



**ADOPTION
AWARENESS MONTH**
ONE DAY. EVERY CHILD IN ONTARIO WILL HAVE A FAMILY

FACT SHEET

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) and the Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO) believe that every child deserves a family that will love and nurture them always. For some children, that is simply not a reality because they have parents who are unable to care for them. Currently, there are more than 9,200 children legally available for adoption in Ontario foster care. OACAS and ACO, through its member agencies, provide education, support and advocacy to those touched by adoption. ACO operates AdoptOntario (www.adoptontario.ca), which profiles waiting children and provides adoption education through their website. Children's Aid Societies, in addition to protecting children, are responsible for placing available children for adoption.

The following are facts about adoption:

It's all about the right match

The length of time it takes to go through the adoption process depends on successfully matching the needs of the child to the family and vice versa. Those wishing to adopt are required to obtain a home study, decide which system (public, private, or international) they will use and make use of the training and education services available to them. In the public and private systems, timing depends on the match. What are your strengths and interests? What are the needs and interests of the waiting child? Some families have a child placed with them quickly because the match is right.

You don't have to be rich to adopt

You do not have to be wealthy to adopt; you just need to be sure that you can meet the needs of the child(ren). Adoption is not one-size-fits-all. There are all kinds of children and all kinds of families. The match is what is important. Consequently, most people are eligible to apply for adoption. There is no income threshold beneath which you are ineligible to adopt. In some situations, subsidies are available.

Every child needs a family

Race, culture and ethnicity are some but not all of the factors weighed when trying to determine the best match for a child. Other factors include the ability of the family to care for sibling groups, and/or children with special needs.

Children's Aid Societies (CAS) will reach out to a diversity of communities so that children are better instilled with a positive sense of cultural / racial identity. Ontario CASs welcome diversity in adoptive parents - including single parents, all ethnicities and religions, same-sex couples, older adults and those with modest incomes.

If you are ready to build your family through adoption by providing a loving, nurturing home for a child, you can contact your local Children's Aid Society, private adoption practitioner or visit AdoptOntario at www.adoptontario.ca.

For more information, contact the Adoption Council of Ontario at info@adoption.on.ca or the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies at info@oacas.org.



**Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies**
The voice of child welfare in Ontario
www.oacas.org/adopt



www.adoption.on.ca

Every child wants a family

Children want and need families. School-aged children and teenagers understand what it means to be adopted. Older children often know what they want in a family. This can help adoption workers to find the right match for the child's personality and interests. Older children can immediately become active participants in family life. Families benefit from having more information about the child, including any information pertaining to special needs.

Every child is unique

While every child is unique, the one thing that each child has in common is the need for a family. Children needing families range in diversity from babies to teens; boys and girls; some in sibling groups and some with health, emotional or cognitive challenges. With the right education and preparation, many families can meet the unique needs of the child. Families need to understand their limits also. Children available through the public system have thorough assessments, and if required, are often already receiving helpful services that will continue once they have been adopted.

Everyone benefits from adoption

There can be nothing as rewarding as providing a child with a permanent home. All family members should be involved in the process and share in the excitement of welcoming a new family member.

In the public system, the primary focus is on the child. The work involves recruiting, screening and training prospective adoptive parents in order to find the best match for the child and the adoptive family. Not only are services free of charge, the system is highly structured, regulated and monitored. It affords the government and the public confidence in the trust placed in CASs as they screen, prepare, and match families so that they can be the best parents possible for children who are disrupted from their biological roots. Children can be adopted and have connections to members of their biological families - grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles – especially sisters and brothers. CAS adoptive parents who are open to these contacts give testimony to how this helps them be better parents and how it helps reduce the trauma of separation and loss for their children.

Adoptions in the public system offer the assurance of sound assessments of children and parents, access to extensive training, services and supports through the adoption process and pre-adoption and post-adoption advocacy for special health and educational services.

Helpful resources

Listed below are some helpful links to resources to learn more about the adoption process and assist in the adoption journey.

AdoptOntario - www.adoptontario.ca

The Adoption Council of Ontario - www.adoption.on.ca

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies - www.oacas.org

Ministry of Children and Youth Services - www.children.gov.on.ca

Ontario Association of Private Adoption Practitioners - www.adoptionontario.com