

# CHAPTER 2



## PREFACE



Adoption Council of Canada  
Conseil d'adoption du Canada

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Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Adoption Council of Canada, the work of the Canada's Waiting Children (CWC) program, and this toolkit of post-adoption supports.

## **Adoption Council of Canada (ACC)**

The ACC was founded in 1989 and incorporated in 1991 as a non-profit national charitable organization and is the national information and referral service for adoption in Canada. Based in Ottawa, the ACC raises public awareness about adoption, promotes placement of waiting children, and stresses the importance of post-adoption services. Furthermore, the ACC aims to educate Canadians about the benefits and challenges of adoption for children, birth families, and adoptive parents, while facilitating communication among all groups and individuals concerned.

The ACC is the only national organization focused on adoption, and provides tools and services to local and regional adoption organizations. Provincial and territorial authorities responsible for adoption frequently consult the ACC, including the Federal/Provincial Working Group on Child and Family Services. The ACC has been effective in achieving some significant improvements in legislation, policy and practice, particularly in the area of open records (Ontario, Nova Scotia) and photolisting on websites (Alberta, Ontario).

The ACC board and members cover the breadth of the country, and in addition, the practical and ongoing reach of the ACC's work goes well beyond its formal, legal membership. The ACC has working relationships with adoption organizations across the country, many of whom are not formal members of the ACC. The ACC also works with provincial departments, professional social work organizations, university and college social work departments, and researchers.

## **Canada's Waiting Children (CWC) program**

Operated by the ACC, the CWC program facilitates the placement of waiting children across Canada.

The CWC program operates a national database and website that lists children awaiting adoption. Families can subscribe to the program and receive a password to access the secure website. The core operations of CWC involve maintaining the website, enrolling new subscribers, responding to inquiries, liaising with adoption bodies to post



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information on children awaiting adoption, and providing data to adoption workers to assist them in their permanency planning.

Many of the children listed on the CWC program website have special needs or are part of a group of two or three siblings. Local or provincial adoption agencies generally refer children to CWC when other recruitment options have failed.

Given this, the placement rate of children listed on the CWC site is impressive: more than **85 percent of children referred have found families** to adopt them permanently. CWC has already played a role in the placement of more than 761 children, ranging in age from 4 months to 16 years, and the number continues to grow.

To learn more about Canada's Waiting Children, please visit the following website: [www.canadaswaitingkids.ca](http://www.canadaswaitingkids.ca) and sign-up for a password to access the photolisting of waiting children: [http://www.canadaswaitingkids.ca/kids/password\\_request.html](http://www.canadaswaitingkids.ca/kids/password_request.html)

### **Post-Adoption Support Initiative**

Thanks to funding provided by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program, the ACC is working hard to strengthen post-adoption supports across the country.

As part of this plan, the ACC has developed this adoptive parents' support group toolkit that will assist adoptive parents in starting, facilitating, and expanding parent support groups in their community.

Research has shown that parent support groups provide essential post-adoption supports to adoptive families and benefit facilitators and participants alike. This tool will therefore bring together needed resource materials and adoption supports across the country.

Should you have any questions about our organization, program, or post-adoption project, please do not hesitate to contact the Adoption Council of Canada: 1-888-54-ADOPT or [info@adoption.ca](mailto:info@adoption.ca)

Sincerely yours,

The Adoption Council of Canada and the Post-Adoption Services Team

