

# Celebrate *adoption!*

## Did you know?

**644**

Waiting Children were placed in adoptive homes in BC in 2014-2016.

**2015-16**

We saw **97** international adoptions, **29** local infant adoptions, and **10** direct placement adoptions in BC.

**JUST 0.4%**

of Canadians who are considering adoption would need to follow through in order for every waiting child in Canada to have a forever family.

**9000**

children and counting in BC are waiting to be adopted through the Waiting Child program.

*Kids shouldn't have to wait for a family.*

**400**

or more youth age out of BC foster care without a family each year.

**270**

children and youth in care are adopted in BC each year on average.

### What is adoption?

Adoption is when a family or an individual legally takes on responsibilities for the care of a child and raises the child as their own (i.e. the child legally becomes part of the family caring for them).

### How can I adopt?

In BC the four major types of adoption are adopting a Waiting Child, adopting internationally, adopting a local infant, and adopting a relative.

### What is the Waiting Child program?

The Waiting Child program finds permanent homes for children in foster care. A Waiting Child is a young person under the age of 19 who:

- is in foster care
- will not be returning to his or her birth family
- is legally available to be adopted.

### Who are BC's waiting children?

- most are between 6 and 18 years old
- many need to be placed with their siblings
- about half are Aboriginal.

### Who can adopt in BC?

Adoptive families in BC are incredibly diverse. A single adult or two adults together may apply to adopt a waiting child or local infant as long as they are over the age of 19 and have lived in BC for at least six months.

There are no restrictions surrounding marital status, employment, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, or home ownership. Other countries set their own eligibility requirements for international adoptions, which are often more restrictive.

### Is it expensive?

There's no fee to adopt a Waiting Child, and post-adoption financial assistance may be available. Local infant or international adoptions can cost anywhere from \$20,000 to more than \$60,000.

### Let us help!

Since 1977, the mission of the Adoptive Families Association of BC has been to promote and support adoption with a greater vision of finding a permanent, loving family for every child. We can answer your questions and help you every step of the way!

### Learn more!

Visit us at [www.bcadoption.com](http://www.bcadoption.com)  
Email [waitingchild@bcadoption.com](mailto:waitingchild@bcadoption.com)  
Call us toll free at 1-877-ADOPT-07  
(1-877-236-7807)

**adopt**

Adoptive Families  
Association of BC