



9 March 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of the Push for Change. This dynamic, thoughtful, comprehensive campaign and charitable effort represents a significant change in how we think about youth homelessness. Across the country the paradigm shift is to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness instead of merely providing an emergency response.

The National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness unanimously endorses the Push for Change. As we move to formalize a National Coalition to End Youth Homelessness over the next year, the Push for Change will factor heavily in our public awareness, youth engagement, and prevention strategies. We will work collaboratively with the Push for Change to ensure that our efforts on preventing, reducing, and ending youth homelessness are aligned.

The National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness is a pan-Canadian network of leading youth serving organizations across the country who work collaboratively on key issues, share promising practices and develop strategies and tools to strengthen our sector and more effectively address issues pertaining to youth homelessness in Canada. Founded in 2006 through the National Initiatives Program of Eva's Initiatives (Toronto), we are the only pan-Canadian network of its kind on youth homelessness. Collectively, we provide supports and services to over 14,000 young people every year.

The Learning Community is based on international models of communities of practice developed to strengthen the practice in our sector and create valuable connections between organizations. In bringing leading youth serving organizations together, we strengthen our individual agencies. The Learning Community meets annually and members work throughout the year on key priorities identified through our strategic planning process.

Sincerely,

Melanie Redman, Director and Co-Chair, National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness