

2017: February: In a motion unanimously passed by members of the House of Commons, Bloc Québécois MP Luc Thériault prevailed on the House to recognize the injustice, abuse and suffering endured by the British Home Children as well as the contributions of these children and their descendants within Canada.

2017: On February 27, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, based in England, began its public hearings into the abuse child migrants endured after being deported to the colonies.

2017: July: Nigel Haynes said that when he was director of the Fairbridge charity: 1993 – 2008, he had been too busy with the charity's work to research the archives, where there was ample evidence of child sexual abuse.

2018: February 7: House of Commons motion M-133, passed in Parliament declaring September 28 as **National British Home Child Day**.

2018: March 1: the Independent Inquiry report was published, giving evidence that the Fairbridge Society in England knew of the sexual abuse claims from child migrants in both Canada and Australia back as early as the 1930s. The Panel recommended that HMG establish a Redress Scheme for surviving former child migrants, providing for an equal award to every applicant, because all the children were exposed to the risk of sexual abuse.

2019: January 31: As a result of the findings of the Independent Inquiry the British Government announced that each eligible former child migrant was to receive a payment of GBP £20,000. The catch – they had to be alive on March 1, 2018, the date the report was released.

“Too Little Too Late” was the response from many.

2020: March 5: As a result of mounting pressure from the Australian *Former Fairbridgians* for the Fairbridge Society to be held accountable for the abuses they faced while in the society's care, King Charles's “Prince's Trust” *Restored* Fairbridge.

2021: June 8: CBC has identified several people known to have discriminatory or racist views honoured by UBC. Pressure mounts for a review of some of the degrees. Former Fairbridge principal, H. T. Logan's 1965 honorary degree from UBC is on the list for possible review. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/ubc-honorary-degree-revocation-1.6056161>

2022: September: Descendants of British Home Children / Child Migrants met with Cowichan Tribe First Nations Elders to talk and search for common ground. Yes - *All Children Matter*.

2023: Former Fairbridgians: British child migrants sent to Australia, former Rhodesia, and Canada under the auspices of the Fairbridge Society, are given the opportunity to make a claim against the Fairbridge Society – aka: Fairbridge (Restored). However, the former Fairbridgian had to be alive on the day Fairbridge was restored: March 11, 2020.

Once again: will this be: **“Too Little Too Late?”**



1935, September, the first group of children to be sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.

Several of the children were just 4, 5, and 6 years old.



1937, September 22: the fourth group, arrived in Vancouver. Photograph by a Vancouver Sun Newspaper Reporter



1948: May - the final 6 children arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.

Aerial view of the Farm School - circa late 1930s.



A Brief Timeline of British Child Migration

With a focus on the Fairbridge Society



Children at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School 1940s.

British Child Migration has a 350-year history.

1618: The Beginning: King James I ordered unemployed young people to be sent to the American colonies.

1619: The Virginia Company took one hundred children from the city of London, England to Jamestown, Virginia to supply labour to the plantation owners. Some of these child migrants were as young as ten-years-old. They were seen as a burden to the taxpayers.

1620: January, opposition to child migration voiced, stating that the first group was sent illegally.

1620: January 31, the Privy Council authorized child migration. It was no longer illegal.

1622: The Council for New England also asked for children to be sent to them. The shipping of ‘unwanted’ children to the colonies carried on until the 1970s.

1833: The Children's Friend Society sent approximately 230 British children to Upper Canada between 1833-1836. This society was accused of kidnapping, however, by this time kidnapping of Great Britain's youth appears to have become commonplace.

1869: Maria Rye was in the forefront of this wave of British child migration to Canada. Rye escorted her first group of girls in October of 1869. The children came to be known as “Home Children.”

1870: May, Annie Macpherson took 100 boys to Canada.

1875: February, the British government sent Andrew Doyle to Canada to report on the child migration program. His report was unfavourable: “Some of the places indeed, are worse than a Board of Guardians would consent to place a child in England.”

1875: July 5, an Order in Council was passed denying the accuracy of Doyle's Report. Child migration continued.

1882: Dr. Barnardo sent children under the Annie Macpherson's scheme. Then on August 10, 1882, Barnardo accompanied his first group to Canada.

1924: A British parliamentary delegation under Margaret Bondfield, was sent to Canada to report on the welfare of the British child migrants.

The provincial child welfare associations opposed the practice almost without exception as professional childcare became more sophisticated in Canada.

1925: The Bondfield Report found child migration was liable to abuse for the younger children. Britain withdrew its support. The Canadian government put forward an Order in Council, with a 3-year ban on unaccompanied children under 14 years of age from entering Canada.

1926: As many as 4,000 children still sailed to Canada, but the number declined by the 1930s.

1928: The ban on British Child Migration to Canada was made permanent. The Immigration Department of the Federal Government encouraged no publicity on children still being brought into Canada.

1934: On June 14, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) launched an appeal to raise £100,000 to open more schools in the British Empire on the model of the Fairbridge Farm School established in 1912 near Pinjarra in Western Australia.

1934: The *Prince of Wales* donated £1,000 towards the Fairbridge Farm Schools. He called the children an "Imperial Investment."

1935: September, the Fairbridge Society, opened the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* near Cowichan Station on Vancouver Island, BC. The 1925 / 1928 ban on child migration was disregarded. Canadian Immigration officials based in London vetted the children first. Forty-one children arrived on September 25.

1944: Isobel Harvey, B.C.'s Superintendent of Child Welfare. "Report on study made of Fairbridge Farm School during the month of August 1944." Harvey's Report listed the shortcomings of the Cowichan Station farm school: "...one might imagine they were residents of an orphanage in the last century."

1948: May: The last group of six child migrants arrived at the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, BC.

Between 1935–1948: A total of 329 children were sent to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, BC. The average age of the children sent to the Fairbridge Farm School was 10 years, although some were as young as 4 years old.

More than 95% of the children sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School were not orphans.

Between 1833 and 1948, it is estimated that over 120,000 children were sent to Canada.

Library and Archives Canada is compiling a list of the British child migrants, taken from ship lists that date back to 1865. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html.

1956: Ross Report: The report blacklisted several institutions that housed British child migrants in Australia, including both Fairbridge Farm Schools. The blacklist for the two Fairbridge Farm Schools were quickly lifted at the demand of its prestigious Board of Directors based in London, England.

1970s: British Child Migration continued to Australia until the early 1970s. Two Fairbridge Farm Schools remained opened into the 1980s.

2010: February 24, a Formal Apology from Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to all British Child Migrants sent to the colonies over this 350-year period. Brown stated that it was the "British government's fault for failing in the first duty of a nation, which is to protect its children."

2010: February: Canadian Immigration Minister, Kenney: "There's no need for Canada to apologize for abuse and exploitation suffered by thousands of poor children shipped here from Britain..." (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/british-pm-apologizes-to-home-children-1.916446>)

2012: March 31: The Fairbridge Society merged with the Prince's Trust. At that time, both societies were working with disadvantaged youth in the UK.

British child migrants were sent to the West Indies, America, South Africa, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe (former Rhodesia).



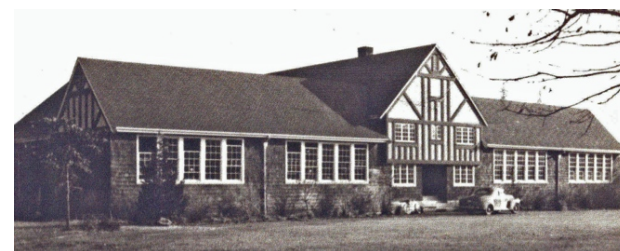
A Vancouver Island Coach Line Bus arriving at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. Circa 1935.



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Chapel



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Dining Hall



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Day School

I have compiled a list of over 110 individuals and agencies that made it their business to ship British children to Canada between 1833 and 1948.