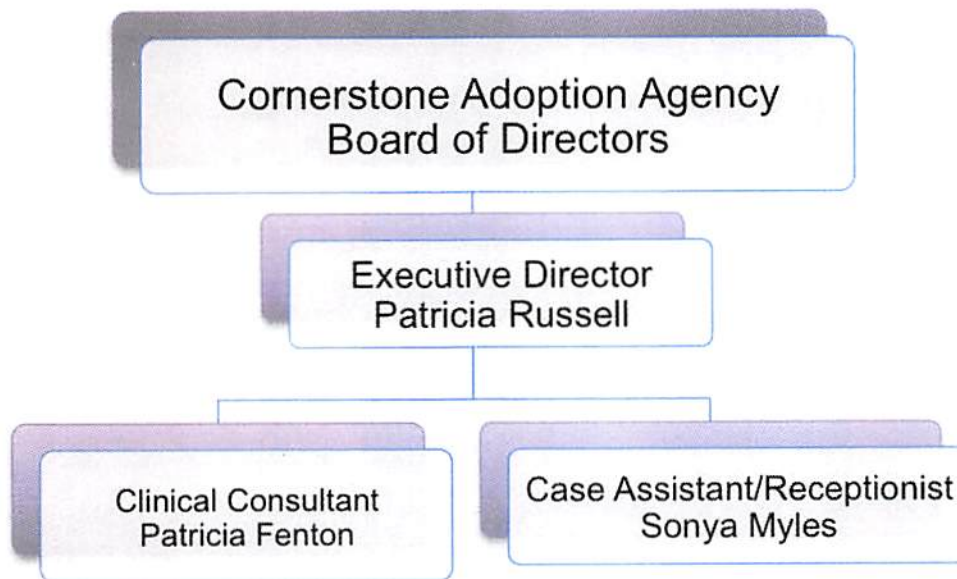


Cornerstone Adoption Agency

2016 Annual Public Report

Cornerstone Adoption Agency facilitates adoptions under both the *Intercountry Adoption Act* and the *Child and Family Services Act* and is licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Organizational Chart of the Corporation



Cornerstone's Board of Directors

Robert Weaver	President
John Lobo	Director
Patricia Fenton	Director
Stephanie Hicks	Director

Cornerstone facilitates adoptions from the following countries:

- Guyana
- India
- Jamaica
- Philippines
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Sri Lanka

In 2010, Cornerstone launched their website: www.cornerstoneadoption.ca

Complaint/Compliment Procedure

Whilst Cornerstone endeavours to satisfy and resolve any issues directly that our applicants or potential applicants may have, they are requested to send their complaints, or compliments, to the President of our Board of Directors at the following email address: rweaver@cornerstoneadoption.ca.

Description of the Children Available for Adoption by Country

Guyana

The age range of children varies; young infants are rare and, in most cases, children range in age from 3+ years. Siblings are available also. The social and medical history of a child is presented as the proposal. Applicants are permitted to specify the sex of the child being requested.

India

Effective August 1, 2015, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) implemented revised guidelines for adoptive applicants who wish to adopt from India as follows:

Age of Child	Maximum Composite age of prospective adoptive parents	Maximum age of single prospective adoptive applicant
Up to 4 years	90 years	45 years
Above 4 up to 8 years	100 years	50 years
Above 8 up to 18 years	110 years	55 years

The age of eligibility is at time of registration with CARA. Applicants are permitted to specify the sex of the child being requested. A Child Study Report, Medical Examination Report and photograph are presented as a child proposal.

Jamaica

In most cases, the children that are available for adoption are older children, 3+ and male. A Social and Medical History of the Child is sent as a Proposal along with a photograph of the child.

Philippines

Applicants cannot specify the sex of child they wish to adopt. Siblings are also available. There must not be more than 45 years' age difference between the youngest applicant and child to be adopted. There are further medical/psychological/economic restrictions that are indicated, but please contact Cornerstone for a detailed list. The Inter-Country Adoption Board of the Philippines (ICAB) sends a thorough Child Study Report, medical and a photograph of child as the Placement Proposal.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

The children are usually under one year of age, but Cornerstone has received proposals of children up to three years of age. Children are fostered, not in orphanages. The social history of the birth mother, which is usually quite extensive, along with information on the child, the medical and a photograph, are provided at the time of a proposal. Applicants may specify the sex of the child.

Sri Lanka

Children offered for adoption are usually under one year of age, but referrals have been received for children up to three years of age. A brief description of the birth mother's situation and the child are sent along with a brief medical on the child, and a photograph of the child. Specification of the sex of the child is permitted.

Annual Totals for 2016 for non-relative adoptions are as follows:

Country	Referrals Received	Finalized	Pending Applications
Guyana	1	2	11
India	5	4	10
Jamaica	2	0	2
Philippines	4	3	20
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	7

*Includes out-of-province applicants

Annual Totals for 2016 for relative adoptions are as follows:

Country	Referrals Received	Finalized	Pending Applications
Guyana	0	2	0
India	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0
Philippines	2	4	7
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	0

Cornerstone currently has out-of-province applicants for our Guyana, India and Sri Lanka programs. Cornerstone has also been developing relationships with applicants and provincial authorities in British Columbia and Manitoba for some of our programs.

TIMELINES & FEES

Guyana

The applicants' dossier is sent to the Child Care and Protection Agency (CCPA) - Adoption Board and Cornerstone's representative. Cornerstone's representative coordinates with the CCPA in identifying a possible match of a child within the homestudy recommendation and informs Cornerstone. Applicants will be informed by Cornerstone of basic information on the child and applicants will be expected to travel to Guyana within two weeks of receiving notice to meet the child and file application with the Adoption Board. They are required to be interviewed by the Adoption Board and have a medical completed by a Guyana certified doctor, along with a medical being completed on the child. Cornerstone's Representative accompanies the applicants with visits to both the Adoption Board and the children's home where the child is resident. Applicants return to Ontario and Cornerstone's representative informs Cornerstone of confirmation that application for child has been filed with CCPA. Cornerstone requests the Social and Medical History of the Child (child proposal) from the CCPA - Adoption Board. A worker assigned by the Adoption Board will prepare a Social and Medical History of the Child (child proposal) and submit it to Cornerstone for presentation to the couple in their home. Receipt of the Social and Medical History at Cornerstone can take a minimum of six months. Applicants' acceptance of child proposal is submitted to the Ontario Ministry for their review and issuance of Letter of No Objection. Cornerstone's representative obtains First Order from the court and the applicants then return to Guyana to attend a court hearing and process immigration papers for the child approximately 2 to 3 months after the presentation of the proposal. A stay of approximately eight to twelve weeks is required during the second trip. Guyana at present does not require post-adoption follow up reports.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
Guyana	\$14,000	\$6,500	\$1,700	\$2,500

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, Foreign Fees and Foreign Legal fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, and long distance telephone. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

India

Effective August 1, 2015, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) implemented revised guidelines to their adoption process.

The Applicants' application is registered online with CARA. CARA advises Cornerstone, through their CARINGS website, of a potential child match and which Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) the child is resident. Cornerstone has 96 hours to reserve the child being referred. Applicants then have 30 days to accept the child being offered. The SAA sends the original Child Study Report (CSR) and Medical Examination Report (MER) for presentation to the applicants by their adoption practitioner. Child proposal documents are submitted to Ontario Ministry for Director's review and approval. Acceptance is then returned to SAA and CARA for issuance of a No Objection

Certificate (NOC) from CARA. Once the NOC is issued the SAA petitions the court for a hearing for finalization under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. Timelines for child to be placed in home are approximately eight months from child proposal. Follow-up Reports are to be conducted by an approved adoption practitioner, under CARA guidelines every three months for one year, and then semi-annually one more year.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	CARA Fees	Foreign Fees
India	\$18,000	\$6,500	\$5,000 US	\$500

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, CARA Fees and Foreign fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, long distance telephone, and post-placement reports. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

Jamaica

Non-Relative

Waiting times to be matched with an available child are unpredictable, but could be up to four years or more. The Child Development Agency (CDA) forwards the Child Study Report on an available child to Cornerstone for presentation to the applicants. Acceptance and Ministry approval are returned to CDA. The case is taken to court to obtain a Form of Licence usually within six months. At this point, sponsorship documents are filed with the Canadian High Commission for review by a visa officer and the issuance of a visa. The adoption is then finalized in Ontario after a supervision period and the submission of required progress reports to the Child Development Agency (CDA). Usually, the adoption is finalized ten to twelve months after arrival in Ontario. Post-placement progress reports are required every six weeks for the first three months, then every three months until the adoption is finalized.

Relative

Once the dossier has been submitted to the Child Development Agency (CDA), the case is to be reviewed by a Case Committee prior to a court date being set for finalization. CDA states it takes six to eight months to be taken to court, in most cases up to a year or more. Certain relative adoptions are done as a Form of Licence placement depending on how the child is related to the applicant(s) and the parish where the child is located. Once the Adoption Order/Form of Licence is issued, citizenship/sponsorship documents are submitted to the Canadian High Commission (CHC). CHC has been known to take up to a year before a visa is issued.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
Jamaica – IAA	\$9,500	\$6,500	\$0	\$0
Jamaica - CFSA	\$12,000	\$6,500	\$0	\$0

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, Foreign Fees and Foreign Legal fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, long distance telephone, post-

placement reports (where required) and finalization of adoption in Ontario. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

Philippines

Non-Relative

Applicants' Homestudy Report and supporting documents are sent to the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) for review by the Board and approval for the applicants to be added to the Roster of Approved Applicants. ICAB states waiting times of up to 36 months to be matched with an available child. Once a Placement Proposal is received from ICAB and presented to the applicants, accepted by the applicants and approved by the Ontario Ministry, the average travel time to bring the child back to Ontario is four to six months. The supervision period then begins and progress reports are required by ICAB every other month for six months. The adoption is finalized in an Ontario court approximately nine to twelve months after arrival.

ICAB introduced a conditional Moratorium in September 2012 limiting the number of applications each agency can submit and these are reviewed on a half-yearly basis and the agency is informed. This has been introduced in an effort to lessen the wait times to be matched with an available child.

Relative

After initial consultation with Cornerstone, a request for an eligibility assessment (Child Study Report) to be conducted is sent to ICAB. Applicants complete the Homestudy process in Ontario and receive approval from the Ontario Ministry. The Applicants' Homestudy Report and supporting documents are sent to ICAB to be reviewed by the Board. The Child Study Report is received by ICAB from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and it is being recommended that the child is available for adoption and it is in the child's best interest to be adopted by this relative, ICAB sends a Placement Proposal of the child with the social and medical history, and a photograph. This is then presented to the applicants in their home; applicants accept the Proposal, which is then submitted to the Ontario Ministry for approval. Acceptance and approval documents are sent to ICAB. The average time to travel to bring the child to Ontario is four to six months. The supervision period begins and progress reports are required by ICAB every other month for six months. The adoption is finalized in an Ontario court approximately nine to twelve months after arrival.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
Philippines	\$16,000	\$6,500	\$2,400 US	\$0

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, Foreign Fees and Foreign Legal fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, long distance telephone, post-placement reports and finalization of adoption in Ontario. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

As St. Vincent & the Grenadines are a very small country, waiting times are hard to determine. In most cases, the time to be matched with an available child has been up to three or more years. Once a child is matched, the Social and Medical History is presented to the applicants. Their acceptance is sent to the Adoption Board and the Lawyer for preparation to finalize the adoption in court, usually four to six months. After issuance of the Adoption Order, citizenship/sponsorship documents are filed with the Canadian High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Post-adoption follow up reports are required at the six month, one year and two year mark.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
St. Vincent	\$18,000	\$6,500	Foster Fees \$400/month	\$2,000 US

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, Foreign Fees and Foreign Legal fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, and long distance telephone. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

Sri Lanka

Applicants' dossier is submitted to the Sri Lankan Consulate in Toronto for attestation and submission to the Department of Probation and Child Care Services in Sri Lanka. Waiting times can be up to three or more years to be matched with a child. A referral of a child is presented to the applicants in their home, and acceptance documents are submitted to the Ontario Ministry for approval. Acceptance documents are sent to the Department of Probation and Cornerstone's Lawyer for preparation of finalization in Court. Applicants are required to travel to Sri Lanka approximately two to three months after the proposal for attendance at a court hearing. A stay of up to six to eight weeks is required. Post-adoption follow up reports are required every six months until the child is three years of age, and then yearly until the child is 10 years of age.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
Sri Lanka	\$16,000	\$6,500	\$500	\$1,300

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee, Foreign Fees and Foreign Legal fees. It also covers disbursements in respect to notarizations, courier fees, long distance telephone and post-placement reports. These fees do not include the homestudy, PRIDE Training, airfare, accommodation, meals or other expenses incurred during the trip to the country of origin of the child to be adopted. These fees are also based on a single child adoption.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

In addition to country specific fees, Cornerstone requires a registration fee of \$500 +HST along with \$200 +HST to review the Homestudy and supporting documents prior to sending the applicant's Homestudy package to the Ontario Ministry for approval. If there is a Child Study Report, an additional \$100 +HST is required.