

Push for Change: 9,000km walk to end youth homelessness makes stops at UGDSB schools

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December 21, 2016

GUELPH, Ontario – A 17-month journey to raise awareness and support to end youth homelessness made stops at several Upper Grand District School Board schools this week.

Joe Roberts is pushing a shopping cart across Canada as part of the Push for Change campaign. This week, he paid visits to several schools, educating students on youth homelessness and sharing his story of overcoming challenges.

Roberts is a former addict who experienced homelessness. After facing significant obstacles in his life, he pushed through and is now a successful businessman, dedicated to helping others get past the biggest obstacles in their lives. He works with former athlete Sean Richardson and the Push for Change team to create a sustainable change for Canadian youth.



The Push for Change goal of ending youth homelessness focuses on two things: prevention combined with emergency services and sustainable housing.

Roberts' walk began on May 1, 2016, in St. John's, NL. It will end in Vancouver, BC, on September 30, 2017. The

route is more than 9,000km through 10 provinces and visits to three territories.

Along the way, Roberts has been stopping at schools, speaking to Canadian students. On Tuesday, he was in Rockwood, Ontario, walking with and speaking to students from École Harris Mill PS and Rockwood Centennial PS. Later that day, he also stopped for a rally with students at École King George PS before walking with students over to St. James Catholic School for a presentation. On Wednesday, following a rally with 500 students, Roberts walked with 200 youth from Erin PS to Erin District High School where he spoke to students in grades 7 to 12. In the afternoon, he presented to 500 students at College Heights Secondary School in Guelph.

The school walks and presentations are meant to educate students on the truths and myths about youth homelessness. They are also meant to inspire and empower youth to make a difference in the world, pay it forward, and take action. He encouraged students to persevere through the challenges they face, adding that by doing so they would only be stronger in the end.

