



# 2008 Annual Review

Established in 2004 by a grant from the **Ministry of Children and Family Development—Province of British Columbia**, in association with the **Adoption Council of Canada**, this fund operates under the direction of a **Trust Advisory Committee** and is administered by the **Victoria Foundation**.

## 2008 in review:

Message from the Co-Chairs .....	1
Connecting for Life .....	2
Grant Report .....	3
Grant Highlights.....	4
Trust Advisory Committee .....	5



## Message from the Co-Chairs



The Adoption and Permanency Fund’s fifth year in operation was a busy and successful one for the Trust Advisory Committee. The Fund continued to support worthwhile projects throughout British Columbia. We are pleased to list them in this report, and to provide overviews of some of the projects which were funded.



The committee, with tremendous extra effort from members Anne Keay and Sandra Scarth, completed an ambitious project: the creation of '[Connecting for Life](#)' - a unique website which is showcased in this report. We hope that our partners and friends will link to the site and make others aware of it.

Developments on the international financial markets during the fall of 2008 were cause for great concern. To our relief, granting from the Adoption and Permanency Trust continues in 2009. The Committee appreciated the leadership provided by the fund host, the Victoria Foundation, during these uncertain times.

A sad event in the Spring of 2009 has affected our committee, and many others in the adoption community. We were saddened by the unexpected and untimely loss of a founding member, dedicated volunteer and dear friend, Lex Reynolds. Lex passed away suddenly on May 9 of 2009, at age 54. In appreciation of Lex’ contributions, the endowment portion of the Fund has since been named the **Lex Reynolds Adoption and Permanency Endowment Fund**. It is comforting to know that the Fund, and the important work it supports, will help keep Lex’s memory alive.

Sincerely,

Sandra Scarth  
Co-Chair

Geord Holland  
Co-Chair

# Connecting for Life



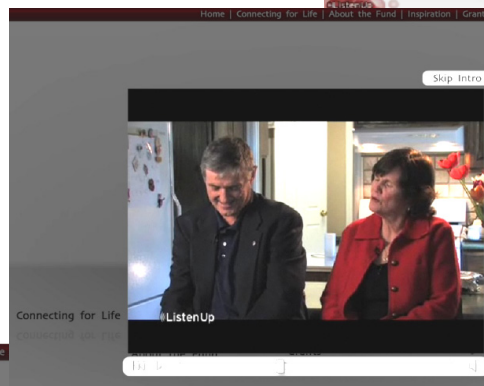
In 2008, the Adoption and Permanency Committee launched its website "Connecting for Life".

People who have personally experienced the many facets of adoption share their stories and experiences in video, audio and print. The website also links to other resources and provides information for grant seekers.

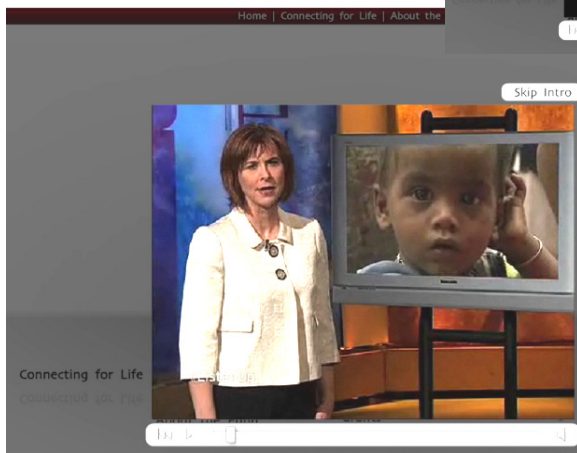
[www.connectingforlife.ca](http://www.connectingforlife.ca)



*Above: An adoptive Grandparent shares her experience parenting her grandchildren*



*Above: Adoptive parents tell their story and share their thoughts on unrealistic expectations, the reality and the awards of adopting*



*"Over the past decades, the number of children in foster care in Canada has increased 65%."*

*Left: Lorna Dueck talks about the needs and opportunities for adoption and permanency*



*Left: Diversity, shared experiences, collaboration, networking:*

*[www.connectingforlife.ca](http://www.connectingforlife.ca) is a resource and gateway to information for anyone wanting to learn more about adoption and permanency in British Columbia*

# 2008 Grant Report



## 2008 GRANTS SUPPORTING ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

15 projects around British Columbia were funded with mini-grants of \$1,500 each:

### **Adoptive Families Association of BC:**

- ✓ *Colourful Lives - Vocies of Transracial Adoptees video*
- ✓ *Cultural History Program*
- ✓ *Strategic Family Life Skills - Prince Rupert*
- ✓ *Strategic Family Life Skills - Terrace*
- ✓ *Strategic Non-violent Communication for Families with Children Who Have Special Needs - Kamloops*
- ✓ *Transracial Parenting Workshop Series - Kelowna and Kamloops*
- ✓ *Transracial Parenting Workshop Series - Prince George*
- ✓ *Transracial Parenting Workshop Series - Victoria and Salt Spring Island*
- ✓ *True Colours Mentoring Program*

### **Afro Canadian Adoption Network Support Group:**

- ✓ *Akoma Ntoaso Mentorship Program*

### **Forget-Me-Not Family Society (Adoption Circles):**

- ✓ *Weekend Workshop with Joe Soll*

### **The Harambee Summer Festival:**

- ✓ *2008 Festival: Guest Speaker*
- ✓ *2008 Festival: Family Sponsorship*

### **Lalum'utul' Smun'eem (Cowichan Tribes) Child & Family Services:**

- ✓ *NACAC Conference Attendance*

### **Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services:**

- ✓ *Youth Council Formation*

The Trust Advisory Committee also provided pro-active grants to organizations who offer needed programs and services. The following grants were awarded in 2008:

### **IFCO Conference 2011 Planning Committee:**

- ✓ *XVII Biennial International Foster Care Conference (\$10,000)*

### **Federation of Youth in Care Networks:**

- ✓ *Family Connections and Permanency for Youth in Care (\$20,000)*
- ✓ *Supporting Two New Regional Networks (\$5,000)*

### **Choices Adoption and Counseling Agency:**

- ✓ *Teen Adoption BC (\$20,000)*

### **Society for Children and Youth of BC:**

- ✓ *Rights of Children and Youth in Care: Connection to Family and Culture Roundtable (\$22,000)*



**Total Amount Granted in 2008: \$99,400**

**To the end of 2008, worthy projects across British Columbia have received \$346,300 in grants from the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund.**



## Grant Highlights



### Teen Adoption BC

An initiative by CHOICES dedicated to raising awareness of the need for teen permanence and to help make successful transitions for teens in care. The project aims to

- ✓ create a "Heart Gallery", an exhibit of professional non-identifying photographs of BC's tweens and teens looking for an adoptive family.
- ✓ publish an ad developed and reviewed by a focus group of teens about teen adoption
- ✓ produce a website developed and created by teens with relevant information for teens in care.
- ✓ organize a provincial training road show about teen adoption and permanence in regions that do not typically receive training.

### Right to Family

The Federation of Youth in Care Networks aims to create immediate and practical solutions as well as long-term recommendations focused specifically on one concern identified by BC's youth in care: their right to family.

After an initial research stage on current experiences and resources available for youth to remain connected to their families, the project entitled "Family Connections and Permanency for Youth in Care" will culminate in a roundtable involving young people, foster parents and decision makers.

### Reunion and Expectations – What to do about Them"

Such was the title of a three-day workshop with Joe Soll. The workshop explored what makes reunions work and how expectations get in the way, and it facilitated discussions among birth-parents, adoptive parents, adoptees and professionals - a much needed talk with other people who "get it".

Offered by the Forget-Me-Not Family Society (Adoption Circles), this workshop received positive feedback and results from the participants.



Canadian members of the 2011 IFCO Organizing Committee at the Canadian information table at the 2009 IFCO in Dublin, Ireland (L-R) Garry Mavis, Margaret Howley, Shelly Johnson, Corrina Sparrow, Jocelyn Helland.

### IFCO Conference 2011 Planning Committee

Supported by the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust in 2007, the International Foster Care Conference (IFCO) 2011 Planning Committee made a successful bid to hold the 2011 Conference in Victoria.

IFCO 2011 began as a conversation between Bruce Parisian and Shelly Johnson, two Aboriginal Canadian delegates at the IFCO 2007 in New Zealand. The plan to hold the conference in Victoria, BC was formalized on July 17, 2009 before 600 delegates from 37 countries at the closing ceremonies of the 2009 IFCO in Dublin, Ireland.

The 2011 IFCO conference theme "**Foster Hope: Together We Can Make A Difference**" is a nod to the collaborative and volunteer efforts of the Aboriginal and non Aboriginal fostering, adoption and youth-in-care Organizing Committee members. As a founding funder, the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust is now showing continuous support by helping to fund the planning and organizing stages of this exciting international event.



2011 IFCO will be held July 10-15, 2011 at the Victoria Conference Centre  
[www.ifco2011.com](http://www.ifco2011.com)



## 2008—2009 Trust Advisory Committee

Geord Holland, Kelowna (Co-Chair)  
 Sandra Scarth, Victoria (Co-Chair)  
 Dana Brynelsen, Vancouver  
 Jeannine Carriere, Victoria  
 Helen Hughes, Victoria  
 Shelly Johnson, Kamloops  
 Anne Keay, Victoria  
 Lex Reynolds, Victoria  
 Anne Clayton (Ex-officio), Victoria

### The purpose of the 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

The Adoption and Permanency Fund is hosted and administered by the Victoria Foundation. Please contact us to learn more about this fund, including how to make a donation to the

### Lex Reynolds Adoption and Permanency Endowment Fund

Victoria Foundation  
 109 – 645 Fort Street  
 Victoria, BC V8W 1G2  
 Phone: (250) 381-5532  
 Fax: (250) 480-1129  
 E-mail: [info@victoriafoundation.bc.ca](mailto:info@victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

Grant Seekers can find complete information by visiting [www.connectingforlife.ca](http://www.connectingforlife.ca) or by visiting [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca)

