

The Push for Change for Canada's Homeless Youth in Sudbury

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Joe Roberts is walking across Canada with a shopping cart to raise awareness and funds for homeless youth in Canada. He will be in Greater Sudbury on January 15th and 16th. Photo: thepushforchange.com

In 1989, Joe Roberts was homeless living under a bridge in east Vancouver. With the help of some caring people he found a way to escape the streets and today has become an author and advocate for the homeless. He had made a promise that if he ever escaped his fate, he would do something to pay it forward. The Push for Change is his promise realized. Beginning May 1, 2016 Joe began pushing a shopping cart, (a symbol of chronic homelessness) on 9000 km trek across Canada to raise awareness and funds to prevent youth homelessness.

His journey began in St. John's, NL on May 1, 2016 and he will be in Greater Sudbury on January 15th and 16th with many activities planned by The Push for Change Sudbury Team before he continues on his trek westward.

The Push for Change Sudbury Team has decided to welcome Roberts to town by organizing a "Walk to the Wolves." The public is invited to join Roberts for a walk from Science North to the Sudbury Arena at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2017. This walk will be followed by a Wolves game at 2 p.m. with part of the proceeds going to the Push For Change Foundation. The public is also invited to bring non perishable food items to the Sudbury arena for a local

food drive.

Following this event, on Monday, January 16, 2017, Joe Roberts will deliver a speech to Sudbury's youth at the United Steelworkers Hall in order to educate at risk youth on the prevention of homelessness. High school students from le Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario (CSPGNO) , le Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel Ontario (CSCNO), Rainbow Districts School Board and the Sudbury Catholic District School Board will be in attendance.

In addition, United Way is organizing a fundraiser on the evening of January 16, 2017 at 5 p.m. entitled "It's Chili Outside." The public is invited to gather at Memorial Park, Downtown Sudbury for a chili dinner and hot beverages offered by the Blue Door Soup Kitchen. Joe Roberts will be present as guest speaker. This event is free of charge.

Those seeking to learn more or to donate can do so at www.thepushforchange.com and are tax deductible. Funds raised by The Push for Change Foundation will go to the Upstream Project to help implement an evidence-based partnership with schools utilizing a model of early intervention for young people who are at risk of disengaging from school, becoming homeless and entering the justice system. The other 50% of the money raised will be locally distributed to programs helping at-risk youth right here at home.

Sudbury's The Push for Change Team includes the United Way Centraide Sudbury and/et Nipissing Districts, the City of Greater Sudbury, the Greater Sudbury Police, Ontario Provincial Police, United Association, Sudbury Wolves, the Child and Family Centre as well as the school boards including Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario, Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario, Rainbow District and the Sudbury Catholic school board.

For more information about The Push for Change visit their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

