been approved to sponsor well before a referral is received. We have just learned that Immigration Sponsorship approvals expire after 2 years and so we have changed when you apply for this.

Citizenship and Immigration 1-888-242 2100

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

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



Darlene Catton - Program Manager

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

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Referral

The Ministry took an inordinately long time to process Paul and Marcie's proposal documents (3 weeks!) but they are still able to travel at the beginning of November (departure November 2nd).

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

CCCWA

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

The CCCWA have matched up to January 15, 2007. They are unable to tell us when any family can expect a referral and in fact, issued a memo to all agencies stating that they will no longer be matching by date stamp.

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

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

Homeland - China

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

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

Some of the feedback:

"We had an absolutely wonderful trip!"

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

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

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

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

If you are interested in participating in a tour or would like to customize a trip, please contact [me](#) .



Waiting Children Program China

Cathy Murphy - Program Manager

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We currently have 14 families in process in our WC China Program with their dossiers logged in at the CCCWA in Beijing.

Congratulations to the Wong family who received a referral for their son in August 2017 and will travel

to China to receive him in November 2017!

We have 59 families completing PP reports, please ensure your reports arrive in a timely manner. Thank you!

The Children's Bridge continues to speak with the CCCWA and monitor their online system. Over the next six months, the 1:1 orphanage agreements will end (as of December 31, 2017) and we anticipate more children's files will be accessible on the Online System. We are not yet clear how high the children's special medical needs will be, and if they will represent higher non-correctable special medical needs. We will update our families when we have new information to share.

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

For more information on our WC China Program or to set up a screening call for an older child adoption from the WC China Program, please contact me at cathy.murphy@childrensbridge.com

GENERAL EVENTS:

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



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

Cathy Murphy and the Children's Bridge staff.



MAKING FAMILIES HAPPEN