

ADOPTION CIRCLES

MISSING PIECES THRU ADOPTION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 SUMMER 1991

BILL 11: SANCTIONED SECRETS

British Columbia's Social Credit government introduced Bill 11 to create an active adoption registry. The New Democratic Party (NDP) have supported an active registry for years, and now are endorsing the adoption reform community's demand for open records. The following is a summary of the legislative assembly debate of Bill 11.

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"A halting half-step forward in an important area," is how Christopher D'Arcy (MLA-NDP Rossland-Trail) described the Adoption Amendment Act, 1991 (Bill 11). D'Arcy called the active registry inadequate and discriminatory because, "adult adoptees do not have the same right of access to information as any other citizen who is not adopted."

Bill 11, which was passed in June 1991, creates an active reunion registry in BC. Both adoptees and birth parents may request a search for each other. Adult adoptees may also seek a birth sibling who was adopted out and if the birth sibling has died, the adoptee may seek other siblings. However, a veto may be registered by any party to prohibit contact and birth fathers will not be contacted unless they had acknowledged parentage at the time of birth. BC's current passive registry will also be expanded to include birth siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Minister of Social Services and Housing the Honourable Norman Jacobson called Bill 11 the most progressive adoption legislation in Canada. D'Arcy commended the Minister on the legislation but considers it 100 years to late. He said, "too bad it wasn't in 1891 or earlier." He urged the Minister to give the issue some "sober second thoughts." Canada is lagging behind many countries that have open adoption records, such as England, New Zealand and Australia.

John Cashore (MLA-NDP Maillardville-Coquitlam) was also critical of the bill. "We have a lot more homework to do, we have to put in place a policy that recognizes the fundamental rights of human beings to have access to the information that is the very ground of their being," asserted Cashore.

Social Services Critic Joan Smallwood (MLA-NDP Surrey-Guildford-Whalley) questioned whether the active registry's bureaucracy will actually inhibit reunification. Jacobson assured the legislative assembly that adequate staff will be maintained.

However, Anita Hagen (MLA-NDP New Westminster) was concerned whether the government could provide the specialized services. "We've got a bureaucratic process here that may grind to a very quick halt, because the very nature of the task that the bureaucracy is taking on almost defies the usual process of bureaucracy." Hagen is aware of the delicate nature of initial contact and what that demands: "active sleuth-like research that requires a lot of intuition and putting together of bits and pieces to be the effective intermediary to bring these people together."

Jacobson asserted that he was aware of the staffing requirements. However, according to Social Services Ministry Assistant Ian Fisher, retired social workers may

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MISSING PIECES THRU ADOPTION

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Missing Pieces Thru Adoption, a non-profit organization, provides regular support meetings for members of the adoption triangle and related people. There are three chapters in the Lower Mainland and one in Ontario. *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption* promotes openness and honesty in adoption practice. Membership is \$15 per year and includes a subscription to *Adoption Circles*. Send cheque to: National Office, 12551 - 77B Ave., Surrey, BC, CANADA V3W 8L9.

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Bill 11

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be called on to do the search and make the initial contact. Retired social workers are the worst possible candidate for searching and contact. They were trained in an era of closed and secret adoption practice and may bring those biases to the reunion process. This illustrates the Ministry's lack of knowledge of reunion issues.

But, do adoptees and birth relatives need an intermediary at all? Smallwood stated, "we are confident that adoptees and birth parents are capable of that reunification process, given the support and information needed to further the process."

Cashore also expressed concern that "the go-between system built into [the registry] could result in it taking so much longer." After the government registry failed Cashore's adopted daughter by an excessively long wait, she found her birth family two days after she registered with *Parent Finders*, an non-profit organization.

For older adoptees, time is crucial. Their birth parents may pass away while the government shuffles paper-work. For example, the Adoption Disclosure Unit in Ontario already has an eight-year waiting list. Recently, the registry had their staff cut from 8 to 1.5.

Jacobson was overly concerned with keeping promises that were made to adoptive and birth parents. However, confidentiality was not an option but part of adoption practice. Creating change, as D'Arcy points out, is part of the job description: "elected legislatures and parliaments can make changes at any time — that's the reason we have parliament."

Within adoption reform groups, the veto option remains a controversial issue. Many activists assert that when a veto can

be placed, it in fact, closes the record. Cashore asked, "Is it not true that the veto in this instance de facto returns this into being a passive registry?"

Jacobson replied, "Yes, I guess you could say that." He explained that it was different than a passive registry because the person knows that contact was made with their birth relative. But to the person who applied for information and seeks a reunion, the end result is the same — no information and no reunion. That person would be deprived of initial contact with their birth relative, even if it may be only one telephone call or a brief visit — a few precious moments stolen by a bureaucrat.

In a 1968 amendment to the Adoption Act, the adoption order ceased to record the adoptee's birth name. Not only is an adoptee's birth certificate falsified, but since 1968, her/his birth name is replaced with numbers. Bill 11 makes another amendment to this section to further ensure the adoptee's birth name is secret by allowing more than one registration number.

Two weeks after Bill 11 was passed the government introduced Bill 12, "Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act." The purpose of this bill is to "underscore the government's commitment to openness and accountability." However, according to *Vancouver Sun* columnist Vaughan Palmer, the bill listed over 66 loopholes to prevent the government from releasing information. Palmer calls it "officially-sanctioned secrecy under the guise of freedom of information."

Like Bill 12, Bill 11 controls information under the guise of privacy — preventing families from knowing one another.

IN BRIEF

NEW BOOKS

Lifeline: The Action Guide to Adoption Search by Virgil L. Klunder. Caradium Publishers, Cape Carol, FL, 1991.

Secret adoption records have been a matter of life and death for this 25-year-old adoptee. When Klunder found his birth family, he learned that his birth father had died of a heart attack at the age of 25, his birth grandfather at the age of 26 and his birth sister at the age of 17. His birth mother is healthy. Klunder survived a heart attack at the age of 23.

Lifeline details information and sources on searching in each state in the U.S. and Canada.

The Other Mother by Carol Schaefer. Soho Press, Inc. New York, 1991.

Birth mother Carol Schaefer's reunion story is chronicled in *The Other Mother*. As a 19-year-old woman with an unplanned pregnancy, she was shipped off in girdles and shame to a Catholic maternity home. Schaefer describes the pressure by the church and her family to surrender her son, "fearing abandonment, I acquiesced in the abandonment of my own baby."

Schaefer appears in a photograph on the cover with her son and his adoptive mother. Will the "other mother" please stand up!

BRITISH NOVEL RELEASED

Sexing the Cherry by Jeanette Winterson. Vintage International, New York, 1991.

A baby is scooped out of the Thames River and raised by a woman who breeds boarhounds. She is known as Dog Woman. The story is set in pestilent London during the reign of Charles II. Dog Woman wears the same dress for five years, has sex only once (the man never saw his member again). She is fantastic, obsessive, filthy, a murderer and stalks throughout the novel. But she is not without a heart. Dog Woman fears the day when her adopted son will leave her.

Winterson has an outlandish imagination and a narrative voice that showcases her whimsical style.

REUNION REGISTRY CUT-BACKS

Parent Finders report that the Ontario Adoption Disclosure Unit staff has been cut from 8 to 1.5. *Parent Finders* estimate it will take two years to receive non-identifying background information. Before these cuts, the waiting list for a search (on behalf of adoptees only) was eight years. Those seeking medical information will also face a long waiting period. *Parent Finders National Capital Region, Inc.*, June 1991.

"One cannot be deprived
of confidentiality,
because one cannot
own confidentiality.
One enjoys it."
— Supreme Court Ruling
1988 Canada

BIRTH FATHERS' DIMINISHED RIGHTS

In Ontario, the Divisional Court has ruled that "casual fornicators" are not entitled to notice of the adoption proceedings nor is their consent required. The Court examined the impact of the Charter of Rights and concluded that if the natural father's only connection to the child is conception, he does not have a right to be involved in the adoption process.

"Adoption of Children," by Douglas Chalke, *The Advocate*, May 1991.

WOMEN SEWN SHUT

African immigrants want doctors in Ottawa to perform female circumcision and stitch vulvas closed on their young daughters. Although doctors are refusing to perform this dangerous operation, the head of Ottawa's African Resource Centre,

Kyazze said, that the operations are probably being done by the African community. Infibulation is a common practice in Africa. *Vancouver Province*, June 10, 1991.

SPECIAL GUEST

Rob Joyce, brother of birth mother Angela Joyce, was a guest at the Vancouver chapter of *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption* in March. Joyce described the media campaign he employed to find his sister's son. The adoptive mother saw Angela on the news and contacted Angela immediately.

BILL II

Offence 13.5 A person who discloses information from the record except as provided for . . . commits an offence.

COPING — A NEW GROUP

As a result of a false allegation, the MSS&H apprehended Michelle Charpentier's 3-year-old daughter. They were reunited after five months. Charpentier wants to provide support for people who risk having their children taken, or are waiting to be reunited. Contact Charpentier at (604) 739-9227 for information on *Coping*.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Author Rick Ouston was a special guest at the Surrey chapter of *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption*. He shared investigative techniques that he developed as a reporter and used in finding his birth mother. They have been reunited for two years.

Addressing the attitude that prevents searchers from getting information, Ouston said, "We're looking for people, not records. Keep it simple, it's not brain surgery."

The place to start for adoptees is to obtain a copy of their adoption order. In most provinces the adoptee's birth name appears on this document. (*For those born after 1968 in BC and Ontario, and 1966 in Alberta, the birth name has been replaced with numbers.*)

Rick Ouston's book, *Getting the Goods: Information in BC*, New Star Books, Vancouver, 1990, is full of tips.

PORTRAIT OF A DISPOSABLE WOMB

by MILLIE STROM

ON THE BOTTOM SHELF IN A BOOKSTORE, I spotted a book with bold letters: *Birth Mother*. I grabbed it immediately, and as is my habit, I flipped the jacket open to see what year it had been published — 1988. In only three years the book had found its way to the bottom of the pile, discounted to \$1.98. The discarded book was symbolic of its message. According to the author, birth mothers' feelings "are tossed away with the placenta," after their role as breeder is completed.

Birth Mother is the story of a woman who became America's first legal surrogate mother. In great detail, Elizabeth Kane shares her emotions, fears and excitement about providing a couple with the gift of a life.

Kane's story begins with the birth of her firstborn when she was 22. Her child was surrendered to adoption. Even though the event remained painful, Kane felt she handled it well. Two years later she married and had three more children. When she was 37 she answered an advertisement by a lawyer seeking a woman to bear a child for an infertile couple. At first, Kane's husband did not share her enthusiasm about being artificially impregnated by another man. Kane persisted and her husband soon felt it was important to share in his wife's ambitions and agreed to meet with the doctor and lawyer.

Not only did Kane become a breeder

for a couple, she also became a spokesperson for surrogacy when the doctor persuaded her to appear on national TV. She appeared on programs such as the *Phil Donahue Show*, and *People* magazine photographed her on several occasions, including the initial meeting with the doctor and during the insemination.

"So you fell in love
with your baby,
no one told you
it would happen."

One of the reasons Kane was chosen by the doctor and lawyer to be their first surrogate mother was because she had given up a child to adoption with no apparent problem or side effect. She, like many birth mothers, lived in denial about the loss of her child. It is precisely this enormous loss that made Kane a susceptible target for surrogacy. She needed to reassure herself that providing babies to infertile people was a noble cause.

While the lawyer and doctor profited from Kane's endorsement of surrogacy, she was left with lingering pain. She described the loss of her child, "Surro-

gate motherhood is nothing more than the transference of pain from one woman to another. One woman is in anguish because she cannot become a mother, and another woman may suffer for the rest of her life because she cannot know the child she bore for someone else." Kane does not know whether she will ever see her child, Justin. The adoptive mother is attempting to prevent a reunion.

As a result of the pain, Kane reversed her position and became an activist against surrogacy seven years after the birth of Justin. She supported Baby M's mother, Mary Beth Whitehead, during her trial. Whitehead was perceived by the courts as unfit. She could not give up her child according to an agreement she made prior to the birth, prior to the nine-month pregnancy, and prior to conception. Kane told her, "So you fell in love with your baby, no one told you it would happen."

Since Kane and Whitehead's experiences, other forms of reproductive technology have been developed to assist in creating a baby. For example, an embryo can be planted in another woman's womb. In this case, the birth mother is not genetically related to the child she bears.

Using this technology Anna Johnson, a black woman, bore a Eurasian child for a couple. After the birth of her child, Johnson wanted parental rights. These were

were denied to her by California Judge Parslow.

Our language is one indicator of the callous treatment of women in reproductive medicine. Johnson started off as a surrogate mother and became an anomaly called a "fetal container." Birth mothers have also been called "host womb" and

"an agent of gestation."

Kane cautions those in reproductive medicine, "We're not human incubators." Her surrogate contract does not stand in the way of her feelings for her child, just as the adoption arrangement did not prevent her from caring for her firstborn.

Elizabeth Kane has been reunited

with her daughter and now has a close relationship that "adds dimension to her life." The reunion gives her hope that she will be reunited with Justin, too.

Birth Mother: America's First Legal Surrogate Mother by Elizabeth Kane, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1988.

REVIEW of the AAC 13th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Over 440 people convened at the Hyatt in Garden Grove, California for the 1991 American Adoption Congress (AAC) 13th Annual International Conference. It was evident in the high attendance at sessions on healing and grieving, that adoption has created deep wounds. On the other hand, attendance was low at sessions on adoption reform.

A WOUND WITH A VIEW

For many people affected by adoption, as well as adoption professionals, the most talked about session was *Primal Wound* by Nancy Verrier. Clinician Verrier believes that a child separated from its mother at the beginning of life, when still in the primal relationship to her, experiences a primal wound.

Verrier believes that every adopted child is an abandoned child who has suffered a devastating loss, a loss that cannot be eliminated by intellectual understanding or legislative change.

ADOPTION REFORM

Mary Iwanek's session, *Strategic Planning for Change in Adoption Policies and Practices*, revealed strategy that won open records in New Zealand and parts of Australia.

Iwanek is from Holland where instead of adoption there is an open system of guardianship, usually within the extended family of the birth mother. As a young social worker in New Zealand, Iwanek found it difficult to follow her predecessors and peers in a practice that separated families — closed adoption. This discomfort propelled her to develop a strategy for change.

Iwanek researched adoption laws and found that some procedures were informal, while others were formalized policies. For example, New Zealand laws did not require adoptions to be closed. This allowed her to practice open adoption and gain the confidence of her associates regarding openness.

In ten years New Zealand went from a closed system to state-run open adoptions as well as open records.

THE EDUCATION OF LEGISLATORS

Politician Charles Quakenbush spoke on legislative change. He represents the 22nd District in California and authored Assembly Bill 3907 for open records.

Quakenbush emphasized the need to concentrate on the civil rights aspects of opening adoption records. Many politicians consider tearful and emotional reunion stories as pandering to the media, diminishing the issue's credibility.

He claimed lawmakers can seize on the intellectual aspects of opening adoption records. The need for medical information by adoptees or birth families is an important aspect of open records. One-to-one contact with legislators was stressed.

One concern expressed by the opposition is the right to privacy. Quakenbush claimed that secrecy does not ensure privacy. There were over 10,000 successful searches in California last year.

Quakenbush has two children, one adopted in an open arrangement.

AAC President and adoptee Kate Burke addressed many of the arguments against open records. The most popular

myth is the presumed confidentiality of the birth mother. Burke cited Michigan's 1980 law that allows the birth mother the option of confidentiality. Only 2% opted for confidentiality. Half of those have since changed their mind. Confidentiality in most cases has been forced upon birth mothers.

Other topics at the conference included: grieving, infertility, alternative parenting, feminist issues, gay and lesbian issues, men's roles in adoption, search techniques, and sexual boundaries in adoption, including genetic sexual attraction.

ADOPTION ART

The conference presented its first art exhibition by members of the adoption triangle. The body of work was in various mediums including photography, sculpture, painting, poetry and mixed media.

BLUES & COUTURE

The Saturday night banquet and awards presentation was followed by a singer/guitarist. The birth mother wrote about the pain of rejection at the end of her search. The lyrical song was beautifully textured and wove its way into many hearts. Closed adoption and closed records breeds the spectacle of reunion, which, in a Russian roulette style, can lead to rejection. A searcher never knows if the chamber is loaded. The singer received a standing ovation.

The fashion show featured daring couture which took a satirical poke at adoption clichés.

MY REUNION by GAIL BECK

I guess, to start the happiest story in my life, I will have to go back 22 years ago to the saddest time.

At the age of 16 I became pregnant and was sent to an unwed mothers' home in Toronto. On October 2, 1968 I delivered a girl who I gave up for adoption. From that time on I always knew I would search for her but felt I didn't have the right till she reached adulthood.

Well I couldn't wait. I started when she turned 14. For eight years I searched, learned along the way and met many helpful people. After exhausting all my efforts I found someone to search for me.

On January 10, 1991 I received a call that my daughter was alive, living in Mississauga, Ontario and her name was Tracey. I don't think I ever jumped up and down so much in my lifetime. I decided the best thing for me to do would be to make an audio tape. I sent this off to Tracey and two days later I received a call from Tracey's dad, Tom.

Tom said, "Gail, I have someone here who would like to speak to you." Tracey came on the line and it was GREAT — we talked, laughed and asked all the questions. She always wondered about me and about three months previous to finding

her, Tracey had picked up the papers from the Adoption Disclosure Services (Ontario's registry). I then had a good talk with Tom, and he explained that Tracey always asked about adoption and her other mother. This subject was always very open in her family. This confirmed what Tracey had said — she had very good and understanding parents.

Within 10 minutes of
meeting Tracey,
I felt I had known her
all my life.

On February 27th I arrived in Toronto to meet Tracey. That evening she arrived at the home I was staying at, where I greeted her on the front porch. I still can't explain how I felt. It was somewhere between your best dream and shock.

Within 10 minutes of meeting Tracey, I felt I had known her all my life. Everything felt so natural. She is a very happy and thoughtful person!

What more could I ask for.

Later that evening we left for Tracey's mom, Doreen's home. Doreen made me feel very welcome in her home. We had a lot in common and I really enjoyed our visit. Unfortunately Tom and Doreen are now divorced, so my meeting with Tom would be a couple of days later.

In the week that followed, Doreen had me over for dinner, asked me to stay the night and couldn't have been nicer. I then went on to meet Tracey's brother, Rob, her friends and neighbours — what a great week! My meeting with Tom was again, as good as I could want. He took me out for dinner and welcomed me into his home. I now see why Tracey has turned out to be the kind and considerate person she is.

Tracey and myself spent every minute we could together. I believe I can speak for both of us — it was wonderful! We agreed that our lives were complete now and both look forward to a future with each other.

For those still searching — don't give up. I wish you a reunion as good as ours and a great big thank-you to those who helped along the way!

QUOTES

LEARNED MEANINGLESSNESS

"Procreation is not the only meaning of life, for then life in itself would become meaningless, and something which in itself is meaningless cannot be rendered meaningful merely by its perpetuation."

Man's Search For Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl, Washington Square Press, 1984.

Dr. Frankl was a Nazi death camp survivor.

ILLEGITIMATE MOTHERS

Women, not babies, are bastards according to ethicist John Robertson. Commenting on the lack of babies for adoption, he said, "it is the greater willingness of illegitimate mothers to keep their children." "Decoding Reprospeak," *MS*, May/June 1991.

BILL 11: NOT GOOD ENOUGH

"This legislation was a step in the right direction, but it simply isn't good enough to say that this is better than Saskatchewan, Manitoba or something like that when we're looking at this in the context of what might be."

John Cashore (MLA-NDP Maillardville-Coquitlam), Debates of the Legislative Assembly, June 18, 1991.

REUNION ENVY

"Sadly, the institution of adoption, itself, creates this fear [of reunions]. It does so despite the good intentions of all those involved. Because of imposed secrecy and false birth certificates, all of which is sanctioned and approved by social workers

and governments, it is no wonder adoptive parents come to believe that there is no need [for reunion] at all."

My Search for Catherine Anne by Barrie A. Clark, James Lorimer & Company, 1989.

NDP ON RECORD FOR OPENNESS

"I want to state at this time that the New Democratic Party supports both an active registry and open registry, in that we are confident that adoptees and birth parents are capable of that reunification process, given the support and information needed to further the process."

Social Services Critic Joan Smallwood (MLA-NDP Surrey-Guildford-Whalley), Debates of the Legislative Assembly, June 17, 1991.

New Repro

ROYAL COMMISSION ON NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

The Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies is holding hearings and seeking views and opinions from all sectors of Canadian society. The Commission will also study adoption to promote it as an alternative for alleviating childlessness. "It will collect data from all jurisdictions to give a profile of adoption in Canada, including the availability of infants and children by age, gender, racial origin, geographic location, and health status."

This is an excellent time for adoption reform organizations to gain visibility by presenting briefs regarding their views on adoption and closed records. It is a time for birth mothers, birth fathers, adoptees, and adoptive parents to address the cruelty of closed adoption and closed records. Private sessions will be arranged for those not comfortable with a public presentation.

The Commission has extended its deadline to April 30, 1992. It reports to the federal government in October 1992. For information write or call:

Royal Commission on
New Reproductive Technologies
Box 1566, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R5
1-800-668-7060 (English)
1-800-668-9781 (French)

NATURE'S FRIEND

Richard Strom and Kristy Yuris announce the birth of their son, Akayan Iniko Kuiren Amargi Strom, born July 9, 1991 at 12:57 a.m. and weighed 3lb. 1oz. (1390 grams).

Akayan's name translates to: "Nature's friend born of freedom in a time of troubled earth-environment who lives in harmony with mother earth."

Akayan is Millie Strom's first grandchild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELECTION

Missing Pieces Thru Adoption board nominations will be open until July 31st. Votes must be in by September 15th.

Positions open are: Vice President, Communications Officer and Secretary, for a two-year term. Next fall, 1992, elections will be held for the President and Treasurer's positions, also a two-year term.

Members please send your nomination to the National Office (address on back cover).

2ND ANNUAL PICNIC

Missing Pieces Thru Adoption's 2nd annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 10th from noon to 5 p.m. at Sue's Cottage by the Sea (a private home), north of Horseshoe Bay. Contact your chapter leader for details.

FUNDRAISING

Kathryn Vea organized a yard sale in June. To make next year's sale a bigger success, bring your items to the Surrey meeting during the year. Other chapter leaders will make arrangements to transfer items.

NEW GRANDMA

Myra Ross announces the birth of her grandchild, Bryan James Jensen, born June 2 at 12:01 p.m. and weighed 8lb. 8oz. (3863 grams).

CONGRATULATIONS CHANA

Chana Fay Aldrich and Shannon Aldrich announce the birth of their baby girl, Leilani Fay. She was born on March 27, 1991 at 11:36 a.m. and weighed 7lb. 5oz. (3324 grams).

PRIMAL WOUNDS TAPES

Tapes of *Primal Wound* by Nancy Verrier recorded at the AAC 13th Annual International Conference are available from *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption's* library. See your chapter leader. Other tapes and books are also available.

For information on the 1992 AAC conference and AAC membership write:

American Adoption Congress, 1000 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 9, Washington, DC 20036.

BIRTH MOTHERS DAY MARCH

The 3rd Annual *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption* Birth Mothers Day March took place at Premier Rita Johnston's office. Members of *Triad* also demonstrated at Parliament in Victoria.

FEMINISM AND ADOPTION

For a bi-monthly subscription to *Chain of Life: Adoption Reform Feminist & Child Welfare* newsletter send \$10-\$15 (payable to J. Baer) to *Chain of Life*, P.O. Box 8081, Berkeley, CA 94707. Please send U.S. funds only.

NEW CHAPTER

A new *Missing Pieces Thru Adoption* chapter is forming in Langley, BC, in the fall 1991. Contact Kathryn Vea at (604) 530-3085.

Reunions

Lyle Kent first found a birth sister. Then they found six of their nine siblings and had a reunion in January 1991. Although Lyle's birth mother had passed away by the time he found the family, 15 of her 21 siblings are alive. In August 1991 the family will be having another reunion. Lyle hopes that he will find his remaining two siblings for that reunion.

Lorne Anderson was reunited with his birth mother and seven siblings. They all live in his area. He continues to search for his birth father.

Myra Kuriyama was reunited with her daughter, Rhonda Maureen on May 4th. In a recent phone call her daughter said, "I have two moms now, I couldn't have asked for nicer birth parents." Birth father Blaine was also present at the reunion.

Daryl Leavitt found one of her birth sisters. She travelled to Toronto for the reunion.

Barbara Chapnick travelled to Philadelphia for a reunion with her son.