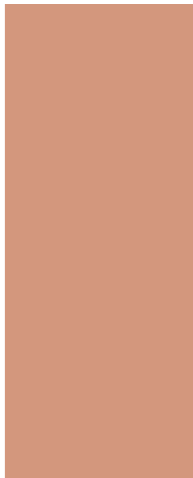


A young girl with dark, curly hair is holding the hand of an adult. The girl is wearing a white sleeveless top with a pink floral and butterfly pattern. The adult is wearing a pink long-sleeved top with a ruffled cuff and white buttons. The background is a soft, out-of-focus teal color. The text "Helping BC's children make connections for life" is centered in the image.

Helping BC's children
make connections for life

Supporting life-long, stable environments



The Victoria Foundation is pleased to be helping support children and youth in need of permanent connections. In 2003, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development asked the Foundation to manage and distribute the Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund.

The Fund was created in association with the Adoption Council of Canada to help children and youth find and maintain lifelong connections through adoption or alternative avenues of permanence. The Ministry selected the Victoria Foundation to host this fund because of its proven granting experience, administrative capabilities and prudent financial investment policy.

Healthy, Permanent Connections for Life

The Adoption and Permanency Fund provides grants to help individuals and organizations:

- » Create new ways to increase the number of children and youth making healthy lifelong connections with a family, community and culture,
- » Develop greater awareness of the need for lifelong connections, and
- » Facilitate adoption programs and services within BC.

Children and youth who have established permanent relationships with caring individuals, family, community and culture do better in life.

Grant Use

Grants from the Adoption and Permanency Fund have been used for education, support services, research and more. A broad cross-section of largely non-profit organizations from Pouce Coupe to Salt Spring Island have developed projects and programs to provide support, promote adoption and connect kids with their culture.

Community-Based Decision-Making

People who represent the community served by the fund promote its availability, evaluate applications and make granting decisions. The Victoria Foundation supports the work of this committee and distributes the funds based on their decisions.

Committee members put in countless volunteer hours of thorough review and thoughtful deliberation, ensuring that the funds are used efficiently and effectively – supporting as many individuals, families and communities as possible.

for BC's children and youth in care

The BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund is named in honour of the late Lex Reynolds, a founding co-chair of the Fund. Lex was a passionate advocate for children. As a lawyer and volunteer, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children and provide them with opportunities to have permanent, loving homes.



Supports, Services and Education

Grants from the Adoption and Permanency Fund have funded a range of projects including workshops; mentorship and support groups; promotion; education and more.

Cultural education and support for Aboriginal children and their adoptive families, as well as supports for children and youth with diverse and special needs have been funded.

These grants have helped build relationships, services and supports for children and youth in need of permanent connections for life.

Benefiting People Throughout BC

There are many benefits of this fund:

- » **Supports and services.** Communities throughout BC have identified and responded to the needs in their community.
- » **Awareness and understanding.** Within communities, cultures, classrooms and government, people are developing a deeper understanding of the need for children and youth to have permanent connections for life.
- » **Belonging & Community.** Children and youth, and their adoptive families are developing skills, confidence and new associations.

- » **Capacity-building.** Communities and organizations are using the fund to build their capacity and develop innovative and culturally appropriate ways to support those needing lifelong connections.
- » **Relationships.** Community organizations, cultures and families are making links and long-lasting relationships that support children and youth in need of loving, stable environments.
- » **Efficiency.** By having this fund held by the Victoria Foundation, it is managed efficiently and effectively, ultimately putting more dollars into communities.
- » **Return on investment.** Interest earned on the fund provides more funding for projects and communities.

Grant Distribution

The Adoption and Permanency Fund has reached thousands of individuals and families dealing with adoption. To date, 132 projects have been funded across the province, injecting over \$766 thousand into adoption and permanency support, education and resources.

Every child and youth needs to be connected to a family in the same way that they need food and shelter. They deserve to be nurtured, loved and appreciated.



Adoptive parents come from diverse backgrounds and have a range of life experiences. Anyone interested in providing a loving, nurturing home is encouraged to consider adoption.



“I’ve really struggled with the idea of family...trying to explain to people that I just don’t have one.”

– Youth participant, *Adoptive Families Association of BC, Adult Commitment to Teens Project*

“People say kids my age are hard to place and that time is running out for me. Please don’t give up on trying. I’m already having trouble holding on to my hope”.

– Youth participant, *Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, Belonging 4 Ever Project*

For more information or to give

To learn more about the Lex Reynolds BC Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund or to give to it, contact the Victoria Foundation at 250-381-5532 or visit www.connectingforlife.ca.



Founded in 1936, the Victoria Foundation is a charitable organization that manages funds gifted to them either in perpetuity or for specific purposes such as the Lex Reynolds Adoption and Permanency Trust Fund. The funds or the earnings from them are then distributed as grants for charitable purposes. The Adoption Council of Canada was instrumental in having the Adoption Fund established and appoints the Fund’s advisory committee.