Dear Dr. Christine Perkins:

As Minister of Children and Family Development, I am honoured to declare that November will once again be recognized as Adoption Awareness Month.

This month is about raising awareness for adoption and permanency in British Columbia and celebrating the families that provide children and youth with love and support as permanent members of their family. Adoptive families make a difference in the lives of children and youth by providing care, guidance, and a sense of belonging. They offer a welcoming stability, ensuring children and youth have the foundation they need to build the lives they dream of, while recognizing the importance of staying connected to their community and culture.

November is also about recognizing that there are children who are still waiting for permanent families. There continues to be a need for more adoptive families in British Columbia to provide children with permanent, secure, and loving homes.

There are many online resources and support services that can help families who are considering adoption in British Columbia.

The <u>Ways to Adopt in British Columbia Web site</u> provides information on adoption in British Columbia, such as infant adoption, relative and step-parent adoption, and adopting a child or youth from another country.

Adopt BC Kids is an online portal that provides British Columbians wishing to adopt children and youth from foster care with information and guidance through their adoption application.

<u>The Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia</u> provides information and support services for families who wish to adopt now or in the future.

I encourage you to share these resources with your community members who are interested in becoming an adoptive or permanent family.

Please join me in celebrating November as Adoption Awareness Month to recognize all the families that have provided children and youth with the care, compassion, and the unselfish commitment of a permanent home, and to all those who may do so in the future. On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, thank you for your continued leadership in supporting adoptive and permanent families in your community.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Dean Minister

Sent on behalf of the Minister by:

