

INFORMATION PACKAGE



THE CHILDREN'S BRIDGE

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THE CHILDREN'S BRIDGE ORGANIZATION

The Children's Bridge is a non-profit international adoption agency that was federally incorporated in 1994. To date the organization has assisted over 4,500 families to successfully adopt children internationally.

The Children's Bridge takes its ethical practice very seriously. Our organizational goal is to provide adoption services with a mission to work in the best interest of the children we serve, by creating a sustainable and ethical adoption practice.

The Children's Bridge organization has widespread knowledge of provincial legislation and adoption procedures. As well, the agency has facilitated adoptions for families in all provinces across Canada, except for Quebec. It has the expertise to help Canadian families, in and outside of Canada, to adopt internationally.

In considering the addition of a child to a family through adoption, several decisions must be made. The first, and most obvious, is if adoption is right for your family. Discussion with other adoptive families, professionals and adoption agencies as well as personal research should help in this task.

Once a family has made the crucial decision to adopt, the next steps are: completing the intake process with the Program Manager, arranging for the completion of a home study and completion of an adoption file in province and of an adoption dossier to be sent overseas.

This detailed information package is designed to help families determine the best options for them.

The Children's Bridge Team

Our team include adoptive parents, adoptees and parents. For a complete listing of staff including Program Managers, please visit our website at www.childrensbridge.com.

The Children's Bridge receives its legal counsel from CCY Family Law in Ottawa.

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer parents who have adopted children through The Children's Bridge and adoptees. The Board of Directors provides The Children's Bridge with a solid business framework as well as managerial expertise that ensures the highest standard of adoption programs.

SELECTION OF AN ADOPTION AGENCY

With few exceptions, Canadian families who undertake an adoption from another country must work through an adoption organization/agency. The Children's Bridge is committed to providing our families with quality service focusing upon meeting their needs at every stage of the process.

Given the very nature of international adoption, it is absolutely essential that you receive a high level of support and quality service from the agency that you choose. Adoption agencies vary greatly in the number, availability and quality of pre and post adoption services that are offered. Each family has its own individual needs and it is important that the agency you choose meets these needs during the adoption process and throughout your child's life.

The agency assists you with paperwork, travel arrangements and, more importantly, pre and post adoption support services. There are significant differences in the process and facilitation of international adoptions that

have an impact on how smoothly and efficiently your adoption proceeds. We encourage families to explore each adoption agency carefully.

Experience, Credentials and Support Services

We recommend that you explore the levels of staffing in the agency, availability of help and support before, during and after your adoption, the experience of the agency in terms of number of adoptions completed and the potential for interaction with other families past and present.

Adoption Logistics

It is important that you are clear on anticipated costs as well as how the agency manages its resources. Check timelines for your chosen program and keep in mind that timelines do not vary by agency, but by program. It is also wise to check on the agency's legal, cultural and support services.

Travel

The arrangements made for you to receive your child are crucial. Please investigate all aspects of this part of the process including information you receive on the child, preparation for the trip, accommodation, costs and in-country support services. For most of our programs, The Children's Bridge chooses to use the expertise of skilled adoption travel guides and in-country professionals.

PRE AND POST ADOPTION SERVICES

The Children's Bridge is committed to providing quality pre and post adoption services that are focused on assisting families throughout the entire adoption process. These services range from helping you choose a program to providing post-adoption services for your family after the adoption is completed. The following are some of the support services currently offered at various locations throughout Canada:

Information Sessions (general and country-specific) – designed to address specific questions or concerns regarding the adoption process. These detailed sessions are organized in a presentation format with a question period and are intended to help you assess the agency's services and decide on the most appropriate program for you. We recommend a family attend the country specific information session for the country they are interested in.

Family Gatherings, Playgroups, Kids and Teens Clubs – offered to provide an opportunity for children to get together in a child friendly environment and interact with other children whose families are similar to their own. They also allow adoptive parents to network with other families and share information and stories. For prospective adoptive parents, these events are a great chance to meet and learn from the experiences of other families who have adopted using The Children's Bridge.

Guest Speakers and Special Events – The Children's Bridge endeavours to hold several special events each year at various locations. These events include:

Networking, Picnics and Special Events:

What Your Family and Friends Need to Know about Adoption

Playgroups

Educational Seminars/Conferences:

Social Justice and Allyship

Circle of Security Parenting

Adoption/Adoptee Panel

Keynote Speakers

Homeland Visits

Kids Like Me Workshop (children aged 6 – 12)

Connect-A-Kid (Ottawa)

On-line Services - The Children's Bridge has an excellent website (www.childrensbridge.com) that contains detailed information on programs as well as dates and information on upcoming events and information sessions.

After Hours Consultation Service - If a family requests an in-take outside of the Program Manager's posted working hours, an after-hours fee of \$75.00/hour will be charged. A minimum appointment time of one hour applies and will be accrued for every 30 minutes after the first hour. This fee is to be paid by cheque and mailed to The Children's Bridge office. Contact your Program Manager to book an appointment.

Information Services - The Children's Bridge is pleased to provide our clients with comprehensive information kits and workshops to help guide you through the adoption process. Some of the information we provide includes:

- **Adoption Package** - Upon completion of the in-take process and acceptance into a program, along with the Retainer agreement, we will send you a detailed package about the country that you have chosen. This package includes all of the documentation necessary to compile your adoption dossier, a cost breakdown as well as references to resource materials.
- **AdopTALK – An Adoption Parenting Workshop** – This is a mandatory workshop that all applicants **MUST** attend (applicable for EVERY adoption), in person, in either Toronto, Ontario or Ottawa, Ontario or via Zoom. Designed to prepare adoptive parents to manage the challenges of becoming adoptive parents and to increase their ability to parent proactively and positively, this workshop will include the following components: The First Year – Putting the Pieces Together, Health Matters, Early Trauma and Neuro-development, Transracial and Transcultural Issues in Adoptive Families, Talking to Your Child about Adoption and Trip Preparation.
- **Immigration Information** – At the relevant point in your adoption journey, your Program Manager will send you instructions on how to complete the immigration portion of the process.
- **Travel Guide** – This is a detailed guide outlining the travel portion of the adoption process. Information ranging from costs, accommodations and detailed itineraries to restaurant and shopping recommendations are contained in this package.

THE HOME STUDY

No matter where a family live in Canada, or from where they adopt, locally or internationally, a home study is required. The home study will follow the S.A.F.E. (Structured Analysis Family Evaluation) format.

A home study consists of a series of interviews (4-5 sessions), a written report by an Adoption Practitioner (social worker) and supporting documentation such as references, police checks and medical reports. Your Practitioner will advise you of all required paperwork, usually at your first meeting. He/she will meet with you a minimum of four times with at least one visit taking place in your home (in most provinces). While it may feel a bit intrusive, the home study is not a process to fear. The Practitioner's primary role is to inform and educate you about adoption.

In Ontario (and some other provinces) families must also complete PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information Development and Education) training as part of the home study. Some provinces also have other adoption training requirements. Please check with your provincial authority for their particular requirements. A list of

approved Adoption Practitioners in Ontario can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/adoption-practitioners#section-3>

Visit <http://www.adoptontario.ca/home> for a complete listing of upcoming PRIDE workshops in Ontario or contact your local provincial government for a schedule. As well, PRIDE is now offered on-line through OACAS.

Arranging a home study varies from one province to another. In Ontario you can begin with the agency or with an approved Adoption Practitioner (there is a link on our website of approved Practitioners). In most other provinces begin by contacting your provincial adoption authority listed below.

Upon completion of the home study, the Practitioner will forward the report (in Ontario, the completed report is forwarded to the agency for review and then on to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for their approval. This approval process takes anywhere from a week in some provinces to 16 weeks in others (this timeline is an approximation only).

There is a fee charged for the home study. Clarify costs and to whom monies are owed at the outset of the home study. This too varies from one jurisdiction to another.

PROVINCIAL CONTACTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Alberta Community and Social Services <https://www.alberta.ca/ministry-childrens-services.aspx>

British Columbia, Ministry of Children & Family Development
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events>

Manitoba Child and Family Services <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/adoption.html>

Government of **New Brunswick**
https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/adoption.html

Newfoundland/Labrador Department of Child, Youth and Family Services
<https://www.cssd.gov.nl.ca/adoption/index.html>

Nova Scotia, Department of Community Services <https://novascotia.ca/coms/families/index.html>

N.W.T. Adoption Coordinator <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/adoption>

Ontario Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services <https://www.ontario.ca/page/adoption>

Prince Edward Island, Department of Community and Social Services
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/adoption>

Government of **Saskatchewan**, Adoption Services
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/directory?ou=9febab46-a7c0-48a6-8623-8d3ec9b19a4d>

INTAKE

Before being accepted into a program, prospective adoptive applicants are first required to complete the intake process with the relevant Program Manager. It is recommended to complete the intake process as early in the process as possible.

To begin the intake process:

- Ensure you meet the requirements of the country you are planning to adopt from. All requirements are listed in this package.
- Complete the Intake Application (including Consent to Exchange document) and Membership (provided to you by the Program Manager) and pay the relevant fees. One year membership is included.
- Contact the Program Manager to schedule your intake appointment.

The intake meeting will touch on motivation to adopt, applicant's skills and education, race, identity and culture, potential health issues and openness and connection to first family. This is also an opportunity for applicants to ask their questions about the agency, processes or program.

If applying to adopt as a couple, **BOTH** applicants must take part in the entire intake appointment that will take approximately 60- 90 minutes. Currently all intake appointments are completed via Zoom.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO CONSIDER

1. How similar is your family's race and culture to the child you hope to adopt?
2. Does the city or town you live in have a sizable population of families from the country your child will be adopted from? If not, do you have a plan for connecting your adopted child in authentic ways to their birth culture?
3. Do you currently live in a racially diverse area or neighbourhood, or live within driving distance of a more racially diverse area? If not, would you consider moving to a more diverse location?
4. Does the country you are considering have a strong religious faith (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, etc.) and will you continue this faith with your child?
5. Will you be happy to travel back to your child's country of birth as he or she grows up?
6. What cultural mirroring do you have in your family and/or community?
7. Do you have family/friend connections to your child's birth culture?
8. Does your family speak your child's language?

PROGRAMS

The Children's Bridge is pleased to offer you information on the programs that we are currently licensed to facilitate adoptions from.

Please review the outline of each of the programs on the following pages to determine the country that best suits your situation and family. You may want to refer to the chart "Countries at a Glance" (in this package) for further consideration.

As well, we suggest you check out our website, www.childrensbridge.com regularly for updates on existing programs and information on exciting new programs.

NEW COUNTRY LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Children's Bridge researches new possible international adoption programs and once a license is completed, new programs will be announced on our web site.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Health issues must be researched as the health of the children cannot be guaranteed in any of our adoption programs. All of our families are required to attend our AdoptTALK parenting series that includes a workshop on health issues. However, these issues should be properly researched and considered before embarking on an international adoption. Potential health issues that are covered and that you should also research include: malnourishment, effects of institutionalization, Hepatitis, HIV, developmental delays, learning disabilities, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, physical and sexual abuse and sleep and emotional issues. Health information provided in a proposal is a snapshot of the child's health at that time and can change. Based on the age of a child, some health issues cannot yet be determined.

Timelines – Every program has a different timeline but all families should be prepared for a minimum of 2 years. **Timelines can change at any time and those in this package are estimates only.** As well, families are not always matched in the order a dossier is sent to country as matching timelines depend on many factors (i.e. age, health, sex).

Callback Lists – Some countries only allow us to submit a specific number of files each year or our agency can only process a specific number each year. As such, we may decide that a callback list is necessary.

To maintain a position on a list you need to:

- Contact Program Manager to obtain a position on a list;
- Pay an annual fee of \$100 plus tax for each list you are on.

Pregnancy/Multiple Adoptions/Fertility Treatments - The Children's Bridge discourages families from applying for more than one international adoption, trying to conceive, pursuing fertility treatments, and/or exploring domestic adoption while also going through an international adoption process. Our agency takes our commitment to work in the best interest of the child very seriously, and in most cases pursuing pregnancy/domestic/multiple international adoptions often does not place the child at the center of the process. It also poses several risks for your family financially and with the adoption authorities overseas.

Families are asked to commit to their decision to adopt internationally for some of the following reasons:

- The process of adoption is a time of learning and education for individuals and families. It is our experience that families who have their time and attention in several places are much less prepared than those who have used the time of wait to take courses, read adoption related materials, and prepare for this life-changing transition. This directly benefits the children who are placed, as well as the adoptive families who are better prepared to meet their children's needs.
- Oftentimes our in-country partners are preparing a child's file for many months before being matched with a TCB family. Should a family receive a proposal and need to decline the match due to pregnancy/domestic or another international placement means the child's file goes back into the system, and the child waits in care for a much longer time.
- Families should be aware of the following restrictions that may apply should they choose to pursue pregnancy/domestic/multiple international adoptions, some of which are provincial Ministry regulations while others are in place by in-country adoption authorities:
 - The Ontario Ministry requires an 18-month gap between the chronological ages of children in the home and the child placed for adoption as well as 18 months between placements. In other provinces, the guideline is 12 months between ages and placements. Adoption files are placed on hold until this requirement is satisfied, and annual administration fees will apply.
 - In some cases, the other country's adoption authorities want to see full commitment from the adoptive family to adopt a child from that particular country/culture. This means a family who has not demonstrated full commitment may be viewed unfavourably by the country they plan to adopt from. In some cases, the country automatically closes an adoption file upon news of pregnancy or domestic placement (India).
 - In some countries, upon notifying the authorities that a waiting family has been placed domestically or recently given birth, that file will be moved to the bottom of the list and families will have lengthy waits for a second proposal, or their file could be withdrawn.
 - Families should review their retainer agreement for fees that are non-refundable at various points in the adoption process. This applies to files that are withdrawn due to notice of pregnancy, birth, one international adoption or a domestic adoption placement.

If you are placed with a child internationally, domestically or become pregnant during the process, please contact us as soon as possible. Some provincial ministries will not allow an adoption placement if the adoptive applicants are pregnant or have recently given birth.

Concurrent adoptions - Few provinces will allow two international adoptions to be completed simultaneously. Check with your provincial ministry for further information. Even if allowed by your provincial authority, in most cases, the foreign country will not accept this, so please check with your Program Manager.

Placement of Children/Out of Birth Order – Every provincial ministry has a guideline on the ages and placement of children (i.e., if your birth child is 18 months old, you cannot accept the placement of a child who is more than 6 months old). Please check with your ministry prior to proceeding with an adoption if you are unsure of these guidelines. In Ontario, there must be 18 months difference in the ages and placement of children.

Fostering while in the process to adopt is generally acceptable by most provincial ministries and some countries. Families should speak with their provincial coordinator **and** their Program Manager **BEFORE** proceeding with the foster care program. Please note that this refers to temporary foster placements and not foster-to-adopt programs or long-term placements.

Second Adoptions: If you are adopting for a second time, you must ensure that the placement guidelines are followed (see above) and the new child to be adopted does not disrupt birth order. In Ontario, you can begin the adoption process 9 months after coming home with your first child.

Requirements listed for each country are established by the individual countries and are not those of provincial Ministries or The Children's Bridge. All requirements must be met or a file cannot be submitted.

Please contact the Program Manager of the program you are interested in **prior to proceeding** with any program to schedule your intake meeting, obtain updated information, costs and a current timeline.

Hold Policy: After consultation with The Children's Bridge and providing written notice, a family may choose to place their adoption file on hold with The Children's Bridge. The maximum amount of time a file can be placed on hold is 12 months (situation dependent and upon consultation with and approval from the Program Manager). A family may wish to put their file on hold for many reasons (i.e., pregnancy, change in family circumstance, financial, etc.).

If a file is already in country, it is likely that the file will have to be withdrawn and applicants re-apply if they choose. Consult with the Program Manager for specific details.

The administration fee will apply when a file is on hold.

U.S.A. ADOPTION PROGRAM

HEARTSENT ADOPTIONS, INC. (HAI)

Program Manager: Darlene Catton, 905-836-6776
E-mail: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

General Information:

- The Children's Bridge works in partnership with Heartsent Adoptions, Inc. (HAI) based in Walnut Creek, California. HAI works with local agencies in other states and applicant(s) will have an opportunity to choose one of those supervised agencies. The supervised agencies work with child placing agencies in every state in the US.
- Adoptive family is chosen by an expectant mother/father who wishes to make an adoption plan for their child.
- Families **must** be open to accepting a child of any racial background.
- Families must be open to either sex.
- Applicants must be open to a semi-open or open adoption.
- Most expectant mothers will want the adoptive family either present at the hospital or in the state at time of birth.
- Adoption is finalized in the local state approximately 6 months after placement. In most cases, family does not need to travel to the state for finalization but must be present for the hearing by phone.
- Children will maintain dual citizenship and annual tax returns must be filed annually by the family on behalf of the child.
- Applicants will complete a comprehensive checklist outlining various situations they are open to (i.e. some in-utero exposure to drugs/alcohol, familial history of mental illness, unknown birth father, etc.).
- In most cases, the adoptive family will have the opportunity to meet the birth mother/father before or during their trip to the local state.
- 3 – 5 post-placement reports completed by an Adoption Practitioner are required in order to finalize the adoption. Varies depending on state.
- Paperwork for HAI **must** be updated every year (home study, medicals, police checks).
- The failed match rate is approximately 15 - 20%.

Requirements:

- This program is open to all provinces except Quebec and Alberta.
- This program is open to same-sex and heterosexual married and common-law couples (except Michigan), as well as single applicants.
- At least one applicant **MUST** be a Canadian citizen.
- Family must possess a stable financial portfolio. Please note that the total cost for most adoptions from the USA will be from \$110,000CAD and up.
- Applicants must live in an area where they can provide racial mirrors for their child and have access to cultural and racial diversity in their everyday life and communities.
- Applicants must be in sound physical and emotional health. Adoptive applicants must be free of major mental illness such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Applicants must be open, at a minimum, to a semi-open adoption. A semi-open adoption refers to an adoption in which letters and pictures will be exchanged and available to birth family until the child has reached the age of 18.

- Prospective applicants must be free from criminal record. You will NOT be eligible if you have a history of arrest by law enforcement, charged with a criminal offence or have a list of occurrences. This includes a child welfare record check (i.e. Children's Aid Society).

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session and/or a USA Information Session.
(<http://www.childrensbridge.com>)
- Complete the intake application and schedule the intake appointment with the Program Manager.
- Complete consultation with HAI as well as HAI's application form.
- Sign TCB's retainer agreement.
- Complete consultation with supervised agency.
- Completion of home study, PRIDE training and approval in province.
- Compile dossier and family profile booklets.
- Once home study approval is received and dossier has been compiled and processed (notarized & authenticated), documents will be submitted to HAI.
- Open IRCC application.
- Match received and reviewed.
- Baby is born and referral documents received.
- Family travels to the local state (either before birth or at time of birth).

Timelines:

- Completion of home study (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province varies from 4 – 16 weeks.
- Processing of adoption dossier (Canada and USA) averages 4 – 6 weeks.
- Wait for proposal approximately 1 – 3 years.
- Travel to local state prior to birth or at time of birth (unless prior agreement has been reached).
- **One trip of up to 45 days is required.**

ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS – USA - HEARTSENT

1. Retainer Fee \$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee \$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,700CAD plus tax will be invoiced and each year thereafter until home with child.)

*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

HEARTSENT FEES/3RD PARTY FEES (USD) (MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDER FEES WHICH VARY)

*all fees are estimated

Adoption Application/Dossier Review	\$ 1,000.00USD
Program Fee	12,500.00USD
Administration Fee	500.00USD
Monitoring & Oversight Fee (IAAME)	850.00USD
Match/Birth Parent Coordination Supervision	5,000.00USD
Post Placement Services	1,800.00USD
Third Party Fees (estimated - AdoptHelp)	37,500.00USD
Birth Mother Living Expenses	4,000 - 12,000.00USD
State Fees (attorney, court, agency)	6,000 - 16,000.00USD

3RD PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate)	\$3,000.00CAD
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,500.00CAD
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00CAD
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00CAD
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00CAD

Additional Sibling Fee: At time of proposal acceptance, a fee of \$3,000CAD plus tax will be invoiced to client for each additional child adopted.

Please note: There may be other costs that will vary (i.e. travel costs such as airfare and accommodation). All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

FEE SCHEDULE – USA - HEARTSENT

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL 3RD PARTY FEES)

Please note that either your Program Manager or our Admin Assistant will provide you with the e-transfer, mailing address (cheque, money order) and/or wire information you will require. Please note that ALL fees must be paid through The Children's Bridge (and not directly to HAI or a 3 rd party service provider).			
	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
HAI Application Fee	\$1,010USD	Submitted with HAI application.	Pay directly to HAI.
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
HAI Administration Fee, Program and Monitoring & Oversight (IAAME) Fee	\$13,860USD	Sent with completed country dossier.	US Bank Draft, wire or money order payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
*3 rd Party Service Provider (estimated - AdoptHelp)	\$37,500USD	Due per schedule as outlined in signed contract.	As above.
*HAI Match/Birth Coordination Supervision and Post Placement Services	\$6,810USD	Payable upon acceptance of proposed match.	As above.
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,700CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until home with child. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

*Fees payable to 3rd party service provider (i.e. AdoptHelp, legal, court fees, State agency) will be outlined in an agreement between the 3rd party provider and client. All fees must be paid to The Children's Bridge for furtherance to US providers.

Please Note: As fees charged by third-party supervised providers will vary according to provider, state and the individual match, some fees may **not** be included in this retainer agreement. All fees will be paid to *The Children's Bridge in Trust* for third-party Supervised Providers.

HIV + KIDS ADOPTION PROGRAM

General Information:

- The HIV+ Kids Adoption Program is run in conjunction with many of the adoption programs The Children's Bridge facilitates adoptions from.
- Families in process to adopt an HIV+ child from other Canadian adoption agencies can also access the supports and resources the HIV+ Kids Program offers for a small one-time fee.

Considerations:

- Some countries have less stringent requirements if the adoptive families are open to special needs – check with the Adoption Program Manager of the country you hope to adopt from to see if this applies to your situation.
- Families must live within driving distance, or be willing to make frequent trips to a major centre that offers specialized pediatric HIV/AIDS care and support
- Many private drug benefit companies cover ARV's and other necessary care. Other resources on provincial drug benefit programs can be found at: http://www.drugcoverage.ca/p_benefit_on.asp#1

Programs:

- **India** – all ages of children living with HIV are waiting for families - some program requirements may be waived. Please contact Darlene Catton for more information.

Supports:

- Lending Library – Members have access to resources stocked in The Children's Bridge Lending Library such as books and articles on issues such as: Pediatric HIV treatment and care, Disclosure and Confidentiality, Childcare and HIV, etc. For a complete list of resources on HIV please email Darlene.
- Mentoring Program – This mentoring program is currently under development but aims to link families who are already parenting children living with HIV with those who are in the process.
- Access to educational courses and online support forums

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session (<http://www.childrensbridge.com>)
- Become a Member of The Children's Bridge.
- Request a copy of the HIV+ Kids Adoption program Booklet.
- Choose a country program that you would like to adopt from and that you meet all of the requirements for.
- Read, research and make connections! If you would like more information or additional resources regarding adopting a child who is living with HIV, please contact the HIV Program Manager.
- Set up a time for your intake. All families considering adopting a child with special needs must first set-up a screening appointment with the HIV Adoption Program Manager as well as the Program Manager from the country from which they wish to adopt. The purpose of this phone call is to:
 - ✂ To discuss the implications of adopting a child with special needs;
 - ✂ To ensure adoption, and more specifically special needs adoption, will be a good fit for your family;

- 📌 To provide you with additional resources and information you may require before choosing to proceed;
- 📌 To begin the screening process, you must hold a current Children's Bridge membership;
- 📌 Ensure you meet the requirements for the country from which you hope to adopt, Canadian citizenship and immigration, as well as requirements your province of residence has for prospective adoptive parents;
- 📌 Receive and read the required reading and make an appointment for your screening appointment/conference call;

If you are adopting as a couple, **BOTH** members of the couple must take part in the entire screening process. The phone call will take approximately 20-30 minutes. If you are in the Ottawa area, and in person appointment is highly recommended.

Please note: This appointment is for a **screening appointment only**. We will not be able to provide retainers, nor guarantee you a spot in the adoption program of your choice at the time of your call or visit.

Basic Information about HIV and adoption

- 📌 "HIV" stands for "Human Immunodeficiency Virus". HIV is a virus that attacks healthy immune system cells, because it needs cells of a living (human) organism to reproduce.
- 📌 HIV is **not** transmitted through sweat, tears, nasal mucous, saliva, feces, urine, shaking hands, kissing, insect bites, sharing cups, utensils, plates or food.
- 📌 HIV **is** transmitted through sexual fluids, blood and breast milk.
- 📌 The common cold virus can survive outside the body for **up to 72 hours**. The HIV virus can survive outside the body **for minutes**, or at the very most in a controlled laboratory setting, for up to two hours.
- 📌 From clinical experience up until this point, the average lifespan of a North American child who is HIV+ and is on antiretroviral medication (ARV's) is roughly the same as an uninfected child/adult in North America.
- 📌 Children living with HIV can be adopted through many of our adoption programs.
- 📌 Most of the adoption process does not change, although your home study will need to specify your openness to HIV.
- 📌 Adoptive families who are considering adopting a child living with HIV should research the following issues:
 - Disclosure
 - Anti-retrovirals (ARV's) and pediatric HIV care
 - Health care and drug coverage
 - Stigma and discrimination

If you would like more information or additional resources regarding adopting a child who is living with HIV, please contact Darlene Catton at Darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

INDIA

Adoption Program Assistant: Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112

Email: Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com

General Information:

- Program opened in 2005.
- Open to residents in all provinces except Quebec.
- Open to those of Indian descent, overseas citizens of India and also non-Indians.

Considerations:

- Both parents are required to complete one trip of approximately 3 weeks. Some provinces require two trips (e.g. Hyderabad).
- Children in need of families due to poverty and single parenthood.
- Majority of the children reside in orphanages with voluntary and professional staff.
- Both boys and girls are waiting for families
- Children range in age from 18 months (and up) at time of referral.
- Older children are also waiting for families.
- Sibling groups are available for adoption and applicants must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Family cannot specify sex unless in exceptional circumstances. Please consult with Program Manager.
- Brief child study and medical report are provided.

Requirements:

- Age requirements: Adoptive parent's composite age must be *under* 85 years in order to be eligible to apply to adopt a child who is 0- 2 years of age; under 90 years to adopt a child 2-4 years of age; under 100 years to adopt a child 4 - 8 years of age and under 110 years to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
 - All families must meet the age requirements at the time their dossier is uploaded to CARA for review and approval.
- Single men or women: Single adoptive parents are eligible to adopt. The parent must be over 30 and under 40 years to adopt a child 0- 2 years of age; under 45 years to adopt a child 2-4 years of age; under 50 years to adopt a child 4 – 8 years of age and less than 55 years to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- The minimum age difference between the child and either of the prospective adoptive parents should not be less than 25 years.
- Married couples must have a minimum two-year stable marital relationship (no common-law).
- Families must maintain an adequate financial portfolio to provide a good upbringing for the child.
- Applicants should be physically, mentally, and emotionally stable; financially capable; motivated to adopt a child; and should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- Both applicants must be free from criminal record.
- Couples with two (2) or more children in the home already are only eligible to adopt a child through the special needs program.

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session (<http://www.childrensbridge.com>) and/or an India Information Session.

- Complete the intake application and schedule your intake appointment (via Zoom) with the India Program Manager.
- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Complete dossier.
- File notarized by The Children's Bridge then sent to Canadian Global Affairs and the India High Commission or Consulate for authentication and legalization.
- Completed dossier is uploaded to the CARINGS database where it will be reviewed and approved by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in New Delhi.
- Following approval, the family will wait to be matched with a child by CARA. Families may not specify a child, orphanage or area of the country from which they would prefer to adopt.
- Child's referral comes to The Children's Bridge who will contact the family directly (Ontario) or Central Authority.
- Family consults with Adoption Practitioner and physician and is requested to accept or decline the proposed referral within 30 days.
- Both parents are required to travel to India only once the adoption order has been issued, along with all travel documents and Part Two IRCC approval. Timeline from child proposal to travel is approximately 9 – 12 months.
- Post placement reports are required for 2 years after the adoption is complete (at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months) with Adoption Practitioner.

Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Home study approval in province takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- Timelines for in-country process are inconsistent.
 - Families with OCI or NRI status are prioritized and most receive proposals in approximately 6 – 12 months.
 - Non-Indian families are often matched within 30 – 36 months following dossier submission to CARA.
 - Timeline will also vary depending on openness to age range, sex, etc.
- Timeline from child proposal to travel is approximately 9 – 12 months.
- Stay in India is approximately 3 weeks but families should be flexible.

The above timelines are an estimate only and many factors will impact this timeline. Every family's timeline will be unique.

ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - INDIA

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Retainer Fee | \$5,085.00CAD (tax included) |
| 2. Adoption Facilitation Fee | \$15,836.90CAD (tax included) |
| 3. Dossier Processing Fee | \$1,130.00CAD (tax included) |
| 4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,700CAD plus tax will be invoiced and each year thereafter until home with child.) | |

*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

INDIA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY - USD)

In-country Coordinators Disbursements	\$3,000.00
In-country adoption fees	5,500.00

For conversion to Canadian dollars go to www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi

3RD PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	\$3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,700.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Notarization of Proposal Acceptance Dossier	500 – 1,000.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Travel Visas (for 2 adults)	200.00

Additional Sibling Fee: At time of proposal acceptance, a fee of \$3,000CAD plus tax and \$1,000USD will be invoiced to client for each additional child adopted.

Please note: There may be other costs that will vary (i.e. travel costs such as airfare and accommodation). All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

FEE SCHEDULE – INDIA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL INDIA OR ALL 3RD PARTY FEES)

Please note that either your Program Manager or our Admin Assistant will provide you with the e-transfer, mailing address (cheque, money order) and/or wire information you will require.

	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	As above.
Dossier Processing Fee	\$1,130.00CAD tax included	As above.	As above.
In-country Coordinators Disbursements	\$3,000USD	As above.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
In-country adoption fees	\$5,500USD	Submitted with accepted child proposal.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,700CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until home with child. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

INDIA WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

Adoption Program Assistant: Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112

Email: Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com

General Information:

- Program opened in 2005.
- Open to all provinces except Quebec.
- Program is open to families with NRI or OCI status in India, as well as those of non-Indian descent.
- Applicants should be open to a child of either sex and also a child 18 months and up at time of referral.
- As well as special medical needs, families who are open to healthy, older children (7+ years) and/or a sibling group will be processed through the Waiting Children program.
- Applicants who want to adopt siblings must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Common special needs include (but are not limited to):
 - HIV, Hepatitis B or C, hearing impairment, visual impairment, missing limbs, ambiguous genitalia, development delays, achondroplasia (Dwarfism), facial and/or limb deformities.

Considerations:

- Both parents are required to complete one trip of approximately 3 weeks. Some provinces require two trips (e.g. Hyderabad).
- Children in need of families due to poverty and single parenthood.
- Majority of the children reside in orphanages with voluntary and professional staff.
- Both boys and girls are waiting for families
- Children range in age from 18 months (and up) at time of referral.
- Older children are also waiting for families.
- Applicants who want to adopt siblings must be open to children up to age 8 (minimum).
- Brief child study and medical report are provided.

Requirements:

- Age requirements: Adoptive parent's composite age must be *under* 85 years in order to be eligible to apply to adopt a child who is 0- 2 years of age; under 90 years to adopt a child 2-4 years of age; under 100 years to adopt a child 4 - 8 years of age and under 110 years to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
 - All families must meet the age requirements at the time their dossier is uploaded to CARA for review and approval.
- Single men or women: Single adoptive parents are eligible to adopt. The parent must be over 30 and under 40 years to adopt a child 0- 2 years of age; under 45 years to adopt a child 2-4 years of age; under 50 years to adopt a child 4 – 8 years of age and less than 55 years to adopt a child over 8 years of age.
- The minimum age difference between the child and either of the prospective adoptive parents should not be less than 25 years.
- Married couples must have a minimum two year stable marital relationship (no common-law).
- Families must maintain an adequate financial portfolio to provide a good upbringing for the child.
- Applicants should be physically, mentally and emotionally stable; financially capable; motivated to adopt a child; and should not have any life-threatening medical condition.
- Both applicants must be free from criminal record.
- Couples with three or more children in the home already are only eligible to adopt a child with special needs.

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session and/or an India Information Session.
(<http://www.childrensbridge.com>)
- Complete the intake application and schedule an intake appointment (via Zoom) with the India Program Manager.
- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Complete India dossier.
- File notarized by The Children's Bridge then sent to Canadian Global Affairs and the India High Commission or Consulate for authentication and legalization.
- Completed dossier is uploaded to the CARINGS database where it will be reviewed and approved by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in New Delhi.
- Following approval, the family will wait to be matched with a child by CARA. Families may not specify a child, orphanage or area of the country from which they would prefer to adopt.
- Child's referral comes to The Children's Bridge who will contact the family directly (Ontario) or Central Authority.
- Family consults with Adoption Practitioner and physician and is requested to accept or decline the proposed referral within 30 days.
- Both parents are required to travel to India only once the adoption order has been issued, along with all travel documents and Part Two IRCC approval. Timeline from child proposal to travel is approximately 9 – 12 months.
- Post placement reports are required for 2 years after the adoption is complete (at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months) with Adoption Practitioner.

Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Home study approval in province takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- Timelines for in-country process are inconsistent.
 - Families with OCI or NRI status are prioritized and most receive proposals in approximately 6 - 18 months.
 - Non-Indian families are often matched within 30 – 36 months following dossier submission to CARA.
 - Timeline will also vary depending on openness to age range, sex, etc.
- Timeline from child proposal to travel is approximately 9 – 12 months.
- Stay in India is approximately 3 weeks.

The above timelines are an estimate only and many factors will impact this timeline. Every family's timeline will be unique.

ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - INDIA

WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

1. Retainer Fee	\$5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Dossier Processing Fee	\$1,130.00CAD (tax included)
4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,700CAD plus tax will be invoiced and each year thereafter until home with child.)	

*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

INDIA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY - USD)

In-country Coordinators Disbursements	\$3,000.00
In-country adoption fees	5,500.00

For conversion to Canadian dollars go to www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi

3RD PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	\$3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,700.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Notarization of Proposal Acceptance Dossier	500 – 1,000.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Travel Visas (for 2 adults)	200.00

Additional Sibling Fee: At time of proposal acceptance, a fee of \$3,000CAD plus tax and \$1,000USD will be invoiced to client for each additional child adopted.

Please note: There may be other costs that will vary (i.e. travel costs such as airfare and accommodation). All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

FEE SCHEDULE – INDIA WAITING CHILDREN PROGRAM

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL INDIA OR ALL 3RD PARTY FEES)

Please note that either your Program Manager or our Admin Assistant will provide you with the e-transfer, mailing address (cheque, money order) and/or wire information you will require.

	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	As above.
Dossier Processing Fee	\$1,130.00CAD tax included	As above.	As above.
In-country Coordinators Disbursements	\$3,000USD	As above.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
In-country adoption fees	\$5,500USD	Submitted with accepted child proposal.	Certified cheque or money order in USD payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,700CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until home with child. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

SOUTH KOREA

Please note that we are currently not taking new applications for this program.

Adoption Program Manager:

Lenore Cork-Lemay, 613-226-2112

Email: Lenore.cork-lemay@childrensbridge.com

General Information:

- Korea has been involved in international adoption since the 1950's.
- This program is open to ONTARIO residents only.
- Korea Welfare Services (KWS) will place a limited number of children with our agency. This quota can change each year.
- Korea will place children of mixed ethnicity, if available; however, this must be indicated in the home study and Letter of Application.

Considerations:

- The stigma around single parenthood is a common reason that there are children waiting for families in Korea.
- Domestic adoption is on the rise in Korea and healthy children are placed domestically. Most children waiting for international adoption will have mild to moderate needs as outlined below.
- Most of the children will be up to 18 months of age at referral and up to 24 months at placement.
- **The applicants must be open to accepting a child who has been exposed to alcohol and smoking in-utero as well as minor to moderate special medical needs (i.e., low birth weight, family history of mental illness, epilepsy, heart condition, asthma, hearing/vision impairment, cerebral palsy, neurological conditions, etc.).**
- After birth, children are cared for by their birthmother in hospital for one week. Children are then placed in one of the KWS Baby Reception Homes until a professional foster home is found for the child, typically at 4 to 8 months of age.
- Both boys and girls (mostly boys) are waiting for families but a family cannot specify sex.
- Comprehensive health information is provided with referral along with a history of the child and some familial information as well.
- Adoption is finalized in Korea.
- Neither Korea nor the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services will permit placement of a baby if the couple is pregnant or has a baby less than 18 months of age.
- The applicants are aware that a child presented to them in an international adoption will have a limited medical and social history and are aware of the risks inherent in this.

Requirements:

- Adoptive applicants must be over 25 and under 40 years of age at time of dossier submission and under 45 years of age at time of anticipated court date (child proposal). Please consult with Program Manager prior to proceeding if either applicant is 40 years old.
- Must be married for a minimum of 3 years. NO single applicants or same sex couples accepted.
- Must have a minimum of high school education and no more than 4 children in the home.
- ONE divorce permitted for each applicant.
- At least one of a couple MUST be a Canadian citizen.
- Must have completed psychological testing before home study is complete as your Adoption Practitioner will require the results to finish his/her report.
- Second time adopters (from Korea) are required to complete psychological testing if it wasn't done for their first adoption.

- Cannot be notably overweight (Body Mass Index (BMI) cannot exceed 30. Go to www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi to calculate your BMI.).
- Cannot have more than one child from a country other than South Korea. Children in the home should be physically and emotionally healthy.
- Cannot have history of serious medical condition, chronic illnesses, infectious or degenerative diseases, seizure disorder or severe physical disabilities or deformities. No history of mental health diagnosis or treatment with or without psychotropic medications, or history of counselling at any time.
- Must be 5 years cancer free.
- Chronic treatable medical issues may be considered on an individual basis. Stable and mild conditions, such as: migraines, allergies, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, asthma, and benign heart conditions where no treatment is recommended may be allowed (please contact Program Manager if clarification is required).
- No arrest history.
- Applicants' combined family income must be over \$50,000 gross annually. This may be reviewed by KWS if there are currently children in the home and the gross income is close to \$50,000 annually.
- South Korea is conservative in terms of racial and religious diversity. If your family has a diverse composition, please contact us to determine if the Korea program will be an option for your family.

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session (<http://www.childrensbridge.com>) and/or a Korea Information Session.
- Complete the intake application and schedule your intake appointment (via Zoom) with the Program Manager.
- Completion of a home study (including PRIDE) and approval in Ontario.
- File sent to Korea and proposal received by The Children's Bridge.
- Paperwork can be no more than 6 months old from the date on the paperwork when sent to Korea.
- Two trips required. First trip for court appearance and **both adoptive parents must attend**.
- Child's travel visa will be issued once the adoption is finalized and confirmed (approx. 6 – 8 weeks after court appearance).
- Second trip after visa/ready to travel is issued and only one parent must travel.
- Family must apply for child's Canadian citizenship as soon as they arrive back in Canada with their child's Adoption Order. Family will send The Children's Bridge a copy of the Canadian citizenship certificate so that the adoption file can be closed in Korea.
- Six post placement reports required (over 12 months) including 3 home visits with the Adoption Practitioner.

Timelines:

- Home study completion varies (average time 3 – 4 months).
- Approval in Ontario takes between 4 and 16 weeks.
- Receipt of proposal takes anywhere from 2-3 years (dependent on the applicant's openness to needs of the child).
- Emigration Permission and adoption finalization in Korea can take up to 6 months after referral is accepted.
- First trip to Korea for court appearance 6 – 8 months after proposal acceptance sent to Korea. Court will approve the adoption about 5 business days (estimated) after court hearing. Following this, the 2-week revocation period begins.
- Adoption finalized/Adoption Order confirmed approximately 2 weeks after revocation period is over.

- Issuance of travel notice takes 6 – 8 weeks after revocation period and the Adoption Order has been issued. At least one parent must then travel to receive their child.
- Apply for Canadian Citizenship IMMEDIATELY once you arrive in Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) can take anywhere from 6 to 24 months to process this application.

ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - SOUTH KOREA

1. Retainer Fee \$ 5,085.00CAD (tax included)
2. Adoption Facilitation Fee \$15,836.90CAD (tax included)
3. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual administration fee of \$1,700CAD plus tax will be invoiced and each year thereafter until home with child.)

*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

KOREA FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Korea Welfare Services (KWS) (*payable in CAD by money order or certified cheque to The Children's Bridge who will then wire the payment to KWS*) \$22,300.00CAD

3RD PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker - Home Study (estimate only)	3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner - Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate only)	1,200.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Psychological Testing (estimate for 2 people – insurance may cover some fees)	1,500 – 3,000.00
Notarization of Proposal Acceptance Dossier	500 - 1,000.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances for 2 (Interpol, R.C.M.P., local)	150.00

Additional Sibling Fee: At time of proposal acceptance, a fee of \$3,000CAD plus tax will be invoiced to client for each additional child adopted.

Please note: There may be other costs that will vary (i.e. travel costs such as airfare and accommodation). All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the time they are due.

FEE SCHEDULE SOUTH KOREA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL KOREA OR ALL 3RD PARTY FEES)

Please note that either your Program Manager or our Admin Assistant will provide you with the e-transfer, mailing address (cheque, money order) and/or wire information you will require.

	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	As above.
KWS Fee	\$22,300CAD	As above.	Payable to <i>The Children's Bridge In Trust</i> by certified cheque or money order.
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,700 plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until home with child. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

THAILAND

Please note: Thailand (DCY) has advised that we are not able to send files in 2023 for those adopting from the mainstream program. However, we can accept and submit files for those open to adopting a child over the age of 4 and/or with mild to moderate special medical needs. We can accept a limited number of files for the TRCCH.

Please consult with Program Manager before proceeding.

Adoption Program Manager: Darlene Catton, 905-836-6776,

Email: darlene.catton@childrensbridge.com

General Information:

- Adoption is finalized in Thailand in conjunction with the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver and both parents along with their child must travel to one of these places to register the adoption.
- Preference is given to families with fertility issues or those with only one child.
- Both parents **must** attend the mandatory AdopTALK training. AdopTALK is currently being offered via Zoom.
- We work with the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Thai Red Cross Children Home (TRCCH) - the Program Manager will determine the particular agency a file will be sent to based on the requirements of the agency, applicant's qualifications and openings available.
- The Children's Bridge receives a quota each year from the DCY and TRCCH indicating the number of files that can be sent in a given year. Confirm quota with the Program Manager before proceeding.
- We can accept one application from a single applicant each year. ***Our single quota is full for 2023 and 2024.***
- Open to all provinces except Quebec.
- Alberta residents only eligible to submit applications to the DCY (not TRCCH).

Considerations:

- Trip is up to 3 weeks in length.
- Children waiting for families due to socio-economic conditions and reside in children's homes (orphanages).
- Both boys and girls are in need of families (mostly boys). Families may request sex but must be prepared for a significantly longer wait for a girl. May request twins or siblings but this is rare.
- Older children and children with special medical needs are also waiting for families.
- Children will be approximately 16 months and up at proposal.

Requirements:

- Minimum age 25 years and up to a maximum age of 40 (male applicant can be up to 45). Some exceptions will apply. Consult with Program Manager.
- Couples with more than a 10-year age gap may not be eligible. Consult Program Manager.
- **Couples over 40 but under 48 who are open to children over the age of 4 and/or with special needs may be considered for this program.**
- Families with 3 or more children in the home will **not** be considered for this program.
- Families who have fertility issues should provide proof of same with a letter from their doctor.
- If adopting from the Thai Red Cross, can have no more than one child in the family already and must provide proof of infertility.
- No same sex or common law couples eligible.
- Must be married for a minimum of 2 years and have no more than 2 previous marriages.
- Must have a minimum of high school education.

- Must be in excellent physical and emotional health – some exceptions – consult Program Manager.
- Must not be taking any prescribed medication for anxiety or depression.
- Must be 5 years cancer free.
- Should not be notably overweight (no more than 30% of Body Mass Index (BMI)). Go to www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi to calculate your BMI.
- Sound financial position.
- One of a couple must be a Canadian citizen.
- Prospective applicants must be free from criminal record. You will NOT be eligible if you have a history of arrest by law enforcement, charged with a criminal offence or have a list of occurrences. This includes a child welfare record check (i.e. Children's Aid Society).
- No morticians may apply.

Process:

- Attend a Children's Bridge Information Session and/or Thailand Info Session. (<http://www.childrensbridge.com>)
- Complete the intake application and schedule your intake appointment (via Zoom) with the Program Manager.
- Completion of a home study and approval in province.
- Families must compile the Thailand dossier that includes a medical and psychological assessment.
- File sent for notarization at CCY Law, authentication at Global Affairs and legalization at the Royal Thai Embassy (Ottawa).
- Submission of IRCC application.
- Families receive their referral approximately 2 ½ - 4 years after their file is logged in at the DCY or TRCCH – this is an estimate only – proposals can come at any time and out of order and families must be prepared.
- Both parents must travel to Thailand to complete the adoption process (including an official interview) and will be in country for up to 3 weeks.
- Three post placement reports must be completed by a social worker/Adoption Practitioner, translated (by family) and sent to TCB for furtherance to Thailand.
- Once all post placement reports have been received, Thailand informs family that they can attend the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Vancouver to register the adoption (approximately 1 – 2 years after arrival home).
- Once registered, families can then commence paperwork to obtain permanent residency, legal name change and finally, citizenship.

Timeline:

- Completion of home study (average time 3 – 6 months).
- Approval in province varies from 4 – 16 weeks.
- Family submits their Thailand dossier to the Program Manager at The Children's Bridge for processing that can take up to 8 weeks.
- The family's adoption dossier is then sent to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) or the Thai Red Cross Children Home in Thailand (determined by the Program Manager).
- Families should begin their immigration paperwork approximately 1 year after their dossier has been received in Thailand. Instructions are provided.
- Wait for referral is approximately 2 ½ - 4 years (once file is received in Thailand).
- A copy of the referral along with acceptance documents is sent to the provincial ministry who issue the appropriate documents which are then sent to Thailand.
- Families must prepare a letter of acceptance, accepting the child offered (sample letter will be supplied) which is sent to Thailand with a care package.
- Travel to Thailand occurs approximately 10 – 12 weeks (DCY) or 6 – 8 months (TRCCH) after referral acceptance.

- Timelines do fluctuate. These are estimates only.

ESTIMATED ADOPTION COSTS - THAILAND

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Retainer Fee | \$5,085.00CAD (tax included) |
| 2. Adoption Facilitation Fee | \$15,836.90CAD (tax included) |
| 3. In-country Services, Translations (home study, proposal, ,
birth certificate, house registration) and Coordinator's Disbursements | \$6,220.00CAD |
| 4. Administration Fee (once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date, the annual
administration fee of \$1,700CAD plus tax will be invoiced and each year thereafter until home with child.) | |

*A complete breakdown of the above fees is available upon request.

THAILAND FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Child's Embassy medical, photographs, registration, etc.	300.00
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3RD PARTY FEES (ESTIMATES ONLY)

Adoption Practitioner/Social Worker – Home Study (fees fluctuate across Canada)	3,000.00
Adoption Practitioner Referral/Post Placement Reports (estimate)	1,700.00
Ministry Mandated PRIDE Training (Ontario families only – approx. cost for 2 people)	1,500.00
Psychological Assessment (estimate)	800.00
Immigration Sponsorship	150.00
Police Clearances (Interpol, local)	150.00
Royal Thai Embassy	90.00
Translation of Post Placement Reports (3) (estimate)	1,000.00

Additional Sibling Fee: At time of proposal acceptance, a fee of \$3,000CAD plus tax will be invoiced to client for each additional child adopted.

Please note: There may be other costs that will vary (i.e. travel costs such as airfare and accommodation) including the cost for both parents and their child to travel to the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa or Vancouver for a mandatory meeting to register the adoption. All fees are set and charged by third parties and must be paid at the current rate at the time they are due.

FEE SCHEDULE – THAILAND

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE MAY NOT INCLUDE ALL OF THE THAILAND OR 3RD PARTY FEES)

Please note that either your Program Manager or our Admin Assistant will provide you with the e-transfer, mailing address (cheque, money order) and/or wire information you will require.			
	Fee	Due Date	Payment Method
Retainer Fee	\$5,085CAD tax included	Submitted with signed Retainer.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .
Adoption Facilitation Fee	\$15,836.90CAD tax included	Sent with completed country dossier.	As above.
In Country Fees, Translation, Coordinators Disbursements	\$6,220.00CAD	As above.	As above.
Embassy of Thailand	\$90CAD	As above.	Money order payable to "Royal Thai Embassy, Ottawa".
Annual Admin. Fee	\$1,700CAD plus applicable taxes	Invoiced annually once the adoption process exceeds one year from retainer date until home with child. Payable upon receipt of invoice.	E-transfer, wire or cheque payable to <i>The Children's Bridge in Trust</i> .

COUNTRIES AT A GLANCE

FACTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR ADOPTION PROGRAM

	SOUTH KOREA	THAILAND	INDIA	USA - HEARTSENT
Age of Child	18 – 24 months at placement	16 months and up at referral	18 months & up	0 – 14 days at time of placement
Sex	Mostly male (cannot specify sex)	Both boys and girls	Both boys and girls but mostly girls	Male and Female
Time to Referral (approx.)	2 – 3 years from time file is received in Korea.	3 - 4 years	Inconsistent (6 months - 3 years)	1 – 3 years
Health Info Received with Referral	Comprehensive	Limited	Limited	Comprehensive (child and familial)
Familial History	Some birth & familial history included in referral package	Some history may be included	Some history may be provided	Birth family history will be provided.
Marital Status	No singles – married min. 3 years.	Married min. 2 years.	Single men and women and married couples (2 years).	Single, same sex, heterosexual married and common-law couples (except Michigan).
Trip	1 – 2 trips	1 trip, approx. 2 - 3 weeks.	1 trip, 3 weeks (unless adopting from Hyderabad then 2 trips)	Varies but should expect up to 45 days in country
*Estimated Cost	\$65,000 - \$67,000CAD	\$45,000 - \$47,000CAD	\$45,000 - \$47,000CAD	\$110,000CAD and up

***Please note:** Estimated costs do not include flights, accommodation, meals, incidentals, 3rd party service providers, etc. Please confirm all costs with Program Manager prior to submission of fees.

NEXT STEPS

Review

- ❖ Review the information provided to ensure you meet all requirements of the country you wish to adopt from.

Research

- ❖ It is very important that you research possible health (physical AND emotional) conditions of adopted children, specifically from the country you are interested in. In the Member's section of our website you'll find an entire section devoted to health issues.

Schedule an Intake (1-Year Membership included)

- ❖ The purpose of the intake is to ensure applicants meet all program requirements and assess the applicant's openness to learning and understanding adoption and to raising a child of a different race (if applicable) and culture. The intake will take approximately 60 – 90 minutes and both applicants must participate. Contact the Program Manager of the program you wish to adopt from to obtain an intake application. Once submitted and reviewed, the Program Manager will contact you to schedule your intake meeting.

Begin Your Home Study & PRIDE Training (if applicable)

- ❖ The first step with any adoption is to begin the home study process. A link to a complete list of approved Adoption Practitioners can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/adoption-practitioners#section-3> . Now is also a good time to enquire about PRIDE Training dates.

Retain the Services of an Agency

- ❖ Once you have decided on a country and have chosen your Adoption Practitioner, you will need to retain the services of a licensed adoption agency. This process requires filling out the Retainer Agreement (sent to you from your Program Manager upon request) and sending it, along with the appropriate fees to The Children's Bridge.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tel: (613) 226-2112
Email: info@childrensbridge.com
www.childrensbridge.com

To ensure that The Children's Bridge provides you with optimal service and information, please complete this membership form in its entirety. Once you have completed this form, email it to info@childrensbridge.com and we will provide you with payment details. If you are missing some information (i.e. Adoption Practitioner), you can still submit this form to become a member and forward us missing information when available.

Please be advised that any and all information provided in this application shall be for the exclusive and confidential use of The Children's Bridge. No information provided herein shall be released, transmitted or transferred in any way to any third party without the member's express written consent.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Marital Status: Married ☐ How long? _____
Single ☐

	APPLICANT 1 INFORMATION	APPLICANT 2 INFORMATION
First Name:		
Last Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Address: (Courier address if P.O. Box)		
Phone # (Home):		
Phone # (Business):		
Cell Phone #:		
Email Address:		

Adoption Practitioner: (include address, phone # and e-mail address)	
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YOUR CHILDREN:

Details (Please include all children in your family.):

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

STATUS

Please select one of the following options:

- ☐ Membership for services only or renewing member.
- ☐ Have not yet chosen our country; please contact us to discuss options.
- ☐ Have chosen country and require a detailed package for (select **one** only):
 - ☐ HIV
 - ☐ South Korea
 - ☐ India
 - ☐ India Waiting Children
 - ☐ Thailand
 - ☐ USA, Heartsent

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Subscription: ☐ 1-year membership @ \$50.00 plus tax (\$56.50)
 ☐ 3-year membership @ \$130.00 plus tax (\$146.90)

Payment Method:

☐ E-transfer ☐ Cheque ☐ Wire