

Pamela Martin

Subject: FW: Letter from the Honourable Stephanie Cadieux

From: MCF Info MCF:EX [<mailto:MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, Nov 2, 2016 11:14 AM
To: Public Service Centre - Internet email
Subject: Letter from the Honourable Stephanie Cadieux

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 229940

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps and Council
City of Victoria
E-mail: publicsrv@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

November is Adoption Awareness Month, and British Columbia is making history as the first province in Canada to design and launch an online tool that will streamline the adoptions process for waiting families and help ensure kids find the loving homes that they deserve, sooner.

Created with input from the Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia (AFABC), 'Adopt BC Kids' provides a personalized and user-friendly platform for adoptive families to view their application process, track what documents have been received and better understand next steps. A built-in matching service ensures that matching criteria between a prospective parent and adoptee is automatically flagged, connecting waiting children and teens with forever homes, faster. Anyone interested in becoming an adoptive parent can begin their journey online at: www.gov.bc.ca/adoptbckids.

In your community and across the province, there are young people right now hoping for a family to call their own. Over the past 10 years, an annual average of approximately 270 children have been adopted in British Columbia, but there are still approximately 1,000 children and youth in government care who are waiting for a forever home. Some are part of a sibling group, some have special needs, and some are teens. Regardless of personal circumstances, each and every child deserves a family to belong to, a place to grow up, help with preparing for the challenges of adulthood, and someone to rely on for support, encouragement and love.

Together with the AFABC, we are working to find those 1,000 families. The 1000familiesbc campaign is our joint effort to connect waiting children with caring families. Please help us raise awareness on Facebook and Twitter by using the hashtag #1000familiesbc or by directing members of your community to 1000familiesbc.com.

There are many other ways you can celebrate adoptive families and help raise awareness of adoption, for example by creating an adoption display in your office or helping to promote the celebration events for adoptive families in your community throughout the month of November.

The AFABC's representative for your area can provide you with more information on these events, or about adoption in general. Their contact information, as well as contact information for the four licensed adoption agencies in British Columbia, can be accessed at: <http://gov.bc.ca/howtoadopt>.

On behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, thank you for helping us raise awareness about adoption and find loving homes for British Columbia's waiting children and youth.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Children and Family Development