

SEARCHING IN CANADA ?????

In Canada , **ADOPTION** and **ADOPTION DISCLOSURE** is a **PROVINCIAL** matter. You must apply to the province where the adoption was FINALIZED in order to obtain any information about that adoption. In most provinces you are entitled to non-identifying background information and may register in a matching registry. Some provide search services, but usually for adoptees only. Waiting lists are very long everywhere and waiting times change all the time. Most legislation is under review.

ALBERTA: Post Adoption Registry, Alberta Children's Services,
11th Floor, Sterling Place, 9940-106 St.
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2N2 (780) 427-6387
<http://www.child.gov.ab.ca>

New legislation in effect Nov 1/04. Adoption records will be open to both adoptees and birth parents. Matching registry and non-identifying information and available. If adoptee does not know about his adoption, adoptive parents can place a disclosure veto.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: The Adoption Reunion Registry Vital Statistics (250) 952-2681
#202 - 1600 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC. V6R 1R3 (604)736-7917
<http://www.adoptionreunion.net>

In 1996 BC was the first province in Canada to truly reform its adoption disclosure laws. Both adoptees and birth parents have rights to identifying information (subject to a no contact declaration and in the case of adoptees the right to an information veto as well). Active registry and search services available to both adoptees and birth parents. Adoptees must request copy of their original Birth Certificate (\$50.00) from Vital Statistics before registry application. Passive registry also available.

QUEBEC: For information about an adoption finalized in the Province of Quebec, it is necessary to know the exact Social Service Centre (Centre de Jeunesse) involved. Will search on behalf of both adoptees and birth parents. No birth names given. A difficult province to search in as records were routinely falsified. It is advised that you contact one of the Canadian support groups for more information . No fees charged since October 2007.

MANITOBA: Manitoba Family Services, Post-Adoption Registry,
Suite 201, 114 Garry St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 4V5 (204) 945-8201

Active search on behalf of adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings and adoptive parents of minors. Waiting time about 2 yrs. Fees for Vital Statistics forms only. Will provide non-identifying info. If you do not know birth name, this is not available. Various birth and adoptive family members may register in passive register. Age priority.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Post Adoption Services
PO Box 6000,
Fredericton, NB. E3B 5H1 (506) 462-5150
www.gnb.ca/0017/adoption/postadoption-e.asp

Active search on behalf of adult adoptees and also birth parents and siblings. No fees. Will provide non-identifying info to both adoptees and birth parents. Adoption Order with full birth name available to adoptive parents and adoptees only if they already know the birth name. Search time 12-18 months.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR:

Post Adoption Services
Health and Community Services - St Johns Region
Viking Bldg. 3rd Floor, Box 13122,
St John's, Newfoundland, A1B 4A4 (709) 752-4406

A new law which came into effect in 2004, gives full identifying birth information to adult adoptees and amended information to birth parents. Both parties may file contact and/or info. vetoes. Must contact Vital Statistics first for original documents (709-729-3308). Fees for forms only. Non-identifying information available to adoptees and birth parents. Government search service is still available. Long waiting list.

NOVA SCOTIA:

Adoption Disclosure Services Program,
Dep't of Community Services, PO Box 696
Halifax, Nova Scotia. B3J 2T7 (902) 424-2755
www.gov.ns.ca/coms/files/adoption.asp

Will do active searches on behalf of adoptees and birth parents (and birth siblings under limited conditions). Non-identifying information available to both parties. No fee for search, but 3+ yr wait. Accelerated search in special circumstances. Passive registry available. Birth last name not available without birthmother's permission.

ONTARIO:

Call for more information: 1-800-461-2156 (416) 325-8305 or check www.serviceontario.ca

New legislation fully in place June 2009. Adoptees and Birth parents may request identifying information about each other. Contact and Information vetoes available. Only severe health search available to birth relatives and adoptees. Passive Matching Registry available for adoptees, birthparents, grandparents and siblings. Can have non-identifying information from CAS or agency involved. Long waiting lists everywhere.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:

Post Adoption Registry,
Dep't of Health and Social Services
16 Garfield St., PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PEI. C1A 7N8 (902) 368-6511 (902) 368-6139
<http://www.gov/pe.ca/hss/spd-info/index.php3>

Adoptees may request a search for birth family members. Waiting list about 1 yr. No fees. Matching register. Birth mother's permission needed for release of birth name. Priority to aged over 60 and for medical searches.

SASKATCHEWAN:

Post Adoption Registry,
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Sask. S4P 3V6 (306) 787-3654, 1-800-667-7539 <http://www.gov.sk.ca>

Adopted adults, birth family members, adoptive parents of minors may request search and contact services. No fees for documents, registry, search and contact or for background information, but long waits. Adoption Order showing birth name available to adoptees.

YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES & NUNAVUT:

Adoption Disclosure Registry
Dep't of Health & Human Resources, Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (867) 667-3002

Adoption Services,
Dep't of Health & Social Services, Box 1320-CST-6
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9 (867) 873-7943

New law in effect in YUKON, May 1, 2010. Adoptees and birth parents may have original or amended birth information. Adoptees may request Adoption Orders. Information vetoes and contact preferences available. Searches and registry available to both.

NWT and NUNAVUT provide non-identifying information plus search and contact services to adoptees and birth parents. Identifying information released once consent is received from both parties. Contact agencies for more information.