



**Saturday, November 10, 2007**

Dear Family

Thank you for your interest in the Stewart College of Languages Homestay Program.

We are looking for dedicated families who are truly interested in hosting international students. Students come to Victoria not only to study English, but also to learn about Canada and be part of a Canadian family. Spending time with your student on a daily basis, and treating him/her as a family member is extremely important. Families are expected to include their student in family outings and activities as much as possible.

Flexibility, patience and understanding are necessary qualities of host family members. Hosting can be quite challenging due to the time and energy required, not to mention the cultural differences that exist between Canada and the student's home country. Ensuring that all family members are committed to sharing their home with an international student is key to a rewarding homestay experience.

An information package is included with this letter which will give you a good idea as to the role and responsibilities of the host family. If after reading the enclosed material, you are still keen to host an international student, you are invited to send us an application which is made up of the following elements:

- ❖ The homestay application form, including three character references
- ❖ A signed Homestay Acknowledgement form
- ❖ Criminal record checks for all people 18 years and over, living in your home
- ❖ Photos of the outside of your home, the student's room, and photos of your family.

Once we have received all of the above, your homestay application will be reviewed and kept on file until your family appears to be a good match for a new placement, or for anticipated future placements. At that time a meeting will be scheduled and a home visit will take place as the final part of the qualification process. It is important to note that homestay placements are not guaranteed.

Again, we thank you for your interest in hosting a student from Stewart College of Languages. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 388-7774. I look forward to receiving your application form and meeting you in the near future.

Yours truly,

Kristina Stewart  
Homestay Coordinator