

The Lex Reynolds BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund

2009 Annual Review

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

Grant Profiles

Tapping the Potential: Increasing Adoptions in the Gay Community

This project aims to realize the potential that gay communities hold throughout the province to provide more of BC's waiting children with healthy permanent families.

Watershed Productions will produce an educational DVD and content for the Adoptive Families

Association of BC website (videos, social networking opportunities and resource links) will be produced with the specific needs of this largely untapped market in mind. The intent is to raise awareness of adoption as a permanency option in gay communities across the province, especially those in remote and rural locations with less access to adoption resources than those in urban centres.

The Lex Reynolds BC Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund is a fund of the Victoria Foundation and operates under the direction of a Trust Advisory Committee. The Fund was 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.



Grant Profiles

Breaking Down Barriers

Video conferencing has grown throughout government and now is a critical strategy for delivering expanded health services throughout BC. This project, headed by the Adoptive Families Association of BC, aims to achieve the same type of results in the field of adoption. Using this creative solution to the challenges posed by distance, travel dollars, privacy laws and limited resources, the AFABC will reach potential adoptive families across the province with profiles of waiting children and youth.

The pilot 2-way and multiple-way videoconferencing sessions will be done using existing equipment located throughout the province, and result in the sharing of more children's profiles to more families. Ultimately, the aim of this project is to provide increased face-to-face contact resulting in increased matches and adoptions.

Building Stronger Families: Health From Culture and Community

Frequently, Aboriginal inter-cultural adoptions fail, though experience shows these adoptions become more successful if the adoptive family is well connected to Aboriginal culture.

Through this project, the Métis Community Services Society of BC aims to ensure viable adoptions of Métis children by (a) actively recruiting Métis adoptive homes, (b) supporting the cultural continuity of Métis children adopted into non-Métis homes, and (c) developing a framework for Métis custom adoption.

By maintaining the connection to birth family, community, and ancestral knowledge, this project hopes to provide a sense of identity for Aboriginal adoptees, and thus maintain physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health.

Growing Together - A Retreat for Adoptive Parents of People with FASD

AFABC received funding to offer a day-long retreat for adoptive parents of people affected, or suspected to be affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Held in January 2010 in Vancouver, participants could choose from four speakers, and participate in discussion groups and self care activities.

AFABC, a parent-led organization, planned the one-day retreat for 20 people. In the end, 23 parents attended the workshops with others wait-listed. The parents are caring for adopted family members between the ages of 3 and 30. Parents expressed a need for opportunities to learn and share in a safe, understanding and non-judgemental environment and to build connections with others families to establish a supportive network. AFABC is planning additional retreats, including an overnight experience and opportunities in regions outside of Vancouver.



2009

Trust Advisory Committee

Geord Holland, Kelowna (Co-Chair)
Sandra Scarth, Victoria (Co-Chair)
Dana Brynelsen, Vancouver
Shelly Johnson, Kamloops
Anne Keay, Victoria
Kelly MacDonald, Vancouver
Anne Clayton (Ex-officio), Victoria

2009 GRANTS

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

Adoptive Families Association of BC:

- ❖ Adoptee Playshop, Burnaby;
- ❖ Adoptee Playshop, Okanagan;
- ❖ Growing Together— A retreat for Adoptive Parents of People with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;
- ❖ Transracial Parenting Workshop Series, Vancouver Island;
- ❖ True Colours Mentoring Program, Kamloops and Nelson;
- ❖ “Try Being Me for a Day” Workshop

Afro-Canadian Adoption Network Support Group:

- ❖ Akoma Ntoaso Mentorship Program
- ❖ The Harambee Summer Festival 2009
- ❖ Ola Zuri: Support Through Play Group

Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services:

- ❖ The Leadership Development Project

Six projects around British Columbia were funded with full-grants of varying amounts:

Adoptive Families Association of BC:

- ❖ Breaking Down Barriers (\$26,000);
- ❖ Speak-Out Youth Engagement Project (\$20,000);

Choices Adoption & Counselling Society:

- ❖ Graduate Co-op Position for Self-Directed Study in Adoption Research (\$20,000)

Métis Community Services of BC:

- ❖ Building Strong Métis Adoptions: Health From Culture and Community (\$20,000)

Parent Support Services of BC:

- ❖ Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Information Seminars (\$20,000)

Watershed Productions:

- ❖ Tapping the Potential: Increasing Adoptions Within the Gay Community (\$16,000)

Total Amount Granted in 2009: \$137,000

To the end of 2009, projects across BC have received \$483,300 in grants from the Lex Reynolds BC Adoption and Permanency Trust.

Thank You

Many donations were received in memory of Lex Reynolds, the founding chair of this Trust and tireless advocate for children and youth in British Columbia. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions.

Donations to this fund help support organizations and individuals who work to create lifelong connections for children and youth, and to educate and support adoptive parents and those considering adoption.

Visit www.connectingforlife.ca to learn more about adoption & permanency, and about this fund. For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact

Victoria Foundation

#109 - 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1G2

p: 250.381.5532 f: 250.480.1129

www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca

