

## why do children come into care?

Children become available for adoption in different ways. Some birth parents choose to make an adoption plan for their child, and other children come into the care of the ministry by court order. Every effort is made to find an adoptive family who best meets the specific needs of a child for the long term.

### children come into care for a number of reasons:

- a parent is unable to provide a safe home for the child
- a parent is unable to provide the type of care the child needs
- a parent dies without naming a guardian
- a parent decides adoption is the best option for their child

### some may have special needs and are awaiting adoption because they:

- are older than two
- are part of a sibling group
- were exposed prenatally to drugs or alcohol and may have behavioural and learning disabilities
- have difficulty attaching to a new family
- suffered abuse or neglect and this has delayed their ability to learn and develop

Approximately 60% of children registered for adoption are between 5 and 12 years. Between 30% and 50% of children have had some exposure to drugs and alcohol prenatally. Some have a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, yet many do not.

All of these children have some level of needs. Parenting a child with special needs can be a difficult task; however, it can also be one of the most satisfying things you will ever do.

