

Annual Report

Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario
IAA Year end March 2012

The Organization

Executive Director: Michael Blugerman, M.S.W.

Executive Assistant: Carolyn Matthews

Bookkeeper: Anne Gordon

Staff: Sarah Kane, M.A.
Abigail Muere, B.A.

Board of Directors

President: Art Lupinacci

Secretary: David Lee

Director: Richard Blair

Agency Activities

Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario provides services in adoption related work. In this last year, the agency completed cases locally and internationally:

	Completed Adoptions	Average Cost in Ontario
CFSA¹		
Ontario	7	\$12,637.72
Bangladesh	1	\$5,100.00
India	1	\$4,100.00
Iran	1	\$10,035.00
Malaysia	2	\$8,533.34
Pakistan	13	\$8,875.50
IAA²		
Burundi	2	\$2,364.00
Colombia	3	\$12,192.23
Dominica	1	\$5,207.22
USA	4	\$13,211.68

Please see the discussion on fees below. These fees listed above refer to our fees only.

¹ For CFSA year ended June 22, 2012

² For IAA year ended March 17, 2012

Complaint Procedure

Adoption planning is an emotional and anxious making process. Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario will work to the best of its ability to help you achieve your adoption goals. If you feel that your interests are not being dealt with properly please follow the following steps to resolve the issue:

1) Send a letter by mail to the Executive Director of the agency outlining your concern and the issue that seems to be at impasse.

2) If the issue is not resolved at that level, please email the Board of Directors at **resolutions@ontarioadoptions.com**

3) You will receive a confirmation that your complaint has been received from the Board of Directors and you will receive information about the next step.

4) If further clarification is required you may be asked to send a letter stating the issue, and your concerns. The letter will be signed and mailed to the agency office.

5) A board member will review your letter and cause an inquiry into the issue. A written response will be provided to you.

The agency will attempt to resolve the issue to the best of its ability. Failing resolution, you can direct your complaint to:

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Client Services Branch
Private and International Adoptions
101 Bloor Street West
6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z7
(416) 327-1766 (416) 212-6799 fax

Fees:

Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario provides services under the Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990 and the Intercountry Adoption Act. In addition to fees charged by this agency, there will be fees that you need to take into account in the financial planning for your adoption. These fees may involve an approved adoption practitioner, legal fees and other fees for services in Ontario. In cases where a portion of the plan involves activity in another country, there may be fees there, for legal services and for disbursements covering birth certificates, passports or other documentation. There may be translation fees.

Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario works on a case basis and recognizing that each case is different, we will present you with a service agreement setting out the fee structure for the work

to be done in your particular case. Some of our work will be charged at an hourly rate and some will be charged at a flat fee quoted in advance.

Example: in a case where we act as licensee in an adoption finalized under the Child and Family Services Act, the fee range will be \$8,000 to \$20,000. There will be reasons why the gap between the low and high rate is so wide, but at the time of discussion about your particular case needs, we will try to provide information so that you can plan for the low, high or in the middle of the range.

Example: in a case where we act as licensee in an adoption finalized under the Intercountry Adoption Act, the fee range will be from \$3,000 to \$13,000. There will be reasons why the gap between the low and high range is so wide. At the time of discussion about your particular case needs, we will try to provide information that explains the costs of services to your individual adoption plan.

At the time of our case consultation, we will also try to assist you in determining the costs of work or expenses involved in the other country, in the event that you are planning an adoption involving the bringing of a child from another country.

Audited Financial Report

Children's Resource and Consultation Centre of Ontario is audited on an annual basis by a firm of Chartered Accountants. A copy of the financial statements is available on written request. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to our office with your request.

Country Comments

Bangladesh

Adoptive Applicants must have dual citizenship: Bangladesh and Canada. Families traveling there to adopt have not found it difficult to be presented with a child. There is no guarantee that the orphanage will approve you or may have a child available at the time of your visit. The children have typically been a few months old at the time of presentation. Local knowledge and family networking are required to negotiate the step by step process through the various stages. The most challenging part is the application for a visa to bring the child back to Canada. This can vary from 4 months to 10 months. Actual costs are very variable depending on family support to provide living accommodation while in Bangladesh and the opportunity cost of lost income from being away from work here. Typically both parents travel to initiate the process and the husband has returned to work here.

Iran

Adoptive applicants must be Iranian citizens and Muslim. Iran doesn't recognize dual citizenship and adoptive applicants must remember that fact. For the most part, families have not waited long to be presented with a child once they have cleared the interview process of the Iranian Social Welfare Institute in the particular province where they have applied. The children have typically been a few months old at the time of presentation. One challenge is the required 6 month probation period

following receiving a child to going to court to finalize the guardianship process. During that period representatives from the Social Welfare Institute will come to visit periodically and then prepare a report for the court. The next challenge is the long processing time required to receive a visa for the child to enter Canada (4 to 6 months). Actual costs are variable depending on family support to provide living accommodation while in Iran and the emotional and opportunity costs of lost income from being away from work here. Typically both parents travel to initiate the process and the husband has returned to work here. The actual adoption of the child will occur in Ontario once the required supervision period is completed. There are no post adoption reports required.

Pakistan

Almost all adoptive applicants we have worked with have been Muslim. Most have been Pakistani in background and at least one of the applicants has a NIC or NICOP card. There have been exception to this. The large majority of applicants have received a child following an application in person to an orphanage. To be successful, applications require a personal visit. I have not seen a successful application by sending a file over. There have been families who have not been approved for reasons not known to this writer. The children have typically been a few days to a few months old at the time of presentation. There will be a waiting period of up to three months after receiving a child before going to court (although this is occasionally reduced to one month). The biggest challenge is obtaining the visa for the child to enter Canada. This process has taken from 3 months to 1 year in exceptional cases. Considering adoption without strong family connections there to help with accommodation. Typically both parents travel to initiate the process and the husband has returned to work here. There are no post adoption followup reports required.

USA

Applicants wishing to adopt from USA need to recognize that children from America are not in orphanages. The usual situation involves a birth parent choosing a family prior to birth. The child would usually be placed directly from hospital. It is impossible to say when a birth mother would see an applicant's profile and to say when a birth mother would choose an applicant family. The process of applying to an American agency is much like applying to a licensee or agency here in Ontario. There will be a large factor of "luck" in being chosen. The adoption will not be finalized prior to the child coming into Canada: there is usually a post placement supervision period with visits and reports prepared by your adoption practitioner, before the final hearing for adoption some three to six months later. There are no post adoption reports required. Costs for an adoption in USA can range from \$30,000 to \$60,000 in addition to costs here in Ontario. You will need to plan on staying in the USA for one to two months following the birth of the child, before coming back to Ontario.

Algeria

Applicants will need to be Muslim and have some connection to Algeria. It will be necessary to have family support in Algeria. An orphanage will need to approve a family and present a child, if available, shortly after that. Local knowledge is important to accomplish the steps needed to obtain the Kefala

(guardianship order). CRCC has not assisted in enough cases with Algeria to make predictions about timelines or costs. Actual costs are variable depending on family support to provide living accommodation while in Algeria and the emotional and opportunity costs of lost income from being away from work here. Typically both parents travel to initiate the process and the husband has returned to work here. The actual adoption of the child will occur in Ontario once the required supervision period is completed. There are no post adoption reports required.

Morocco

Applicants will need to be Muslim and having Moroccan heritage can help. CRCC has not assisted in enough cases with Morocco to make predictions about timelines or costs. Morocco has forward thinking policy about adoptions and appears to be very careful about declaring children abandoned and available for adoption, and careful about the priority of children growing up in Morocco as a first choice. It appears that having extended family in Morocco and local knowledge will be a large factor in the success of an application to an orphanage in Morocco. The actual adoption of the child will occur in Ontario once the required supervision period is completed. There are no post adoption follow-up reports required.

General Comments

We require a consultation with each applicant family prior to accepting an application. We will discuss issues such as timelines, costs and likelihood of success taking into consideration the unique situation of each applicant family at the time of that consultation. For example, in the case of a couple who each have demanding careers that may be jeopardized by absence from work for any length of time, it may not be advisable to adopt from a selected country given the timelines involved.

We try to be in tune with political scenarios in the countries that we are involved in. Issues of personal security, in-country infrastructure and stability need to be taken into account in adoption planning.

CRCC