



B.C. Adoption Update

December 2015



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Dec. 9, 2015

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, December 2015*, 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*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "meturpellafond". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Sincerely,
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 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) were 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 third of those updates.

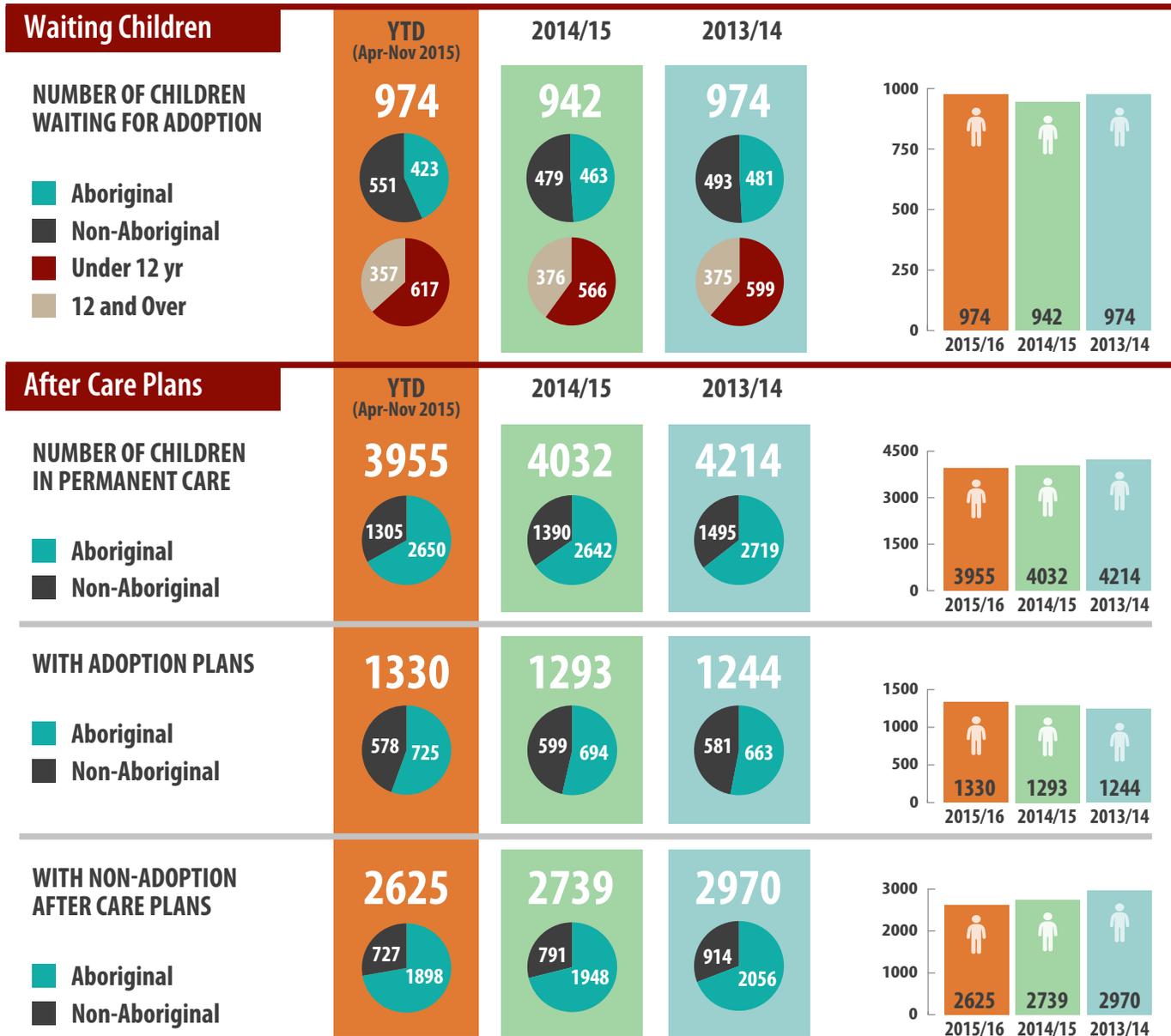
On April 17, 2015, the ministry committed to achieving 600 adoptions over the two-year period 2014/15 to 2015/16. This update shows that, during the first eight months of fiscal year 2015/16, a total of 177 children and youth in care of the B.C. government have been adopted. Added to last year's total of 274 adoptions, it remains to be seen whether this progress is on pace to fulfill the ministry's stated goal.

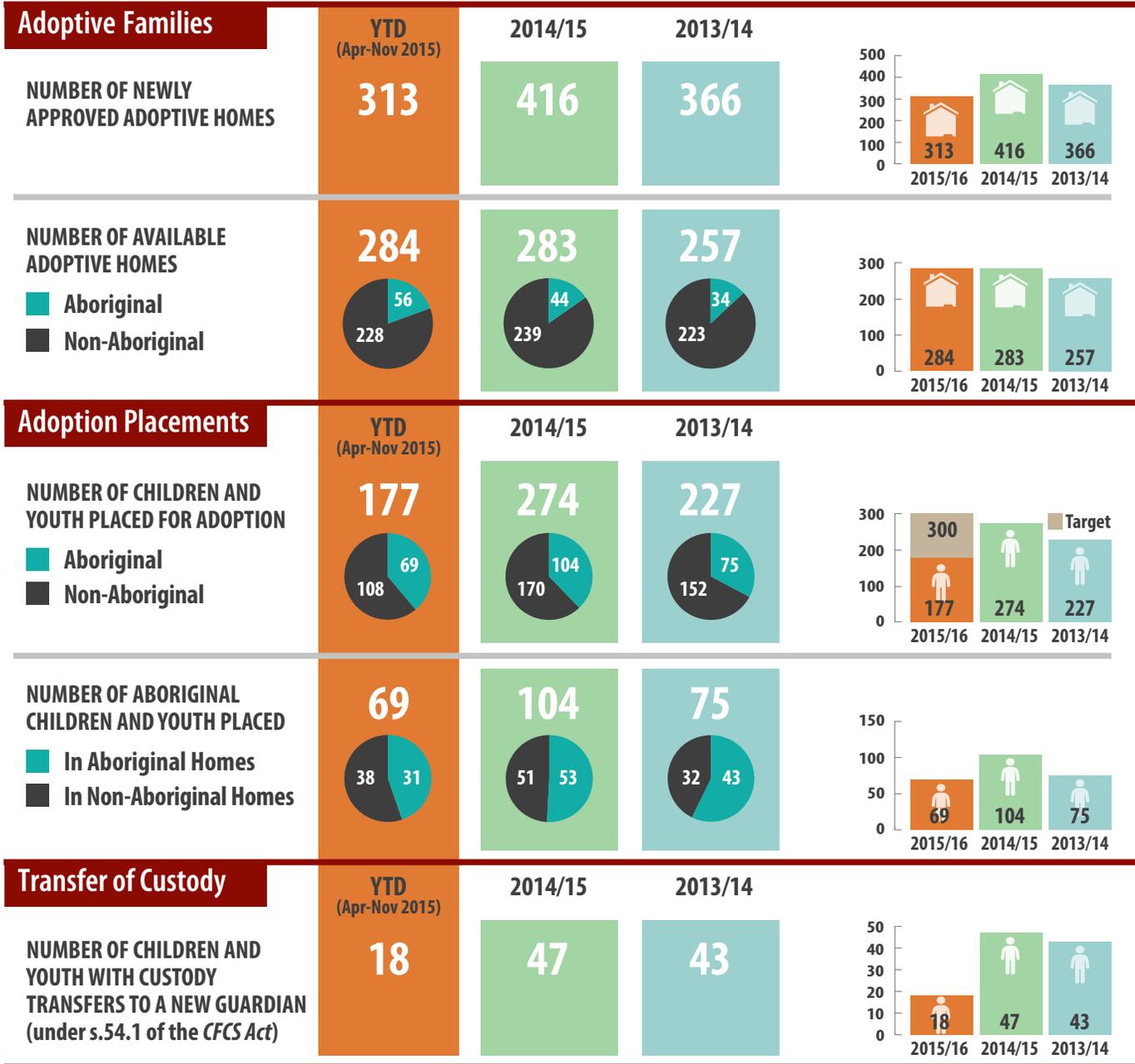
As Aboriginal children are vastly over-represented in government care in B.C, a focus has been placed on collecting adoption and permanency statistics for that cohort. A total of 69 Aboriginal children and youth in care were placed for adoption between April 1 and Nov. 30, 2015, and the number of Aboriginal children in care with adoption plans has grown by 31. In addition, the number of available Aboriginal adoptive homes in B.C. rose from 44 to 56.

Included in the *B.C. Adoption Update* are key adoption and permanency statistics for the current fiscal year – as well as for the two previous fiscal years. The Representative's Office will continue to monitor and report out on these statistics going forward and the Representative remains committed to working with MCFD on the important task of finding permanence for B.C.'s waiting children and youth in care.

B.C. Adoption Update – December 2015*

All data as of Nov. 30, 2015





*Data for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 differ slightly from previous Adoption Updates for the following reasons:

1. Numbers in the Adoption Management System change as workers add data from their files.
2. Some April 2015 Update numbers referred to November 2014 instead of March 2015 as MCFD's Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) Portal database was turned off in December 2014 for a data clean-up.
3. The CDW data clean-up impacted historical data.

Source: Adoptions Management System and MCFD Corporate Data Warehouse portal.
Note: Adoption figures were extracted from AMS on Dec. 3, 2015 at 12:00pm.

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B.C.'s Representative
for Children and Youth



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Rep4Youth



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