



Connecting for Life

THE BC ADOPTION & PERMANENCY TRUST FUND

“Connecting for Life” – The BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund was established with a \$ 3 Million Trust from the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) is the secretariat for the fund and the Victoria Foundation is the Trustee.

The BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund is the first of its kind in Canada, whereby a permanent trust fund has been established in partnership with a community foundation.

The purpose of the fund is to find and maintain lifelong connections for BC’s children and youth awaiting adoption and other permanent placements.

The Fund provides grants to:

- Help support healthy permanent placements
- Encourage innovative research, projects and initiatives,
- Develop a higher level of awareness of adoption options in our communities, and
- Facilitate adoption services in BC.

Advisory Committee co-chairs, Anne Keay and Lex Reynolds say, “only one in ten children in care in BC will find a family this year. By providing these grants, we are helping children make permanent connections”.

The Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund is administered by the Victoria Foundation, a charitable not for profit organization that manages funds gifted to them either in perpetuity or for specific purposes, such as the Adoption and Permanency Trust. The funds or the earnings from them are then distributed through grants for charitable purposes.

Calls for submissions for Letters of Intent occur twice yearly, in the Spring and Fall. Granting decisions are made by an Advisory Committee recruited by the ACC. Advisory Committee members represent a broad range of community perspectives on adoption and permanency in BC and are resident in this province.

The first grants were awarded from the Trust in June 2004 including ten grants totaling \$31,000 with 7 mini grants of \$1,000 each and 3 grants of \$8,000 each.

Grant recipients include to date: Snuneymuxw First Nation – Nanaimo; the Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP), Vancouver; Sunrise Family Services Society, Vancouver; Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services, Victoria; and chapters of The Adoptive Families Association of BC in Burnaby, Prince George, Summerland and Vernon.

Grants have supported First Nations celebrations and ongoing connections; parent and teen education workshops; on-line access to resources and discussion forums; education and speaker series throughout the province; and Adoption Awareness Month 2004 activities.

The results of the Fall 2004 grant cycle will be announced during Adoption Awareness Month, November 2004.

For further information or to make donations to “*Connecting for Life – The BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund*”, please contact the Victoria Foundation at 250-381-5532 or visit www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca and link to the BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund.

