



For Immediate Release

Adopt4Life's new AFCCA Family Supports Program supports families formed by adoption in strengthening family connections and meeting the needs of their children and youth, with both clinical coordination and peer-based supports and resources for parents and caregivers.

OTTAWA, Sept 2022 - Families formed by adoption, kinship, and customary care with children and youth who have experienced loss and disrupted attachments have been shown to benefit when parents and caregivers are supported with trauma-informed, attachment-focused strategies and resources. Adopt4Life's new [AFCCA Family Supports Program](#) builds on the recognized success of its existing provincial Parent2Parent peer support network for parents / caregivers, adding clinical support and coordination for families who adopted children and youth through children's aid societies and are experiencing AFCCA.

According to Canada's [National Consortium on Aggression toward Family / Caregivers in Childhood & Adolescence](#), AFCCA describes a pattern of behaviour in childhood or adolescence, characterized by aggressive behaviour by a child or adolescent toward family members or other caregivers, and resulting in harm to the child/adolescent themselves, the person(s) the behaviour is directed towards, and other family members. AFCCA can occur in families of all kinds, both biological and adoptive.

For families experiencing AFCCA, being part of an understanding peer community can provide immense relief for parents and caregivers; and additional access to a highly skilled clinical team can help to increase family stability. With effective supports, parents/caregivers have shared they feel better equipped to meet the ongoing developmental needs of their children. Adopt4Life's specialized [AFCCA Family Supports Program](#), enabled by funding from Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), provides individualized strategies that include:

- Peer communities and clinical coordination for families with complex needs.
- Clinician-led therapeutic support groups for parents and caregivers.
- On-demand learning, with specialized tools and resources that promote awareness and skill development.
- Exploring strategies that promote and maintain safety for all family members.
- Intensive advocacy and navigation assistance with coordinated community referrals.

Joining Adopt4Life to deliver this innovative new program are recognized Clinical Leads with deep expertise in developmental trauma, attachment, and neuro-developmental disabilities, along with professional backgrounds in psychotherapy, social work, and mental health.

"Adopt4Life's core focus is to walk alongside parents and caregivers to help them develop a strong circle of support. We know that when we surround families with the right community supports, then healing can begin to happen for everyone. Strengthening family connections and stability throughout their permanency journeys, is our goal."

Read more about the [AFCCA Family Supports clinical team](#).

*Julie Despaties,
Executive Director and founder, Adopt4Life*

Families across Ontario can easily access expanded services delivered virtually throughout the province, in both English and French. The Adopt4Life AFCCA Family Supports Program is free for adoptive families in Ontario with the support of MCCSS and expands on the existing services and supports that adoptive families in Ontario can access. Learn more here: ontario.ca/page/adoption-services-and-supports.

**AFCCA Family Supports Program
Programme de soutien pour la famille APFEA**

Aggression toward Family/Caregivers in Childhood & Adolescence
L'agression envers les parents et la famille dans l'enfance et l'adolescence





About Adopt4Life

Adopt4Life—Ontario’s Association for kin, customary care, and adoptive parents and caregivers, is a community of people with lived experience that strengthens and empowers parents and caregivers to achieve permanency for children so that they reach their greatest potential. We believe all adoptive, kinship and customary care parents and caregivers have a right to advocacy, support and guidance throughout their lifelong journey. Adopt4Life is a founding member of the National Consortium on Aggression toward Family / Caregivers in Childhood & Adolescence.

SOURCE: [Adopt4Life](#)

For further information:

media@adopt4life.com, Tracy Moisan, Adopt4Life; 613.558.0865

For more information on AFCCA, visit:

[National Consortium on Aggression toward Family / Caregivers in Childhood & Adolescence \(www.afcca-apfea.ca\)](http://www.afcca-apfea.ca)

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