



IMPACT REPORT 2019-20



Adoptive Families
Association of BC

The Nanji family



The Domonkos family

family

everybody needs one

About the Adoptive Families Association of BC

For more than 40 years, the Adoptive Families Association of BC (AFABC) has been dedicated to providing ground-breaking programs for families, children, and youth. We also help find families for the hundreds of children and youth in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) who are waiting for a permanent home.

We strive to inform, support, educate, and connect everyone in the adoption and permanency community. We welcome prospective and waiting adoptive parents and guardianship, kinship, moral, and custom adoption families, as well as those formed through legal adoption.



6000 families, children, and youth

served in the 2019-2020 fiscal year

Photos (left to right): The Altizer family; the Easterbrook family; the Lafortune family; the Sterne family.

Family photos all from our 2020 Faces of Family photo contest.



A letter from our Executive Director and Board Chair

The Davis family



Anne Tower
Executive Director

Fiscal 2019-20 was a dramatic year for AFABC, characterized by change and adaptation that culminated in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We began the year by reflecting on the many changes in the world of adoption. A volunteer team from Deloitte led this process, gathering input from our staff, board, members, and larger community. We then spent the summer and fall in strategic planning facilitated by Bob Armstrong.



Merel Veldhuis
Board Chair

That process showed us the adoption and permanency community needs AFABC more than ever. The children and youth waiting for adoption today are older. They've experienced significant grief, loss, and trauma. And they have complex special needs, including mental health challenges.

These kids need parents with huge hearts. They also need parents with specialized skills, knowledge, and support systems. We're committed to giving those big-hearted parents what *they* need to be the families their kids need. Our bold new strategic plan positions us to do just that.

"I joined AFABC's board in 2017 to give back out of gratitude for the support that my family received. I'm very excited about the work that AFABC is doing to empower youth transitioning out of government care, to find permanency for BC's waiting children, and to support families who are working hard to provide permanency for them."

—Merel Veldhuis, Board Chair

This year, we'll begin to execute the first steps of that four-year plan. We'll strengthen and expand our core services so we can support more families, children, and youth. We'll meet their needs with timely, relevant information, education, lived experience, and opportunities for connection and skill-building.

We'll also continue to support hundreds of wonderful young people from government care as they take their first steps into adulthood. Youth-informed resources like AgedOut.com and our new Stepping Stones life skills curriculum will help prepare them for success.

As part of our goal to make our services accessible to people all across BC and beyond, we significantly increased our technological infrastructure and capacity last year. Never was that more important than when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Within days, our staff were working from home and we transitioned all our services to online delivery. We also launched virtual support meetings, created COVID-specific resources, made our on-demand webinars free, and more!

We are so grateful to the funders who make our work possible, especially the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Social distancing measures hit hard for many adoption and permanency families. Thanks to our funders, we've been able to focus on serving those families and the rest of our community. Together, we will get through this—and thrive.

Waiting kids

Matching them with loving families



The Rennison family

414

registered for the
Adoption Education
Program

197

attendees at Adopt
BC Kids information
sessions

382

calls and emails to the
Adopt BC Kids info
lines

15

Wendy's Wonderful
Kids adoption
matches

Programs and services for waiting kids

Adopt BC Kids program Hosting information events for prospective adoptive parents across the province, as well as running the Adopt BC Kids info and email lines **Adoption Awareness Month** Celebrated every November **Adoption**

750 kids in BC government care are waiting to be adopted

Basics Online presentation for prospective adoptive parents **Adoption Education Program** BC's mandatory adoption education requirement **Wendy's Wonderful Kids program** Signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Changing lives for generations

Meet the Keno family



The Keno family

Heather Keno is a 2nd generation adoptive mom. This is her story.

I grew up in a home with seven siblings, five of whom were adopted. Because of that experience, I knew adoption would be part of my future story as well. Growing up we attended a lot of [AFABC] events. Seeing how all the families were unique, and how they were also just like us really helped.

When I was 26 and single, I felt I had a son waiting for me somewhere in the world. I started the process to adopt that year. In 2015, my first son came home at the age of 7 and then my second son joined our family, also at the

age of 7, in 2018. Both of my sons have Down Syndrome. My sister and I live together in a six-bedroom, very kid-focused home. I adopted my sons, but she is like the other parent and plays a huge role in our lives. Two of our adult brothers with Down Syndrome have also recently moved in with us.

Your generous support gives families like Heather's memories that last a lifetime—and inspires the next generation to open their hearts and homes to BC's waiting kids!

Adoption and permanency families

Helping them thrive together



1220

participants in family,
social, and educational
events

1557

requests for adoption
and permanency
support

750

participants attended
adoption education
and training

254

members of our All Ages
and Stages Adoptive
Parents Facebook Group

Programs and services for families

Adoption Monthly e-newsletter Monthly email to our community members **Events for families** Hosting and facilitating various events throughout the province **Family Support Workers** Available for on-call phone, email, and chat support

Supporting families on every step of their lifelong journey

Focus on Adoption Quarterly publication sharing articles, stories, and information **Online workshops and webinars** Providing educational services to our community **Support meetings** In-person and online support groups and meetings.

Youth in and from government care

Preparing them for adulthood



Photo by indigenousimages.ca

160

hours of life skills
training provided

1039

new users on
AgedOut.com

382

rewards given for
AgedOut.com quest
completion

4

bursaries awarded to
adopted youth and
youth in and from care

Programs and services for youth

AgedOut.com Helping young adults who were in government care **Stepping Stones pilot program** Equipping youth transitioning out of government care with the life skills they need for adulthood **AFABC Youth Bursary and Howard Legacy Youth**

Over 500 youth age out of care every year without a family

Fund bursary Helping adopted youth and youth in and from government care achieve their post-secondary dreams **Teens and tweens** Recruiting and educating permanent families for waiting youth and promoting their adoption to the public.

Embracing a different life

Meet the Giesbrecht family



The Giesbrecht family
Photo by Blushing Photography

Jamie Giesbrecht's big family has lots of love for open, special-needs adoption. This is their story.

My husband and I always wanted a large family, but after two medically disastrous pregnancies, we felt like that might not happen. We both felt the pull of foster care on our hearts, and that's what began our adoption journey.

Today, we have two biological children and three adopted children. We are a homeschool family, and we have fully embraced openness with the birth parents of our children, so our life looks different than most. We have several special needs in our home, but we never let anything like feeding

tubes slow us down. Our kids always keep us on our toes, but we cannot imagine life without them!

Our AFABC Family Support Worker is a family friend and is always a shoulder for me to cry on. Brandi, thank you for all the times you have let me call you out of the blue to vent, cry, and occasionally laugh. Thank you, AFABC, for what you do!

Your gifts change the lives of BC's most vulnerable waiting kids. Because of you, special families like the Giesbrechts have the support they need to thrive.

Meet the 2020 Adoption Award winners



The Bradbury family

Each year, we recognize individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to the adoption community in BC. They are champions for waiting children and youth, and for adoption and permanency families! Congratulations to all of our winners this year!

Bob Armstrong *Adoption Champion Award*

Bob kindly donated his valuable time to help AFABC facilitate our strategic planning sessions. Thank you!

Home Depot Canada *Adoption in Action Award*

Home Depot Canada's excellent Adoption Financial Assistance Benefit program has helped countless families in their adoption journey.

Brady and Liz Josephson *Spirit Award—Individual*

Brady and Liz shared their vision, time, and expertise in helping us with digital fundraising, as well as choosing AFABC as the recipient of Brady's birthday fundraiser. Thank you!

Goodwin & Mark LLP *Spirit Award—Corporate*

Goodwin & Mark LLP, and Herman Cheung specifically, have provided our Family Support Workers with legal information and have been very flexible and generous with their time. Thank you!

Deanna Jones *Adoption Champion Award*

Deanna has volunteered with us for many years, and has organized a number of different events and groups for our community. Thank you for the time and energy you've put into AFABC!

Deloitte Canada *Special Recognition Award*

Thank you to Jay Kiew and the rest of the Deloitte team for their hard work on conducting the situational analysis that laid the foundation for our new strategic plan! Thank you!

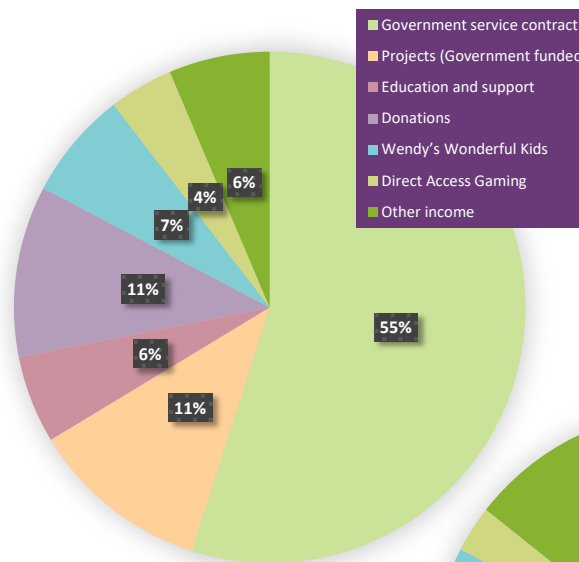
Maria Bailey *Helen Mark Excellence in Adoption Award*

Maria has dedicated her career to helping children and youth in care not only survive, but thrive. We admire her compassionate dedication to adoption and permanency in this province. Thank you for all you do!

Year-end financials

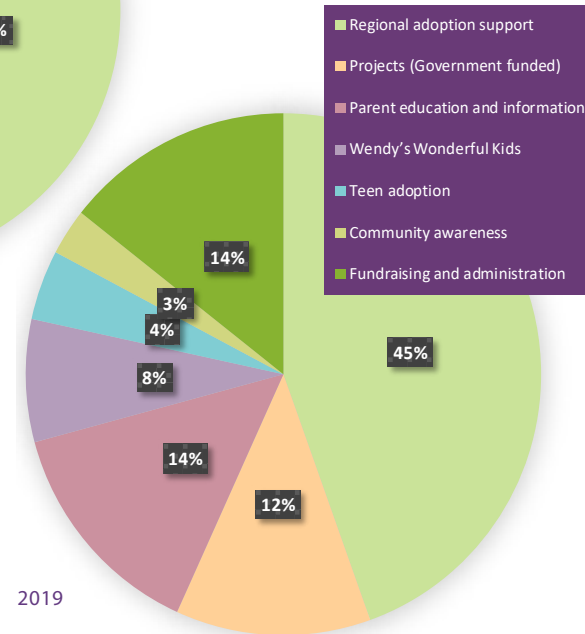


The Larocque family



Revenue

Note: In 2020, government funding for our education program was moved from "Education and support" into the "Government service contract." Education expenses continue to be shown in "Parent education and Information."



Expenses

FINANCIAL POSITION	2020	2019
Assets	\$ 1,321,825	\$ 1,313,053
Liabilities	270,371	423,336
Restricted funds	626,525	627,650
Unrestricted surplus funds	424,929	262,067

REVENUES	2020	2019
Government service contract	\$ 1,217,480	\$ 929,546
Projects	252,725	299,813
Education and support	122,929	320,182
Donations	240,092	204,708
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	151,548	172,503
Direct Access Gaming	89,980	105,000
Other income	141,434	100,388
Total	\$2,216,188	\$2,132,140

EXPENDITURES Programs, services, and projects	2020	2019
Regional adoption support	\$ 892,725	\$ 855,674
Projects	245,308	278,260
Parent education and information	281,406	298,453
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	152,317	175,564
Teen adoption	87,063	66,330
Community awareness	57,735	48,625
Subtotal	\$ 1,716,554	\$ 1,722,906
Fundraising and administration	288,138	266,512
Total	\$2,004,692	\$1,989,418

Our supporters



The Ciccone family

Thank you to our family of supporters—individual donors, companies, foundations, and community partners—for your generous contributions this fiscal year. Because of you, we're closer to making the vision of a family for every child a reality.



Supported by the
Province of British Columbia

Legacy Partners (\$25,000+)

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

Family Partners (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Deloitte
Fernwood Foundation

Friendship Partners (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Estate of Marian Stack
Marjorie McDonald
Vancouver Coastal Health—Community Investment

Neighborhood Partners (\$500-\$4,999)

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Ian Telfer

John Kot

Jon Perry

Kate Runkle

Kirk Jong

Lydia Elder*

Merel Veldhuis*

Nathan Slee

Pacific West Mechanical Ltd

Peggy A. Howard**

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

Shannon Holding**

Sonja Weissenbacher & James Allan**

Stephen Reichert**

Susan Hope Walsh

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Community Partners (\$200-\$499)

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Rack Attack
Sean Lind

Sheila Hartling
Teck Community Giving Program
Treena Innes**

**Spirit Partners
(\$100 - \$199)**
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Wendy Baker

Thank you to all 85 donors who gave gifts of up to \$100.

Make a difference in the lives of children and youth today at bcadoption.com/donate or contact Brianna at bbrashnyberg@bcadoption.com.

** Denotes AFABC Board members. We're proud to say that every Board member is also a donor!*

*** Monthly Giving Club members.*

We have done our best to include everyone who made a contribution between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. We apologize for any errors and omissions and invite you to contact us with corrections.



The Beeman family



Adoptive Families
Association of BC
bcadopt.com

#200-7342 Winston St
Burnaby, BC V5A 2H1
1-877-ADOPT-07
Charity BN: 118777671RR0001

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