



PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Whereas over 100,000 poor and/or orphaned children emigrated from all areas of the UK to Canada between 1869 and 1940 and used as farm labour and domestic servants in our Canadian households. These children were separated from their families and became known as British Home Children (BHC); and

Whereas there are an estimated four million BHC descendants living in Canada today, many of whom settled in Halton and the surrounding areas and contributed greatly to the building of our city, including our own Spencer Smith, himself a BHC; and

Whereas this year marks the 157th anniversary of the first party of BHC to arrive on Canadian shores, and cities across Canada, the UK and other commonwealth countries will be participating in the "Beacons of Light for BHC and Child Migrants Tribute" on September 28th to honour the sacrifices of the BHC and their descendants.

Therefore I, Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim **September 28th, 2026** as

“National British Home Children Day”

in the City of Burlington and do commend its thoughtful observance to all citizens of our municipality.

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Dated this 12th day of June 2026

