



2021 Public Report

Dear Reader:

On behalf of the Board and Staff at Cornerstone Adoption Agency I am pleased to introduce our Annual Report for 2021.

Cornerstone is licensed to facilitate adoptions from Guyana, India, Jamaica, Philippines, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Sri Lanka. You will find an overview of these programs in this report. You will see that our most active program in 2021 has been India.

When the COVID pandemic began in 2020 we anticipated a decline in activity in international adoption, but this has not been the case. In fact, even as COVID has continued, 2021 has proven to be one of our busier years. Thanks to our dedicated and highly competent staff, Patti Russell, Executive Director, and Sonya Myles, Receptionist and Case Assistant, we have continued our operations without interruption. They have very nimbly moved between virtual and in-office activity as needed throughout this period. In the arena of international adoption there can be many complexities, new developments, and challenges, but our staff have continued to manage our programs and liaise with the various authorities involved very effectively. We appreciate the flexibility, loyalty, and endurance of our clientele as we have navigated the COVID waves and waters together while meeting our goal of helping children find their permanent families.

I wish to thank Kevin Shantz for his expertise and loyal service in helping with our finances and IT. He has been indispensable to us. And to our Board of Directors who have given their time and energy in overseeing and shepherding the agency over the past year, a hearty thank you, too.

My hope is that this report will give you a preliminary glance at who we are and the services that Cornerstone has to offer.



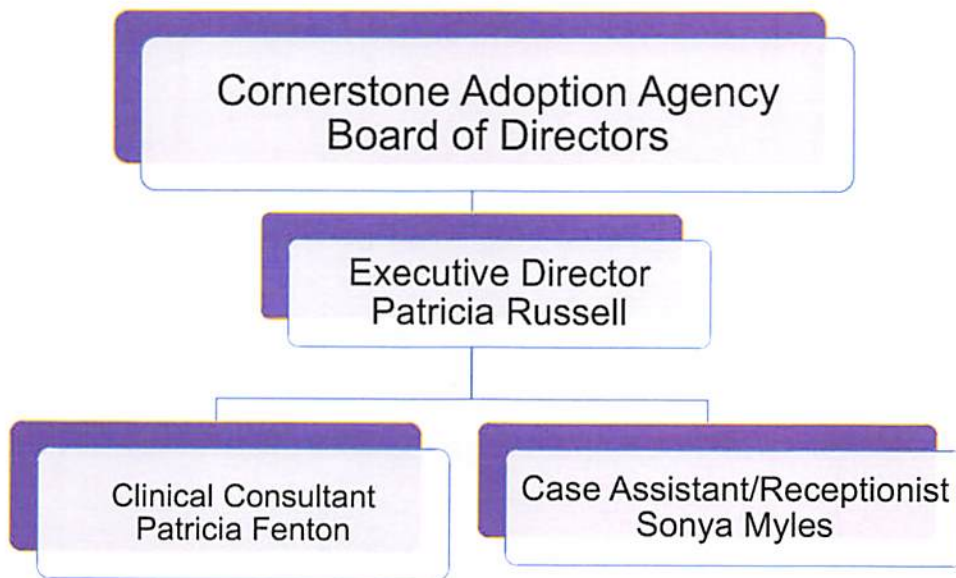
Patricia Fenton, MSW RSW
President, Cornerstone Board of Directors

Cornerstone Adoption Agency

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

Organizational Chart of the Corporation



Cornerstone's Board of Directors

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

Description of the Children Available for Adoption by Country

Guyana

The age range of children proposed for adoption varies; young infants are rare and, in most cases, children range in age from 5+ 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.

Guyana implemented the Hague Convention on Adoption in June 2019, and was legislated in August 2021. At present, no new applications can be submitted to Guyana until a revised adoption process is implemented and passed by the Guyana government.

India

The Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations, 2017 implemented by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) for adoptive applicants who wish to adopt from India indicate eligibility 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 the time of registration with CARA. CARA requires applicants' documents to be re-validated three years after the date of the initial homestudy. If the applicants' composite age at time of re-validation is beyond the above composite age category, the applicants may no longer qualify to adopt a child in that age range. Applicants are permitted to specify the sex of the child being requested. Applicants who hold Indian status (NRI or OCI) have the option to specify up to three State preferences, if they wish, or no State preference. A Child Study Report, Medical Examination Report and photograph are presented as a child proposal.

Jamaica

In most cases, the children proposed for adoption are usually older children, 4+ 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 groups are also available. There cannot 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 proposed for adoption 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

The children proposed for adoption are usually children 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 2021 for non-relative adoptions are as follows:

Country	Applicants awaiting Child Proposals	Child Proposals Received	Finalized Adoptions
Guyana	2	0	0
India	74	6	14
Jamaica	0	0	0
Philippines	15	0	3
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	0

*Includes out-of-province applicants

Annual Totals for 2021 for relative adoptions are as follows:

Country	Applicants awaiting Child Proposals	Child Proposals Received	Finalized Adoptions
Guyana	0	0	0
India	6	1	1
Jamaica	0	1	1
Philippines	1	5	1
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0	1	0
Sri Lanka	0	0	0

Cornerstone currently has out-of-province applicants for our India program. Cornerstone has also been developing relationships with applicants and provincial authorities in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba for certain programs.

TIMELINES & FEES

Guyana

Guyana implemented the Hague Convention in June 2019 and was passed into legislation in August 2021. At the present time, revisions to the adoption process and legislation are being reviewed by the relevant authorities.

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

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) implemented the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations, 2017 in respect to India's adoption process.

The Applicants' are registered with the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) by Cornerstone. Timelines to receive a child referral can vary depending on the age range of child requested. In 2021, the timeline to receive a child referral for a child 0-2 years of age was approximately three years from time of CARA registration. The timelines in the age categories 2+ years of age are lengthier. The time to travel to India to take custody of the child is approximately 10 months after child proposal. India requires post adoption reports for a two year period after the child lands in Canada.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	CARA Fees	Foreign Fees
India	\$22,000	\$6,500	\$5,000 US	\$650

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 five years or more. The Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) forwards the Child Study Report on an available child to Cornerstone for presentation to the applicants and approval by the Ontario Ministry. After the child's arrival in Ontario, a supervision period of a minimum six months is required along with the submission of progress reports, as outlined in the Form of Licence, to the Child Protection and Family Services. The adoption is finalized in the relevant Ontario Court approximately 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

A social and medical history of the child to determine the child's eligibility is requested by Cornerstone from the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA). The CPFSA will inform Cornerstone if the adoption will be finalized in Jamaica or proceed as a Licenced placement to be finalized in Ontario. If the child is deemed eligible for adoption, the applicants' proceed with a homestudy to be approved by the Ontario Ministry. The homestudy and Ontario Letter of Approval along with approved child proposal are submitted to the CPFSA, the case is to be reviewed by a Case Committee prior to a court date being set. CPFSA states it takes six to eight months for the adoption application to be taken

to court for finalization and issuance of an Adoption Order or Form of Licence. When 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 or more 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 - CYFSA	\$12,000	\$6,500	\$0	\$0

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee. 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

The applicants' Homestudy Report and supporting documents are submitted to the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) for review by the Board and approval. The applicants are then added to the Roster of Approved Applicants. Timelines to receive a Placement Proposal have lengthened in recent years, with ICAB currently matching applicants registered in 2016 and 2017. The average time to travel to the Philippines for entrustment of the child proposed is approximately six to eight months after receipt of the Placement Proposal. After the child's landing in Ontario, the Philippine authorities require a minimum of three progress reports over approximately a six month period. The adoption is finalized in an Ontario court approximately twelve months after the child's arrival.

ICAB introduced a conditional Moratorium in September 2012 limiting the number of applications each agency can submit and these are reviewed on a 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) is submitted to ICAB. ICAB suggests applicants do not start the homestudy process until it has been confirmed that the child is eligible for adoption. The Child Study Report and medical on the child is received by ICAB from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), along with a decision if the child is eligible for adoption. Applicants undergo a homestudy assessment to be approved as prospective adoptive applicants by the Ontario Ministry. The Applicants' Homestudy Report and supporting documents are submitted to ICAB to be reviewed by the Board. ICAB sends a Placement Proposal of the child along with the social and medical history of the child. The average time to travel to the Philippines for entrustment of the child is approximately six to eight months after the child proposal. The supervision period begins after the child's arrival in Ontario and a minimum of three progress reports are required by ICAB over an approximately six month period. The adoption is finalized in an Ontario court approximately ten to twelve months after arrival.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
Philippines	\$24,000	\$6,500	\$3,000 US	\$0

Note: Retainer fee includes Agency Administration Fee and Foreign 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

St. Vincent & the Grenadines is a very small country and wait times to receive a child proposal are hard to determine. In most cases, the time to be matched with an available child has been up to four or more years. The child proposal is submitted to the Ontario Ministry for the Director's approval. The applicants' acceptance along with Ontario Ministry approval is sent to the Adoption Board and Cornerstone's legal representative for preparation to finalize the adoption in court, which can take up to six months. Three post-adoption progress reports are required over a two year period after child's arrival in Ontario.

Country	Retainer(s)	Agency Admin. Fee	Foreign Fees	Foreign Legal Fees
St. Vincent	\$20,000	\$6,500	Foster Fees \$400/month	\$5,000 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

The applicants' dossier is submitted to the Department of Probation and Child Care Services in Sri Lanka. Waiting times can be up to six or more years to be matched with a child. Child Proposal acceptance and Ministry approval documents are sent to the Department of Probation and Cornerstone's legal representative for finalization of the adoption 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 eight or more 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.

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: pfenton@cornerstoneadoption.ca