

November is Adoption Awareness Month in Parksville

PARKSVILLE, BC: At the request of The Honourable Katrine Conroy, 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.

The Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia (AFABC) has been supporting adoptive families in British Columbia for forty years. The AFABC’s representative for your area can provide you with information on events in your community and on 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://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/index.htm>.

Last year the Ministry of Children and Family Development launched the Adopt BC Kids Web site; the portal allows citizens to complete an adoption application online 24/7. Since its inception, more than 340 prospective adoptive families have registered on Adopt BC Kids and 97 families have submitted applications to adopt. Please take a look at the site and encourage community members who are interested in adopting a child in foster care to register at www.gov.bc.ca/adoptbckids.

Information about Adoption Awareness Month is available from www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption.

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Contact:

Deb Tardiff, Communications Officer

250 954-3073