

# This Month at a Glance

By The Children's Bridge



**SEPTEMBER 2020 Edition**

---

**Stay Connected with The Children's Bridge!**

[Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

---



## **NOTES FROM KARYN'S DESK**

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Executive Director  
(613) 226-2814

[Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

**September 2020**

### **Event Updates**

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ALLYSHIP FOR PRE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF BIPOC KIDS**

A 5-part anti-racism series designed for pre-adoptive parents of BIPOC kids starting Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> with only 2 spaces remaining!

About this Event:

Calling all future parents of BIPOC children! Please consider joining us for this one-of-a-kind course where adult adoptee, Kara Eusebio and TCB's Executive Director, Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, will be taking a deep dive into why "love isn't enough". We will be discussing the many skills adoptive families need to develop in order to guide their child through a world in which they will face racism and discrimination, and that will often view them as the "other".

Session topics will include (but are not limited to):

- Educating yourself on issues of social justice and ally-ship in the Canadian context;
- Guide you through owning your role and responsibilities as the future parent of a BIPOC child;
- Provide insight into how to work towards shaping your child's future life and community into one that is inclusive and anti-racist.

This course is specifically designed to consider racial and cultural identity formation through a lens of early trauma, as well as to highlight and discuss racism, social justice and ally-ship in the Canadian context.

We currently have two spaces left in this important course in which you will learn about social justice, how to be an ally to your child, and how to show up in your own life as an "anti-racist". Details are available in the attached flyer and/or registration available at: Social Justice & Allyship for Pre-Adoptive Parents of BIPOC Kids: <http://bit.ly/PreAdoptiveParents>

We hope to see you there!

#### **ADOPTION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO:**

We are pleased to support the ACO and all the important work they do to help support adoptive families and children in Ontario. This Fall, they have many important webinars, courses and discussion aimed at supporting families in parenting children diagnosed with FASD, assisting with "back-to-school" in times of COVID, as well as their hallmark "Pathways to Permanency" program. Please see their website for details and to register: <https://www.adoption.on.ca/events>

#### **Staff Phone Numbers**

As part of our efforts to ensure we are able to continue to work remotely during this time, our team has moved from landlines to cell phones. Please see our website or the list below for a how to reach us:

Lenore – Office Coordinator: 613-226-2112

Darlene – Thailand Program Manager: 905-836-6776

Bruno – Korea and USA Program Manager – 613-807-4238

Karyn – Executive Director/India Program Manager – 613-226-2814





## INDIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
 (613) 226-2814  
[Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

### India

#### General Program Information

India is slowly lifting restrictions in place due to COVID, but as cases continue to rise, they are doing so very cautiously. Domestic travel is occurring in some regions, but at this time international travel is still restricted. However, we have learned that visas are being issued to adoptive families from select countries and are hoping Canada will join that list. TCB currently has two families who are waiting for travel to resume in order to complete their adoptions from India.

CARA is now approving dossiers and assigning child proposals at this time. The India High Commission is back to processing dossiers, as are the various India Consulates throughout the country.

We are currently accepting applications for this adoption program.

We currently have 31 families in process to adopt from India and can work with adoptive families across Canada (except for Quebec). This program is open to families of non-Indian descent, as well as those who are Non-Resident Indians (NRI's) or those with Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI). Families who have NRI or OCI status are prioritized by CARA, but all families who meet the requirements are welcome to apply.

Our India program is open to families who wish to adopt a child living with special needs, and those hoping to adopt via the mainstream program.

Most of the children are 18-months+ at time of child proposal. Special needs of the children in the Waiting Child program vary widely, and can include (but are not limited to): hearing and/or vision issues, HIV, Hepatitis B, developmental delays, Down Syndrome, heart issues such as ASD or VSD, etc.

If you would like more information about the process to adopt a child from India, please contact the India Program Manager at [Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com), or see our website for requirements, cost and estimated timelines.





## THAILAND ADOPTION PROGRAM

Darlene Catton, Program Manager  
 (905) 836-6776  
[darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

**September 2020**

### Thailand

#### Hours

My regular work hours have changed slightly and I am now working Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 4:00.

#### Adoption Program News & Travel

**\*\*NEW\*\*The Civil Aviation authority of Thailand has announced an extension of the travel ban on commercial flights to Thailand (until further notice). Please see link below. This will affect the STV noted below.**

<https://ottawa.thaiembassy.org/en/content/119628-thailand-visa-and-coe?cate=5f069ee272a783584326eaf5>

Last month I received an email from the DCY asking for my input (for the Child Adoption Center) on how The Children’s Bridge and the government of Canada would help adoptive family’s enter Thailand safely during this pandemic. I provided a detailed summary and also indicated that our families, if possible, would comply with any and all safety measures and guidelines imposed.

Earlier this month, the DCY indicated that they would have to request an exemption to travel for each family from the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). Yesterday, I received another email from the DCY pertaining to this exemption, asking for more specific information regarding Canada’s policies and procedures around families returning to Canada. As well, they wanted information on health care and that of an adopted child.

Thailand has also published information on a special tourist visa (STV) that would allow foreign visitors to stay in Thailand for 90 days. This wouldn’t be the best option and may not go ahead if the ban on flights continues.



<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1985903/long-stay-tourism-in-sight>

At this time, I know that the DCY are still working on the logistics of the medicals, visas and Board interviews.

In any event, it seems that families will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Thailand (at the family's expense).

Currently, we have 5 families with proposals who are waiting (patiently!) to travel. If, at all possible, we will try to schedule all 5 with interview dates close together so they can travel at the same time.

### **Referrals**

\*\*\*Congratulations to Mike and Amy on the proposal of their handsome son! This little guy is currently living at the Si Thammarat Home for Boys in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

\*\*\*Congratulations also to Mark and Terra on accepting the proposal of a beautiful little girl! This wee one is living at the Vieng Ping Children's Home in Chiang Mai Province.

### **Passports**

If you need to renew your passports, please do send me a copy to send to the DCY as they always ask for updated ones.

### **Dossier Preparation**

Please ensure that you complete the Thailand medical and psych assessment for your Thailand dossier. No matter what province you live in, you are required to complete these items.

It's also important to remember that every document must be dated and signed (if applicable).

We are still able to process home studies and updates electronically and families can continue to proceed with both.

The Thai Embassy is open (for certain things) so we are now able to have a dossier completely processed.

### **IRCC (Immigration)**

An immigration application is only valid for two years. Please check your information to ensure yours is still within that timeframe. If not, you will need to complete paperwork to extend the time. Contact me for further info.



I will send you details on how to apply for immigration sponsorship approximately 1 ½ years into your wait.

Please ensure that you are completing the correct process (immigration sponsorship) when you are applying. The IRCC website will try to take you to the link to complete direct citizenship but as your child is coming to Canada on a temporary resident permit, you **MUST** complete the application to sponsor a member of a family class (immigration sponsorship).

### **File Translation**

We have been advised by the Department of Children and Youth that they will no longer be translating files for us. Luckily, we have a translator, Pitch Sookmark, who currently translates the birth certificate and house registration for each family. Khun Pitch has agreed to also translate the proposal documents.

In addition to the in-country fee and post placement fees that are due at time of proposal, we will also be adding a translation fee. This fee is approximately \$480CAD however, can fluctuate depending on the number of pages in the proposal.

### **Matching**

The DCY and TRRC continue to match families although the process does seem to have slowed down a bit.

Please remember that files are **not** matched in the order that they are received. Matching is based on the children currently waiting, the number of files on hand and of course the age, sex and special needs a family is open to.

### **Families Waiting (Files in Thailand)**

<b>Family</b>	<b>Log-in-Date</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Referral Received</b>	<b>Home</b>
J & C	March 2016 (DCY)	NS	October 1, 2019	December 18, 2019
J & K	August 2016 (DCY)	ON	November 22, 2019	March 2, 2020
A & B	December 2016 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	March 29, 2020
P & R	February 2017 (DCY)	ON	January 21, 2020	TBA
T & P	February 2017 (DCY)	NS		
M & A	March 13, 2017 (DCY)	MB	May 28, 2020	TBA



G & I	June 30, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
M & C	July 7, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
M & J	July 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
W & N	Aug. 28, 2017 (DCY)	AB		
A & K	Dec. 25, 2017 (TRCCH)	ON	May 7, 2019	December 18, 2019
M & T	Sept. 8, 2017 (DCY)	NS	September 21, 2020	TBA
LG	Sept. 11, 2017 (DCY)	ON	October 29, 2019	January 18, 2020
KS	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
JB	Nov. 20, 2017 (DCY)	ON		
J & A	May 3, 2018 (DCY)	AB		
E & K	Sept. 14/18 (TRCCH)	ON	Feb. 19, 2020	TBA
JK	Oct. 16/18 (DCY)	AB		
H & K	Nov. 19/18 (TRCCH)	ON	October 23, 2019	TBA
M & C	Dec. 24/18 (DCY)	ON		
J & K	Jan. 23/19 (DCY)	AB		
JL	Feb. 22/19 (DCY)	ON		
T & M	March 21/19 (DCY)	ON		
R & J	April 17/19 (DCY)	ON		
M & J	May 27/19 (DCY)	ON		
R & L	June 10/19 (TRCCH)	ON		
C & K	July 8/19 (DCY)	ON		
J & S	Oct. 21/19 (DCY)	AB		
D & R	Dec. 16/19 (DCY)	ON		
K & C	Jan. 13/20 (TRCCH)	AB		
H & J	*Feb. 3/20 (DCY)	ON		
C & S	Feb. 6/20 (DCY)	AB		
M & N	Feb. 17/20 (TRCCH)	ON		



R & Y	*Feb. 28/20 (DCY)	ON		
A & A	July 20, /20 (DCY)	ON		
J & C	Sept. 24/20 (TRCCH)	NS		

\*Not part of quota.

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

One family's dossier is currently being processed at Foreign Affairs and the Thai Embassy.

### Finalization

Adoptions are finalized at the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver. It is taking much longer than usual for us to receive a family's letter of Invitation. We should get it about 6 months after Thailand has received the final post placement report but, in some cases, it is taking more than 18 months.

### Post Placement

The DCY have indicated that it is acceptable for Adoption Practitioners to complete post placement report visits via Zoom, Skype, or teleconference. The scanned reports and pictures will be emailed to the DCY.

### 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 workshops are on our website.

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

Please check out our website for upcoming workshops.

### Ontario Ministry

The Ministry is currently processing home studies and updates in 10 - 12 weeks and proposals in 5 – 10 business days.



### Alberta Ministry

Families will need to complete an addendum to their home study every 12 months. I have recently been advised by Alberta Human Services that they will send the approval directly to a family's coordinating agency and to the family. Once you receive this letter, kindly scan and email me a copy.

### 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.



## SOUTH KOREA ADOPTION PROGRAM



Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager  
(613) 807-4238  
[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

Dear families,

**During this COVID-19 pandemic, if there is an urgent matter or you would like to speak to me on the phone, please contact me at my work cell (613) 807-4238.** As always, you can also email me. I hope this will make me more accessible during this time.

**Also, effective immediately, please do not send postal mail or courier packages to our Ottawa office.** All of us at TCB are strictly working remotely at this time and cannot receive documents (e.g. reference letters) and/or home study & dossier packages. If you are planning to submit required documents for your file, please contact me and I will provide you with an alternate mailing address for the time being.

Have a great weekend ahead,

**Bruno Jung-Millen**

**Adoption Program Manager, South Korea & USA**



1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2

Office: (613) 226-2112 ext. 4 | Work Cell: (613) 807-4238

[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

*"This pandemic experience is a massive experiment in collective vulnerability. We can be our worst selves when we're afraid, or our very best, bravest selves. In the context of fear and vulnerability, there is often very little in between because when we are uncertain and afraid our default is self-protection. We don't have to be scary when we're scared. Let's choose awkward, brave, and kind. And let's choose each other." – Brené Brown*



## USA ADOPTION PROGRAMS

Bruno Jung-Millen, Program Manager  
(613) 807-4238

[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

Dear families,

**During this COVID-19 pandemic, if there is an urgent matter or you would like to speak to me on the phone, please contact me at my work cell (613) 807-4238.** As always, you can also email me. I hope this will make me more accessible during this time.

**Also, effective immediately, please do not send postal mail or courier packages to our Ottawa office.** All of us at TCB are strictly working remotely at this time and cannot receive documents (e.g. reference letters) and/or home study & dossier packages. If you are planning to submit required documents for your file, please contact me and I will provide you with an alternate mailing address for the time being.

Have a great weekend ahead,

Bruno Jung-Millen

Adoption Program Manager, South Korea & USA



1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2

Office: (613) 226-2112 ext. 4 | Work Cell: (613) 807-4238

[bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com](mailto:bruno.jung-millen@childrensbridge.com)

*"This pandemic experience is a massive experiment in collective vulnerability. We can be our worst selves when we're afraid, or our very best, bravest selves. In the context of fear and vulnerability, there is often very little in between because when we are uncertain and afraid our default is self-protection. We don't have to be scary when we're scared. Let's choose awkward, brave, and kind. And let's choose each other." – Brené Brown*



## HIV+ KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
(613) 226-2814  
[Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

### HIV+ Kids Adoption Program

This program is available to families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV. It is not a program on its own but runs in conjunction with whichever country/adoption program the family has chosen to adopt from. The Children's Bridge can offer information, education, support and resources to families in process to adopt a child living with HIV.

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



## ZAMBIA ADOPTION PROGRAM

Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar, Program Manager  
(613) 226-2814  
[Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:Karyn.arnauld-bakelaar@childrensbridge.com)

**\*\*NOT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS\*\***

### Republic of Zambia

We are not accepting applications for our Zambia program at this time. This section will be updated once more information becomes available on Zambia's progress in implementing The Hague protocols in its adoption policies.

If you would like any information on the Zambian adoption program, please contact the Program Manager, Karyn Arnauld-Bakelaar at [karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com](mailto:karyn.bakelaar@childrensbridge.com) or 1-613-226-2814.





**CHINA HOMELAND  
VISIT PROGRAM**

Darlene Catton, Program Manager  
(905) 836-6776  
[darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)

***\*\*Due to the current situation regarding Covid19, all China homeland tours have been put on hold.***

***If you'd like more information, please contact Darlene Catton at [darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com](mailto:darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com)\*\****

