



News Release

November 26, 2009

Grants Help Connect Children with Families

Victoria – Five grants totaling \$102,000 have been awarded from the Lex Reynolds Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund announced Fund Committee co-chairs Geord Holland and Sandra Scarth today.

“There are over 1300 children waiting and many more already in care who need a permanent connection with a family,” said Scarth. “These grants support groups working to help these children and youth.”

Established by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development in 2003, the BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund supports groups that help children and youth find and maintain lifelong connections through adoption or alternative avenues of permanence. Named in honour of Lex Reynolds, an advocate for children and adoptive families who passed away earlier this year, a total of \$472,500 has been awarded from this fund since its inception.

“No child should grow up without a family of their own”, said Minister of Children and Family Development Mary Polak. “The diversity of these projects is encouraging and will help raise awareness across cultural, social and age groups of the need for more people to consider adoption as a wonderful way to build a family. Creating these connections is always important – and a focus during November as we celebrate Adoption Awareness Month.”

Grants are awarded from the interest earned on \$3 million in permanent funds managed by the Victoria Foundation, a community foundation that manages funds gifted to them in perpetuity and then distributes the earnings from them for charitable purposes. The Adoption Council of Canada is the Fund secretariat, responsible for appointing the Fund’s advisory committee.

For information on adoption and the Lex Reynolds BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund, including application information, and how to donate to it, visit www.connectingforlife.ca.

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Backgrounder Att’d



BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund Grants – Fall 2009

Organization	Purpose	Amount
Adoptive Families Association of BC Burnaby	Breaking Down Barriers Sharing profiles of waiting children and youth to families through the use of video conferencing. Video conferencing will help remove geographical and logistical barriers in adoption recruitment.	\$26,000
Adoptive Families Association of BC Burnaby	Speak-Out Youth Engagement Project Supporting a group of 15 youth who are or were in BC foster care in developing communications material about permanency options for other youth in care. The group will be mentored in skills like graphic design, brochure development and public speaking.	\$20,000
Métis Community Services Society of BC Kelowna	Building Strong Métis Adoptions: Health from Culture and Community Developing a Métis custom adoptions framework and ceremony, a cultural education program for potential adoptive parents and a Métis adoptive home recruitment process.	\$20,000
Parent Support Services of BC Burnaby	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Information Seminars Giving grandparent-led families legal information on family permanency options and related resources. Seminars will be held throughout the province and will be designed and delivered in partnership with the Legal Services Society and Law Matters.	\$20,000
Watershed Productions Nelson	Tapping the Potential: Increasing Adoptions within the Gay Community Producing an educational DVD and content for the Adoptive Families Association of BC website aimed at raising awareness within the gay community about adoption as a permanency option.	\$16,000

