



# 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



Adoptive Families  
Association of BC

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

*This year, AFABC worked hard to keep ahead of the changing needs of adoptive families.*

This past year the Adoptive Families Association of BC celebrated four decades of success, engaged with the BC adoption community, and built new resources for adoptive parents and youth in care.

For our 40th anniversary, we hosted community celebrations across the province, held a big open house at our provincial office, and created videos that asked “what does family mean to you?”

The voices of families guide much of the work that we do. Through an intensive community engagement project we learned that adoptive parents crave support, education, and information of all kinds. Pre-adoptive parents want relevant information, regular contact with supports, and access to resources. The primary concern for youth in foster care is having their basics needs met.

We also developed Adoption Basics, which is currently in beta test and will officially launch in November. This online info session breaks down barriers for prospective parents who are considering adoption by giving them access to important adoption information in an interactive, accessible way that fits into their busy schedules.

The Lifelong Connections project awarded a total of \$88,000 in funds to 18 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis child and family-serving organizations from Chilliwack to Fort St James, and from Golden

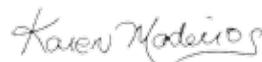
to Bella Bella. The funds supported innovative community events and activities that promoted permanency for Indigenous kids and youth in foster care, and educated people about how to get involved in meeting this need.

Our AgedOut.com website added Community Connectors as a new way for youth in and from government care to access resources and information. Located in Prince George, Okanagan/Thompson, Lower Mainland, and Fraser Valley, these Connectors teach their communities how to use the website.

All of this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the donors who believe in the work we do, the Board and volunteers who generously donate their time, and the staff who bring the organization to life. Thank you everyone for your dedication and support.



Stephen Reichert, Chair



Karen Madeiros, Executive Director

## Board of Directors

Stephen Reichert, Chair  
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Jimmy Lai, Treasurer  
Adrienne Murphy, Secretary  
Evangeline Zhou  
Leslie Godwin  
Lydia Elder  
Marla Chandler-Soanes  
Merel Veldhuis

## Management Team

Karen Madeiros  
Helen Lamb  
Mary Caros  
Taryn Danford

## Vision

A family for every child

## Mission

To promote and support adoption



# CHILDREN

*Every child and youth is one caring adult away from being a success story.*

## THE NEED

Each year there are more than 1,000 children and youth in government care in BC who are available to be adopted and 7,000 in other stages of the foster care system. Thousands more live in orphanages or foster care systems in other countries around the world.

These children and youth need a permanent place to belong. They need a network of supports so that they grow up knowing where they came from, who they belong to, where home is, and who will be “family” throughout their lives and into the next generation.

## OUR RESPONSE

Last year, 74 children and youth were referred to our **Child Specific Recruitment** team. Twenty-three children were matched with prospective adoptive parents; eight moved in with their new families; and 15 adoptions were finalized.

Across BC, 1,887 children, youth, and their parents attended 56 **family social and educational events**, like picnics, aquarium family nights, matching events, and pizza parties!

One hundred and sixty children, youth, and their parents camped out at the three **adoptive family camps** we hosted this year. Camp Homewood Family Camp and Timberline Ranch Camp were hosted in the spring, and the new Cultural Family Camp took place in the fall in partnership with Cowichan Tribes.

This year, we were proud to work with our First Nations and Métis partners in supporting culturally and community-informed permanency solutions for children and youth. The **Lifelong Connections** project supported 18 BC First Nations and Métis child and family-serving organizations in developing local permanency activities.

56

family social  
and educational  
events

160

attendees at  
family camps

23

adoption  
matches

# YOUTH

*Youth in foster care need permanent, positive, healthy connections and real-world, real-life skills to survive and thrive after age 19.*



## THE NEED

More than half of the children waiting to be adopted in BC are over the age of six. By the time they turn 18, these youth will have moved schools six times on average. Eighty percent won't have finished high school. Each year, 700 youth age out of foster care at 19 with little or no permanent connections to adults. Youth in care need permanent connections, educational resources, and life skills to thrive as they transition into adulthood—whether or not they're adopted.

## OUR RESPONSE

Teens in foster care who work with our **Wendy's Wonderful Kids** (WWK) recruiters are three times more likely to find permanence than youth who are served by another form of adoption preparation and recruitment. This year, WWK partnered with Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society resulting in several referrals and one child placed for adoption.

The Speak-Out Youth Group (SYG) hosted two workshops to prepare youth in foster care to advocate for themselves and make presentations about being a youth in care. They also created a companion **Strategic Sharing workbook**.

SYG launched a new **podcast project** in collaboration with FirstCall BC. The podcast adds creative content to the Speak-Out Youth Zone website while also teaching members new skills such as podcast production, script writing, and voice control.

From 31 total applications, four adoptees and youth from foster care received a \$1,000 bursary through the **Howard Legacy Youth Fund and AFABC Youth Bursary**.

AgedOut.com, our online resource for youth in and from foster care, almost doubled its total number of users and saw a 300% increase in rewards that were earned and delivered to youth in and from foster care. The increase in users this year is thanks to community outreach through the new **Community Connector program**. Four Connectors across BC deliver workshops about how to access AgedOut.com and the resources it provides. AgedOut.com also engaged with over 375 youth to gain knowledge of their needs, desires, and wants.

Our 2017 Community Survey also looked at the need for youth in foster care. Having their basics needs met was their primary concern.

416

AgedOut rewards delivered to youth

seven

Speak-Out Youth Group meetings

1479

visits to the Speak-Out Youth Zone website

2456

users on AgedOut.com



## FAMILIES

*Adoptive families are empowered when they have the right tools to support their kids and themselves, including a strong and supportive network of peers and professionals.*

### THE NEED

New and experienced parents alike need training to help them navigate the unique parenting, cultural, social, and health needs of an adoptive family. And while adoptive families are unique in their strengths and challenges, we know that they all thrive with the advice, support, and kinship of others who have been in their shoes.

### OUR RESPONSE

More than 400 people started their adoption journey by getting information from our **Adopt BC Kids Information Line**.

This year, 1,313 parents accessed **adoption education** training, including sessions on brain development, FASD awareness, and attachment. More families were able to complete required adoption education thanks to specialized Adoption Education Programs like Child in the Home.

Almost 1,400 parents sought **support and advice** from our adoption key workers and adoption support counsellors. The

support network is available to provide one-on-one support and counselling programs across the province.

The changing needs of parents were heard in our **2017 Community Survey**. The needs of pre-adoptive parents included access to relevant information at each adoption stage; regular contact and communication with social workers; feeling informed throughout the adoption process; and access to adoption resources. Post-adoptive parents need access to online and in-person supports, and information about typical parenting challenges and what's different when adoption is part of the picture.

56

family social  
and educational  
events

1379  
requests for  
support

1313

individuals attended  
education events

1090

Facebook support  
group members

# COMMUNITY

*Adoption strengthens communities.*



## THE NEED

One in five Canadians are touched by adoption, yet myths and stereotypes still exist about adoption, adoptive families, permanence, and children and youth in foster care. Connecting adoptive families to the community at large normalizes the adoption experience and helps the public understand how adoption shapes our history, culture, and society.

Informing the public about adoption requires sensitivity, humour, and an active presence in a variety of online and offline spaces.

## OUR RESPONSE

This year marked **AFABC's 40th anniversary**, and we went across the province to celebrate at events from Parksville to Kamloops and Victoria to Dawson Creek, and we hosted an open house at our provincial office in Burnaby.

**Adoption Awareness Month (AAM)** is proclaimed every November by the Province of BC, and the community comes together to celebrate. This year, families celebrated at nine different locations throughout the province

at events like Family Fun Day in Burnaby, a gymnastics event in Kelowna, and a pizza party in Fort St. John. In addition there were four public proclamations in the Village of Anmore, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Vancouver!

New for the 2017 AAM celebrations was **"Light Up for Adoption Awareness,"** a campaign that aimed to help normalize adoption and to celebrate adoptive families. Canada Place, the Vancouver Convention Centre, the Olympic Cauldron, Vancouver City Hall, BC Place, the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, Fort St. John City Hall, and Mr. P.G. in Prince George all illuminated in green, shining light on adoption.

This year, AFABC presented at several BC **conferences and workshops** including the Child Welfare Workshop Series for Journalists, A Child's Song Adoption conference, and the Adoption & Fertility Expo. We also joined our partner organizations exhibiting at Trout Lake National Aboriginal Day, BC Permanency Forum, and the Stand Together Conference.

126,553+  
unique visitors  
to [bcadopt.com](http://bcadopt.com)

15,720  
social media  
impressions

21  
mentions  
in news  
media

2400+  
readers of *Focus  
on Adoption  
magazine*

261  
AFABC  
members

36  
Summer  
Champions raised  
\$3,460 for AFABC

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TREASURER

Fiscal 2018 was a successful financial year for AFABC. Revenues were comparable to the prior year, and there was a slight increase in overall expenditures. Areas of focus continued to be regional adoption support, parental education and training programs, and resource development.

Government service contracts and project grants accounted for 64% of our total revenues, while donations decreased to 7% (down from 13% in fiscal 2017). The changing fundraising landscape continues to be very challenging for nonprofit organizations. In response AFABC is working towards diversifying its revenue sources through investment in fundraising initiatives with the potential to grow and broaden its donor base. We are proud that most of our revenues were invested in programs, services, and projects that benefited children, youth and families.

During fiscal 2018, AFABC realized an overall deficit of \$53K, compared to a deficit of \$17K in the prior fiscal year. The increased deficit was driven by a reduction in the amount of donations AFABC received. In terms of expenditures, we were able provide funding for summer camps for adopted children and their families as well as bursaries for youth. In addition, hundreds of volunteer hours were generously provided to AFABC to support its various program areas, all of which are not reflected in the financial results.

The auditor's report and the full set of financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018, are available on our website at [www.bcadopt.com](http://www.bcadopt.com).

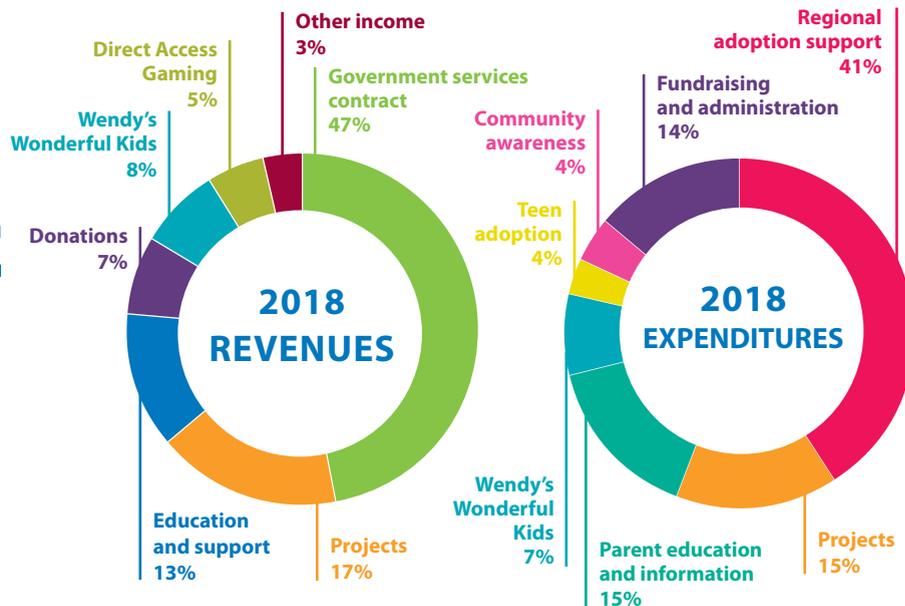
Jimmy Lai, Treasurer

# YEAR END

FINANCIAL POSITION	2018	2017
Assets	\$ 1,790,796	\$ 1,825,292
Liabilities	1,044,634	1,028,086
Restricted funds	577,013	583,585
Unrestricted surplus funds	169,149	213,622

REVENUES	2018	2017
Government service contract	\$ 944,944	\$ 799,687
Projects	334,789	323,129
Education and support	252,377	234,978
Donations	145,488	254,422
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	149,548	162,840
Direct Access Gaming	105,376	105,131
Other income	69,794	127,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,002,315</b>	<b>\$2,007,216</b>

EXPENDITURES	2018	2017
Programs, services, and projects		
Regional adoption support	\$ 843,422	\$ 727,378
Projects	307,808	336,195
Parent education and information	314,639	300,421
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	149,834	164,298
Teen adoption	73,315	107,720
Community awareness	85,534	121,511
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,774,552</b>	<b>\$1,757,522</b>
Fundraising and administration	280,365	266,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,054,917</b>	<b>\$2,023,808</b>



# THANK YOU

*Your gift, no matter how big or small,  
makes an impact.*

[www.bcadoption.com/donate](http://www.bcadoption.com/donate)

## Spirit Partners (\$100-\$199)

Barbara Cady  
Castle Fun Park  
Corrie Chow  
Christopher Conley  
John Davolio  
Joanne & David Graham  
Sandra Hundza  
Saskia Ipema  
John Jackson  
Hemansh Midha  
Trina & Stuart Rowles  
Lisa Nakamura & Andrew Sewell  
Vancouver Christmas Market  
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra  
Vancouver Whitecaps FC  
Linda Watts  
Bryn Wyllychuk

## Community Partners (\$200 - \$499)

Larry Achtemichuk  
Emily Anderson  
Heidi and Elmer Arias

Dr. Mark Bailey  
Sophia Barton-Bucknor  
Capilano Suspension Bridge Park  
Carrier Sekani Family Services  
Lydia Elder  
Sheila Hartling  
The Hive Climbing Gym  
Hollyburn Family Services  
Treena & Kevin Innes  
Mandy Johnson  
Donald Mark  
John O'Meara  
Barbara Ann Pretty  
Stephen Reichert & Cheryl Swallow  
Scw'xmx Child & Family Services  
Society  
Sky Zone Trampoline Park  
Robert Lynn & Katherine Snelling  
Yvonne Van Oort  
VanDusen Botanical Garden-  
Vancouver Board of Parks and  
Recreation  
Merel Veldhuis & Nathan Slee  
Loretta Zahar

## Neighborhood Partners (\$500 - \$4,999)

Accent Inns  
Broadway Camera  
David Egan & Sue Montgomery  
Rick & Bert Hendriksen  
Jennifer Hillman  
Peggy Howard  
Ed Lyszkiewicz  
Karen Madeiros  
Kristie McComb  
Adrienne Murphy  
Jon Perry  
Prince George Community  
Foundation  
Provincial Employees Community  
Services Fund  
RBC Foundation  
Jodi Regts & Steve Bocska  
Harold Schellekens & Cynthia  
Dyson  
Hope Walsh  
Sonja Weissenbacher & James Allan  
West Jet  
Amory & Cathie Wong

## Friendship Partners (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Al Roadburg Foundation  
John Hardie Mitchell Family  
Foundation

## Family Partners (\$10,000 - \$24,000)

Chris Spencer Foundation  
Fernwood Foundation  
First West Foundation | Envision  
Financial Community Endowment  
Victoria Foundation

## Legacy Partners (\$25,000+)

Dave Thomas Foundation for  
Adoption  
May and Stanley Smith Charitable  
Trust



The photos in this report  
are the real faces of our  
community. They are entries  
from our annual Faces of  
Family photo contest.  
[www.bcadoption.com/  
photocontest](http://www.bcadoption.com/photocontest)

adopt

Adoptive Families  
Association of BC

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