




IMPACT REPORT 2021-22

*The Matte family
Photo by Wink Photography*



Adoptive Families
Association of BC



The Nickel family

family

everybody needs one

For more than 40 years, AFABC has offered personalized supports, education, resources, and opportunities to connect with others. We know there is no simple blueprint to being a family.

We're here for you at
every stage of your journey.

Dear Friends,

We are proud to report that AFABC navigated fiscal 2021-22, our second year of COVID, with ever-increasing skill. We evolved some services and expanded others, built our capacity in many areas, and secured funding to fuel the years ahead.

We fine-tuned our promotion of adoption and recruitment of families

for the children and youth who need them. We held our first virtual Adoption Networking Event with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Métis Family Services in May 2021, engaging 200 participants and profiling 19 children and youth. Our Families that Fit Town Hall session, hosted with the same partners, helped over 400 interested adults better understand the needs of the children available for adoption today.

We refined our services for adoptive and permanency families and added new ones, adjusting to changing volumes and types of support requests. We updated our Regional Resource Guide, hosted special Indigenous drum making and puppeteering sessions, and created our first podcast, New Beginnings, featuring the perspectives of a birth mom, adoptive dad, and an adoptee. We developed other new offerings, including a workshop on Raising Relatives and an Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Resource Guide.

We expanded our support for youth-from-care. AgedOut.com now has over 6,300 users—a 13% increase over the past year—and averages 3,000 visits to the website per month. We rewrote our Stepping Stones life skills curriculum and are piloting with diverse partners, including Easter Seals, Foundry Ridge Meadows, and Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society. Based on strong interest, we laid the groundwork to create an Indigenous version with Indigenous partners. Thanks to some wonderful philanthropists, we are significantly increasing our support for youth through the new BC Orca Bursary Program (for youth-from-care) and Joy McPhail Bursary (for adoptees).

A great deal of work also went on behind the scenes. Over the year, we negotiated a new multi-year contract with MCFD to provide province-wide family recruitment and support, education, and training. Our entire staff and Board spent significant time preparing for re-accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA), a requirement for all major

MCFD contractees. We strengthened our infrastructure and created a program to support the professional growth of our staff.

We took many steps to build our Indigenous capacity and are deeply grateful to our Indigenous partners and friends who have shared their knowledge and wisdom, guiding our way.

To better reflect all those we serve and to support our work with Indigenous peoples, **we began the work of choosing a new name and building a new website.** These exciting, multi-year undertakings will come to fruition over the next 24 months.

We are grateful to all those who helped us get closer to our goal of *family for every child*: our dedicated staff, our volunteer Board members and advisors, our generous funders, and the amazing families and young people who come to us for support, and whose big hearts, courage, and resilience, inspire us every day.



Merel Veldhuis
Board Chair



Anne Tower
Executive Director

To build our Indigenous capacity this year, we:

- Entered into a partnership with the Indigenous Perspectives Society (IPS)
- Enrolled our entire staff in IPS' Cultural Perspectives Training
- Provided additional role-specific training
- Developed a Cultural Intelligence and Reconciliation Plan
- Revised our Adoption Education Program for Indigenous considerations
- Welcomed Indigenous organizations to pilot our life skills curriculum with their youth
- Engaged an Indigenous practicum student
- Observed the first national Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Undertook an Indigenous-led consultation study to inform our next steps

O V E R



T H O U S A N D

Families, children, and youth served in the 2021-2022 fiscal year

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

Family photos all from our 2022 Faces of Family photo contest.



Waiting kids

*Matching them with
loving families*

In 2021, we provided support to the families navigating adoption and permanency.

Our programs and services continue to support and educate these families on their journeys.

359

Registered for the
Adoption Education
Program

79

Participants in
the Adopt BC Kids
information sessions

479

Members of our
Waiting Parents
Facebook Group

13

Wendy's Wonderful
Kids adoption
matches

Finding family

A Wendy's Wonderful Kids success story



An AFABC Wendy's Wonderful Kids team member recently placed a sibling group of school-aged kids in their new adoptive home.

A couple of weeks later, she set up a video visit to check in on how things were going.

Even the best adoption transitions are tough. With this group of kids, the oldest sibling struggled the most. Adoption meant saying goodbye to his wonderful long-term foster home.

This child's birthday was just a few days before the recruiter's visit. It was the first birthday he celebrated in his new family.

On the day of the visit, the siblings took turns coming on-screen. The recruiter asked each of them what their favourite thing was about their new home.

The younger kids said, "We had cake, TWO cakes, for [oldest's] birthday!"

The oldest said, "Oh. I don't know."

His mom made some suggestions: cake, toys, his room.

"Oh, those are great, but they're not my favourite," he said.

"Do you have something that comes to mind right away?" asked the recruiter.

He did.

"It's having a family."

Your gifts help create family. Because of you, children like these can have a forever home and family.



The Blood family

Adoption and permanency families

Helping them thrive together

Our programs and services, including Facebook groups, online workshops and webinars, and confidential individual supports, help families grow and thrive.

79

Families participated in online events

1127

Requests for adoption and permanency support

569

Participants attended online workshops and webinars

349

Members of our All Ages and Stages Adoptive Parents Facebook Group

Connecting through culture

Meet the Roberts family



Jennie Roberts and her husband Lawrence weren't expecting to become parents a second time around. But when Lawrence learned that there was a need for Indigenous adoptive families, Jennie knew what they needed to do.

Jennie and Lawrence, who are members of the Tzeachten Nation, began the adoption process and were eventually matched with their three kids, a sibling group. Though the Roberts' children are Indigenous, they had not had access to their culture while in care. Moving into an Indigenous home was a culture shock for the Roberts' kids. The kids quickly started participating in cultural activities and joined clubs specifically for Indigenous youth, like

the Indigenous youth soccer league. "They're learning about their culture," Jennie explains of her kids' journey. "They're learning to accept themselves as Indigenous children."

While the journey hasn't always been easy, Jennie and Lawrence didn't have to do it alone. "It takes a village to raise a child," says Jennie. "Well, that's what our village does."

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



Youth in and from government care

*Preparing them for
adulthood*

Programs and services for youth aging out of care are vital to equip them for adult life. Our life skills programs, AgedOut.com, and bursary programs give them the tools they need for success.

96

Hours of life skills
training provided

835

New users on
AgedOut.com

404

Rewards given for
AgedOut.com quest
completion

3000

Monthly users to
AgedOut.com

Expanding our youth bursary programs

Introducing the BC Orca Bursary Program and the Joy MacPhail Youth Bursary

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, we met some wonderful philanthropists—individuals, families, and organizations—who wanted to help young people pursue postsecondary education. Thanks to their generous support, we are significantly expanding our bursaries for youth.



The BC Orca Bursary Program was established this year by Tracey McVicar and a group of philanthropic families who want to provide financial and other support to current or former youth in government (foster) care who are pursuing post-secondary studies. Nineteen \$3,000 bursaries were awarded in Summer 2019.

Building on the legacy of Peggy Howard and the Howard Legacy Youth fund, their long-term goal is to partner with AFABC to greatly expand the number of bursaries offered, and to create a multi-year program that will provide additional supports—such as mentorship, internships and summer jobs, and other tools—to promising young students.

To Westcoast Indigenous peoples, the orca whale symbolizes “family”, and reflects the desire to connect ambitious young people with the support of caring adults. Our BC Orca Bursary Program logo was designed by Haida artist Cori Savard.

The Joy MacPhail Youth Bursary was established with funding from the Face the World Foundation to provide financial support for post-secondary studies to a young person who joined their family by legal adoption or another form of permanency. One \$3,000 bursary will be awarded annually from 2022-26.

“Throughout my 15 years as an elected official, the passage of the Adoption Act of BC in 1995 stands out as my most important contribution. The entire community—adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents—worked tirelessly with me to modernize the legislation governing adoption. With this Act, BC became the first province in Canada to have open adoption records and allow same-sex couples’ adoption. The Act became the model globally and changed families’ lives forever.

It is a great honour (and very humbling) that Face the World Foundation has created a bursary in my name with AFABC for youth who joined their family through adoption or other forms of permanency.” —Joy MacPhail

Year-end financials

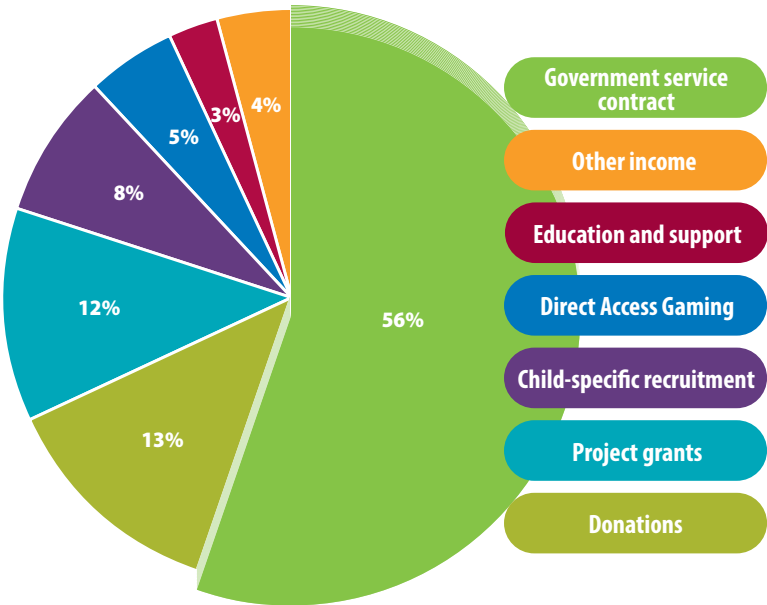
The Kendrick family

FINANCIAL POSITION	2022	2021
Assets	\$2,201,615	\$ 1,781,805
Liabilities	883,483	582,001
Restricted funds	825,250	625,080
Unrestricted funds	492,882	574,724

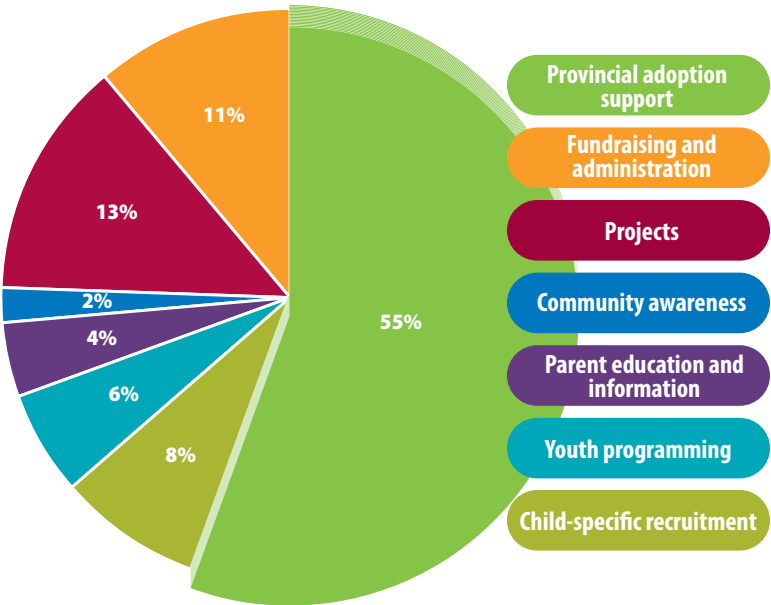
REVENUE	2022	2021
Government service contract	\$1,238,040	\$1,156,126
Projects	261,493	305,851
Education and support	56,015	80,558
Donations	293,963	80,068
Child-specific recruitment	172,358	146,380
Direct Access Gaming	106,260	118,360
Other income	96,045	169,612
Total	\$2,224,174	\$2,056,955

EXPENSES	2022	2021
Programs, services, and projects		
Provincial adoption support	\$1,164,536	\$1,105,010
Projects	283,297	280,235
Parent education and information	90,406	92,480
Child-specific recruitment	176,349	144,429
Youth programming	123,540	94,845
Community awareness	45,241	47,916
Subtotal	\$1,883,369	\$1,764,915
Fundraising and administration	223,829	231,760
Total	\$2,107,198	\$1,996,675

Revenue



Expenses





The McDougall-Lee family

Our supporters

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 family for every child a reality.

We have done our best to include everyone who made a contribution between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. We apologize for any errors/omissions and invite you to contact us with corrections at info@bcadoption.com.



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

** Monthly Giving Family members.

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May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
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Seedlings Foundation
Family Partners (\$10,000-\$24,999)
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Thank you to all 96 donors who gave gifts of up to \$100.

BC Orca Bursary Program donors

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Bertram Family
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John and Dana Montalbano
Linde Family and Emily Davies
Louis Family
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McVicar Family
Peggy Howard
Pejman Family
Peter and Joanne Brown Foundation
Randall Family
Shumka Family
TELUS
Veldhuis/Slee Family

The Howard Legacy Trust

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