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[www.afterfostercare.com](http://www.afterfostercare.com)

**THE FOSTER CARE COUNCIL OF CANADA**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A newsletter allows families separated by child welfare authorities to communicate with each other at Christmas

Ottawa, December 9, 2004:

John Dunn  
The Foster Care Council of Canada  
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Christmas is just around the corner, children and their families are buzzing around trying to find the perfect gift for that Special someone... they're spending quality time together decorating their homes to give it that warm Christmas glow.

While lying in bed at night, the children, bursting with anticipation for the big day, find sleep almost impossible to attain, as each and every second drags its heavy feet, to the next.

Finally, on Christmas morning, all of this anticipation explodes into a pajama clad whirlwind of torn paper, squealing little voices, ribbons, cards and pets with bows on their foreheads. Later in the evening, they will share a wonderful, candle-lit Christmas dinner, while exchanging humorous family stories and basking in the warmth of the holiday spirit, with people who love them unconditionally.

Unfortunately, many children and families won't be able to enjoy the holidays quite as much. The reason being that many families who suffer from poverty, physical or mental disabilities, spousal abuse, lack of community supports, or simply from false allegations, have been separated from each other by child welfare authorities.

If child welfare authorities have separated you from your family this holiday season, and you're not permitted to communicate openly and freely with them, The Foster Care Council of Canada is asking you to submit a short message of love and seasons greetings to your loved one in our Christmas Issue of The Crown Ward News newsletter.

The Foster Care Council of Canada is an organization of people affected by foster care supporting each other and informing the public on issues related to foster care.

Please visit our web site at [www.afterfostercare.com](http://www.afterfostercare.com) or call (613) 786-1487 to leave your 1 minute message to your loved one for publication.

All names must be kept confidential, but nick-names or initials the person might recognize will be published. Deadline for submissions is Monday December 20th 2004 at 5pm.

John Dunn  
The Foster Care Council of Canada  
<http://www.afterfostercare.com>  
Check out our Christmas Newsletter  
<http://www.afterfostercare.com/downloads/november2004issue.pdf>

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