



Abortion Rights
Coalition of Canada

Coalition pour le droit à
l'avortement au Canada

*Your
Voice for Choice*

Canada's only national political pro-choice advocacy group

POB 2663, Station Main, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3W3 • info@arcc-cdac.ca • www.arcc-cdac.ca

Position Paper #40

Adoption Information and Referrals

Adoption is frequently advocated as a good solution for unwanted pregnancy, particularly by the anti-abortion movement. Abortion clinics and the pro-choice movement support adoption as a possible option for women, and they provide information and referrals on adoption to those considering it. Below is information about how the process works across Canada and some helpful links.

Overview

Adoption is regulated by province in Canada. There are five main categories of adoption:

1. Adopting an infant, child, or youth from the Canadian child welfare system (Public)
2. Adopting an infant or child (Private)
3. Adopting a child from another country (International)
4. Adopting a stepchild/children
5. Adopting a birth relative (Kinship adoption)

The cost to adopt depends on which type of adoption the prospective parent is looking for, which province they live in, and whether they work with an agent. In general, the costs are as follows:

- Public (foster care): \$0 - \$3,000 (can take 6 months to 2 years)
- Licensed private agency: \$10,000 - \$20,000
- International: \$20,000 - \$30,000 (processed through an agency)

In terms of financial assistance, the federal government and some of the provinces offer a tax credit. The National Bank of Canada also provides loans in some cases, and some companies provide adoption assistance coverage in their benefits packages.

In Canada, you are eligible to adopt if you are in a heterosexual partnership, a same-sex partnership, and if you are single. Unfortunately, other countries may prevent adoption by a same-sex partnership.

Links to Public and Private Agencies in Canada

Some provinces offer Public adoption services from their provincial web pages listed below, or they require prospective parents to contact their local child services or departmental office. Where this is the case, the link provides this information.

The links to private agencies are usually not the sole agency in the province, simply the largest or most highly rated. Unless there was no other option, this paper has included only secular agencies without a religion affiliation.

Some provinces have more stipulations than others, such as keeping children in the same province in which they were born, or ensuring that First Nations children are placed in families that will cultivate their cultural heritage/language.

- Alberta [Public](#)
- Alberta [Private](#)
- British Columbia [Public](#)
- British Columbia [Public](#)
- Manitoba [Public](#)
- Manitoba [Private](#)
- New Brunswick [Public](#)
- New Brunswick [Private](#)*
 - * Currently, there are no licensed private adoption agencies in New Brunswick. Private adoptions do occur in New Brunswick, but they're arranged by the birth parents who place their child directly with a family known to them.
- Newfoundland [Public](#)
- Newfoundland [Private](#)*
 - * At present, there are no licensed private adoption agencies, but this type of adoption can still be arranged. In most cases, expectant parents making an adoption plan for their child know the adoptive family prior to placement. For this adoption to occur, the adoptive family must have a home study completed and be approved by Newfoundland and Labrador's Director of Adoption.
- Nova Scotia [Public](#)
- Nova Scotia [Private](#)*
 - *Nova Scotia private adoptions are still organized through the province of Nova Scotia.
- Northwest Territories [Public](#)
- Northwest Territories [Private](#) *
 - * In NWT, Private adoption refers to an adoption arranged between two families themselves.
- Nunavut [Public](#)
- Nunavut [Private](#)*
 - * There is no private adoption in Nunavut.
- Ontario [Public](#)
- Ontario [Private](#)
- PEI [Public](#)
- PEI [Private](#)

- Quebec Public
- Quebec Private *
 - * Quebec has no private agencies, but has three adoption options: “regular”, “mixte” and “international”. The regular takes several years, as there is a high demand for babies. The mixte option is for children who are taken away from their parents (and are generally older).
- Saskatchewan Public
- Saskatchewan Private *
 - *There are no private adoption agencies in Saskatchewan, though it is still possible to adopt the child of someone you know.
- Yukon Public
- Yukon Private *
 - * Yukon does not have private agencies, but private adoptions can be made.