



Joe Roberts  
Push for Change  
c/o 3242 Mayne Crescent  
Coquitlam, BC  
V3E 1E1

April 23, 2015

Dear Joe:

This is a letter of support for your Push for Change walk across Canada to help increase awareness of youth homelessness and raise funds to support [The Upstream Project](#): Preventing youth homelessness by working in schools. This project is a collaboration between Raising the Roof, the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and A Way Home, the emerging Coalition to End Youth Homelessness.

The best way to address youth homelessness is to work upstream and prevent its occurrence in the first place. Countries such as Australia have achieved great success in addressing youth homelessness by developing integrated community responses that operate within the school system. Why schools? Because virtually every young person who becomes homeless was in school at one point, and very likely was in contact with an adult (teacher, guidance counselor, coach) who knew something was wrong.

In Canada, our approach to youth homelessness needs to shift from a focus on helping young people after they become homeless, to doing everything we can to prevent it altogether. The Upstream Project will support communities in the implementation of effective school-based strategies, in order to reduce the number of young people who become homeless.

In raising funds for The Upstream project through Push for Change, you will be supporting the first prevention program of its kind in Canada. Together, we believe we can truly put an end to youth homelessness in this country.

We wish you great success in your endeavors and are very pleased to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Carolann Barr  
Executive Director