

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

Box 370

Moose Factory, On. P0L 1W0



Thursday, May 5th, 2016

Tel: 705-658-4222

Fax: 705-658-4250

Re: The Youth Walk of Hope: June & July 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The young people in the Mushkegowuk First Nation Communities are facing many challenges which seem insurmountable to them. Coping with these challenges brings hopelessness, uncertainty and the belief that they are unloved. These feelings are very strong and because of the strength of these negative thoughts, comes thoughts such as:

"I would be better off dead. No one cares. There is no future. I have nothing to give. Nobody loves me. Nobody will miss me. Suicide is the only option."

Some young people are working hard to fight this pattern and make positive change for themselves, their peers and their communities. Out of this desire for positive change came the dream of undertaking a cross-Ontario walk to show their determination and raise awareness. This idea has become the Youth Walk of Hope (#WalkofHope), to bring hope and be a voice of the future.

As a Grand Chief, I care for my young people. I want them to be the source of inspiration for their communities and for all Canadians. I want them to know that they are the voice of their future. They are the future leaders and most important of all, they are "LOVED".

Therefore, I am supporting the youth from Mushkegowuk First Nations in planning and organizing a #WalkofHope from Cochrane to Niagara Falls Ontario, a distance of 865 kilometers!

The idea is to set out from Cochrane in Early June and end at the Assembly of First Nation Youth Summit on July 10th, 2016 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Youth Summit is followed by the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Meeting from July 11 to 13, where the youth will be able to present their concerns. Young People from communities will be able to join in along the route as they are able.

This will be a massive logistical effort if it is to succeed. I am calling upon your support to this #WalkofHope, either financially, or in kind, to cover the cost for the walkers, the chaperons, their meals, supplies, accommodations and vehicle rental. Supplies include proper footwear, proper safety wear etc.

This journey of our Youth will be long and hard. But I strongly believe they will bring a voice of hope and resiliency to our Leaders across the country.

Join us with your support on the #WalkofHope. I can be contacted through my email at grandchief@mushkegowuk.ca or on my cell at 705-363-7122

Meeg wetch

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Solomon

Attawapiskat
First Nation

Kashechewan
First Nation

Fort Albany
First Nation

Moose Cree
First Nation

Taykwa Tagamou
Nation

Chapleau Cree
First Nation

Missanabie Cree
First Nation