

2007 GRANTS SUPPORTING ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 2007, 15 applications for funding were received and reviewed by the Trust Advisory Committee. The following 12 projects were funded:

7 Mini Grants of \$1,500 each:

- **Adoptive Families Association of BC**
- *Aboriginal Drum Workshop*
- **Adoptive Families Association of BC - Kootenays**
- *Building Skills for Transracial Parenting Workshops*
- **Afro Canadian Adoption NSG - Nakoma Ntoaso Mentorship Program**
- **BC Federation of Foster Parents Association**
- *2007 Ideas Tour*
- **Forget-Me-Not Family Society (Adoption Circles)**
- *2007 Adoption Workshops*
- **Harambee Summer Festival - 2007 Festival**
- **Parent Support Services of BC**
- *The Gathering – Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*

2 Full Grants of \$8,000 each:

- **Parent Support Services of BC**
- *Grand Gathering – Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*
- **Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services Society - World FosterCare Conference 2011 Proposal**

Other Grants:

- **Artemis Place (\$20,000)**
- *Supporting the Wellbeing of Girls in Permanent Independent Living Arrangements through an Academic and Lifeskills Support Program*
- **Forget-Me-Not Family Society (\$5,500)**
- *Adult Continuing Education Course*
- **Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services Society (\$40,000)**
- *NONG SILA – Phase II*

**Total Grants Awarded in 2007:
\$92,000.00**

To find out more about this fund, including how to make a grant request or how you can make a donation that will assist in building stronger families and communities in BC, please contact:

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Connecting people who care with causes that matter®



Connecting for Life

THE BC ADOPTION & PERMANENCY TRUST FUND

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Established by the **Ministry of Children and Family Development** in 2004, the purpose of the BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund is to offer a range of grants:

- to help support healthy permanent placements
- to encourage innovative research, projects and initiatives
- to develop a higher level of awareness of permanency options in our communities
- to facilitate adoption programs and services within BC

In association with the **Adoption Council of Canada**, this fund is administered by the **Victoria Foundation**. All granting decisions are made by a volunteer Trust Advisory Committee.

To date, \$246,900 has been granted from the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund to worthy projects across British Columbia.

SELECT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Parent Support Services of BC

Grand Gathering – Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

This grant provided funding for Canada's largest gathering of grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising.

The Gathering brought together families consisting of Grandparents and others raising the children of their relatives to share experiences, knowledge and challenges. While learning from each other, the Grandparents were also provided with information on the supports and resources available to them and with presentations from service professionals.

A children and youth program was also offered. Through art, physical activity, sharing circles and music, the children were encouraged to interact with others, feel part of a community and to normalize and celebrate their experiences.

BC Federation of Foster Parents Association - 2007 Ideas Tour

From June to early fall 2007, representatives from the BCFFPA and the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents toured the province to share and gather information on how to best assist Foster Parents in BC.

This project included the development of a provincial website and the publication and distribution of educational materials to foster parents. The information and resources gathered are meant to both enhance other support services currently being offered by the Federation and to provide foster parents with the further skills and insights they need to nurture and guide children and youth through to productive adulthood.

Adoptive Families Association of BC

Building Skills for Transracial Parenting Workshops

Held in the Nelson/Castlegar area, this two-day workshop was offered to families who are parenting a child of a different race or culture, or are considering transracial adoption.

The workshop drew together families and professionals from the widely-spread and largely non-urban East and West Kootenay regions and provided them with networking opportunities and support through various family services professionals (counselors, psychologists and teachers).

"I felt I learned something in every lesson and feel like I'm walking away with 'real life' tools and skills to use with my family and community."

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services Society - NONG SILA

Phase II – Implementing an Urban Aboriginal Adoptions Model

Building on the community-based, Aboriginal-led research collected in Phase I (funded by the Trust Fund in 2006), Phase II of this project involves development and implementation of a culturally-relevant Adoptions Council model.

For the benefit of urban Aboriginal children and youth and their families, extended families and communities, this project is in the process of developing an adoptions strategy that speaks directly to the identified barriers (housing, racism, poverty and marginalization) and capacities (urban community resources and agencies, cultural knowledge, extended family networks and spiritual teachings) in Aboriginal adoptions.

Adoptive Families Association of BC

Aboriginal Drum Making Workshop

This workshop provided the Fraser Valley region Families with Aboriginal Children Team Support (FACTS) group with the chance to make an Aboriginal drum. Offered by an Elder drum maker in a four hour session, the workshop brought together the families, materials and experience necessary to build the drum. Using culturally relevant activities, the group aims to maintain the children's connections with their roots.

"The drum represents the heartbeat. When the voices of our ancestors are brought back to use through the drum they heal and unify the people. The drum represents the circle of life; the materials for the drum represent honestly and sharing."

Children from about 20 families were each able to build and take home a drum.

Artemis Place - Supporting the Wellbeing of Girls in Permanent Independent Living Arrangements through an Academic and Lifeskills Support Program

This program offers alternative forms of permanency planning to girls aged 13-18, an age group not typically considered for adoption. Many participants lack the stability to complete a traditional education program.

The program utilizes alternative forms of education to provide targeted supports that enhance the stability of living arrangements, including:

- Academic and peer mentoring
- Self care and advocacy skills
- Substance use counseling
- Culturally relevant counseling
- Support in accessing other services
- Lifeskills for independent living