

Social Development

NB

Barefoot challenge issued to all Members of the Legislative Assembly

June 24, 2016

FREDERICTON (GNB) – Members of the Legislative Assembly have been challenged to go barefoot for an hour in support of The Push for Change campaign to raise money and awareness about youth homelessness.

Deputy Premier Stephen Horsman, who is also Minister for Families and Children, issued the challenge to his colleagues. The MLAs are being asked to attend Tuesday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly without their shoes.

"Supporting New Brunswick's youth who can't live with their parents has been a key initiative of our government," said Horsman. "Young New Brunswickers need resources and programs to help them become successful adults, and programs such as the new Youth Engagement Services meet a need for youth living in challenging situations."

Premier Brian Gallant accepted Horsman's challenge earlier this week and Post-Secondary Education Training and Labour Minister Donald Arseneault joined Horsman Wednesday at the Legislature to help bring awareness to the Barefoot Challenge.

"Now, I'd like to issue the challenge to all MLAs to participate in this excellent public education and fundraising initiative," said Horsman.

Social Development offers a range of programs for youth while working in partnership with the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Health, DOTS NB, and many other community-based organizations.

Donations made through the Barefoot Challenge are directed to The Upstream Project, a Canada-wide partnership focused on preventing homelessness through school-based programs. Text 41010 with the word BOOTSFREDDY to donate \$10, with half remaining in Fredericton to support Youth in Transition, or BOOTS to donate \$10 to the Upstream Project. You may also make a donation online by visiting www.thepushforchange.com.

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