

Program funding for homeless youth announced at York University

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Joe Roberts, from Push for Change, flew in from Winnipeg for the federal announcement at York University Tuesday, April. 25. Roberts is pushing a shopping cart across Canada to raise awareness about youth homelessness and the need for prevention. - Justin Greaves/Metroland

A multimillion-dollar program investment to help homeless youth get back on their feet was announced at York University Tuesday, April 25.

The \$7.9-million funding was made to A Way Home: Working Together to End Youth Homelessness.

The funding will help youth in Ontario and Alberta who are homeless – or at risk of becoming homeless – to get education, job skills and work experience.

The project will be delivered through a partnership between coalition partners on homelessness prevention, including A Way Home Canada, along with the provinces of Ontario and Alberta.

In the first two years of the project, demonstration projects will take place in 10 Canadian cities, including Toronto.

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness at York University will launch a youth homelessness social innovation lab to oversee the demonstration projects and develop tools and resources to help other communities do similar projects. York will receive \$1.45 million of the federal funding to run the lab.

Joe Roberts started pushing a shopping cart across Canada in May 2016 to raise awareness and money to end youth homelessness.

The former addict started the Push for Change campaign and has walked some 6,600 kilometres.

“Our campaign acts as a catalyst to create small acts of kindness,” he said.