



We started our adoption journey in May of 2020 and knew the Adoption Centre of British Columbia (ACBC) was the best fit for us. They were friendly, encouraging, and on the ball! They easily guided us through the process, and our profile went live at the end of October. We were given realistic expectations from the start - a match could take months, to years, to never. Somehow, though, we knew it would happen.

Last Christmas, we hung an extra stocking on our mantle. It was our symbol of hope. When the call came at the end of January, we were over the moon! We travelled halfway across the province to get to our little girl, who was born prematurely. It was so very special to us to meet her birth mother in the hospital and have her introduce us to Ophelia in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We couldn't take our eyes off Ophelia. She was the tiniest human we had ever seen and we fell in love right from the start. Being new parents was the most amazing, worrying, emotional, and beautiful time. We cherished the time to bond, and we had so much fun telling Ophelia about the world she would see.

This year, as we gear up to Christmas, we are more excited than ever! We plan to fuse together our current traditions with revivals from our childhood, such as making a gingerbread house each year to share with friends. Ophelia may be too young to enjoy all the chocolates and baked goods we'll make, but we'll still include her in the process so that she can take part in the preparations as well. While celebrations are much scaled back due to COVID, we will find ways to connect and spend time with extended family, even if on a virtual basis. We are also looking forward to seeing how new traditions will unfold. What will Ophelia like and introduce us to as something that will become a part of our celebrations each year?

We find it important to note that while the ACBC made this process fairly seamless, it never would have happened if Ophelia's birth mother hadn't chosen adoption as part of her journey. We could not think of a more beautiful, loving, courageous, and selfless gift, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Ophelia's birth mother is very important to us and will always be a part of our family.



Christmas is extra special this year. There is more magic in the season for us. This year, we will hang Ophelia's stocking. The best part, though, is that while we will fill the stocking with gifts, we know it won't be fuller than our hearts as we enjoy and relax into the comfort of being a family. Ophelia truly is the greatest gift of all, and she continues to give to us each and every day.

-Scott, Nina & Ophelia