



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

FAQs

Why adopt from the public system?

Ontario's Children's Aid Societies provide a free, public adoption system in Ontario, which includes support, training and education.

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.

There are many successes in Ontario's public system. Last year, more than 1,524 families were approved as potential adoptive parents and 822 adoptions were completed, giving children and youth loving families. There is so much more potential.

Ontario's public adoption is as much a mosaic as the province itself. It values the best match for the child. Unlike many of the international experiences, Ontario CASs welcome diversity in adoptive parents - including single parents, all ethnicities and religions, same-sex couples, older adults and those with modest incomes.

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.

The Government of Ontario provides special post-secondary grants for all former Ontario Crown wards, including many of those who are adopted, demonstrating that the government is committed to the success of these children and families through long-term investment in their futures.

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 or 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

Ontario's Children's Aid Societies have over 100 years experience in providing public adoption services and helping find permanent loving homes for children and youth. Building strong families for life is extremely important for Ontario and is critical for those children who desperately need to belong to a family.

What is adoption and is it right for me?

In Ontario, there are several ways in which you can adopt and people often explore all three systems. Families interested in adoption can learn about the public child welfare system, through their local Children's Aid Society, or private and inter-country adoption through private practitioners.

What kinds of people adopt?

Adoptive families come in all shapes and sizes - single parents, couples, families with children. Children need loving, safe and nurturing families who are committed to helping them grow and develop. Understanding the adoption process requirements will help parents understand that they don't have to fit into a certain profile to be an adoptive parent.

What kinds of children are available for adoption?

Some children are placed at birth by their birth families through a private or CAS adoption. Some children are living in CAS foster homes and are legally free for adoption. Some children are living in foster homes or orphanages in foreign countries. Some children will have medical or emotional challenges that they will need help dealing with. Education and networking will help a family understand these children to make decisions about which child will fit best in their family.

How much does it cost?

Adoption through a Children's Aid Society is a free service. Private and inter-country adoption fees are covered by the adoptive family. Understanding the costs is an important part of learning about adoption. Fees will vary with services required and activities involved in the adoption process and can range from \$5,000 to \$40,000. For specific prices on a range of adoption services, please visit www.adoption.on.ca.

Will it take a long time?

The length of time will vary greatly and is hard to predict. A homestudy and training process will take from 6 months to 1 year. The matching process is the most important part of the process and is not predictable.

