

# SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT



Joe Roberts, former homeless youth turned successful entrepreneur is *paying it forward* by pushing a shopping cart 9,100 km's across Canada to help prevent youth homelessness.

**The Push for Change is a national awareness campaign** that will have over 400 community and school events. Making a difference in the lives of youth at-risk begin with talking to youth. That's why one of the key components of the Push for Change campaign is our school/youth program.

## INVESTING IN CANADIAN YOUTH



Photo Credit: Curtis McDonald....Banting Memorial High School, Alliston, ON

### EDUCATE

The Push for Change youth presentation is designed to educate students on what youth homelessness is and is not. How over 35,000 young Canadians fall into street life each year and what each student can do to avoid poor choices that lead to vulnerability and despair. Joe will share his story as a former homeless youth who came from an average home. Walk with Joe through the tough streets of East Vancouver in the 1980's and experience the depths and degradation of a former hopeless, homeless drug addict. Joe's success as a school presenter is due to his honest and authentic message that educators are looking for.

**517 day trek began May 1, 2016  
in St. John's, NL, and ends  
Sep 29, 2017 in Vancouver, BC**

### INSPIRE

Joe teaches us to see the power we all have within us to make a change in the world we live in. From a promise made on the streets 25 years ago, Joe was inspired to do something to "pay it forward", to help other young people avoid this fate. The Push for Change is that promised realized, proving that we can make change if we have the courage to take action. Students will be inspired to look within and see their own possibilities.



Pine Tree Secondary School students who designed the shopping cart, won international [Odyssey Angels](#) award

### EMPOWER

The Push for Change offers strong opportunities for youth empowerment. Before, during, and after Joe speaks, students and teachers will be invited to get involved in The Push for Change through social media, interactivity and a number of hands on fun(d)raising activities—some of which will be competing against other schools across Canada.



The Shopping Cart

## ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS

### Over 500,000 students have heard Joe's message (including:)

Apex Alternative High School  
Banting Memorial High School  
Barrie North Collegiate  
Beausoleil First Nations  
Britannia Secondary School  
Burnaby North Secondary School  
Burnaby Youth Custody Services  
Caledonia Secondary – Terrace BC  
Carver Christian High School  
Centre Hastings Secondary School  
Collingwood Collegiate  
Ecole Earl Marriott Secondary  
Elgin Park Secondary School  
Fraser House – Mission Secondary Schools  
Fraser Valley Adventist  
Hatzic Secondary  
HD Stafford High School  
John Oliver High School  
Keith Lynn Alternative Secondary  
Kelowna High School  
King George Secondary School  
Kwantlen Park/Tamanawis/Princess Margaret  
Kwayhquitlum MS  
Lord Akins Junior High School  
Maple Ridge Secondary School  
Morisetown First Nations  
Nicholson Catholic College  
North Albion Collegiate Institute  
North Hastings High School  
Odyssey of the Mind  
Pacific Academy  
Pine Tree Secondary School  
Point Grey Secondary School  
Port Moody Secondary  
Princess Margaret Secondary School  
Queen Elizabeth Secondary  
Regent Christian Academy  
Sardis Secondary School  
Seycove Secondary  
Skeena Secondary – Terrace BC  
Stayner Collegiate  
St John's Academy  
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School  
St. Paul's High School  
St. Teresa's Catholic High School  
Stó:lō Nation – Chilliwack BC  
Surrey School District  
Thornhill Junior Secondary  
Trenton High School  
UBC Sauder - Youth Entrepreneur Conference  
Youth Diversion Maple Ridge  
**and hundreds more!**

*Be one of the few schools across Canada who will be proud to say they hosted The Push for Change.*

"The credibility of your message as a presenter was heightened by the fact that you had actually walked the path of which you spoke. It was great to see such a large student body provide their undivided attention to your message of hope and empowerment" - **Dana Barakauskas, Principal**

"We may never know the real impact that this presentation had on our students, nor can we make their decision for them. However if we can show them the ugly side of poor decisions, lay before them choices and related consequences, continually reinforcing the positive choices, then perhaps we will be able to keep many from following the same path that Joe followed."

**Bill Gerber Fraser Valley Adventist Academy**

"I believe that the presentation had a big impact on our school because of the responses we received after he left. I hope he continues to speak to other schools and youth and get this message across" – **Student**

"He speaks their language and having been right where some of them are at this moment." - **Mother**

"Ignace School students had the very good fortune to walk with Joe & hear his moving and compelling message. His message resonated with many students as he discussed the struggles that can lead to teen homelessness. Having Joe address our students was valuable and beneficial." **Chantal Moore, Principal**

"Joe Roberts' inspiring story is one of determination, courage and overcoming adversity that reminds us of the power of believing that anything is possible. It is testament to the strength of the human spirit and what you can achieve when you set your mind to it."

**Rick Hansen, Canada's Man in Motion**



Walk into Hawkesbury, Ontario from Quebec border, September 22, 2016

TESTIMONIALS

**Awards** Joe is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Laurentian University, the Courage to Come Back Award, The Ontario Premiers Award, Business in Vancouver's 40 under 40 and Zoomer Magazine 45 over 45 and was nominated by MacLean's Magazine as one of ten Canadians that make a difference.