



September 28th is National British Home Child Day in Canada, as proclaimed by the Government of Canada in 2017. Home Child Canada is seeking your participation in the Beacons of Light Tribute on September 28, 2023. Beacons of Light has been held yearly since 2019 to honor the memory of Home Children. Communities illuminate memorials, monuments, buildings and/or host gatherings and educational events across Canada. I am a volunteer from the group Home Children Canada, a registered charity that seeks to promote awareness of the Child Migration Scheme to Canada. <https://www.britishhomechildren.com/>

Home Children Canada focuses on assisting Home Children and their descendants to find information on lost families (free of charge) and we safely secure and catalogue historical artifacts (trunks/medals/books). Our charity works to educate the general public about this little-known International Child Migration scheme which began in the late 19th Century continuing until the 1970's. Thousands of children, of all ages came to Canada from poor and culturally marginalized families in the British Isles. Children were sent to Canada (and various parts of the British empire) to be used as cheap labor. These children went on to serve in large numbers in WW1 and WW2 as well as make many contributions to Canada. For the large part Canadians are completely unaware of this migration scheme that spanned 4 continents and lasted over 150 years.

These past 4 years Home Child Canada has asked communities and individuals to illuminate memorials, monuments, or buildings, in red, white, and blue or yellow on September 28th. Yellow represents Home Children Canada's floral emblem, the sunflower. The "Porch Light" or "We'll leave the light on for you - In memory of British Home Children," is where we ask individuals to leave their porch light on overnight on September 28th. Many communities have started doing events including gatherings, educational events at museums, flag raising and last year some of our Home Children descendants were invited to participate in a sharing circle with a group of Quw'utsun Elders and community members where we discussed the colonization stories of Canada.

Home Children Canada is excited to welcome you to participate. We look forward to hearing about your event and seeing your pictures. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. On September 28th (or the day of your event) please send me pictures and information for social media.

I am sharing with you the following 3 files:

1. Facts and information about The Child Migration Scheme
2. Why the Sunflower represents Home Children
3. Beacons of Light 2022 video.

If you are willing to participate in these initiatives, please respond to this email as I am the community volunteer for this area. Alternatively, you can contact homechildrencanada@gmail.com