

## PUBLIC ANNUAL REPORT

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### Fiscal 2020 ADOPTIONWORX CANADA INC.

#### Overview

Adoptionworx Canada Inc. has been licenced by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Albanian government since 2002, to facilitate international adoption from Albania. Our Not-for-Profit Agency is also licenced by the Albanian Government, under the Ministry of Justice. In Albania, we hold an excellent reputation with government authorities: an ongoing, high degree of satisfaction with our accountability, paperwork and process has been expressed. The Executive Director, Victoria O'Toole, regularly visits all orphanages in Albania from which the children are referred. This is a highly specialized, historically dependable, yet small program which facilitates less than 10 adoptions annually. However, numbers have been dropping in the past few years, primarily due to a declining birth rate. Albania has signed agreements with 8 other countries and Adoptionworx holds the sole exclusivity for Canada. Albania has been a signatory to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children since October of 2002. Adoptions in Albania are governed by the Albanian Adoption Committee, comprised of representatives from approximately 10 ministries, a lawyer and Chairperson. The Chairperson, and AAC report to the Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Justice.

#### Organizational Chart Of The Agency

Victoria O'Toole, Executive Director (non-voting); + governing Board of Directors – as follows:  
Joseph Servidio – Treasurer, 2020, (YCDSB – Principal); Mary Cosentino – Chair, 2020, (YCDSB-Superintendent of Education, retired) and Mira Miller, PhD – Secretary, 2020 (York University – Senior Analyst & former diplomatic posting – Albania), as at the time of this report preparation

#### Expert Advisory Panel

The Agency is fortunate to have experts: Dr. Flanagan, developmental pediatrician-Toronto; Dr. Kollcaku, pediatric/neonatal specialist- Tirana, Albania; and Lorraine Barreto, formerly of Catholic Children's Aid Society, who form our Panel of Experts, + with whom we regularly consent and/or provide services/opinions for our clientele. Additional services: legal, financial, psychological+ medical are outsourced to Consultants, here and in Albania.

#### Financial Status

Our accountants of record are: Weinberg and Gaspirc, LLP, Chartered Accountants. Weinberg + Gaspirc are the accountants for many NFP's in Toronto, including hospitals and symphonies. There are no outstanding creditors. The use of additional consultants, here and abroad, keeps overhead costs reasonable and accountable. Monies are held in trust and are collected over an extended period of time. There are three (3), progress billing payments, which facilitate easier payment obligations by adoptive clients over a typical, two-three year period. Staged or progress payments ensure that monies collected from clients are spread out over time-- a significant amount is paid after a child proposal has been accepted by the parents. The Foreign Placement Fee is paid directly by the adoptive parents, to the foreign authorities shortly after arrival in the foreign jurisdiction.

## Program Overview for Fiscal Year 2020

### Who Can Apply

1. Traditional, married couples, married for at least 2 years at the time of application.(proof required)  
Adoption by singles is extraordinarily rare, and occurs only in very exceptional circumstances, directed by the Albanian authorities. Adoptionworx has not facilitated an adoption by a single in 18+ years of operation. Requests for children far exceed the number of children available for adoption.the numbers, these days, are small, for placement. Domestic adoptions are given priority.
2. Parents should be well under 50 years of age for a child under the age of 36 months, at the time of child proposal. **One** spouse may be a few years older than 50, but those couples should be prepared to adopt a 4-6 year old.
3. Couples should be in excellent physical + mental health, with no use of psychotropic remedies; have RCMP and medical clearances, be able to prove that they have the financial means to support a child, and meet Albania's eligibility criteria, as discussed in a comprehensive interview.
4. Couples must be prepared, and agree, to perform 4 post-placement reports, at 6-month intervals and delivered in a timely manner

### Children Available

Albania is a signatory to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children. It is a small country, with under 3 million residents, performing under 50 adoptions per year, the majority of which are placed domestically. All children available through this program are legally/court abandoned + reside in an orphanage. In the last two years, numbers are have been lower, due to the increase in domestic requests.

Children placed internationally range, in age, from 24 months to 4 years, on average, at the time of placement. Occasionally, older children are available for international adoption, upon request. Children who are placed for adoption reside, from birth, in the Maternity Hospital for a period of approximately one month for observation and care, and are then transferred to a state orphanage.

Sibling groups are extremely rare, and orphanages house only 20- 40 children. Not all children residing in the orphanages are eligible for adoption. Many have biological parents/family, who visit regularly. Children proposed for adoption are "court-ready" and legally abandoned. They are classified as "generally healthy", but can have smaller medical issues that are treatable/correctable. Couples must agree to this.

However small the numbers of children are residing in the orphanage, adoptive parents must prepare/ educate themselves for developmental/emotional/health issues that may arise as a result of early institutionalization.

Adoptionworx ensures that a 15-20 minute video of the child proposed, taken by our Program Consultant, will be provided to the adoptive parents, in addition to a social/medical report prepared by the Albanian authorities. Our Agency also arranges for an independent doctor's assessment/evaluation prepared in Albania, and one performed in Toronto by a well-respected developmental paediatrician.

Hard copies of the report/assessment are given to adoptive parents. The paediatrician will also offer a telephone consultation to discuss the video and report. The aforementioned is arranged, and provided for, by Adoptionworx Canada at the time of child proposal/presentation. It is included in our Services Agreement. Photos, social/medical information from Albania, where available, will also be given.

Adoption - Current Time frames (from receipt of Homestudy)

The timelines are as follows:

1. Ministry Approval - Ontario - 4-6 weeks at the time of writing this report
2. Time from Application to Agency to sending dossier overseas: approximately 4-8 months, dependent upon PRIDE training and preparation by the couple + agency of documents/dossier
3. Albania process: outlined in the Agency Services Agreement and by the Agency.
4. Time to referral: 32- 42 months for a child proposal, from the time of receipt of the Canadian dossier, by the Albanian Adoption Authorities. Average wait time is 2.5-3 years, subject to children available. Exceptional circumstances may alter the timing, either way. Older children may be placed faster.

Statistics for Fiscal + Calendar Year

<u>Albania</u>	<u>Ontario</u>	<u>Out of Province</u>	<u>Total</u>
4	0	0	4

The number of completed adoptions for fiscal year 2020.

4

The number of pending adoptions year that are still in progress

3

Number of cases where applicants withdrew from program (at Application stage)

0

\*\* . It is not uncommon for couples to wait to gain entry into the program.

One -time Licence - for Fiscal 2020, Adoptionworx did not have a 'one-time' licence for any country.

Out of Province

The number of finalized adoptions - one-time licence - none

Fee Schedule (agency) is as follows;

Agency fee: \$17,500.00 CAD. - payable in three (3) installments, shown below.

This fee is inclusive of many items that are typically additional costs. Eg. Independent medical assessments; translation, notarization, preparation of documents abroad, etc.

1. Homestudy stage
2. Dossier submission stage
3. Child proposal and acceptance stage
4. Court & flight finalization stage

Note: Approximate timeframe of payments for progress/staged billing is 2- 3 years. A breakdown of inclusive and comprehensive services/costs included is provided in our detailed Services Agreement, and discussed during the application process. The billing includes 3 stages, following Application.

Homestudy Stage

Dossier sent overseas

Child Proposal and Acceptance

Fees fully outlined in Application and the Services Agreement

The Agency fee provides a complete, fully comprehensive level of customer service that includes many services which would typically be outsourced, and paid directly by the adoptive parents, on a fee-per-service basis. Details of our full-service package are included in our Services Agreement.

This Agency adheres to all legislation and regulations under the Intercountry Adoption Act, ONCA, and Corporations Act of Ontario, as they pertain to financial operations.

Final Foreign Placement Fee: payable to Albania, at time of legal proceedings/court in Albania.

A schedule of service inclusions and costs borne by the applicants (eg. airfare/accommodation) are included in the Services Agreement.

The Services Agreement remains proprietary and confidential in the Agency/client relationship.

Adoptive parents are given a comprehensive overview of costs, stages, inclusions and extras during the consultation phase before formalization of an agreement.

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This report is available on request by couples carefully considering the Albania program and are eligible. An initial telephone conversation, at no charge, to determine such is readily available.