

November 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to express my support for Joe Roberts and The Push for Change campaign.

I had the pleasure of welcoming Joe, Marie, and his team to Kingston on October 6, 2016. By the time Joe had reached our riding, he had walked nearly 3000 kilometers, raising awareness for youth homelessness. Pushing a shopping cart across Canada, a symbol of chronic homelessness, Mr. Roberts has been walking alongside government representatives, community activists, and frontline service providers to 'Push for Change' on homelessness.

As the provincial representative for Kingston and the Islands, I am deeply honoured to have Joe Roberts and the Push for Change campaign join us in the fight to end chronic homelessness. As local, provincial, and national stakeholders continue to work together to achieve this common goal, our dedication to this cause is endorsed by Joe Robert's own personal story, which faithfully demonstrates the need for youth-centered housing services.

My community has also been working tirelessly to address the issue of chronic homelessness. The United Way, for instance, has partnered with the City of Kingston, the Provincial government, and various sponsors to establish an integrated Homelessness Prevention Framework to prevent youth homelessness. Some of their proposed strategies include instituting youth-centered mechanisms, which provide house-insecure youth with family counselling and mediation, mental health services, and youth employment and career-readiness programs.

As part of the Province's efforts to end chronic homelessness, Ontario has also developed the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), which will be investing \$632 million to municipalities over the next two years. These funds are used to meet the immediate and long-term needs of those who are or at risk of becoming homeless. Therefore, it brings me great pleasure to support Joe and the Push for Change campaign, as they journey across the country to raise awareness and assist homeless youths.

As we continue to work together, I am hopeful that we will end youth homelessness. I wish Joe every success as he continues to Vancouver, and thank everyone at Push for Change for their efforts in raising awareness to this worthy cause.

Sincerely,



Sophie
KIWALA, MPP

KINGSTON AND THE ISLANDS

