



Connecting for Life

THE BC ADOPTION & PERMANENCY TRUST FUND

The BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Advisory Committee is proud to report that during our first year in existence, we have been successful in supporting 21 initiatives including innovative research projects over 2 granting cycles, in the Spring and Fall of 2004. To date, we have awarded \$67,000 to community agencies, support groups and families across the province. It has been an honour to participate in the creation of this significant Trust Fund that is the first of its kind in Canada and will serve as a model to other provinces. We have forged important links and funded many collaborative projects. Most significantly, we have raised the profile of our children and youth awaiting healthy and meaningful placements.

It is a current fact that only one in ten children in care in BC will find a family this year and that numerous children and youth await pre-placement case studies. It is the belief of the Trust Advisory Committee that a sense of belonging and permanency can be established in many ways and as a result, our mandate has been to stimulate and encourage all viable options for care in our communities. Current research has shown that the benefits of implementing sustainable adoption and permanency funding will reduce potential public costs of disenfranchised children and youth and at the same time help to remove systemic impediments to permanence and 'connectedness'.

By inviting qualified community agencies, support groups and families to submit proposals, and in supporting them as they implement their plans in linking children to potential and permanent placements, the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund is working to make a difference in our communities forever.

In our first year, it was confirmed that in order to motivate private outside donors and create enough synergy to encourage lifelong connections, a permanent **BC Adoption and Permanency Endowment Fund** would need to be created to take its place alongside our **BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund**. In this way, private individuals, the business community, corporate sponsors and other levels of government could also support the children of BC in a very real way. As pioneers, we have focused on helping children find family connections for life, and we are committed to increasing awareness and public education in view of the importance of establishing these 'forever families'.

We feel that through these community-based initiatives we have successfully fulfilled our core mandate which is to support healthy and permanent placements for children-in-care in BC.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Keay and Lex Reynolds,
Trust Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

2004 Annual Report

Letter From Adoption Council of Canada

The Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) is extremely pleased with the positive results from the first year of granting from the **BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund**. The fund was established to find and maintain lifelong connections for BC's waiting children. Grant funding to local adoptive parent groups has provided support to families adopting children with special needs, grants for speakers to raise awareness of children in care and to help connect aboriginal children to their community and culture. The commitment to this fund is unique in Canada and will provide sustainability to the efforts to find families for waiting children in BC. The ACC believes it is a model that could be of benefit to other jurisdictions interested in finding more families and other permanent options for their children in care. The purpose of the fund is consistent with the ACC's mission to promote the placement of waiting children in permanent families. The ACC will continue to provide support to the Advisory Committee and promote the important work of the **BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund** through our various communication channels.

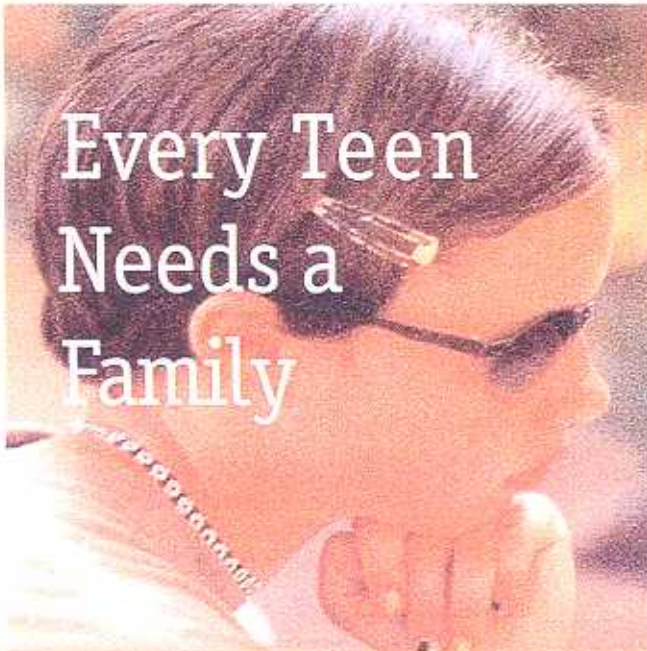
Sandra Scarth, *President, Adoption Council of Canada Board of Directors*



Connecting for Life

THE BC ADOPTION & PERMANENCY TRUST FUND

Funding projects that help BC's children and youth awaiting adoption and permanent placement find and maintain lifelong connections



Every Teen Needs a Family

Teens in your community are growing up without a family. Imagine that.

To learn more about these teens, call

1-877-236-7807

www.bcadoption.com

ACT Now! Adult Commitment to Teens
Adoptive Families Association of BC



*Act Now! Adult Commitment to Teens,
Adoptive Families Association of BC
Full Grant - Summer 2004*

New Trust Fund Launched in 2004!

The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, MCFD established a new independent Trust Fund to help BC's children and youth awaiting adoption and permanent placements. The fund is established in partnership with the Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) and the Victoria Foundation. The Foundation is the second oldest Community Foundation in Canada and serves as Trustee of the Fund. An 8 member, Trust Advisory Committee has been appointed by the ACC, to oversee the work of the Trust and to review applications for grant funding. Funded projects support healthy permanent placements; encourage innovative research, develop a higher level of awareness of adoption options in BC communities; and facilitate adoption services in this province. The fund supports community-based initiatives that promote partnerships, research and innovation for permanency and 'connectedness' for BC's children and youth in care.

This Annual Report was developed in partnership with the BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Advisory Committee.

This Fund is held in trust by the Victoria Foundation



GRANTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE PROVINCE



*"Honouring our Caregivers of Aboriginal Children"
Surrounded by Cedar AGM and Ceremony
Victoria, Sept. 2004*

Two calls for applications for grant funding were distributed in the Spring and Fall of 2004 resulting in a total of 21 approved grants with \$67,000 being awarded to community agencies, support groups and parent groups across the province. Grants aimed at finding permanent placements for children and youth funded a variety of projects across the province from Victoria to Nanaimo, Burnaby to Penticton, and Summerland to Prince George and Pouce Coupe.

2004 GRANT RECIPIENTS

FULL GRANTS

- AFABC - Adoptive Families Association of BC
 - Act Now! Adult Commitment to Teens – Parenting Teens Training Program - \$8,000
- OOKNAKANE Friendship Centre – Penticton
 - Cultural Ties for Aboriginal Children - \$8,000
- Snuneymuxw First Nation – Nanaimo
 - Connecting for Life – First Nations cultural events - \$8,000
- Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP)
 - Next Step – Adoption, Accessibility & Self Learning On-line access to resources - \$8,000
 - Spotlight on Adoption: Forever Families Media Campaign - \$8,000

MINI GRANTS

- AFABC - Adoptive Families Association of BC
 - Adoption Education Speaker Series - \$1,000
 - Building Skills for Transracial Parenting - \$1,000
 - Adoption Education Workshops - \$1,000
- AFABC – Central Vancouver Island
 - Sibling Support Group - \$1,000
- AFABC – Pouce Coupe
 - Cultural Challenges Support Group - \$1,000
- AFABC – Prince George
 - Learning from Each Other - Adoption & Parenting Conference - \$1,000
 - Peer to Peer Support Group - \$1,000
- AFABC – Summerland
 - Educational Support Group for Adoptive Parents-South Okanagan - \$1,000
- AFABC – Vernon
 - Educational Support Group for Adoptive Parents – North Okanagan - \$1,000
- AFABC – Vancouver Coastal
 - Gay & Lesbian Adoption Support Group - \$1,000
 - Single Parents Adoption Support Group - \$1,000
- Sunrise Family Services Society – Vancouver
 - Adoption Support Lecture Series - \$1,000
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services – Victoria
 - Aboriginal Connections Council - \$1,000
 - Honoring our Caregivers of Aboriginal Children - \$1,000

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP)
 - Adoptive Families are Families for Keeps – Research & Development of an Educator's Guide - \$10,000
- CHOICES Adoption & Counselling Services – Victoria
 - Culturally Sensitive Adoption Training for Aboriginal Social Workers - \$3,000

HOW TO APPLY

Information on applying for grant funding from this Trust Fund can be accessed on line at www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca or contact the Victoria Foundation at 250 - 381-5532.

New letters of intent will be invited from interested applicants in **June 2005**. Please refer to the website for terms of reference for letters of intent and applying for grant funding from this Trust Fund.



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THE BC ADOPTION & PERMANENCY TRUST FUND

Year One Financial Summary - 2004

BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund

The mandate of this Trust is to help children and youth awaiting adoption and permanent placement in BC and to support them to maintain lifelong connections with families and communities. The Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) has appointed 8 members to the *BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Advisory Committee*. This Committee oversees the Trust and accepts and reviews applications for grant funding. The Victoria Foundation is Trustee of this Fund and disburses grants approved by the Trust Advisory Committee to societies, individuals, non-profit groups, parent support networks and registered charitable organizations that support the Trust Fund's purposes.

Opening Trust Fund Balance Jan. 1, 2004	\$3,014,751
Income Earned	\$ 96,334
Grant Distributions	\$ 67,000
Fees & Expenses:	
▪ Initial Trust Fund set up costs	\$ 17,808
▪ Trust Advisory Committee, Meetings & Travel	\$ 3,159
▪ Communications	\$ 1,398
▪ Canada Revenue Agency – CRA Trust Taxes	\$ 8,612
▪ Trustee Fees to Victoria Foundation	\$ 30,922
Closing balance Dec. 31, 2004	\$2,982,186
Closing Market Value Dec. 31, 2004	\$3,001,113

**** NEW FUND****

BC Adoption & Permanency Endowment Fund

A new *BC Adoption & Permanency Endowment Fund* will be established in 2005 to enable donations to an ongoing legacy for adoption and permanency in BC. Potential donors to this Fund have been in contact with the Victoria Foundation. Disbursements from this new fund will be available in the future to organizations that are registered charities, and that support establishing permanence and lifelong connections for BC's children in care.