

## November is Adoption Awareness Month in Parksville

**PARKSVILLE, BC:** At the request of The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, MLA and Minister of Children and Family Development, Mayor Marc Lefebvre has proclaimed November as “Adoption Awareness Month” in Parksville. This month provides the opportunity to celebrate the many families in the province who have opened their hearts and homes through adoption and to highlight the need for more families to consider adoption.

According to the Ministry of Children and Family Development over the past ten 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 British Columbia in government care, waiting for a forever family. Many of these children are part of a sibling group, some have special needs and some are teens.

Potential adoptive parents come from an equally diverse range of backgrounds; anyone over the age of 19 who is interested in providing a stable, loving home may be eligible to adopt. It is thanks to these selfless individuals that many children receive the immeasurable benefits of belonging to a family, including the support, assistance and advice that is necessary to face the challenges of growing up.

Together with British Columbia’s Representative for Children and Youth and the Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia (AFABC), the Ministry of Children and Family Development is working to find those 1,000 families. The **1000familiesbc** campaign is a joint effort to connect waiting children with caring families. MCFD is encouraging people to help raise awareness on Facebook and Twitter by using the hashtag *#1000familiesbc* or by directing to [1000familiesbc.com](http://1000familiesbc.com).

British Columbia is making history as the first province in Canada to design and launch an online tool that will streamline the adoption process for waiting families and help ensure kids find the loving homes that they deserve, sooner. Anyone interested in becoming an adoptive parent can begin their journey online at [www.gov.bc.ca/adoptbckids](http://www.gov.bc.ca/adoptbckids).

Information about Adoption Awareness Month is available from [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption).

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