



B.C. Adoption Update

November 2014



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nov. 18, 2014

The Honourable Linda Reid
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Suite 207, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Ms. Speaker,

I have the honour of submitting the report *B.C. Adoption Update*, a follow-up to *Finding Forever Families: A Review of the Provincial Adoption System*, to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. This report is prepared in accordance with Section 6(b) of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "mesturpellafond". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
Representative for Children and Youth

pc: Ms. Jane Thornthwaite
Chair, Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth

Cc: Mr. Craig James
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

B.C. Adoption Update

Introduction

In June of 2014, the Representative for Children and Youth issued a report entitled *Finding Forever Families: A Review of the Provincial Adoption System*. The report showed that, at any given time, more than 1,000 British Columbia children and youth in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are waiting to be adopted.

During the release of the report, a joint event between Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and Minister of Children and Family Development Stephanie Cadieux, the Representative committed to issuing periodic updates on the status of B.C.'s waiting children. This is the first of those updates.

The results show that, during the first seven months of fiscal 2014/15, a total of 153 children and youth in care of the provincial government have been adopted. This progress is roughly on pace to fulfill the ministry's stated goal for this fiscal year of realizing 300 adoptions of children and youth in care.

Also included in the *B.C. Adoption Update* are key statistics for this fiscal year to date – as well as for the previous two fiscal years – that show the total number of children in care waiting for adoption, number of children in permanent care, number of newly approved adoptive homes, number of available adoptive homes and number of transfer of guardianship placements.

As the number of children in care who have adoption plans in place has been identified as an area on which MCFD must improve, that statistic is also broken out in the *B.C. Adoption Update*. And with Aboriginal children vastly over-represented in care compared to their percentage of B.C.'s overall child population, a special focus in this update has been placed on Aboriginal adoptees and adoptive families. Aboriginal-specific numbers are listed for the number of waiting children, number of available adoptive homes and number of adoption placements.

The Representative's Office will continue to monitor and report out on these statistics going forward in order to help focus MCFD's work on the important task of finding permanence for B.C.'s children and youth in care.

B.C. Adoption Update November 2014

FISCAL YTD
AS OF
OCT. 31, 2014

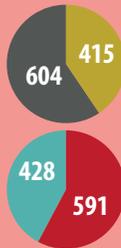
Waiting Children

NUMBER OF CHILDREN
WAITING FOR ADOPTION

- Aboriginal
- Non-Aboriginal
- Under 12 yr
- 12 and Over

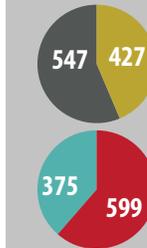
2014

1019



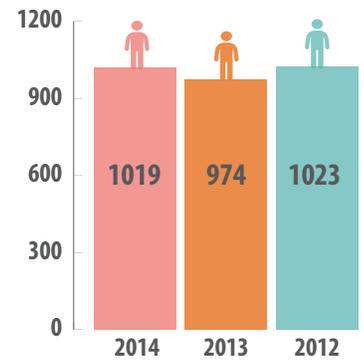
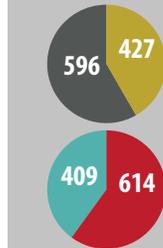
2013/14

974



2012/13

1023



After Care Plans

NUMBER OF CHILDREN
IN PERMANENT CARE*

*includes children on Continuing Custody Orders, Family Law Act and Adoption Act wards

- With Adoption Plans
- With Non-Adoption After Care Plans

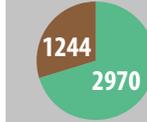
2014

4107



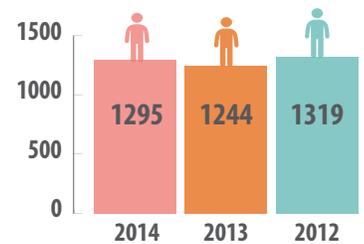
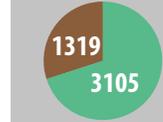
2013/14

4214



2012/13

4424



Adoptive Homes

NUMBER OF
NEWLY APPROVED
ADOPTIVE HOMES

2014

142

2013/14

224

2012/13

212



NUMBER OF AVAILABLE
ADOPTIVE HOMES

- Aboriginal
- Non-Aboriginal

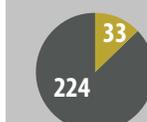
2014

253



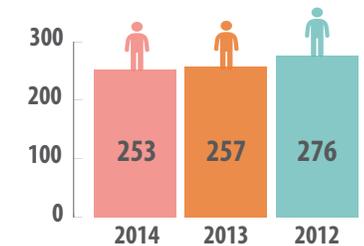
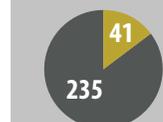
2013/14

257



2012/13

276



Placements

TRANSFER OF
GUARDIANSHIP PLACEMENTS
(S. 54.1)

2014

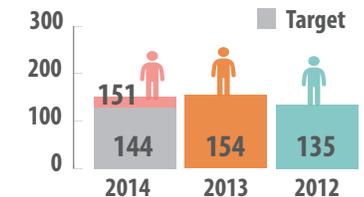
151

2013/14

154

2012/13

135



ADOPTION PLACEMENTS

- Aboriginal
- Non-Aboriginal

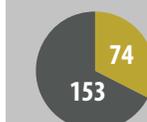
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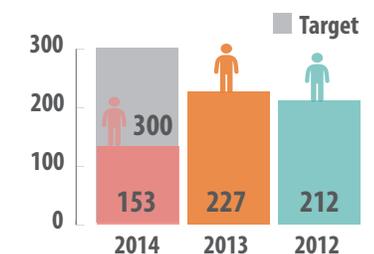
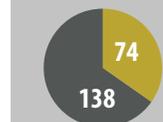
2013/14

227



2012/13

212





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