



PROCLAMATION

National British Home Child Day

September 28, 2024

Whereas 118,000 children were sent from the United Kingdom to Canada between 1869 and 1948 to be used as indentured farm workers and domestic servants. Believed by Canadians to be orphans, only two percent actually were. They are today known as the British Home Children; and

Whereas these children were sent to Canada by over 50 organizations including Kingston's Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph; and

Whereas their vast contribution to our country, including military service in both World Wars, should never be forgotten; and

Whereas British Home Children Day is intended to promote awareness of this little-known aspect of joint Canadian and British history. Thousands of people in Canada, England, and Scotland will be participating in the 'Beacons of Light for BHC', illuminating landmarks such as Kingston City Hall and Springer Market Square; and

Whereas September 28 has been commemorated nationally as British Home Children Day since the passing of motion M-133 by Parliament in February 2018.

Therefore, I, Mayor Bryan Paterson, on behalf of Kingston City Council, hereby proclaim September 28, 2024 to be "British Home Child Day" in the City of Kingston.

Dated at Kingston this 4th day of September, 2024.

Bryan Paterson
Mayor