

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION OF BC JOB POSTING | PASS FAMILY COUNSELLOR

FAMILY: EVERYONE NEEDS ONE! Children joining their adoptive families from the foster care system have typically experienced inconsistent care, neglect, abuse and/or multiple disruptions in environment and relationships. The effects of their chaotic experiences are sometimes seen in behaviour and their relationships with others, especially caregivers. The Parent Adoption Support Services (PASS) program is an early intervention service of the Adoptive Families Association of BC designed to ensure the best start for adoptive families. Skilled family counsellors provide coaching to parents through an adoption-specific parent-coaching model that identifies the parent-child relationship as the central dimension in the family's life and the parent as the therapeutic agent for change in their child's life.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN BC

As a PASS counsellor, you will work with families in their homes in 12 sessions over 24-30 weeks. You will follow a structured program focused on training and supporting parents in therapeutic play (a non-directive style of interacting with toys as tools for communication). In addition, you will provide parents with appropriate coaching and counselling in areas related to attachment, grief and loss, special needs, trauma and child brain development.

POSITION DESCRIPTION (REFERRAL BASED – MINIMUM COMMITMENT OF 1 FILE)

As an independent contractor, you will support AFABC's PASS program in various regions across BC, either in person or via online communication tools such as Skype, depending on your and the referred family's location. You will provide in-home, online and outreach support services to adoptive families in the transition period of pre-placement through six months to one year of placement. You will receive training in the use of AFABC's parent-child relationship coaching model to assist parents in developing strong attunement skills and a secure relationship with their new child. This position pays \$30 per hour.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL

This is an ad hoc, contract position as it depends on how many adoptions are being processed/referrals made in each region across BC. This position requires completion of a counselling, psychology, or social work degree or diploma (or related discipline) plus relevant experience that includes:

- Related counselling or parent support experience preferably in a residential or family setting, working with foster or adoptive families.
- Knowledge of adoption, child welfare, Indigenous culture, child and adolescent development and issues facing children and families with special needs.
- Knowledge of child-parent relationship therapies such as Filial Therapy or CPRT is an asset (we will provide training).
- Ability to handle confidential information with discretion, sensitivity and mature judgment.
- Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office and online communication platforms such as Skype.
- Personal adoption experience is an asset.
- Ability to travel and work flexible hours.
- Valid BC Driver's License, access to a vehicle and Criminal Record Check required.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

Send your Cover Letter and Résumé to pass@bcadoption.com, to Anne Melcombe, Social Work Program Lead. Please use the subject title: PASS Family Counsellor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This position requires mandatory training that we conduct semi-annually, or when several counsellors have successfully applied for positions. Only those selected for a screening interview will be contacted and invited to the training. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.