

Applying to Adopt

The application process is a thought-provoking task that commands self-reflection and honesty on the part of those wishing to adopt. It is completed in collaboration with a Ministry worker and may take several weeks to complete. It is recommended that applicants take the time to research the information provided in the application package, and that they consider the lifelong impact that adoption will have on them as individuals, a couple, or as a family.

The Home Study process involves several components including individual and joint interviews, interviews with your children or others living in your home to which you are required to consent, reference checks with five individuals, criminal record checks, physician's assessments or reports, proof of marriage if applicable, and any other required information. It will include photos of you, your family and your home, and a letter for the birth parents written by you.

The *home study* report will include information about your:

- * Age
- * Ethnic backgrounds
- * Religious affiliations
- * Education
- * Occupations
- * Physical descriptions
- * Personality and interests
- * Childhood experiences
- * Current spousal or significant other and family
- * Relationships
- * Experience with children
- * Financial information
- * Health information
- * Criminal background, if any
- * Motivation to adopt
- * Willingness to participate in an open adoption plan when in the best interests of the child
- * Willingness to participate in a cultural plan for a First Nations child when in the best interests of the child

It is mandatory that home studies be updated every two years to ensure the information is as accurate and complete as possible.