



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

September 26, 2015

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone attending British Home Child Group International's historical celebration of British home children at London's Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Between 1869 and 1948, more than 100,000 orphaned or abandoned British children were sent to Canada to work as indentured workers and domestic help. Most of these boys and girls, between six months to 18 years, settled on farms outside of Toronto. They are known as the British home children.

Tremendous adversity, poverty and hardship marked their young lives. Showing admirable resilience and determination, many of these boys and girls established their roots in this province and went on to lead productive lives as adults, helping shape Ontario's history, its economy and its social fabric.

Four years ago, Ontario declared September 28 as British Home Child Day, a day to recognize and honour the British home children and their immeasurable contributions.

I commend British Home Child Group International, Fanshawe Pioneer Village and generous sponsors London Heritage Council and London Arts Council for supporting this event, which commemorates the ancestors of one in 10 Canadians.

Please accept my best wishes for an engaging and memorable weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier