

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jonathan Howard arrives in Ottawa, is joined by Terry Robinson and prepares to continue westward as others show their support!

OTTAWA - Run the Dream, a solo run across Canada in support of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness, by 24 year old Jonathan Howard, arrived in Ottawa this week and continues westward on July 7th energized by new support.

Welcoming Jonathan to his home province on Monday June 30th was Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, host of CBC News at Six, Ottawa, who led a 5 km run onto Parliament Hill accompanied by The Honourable Jim Munson, Senator (Ottawa-Rideau Canal) and other runners supporting the Run the Dream campaign. Kathleen Provost, Executive Director of Autism Society Canada was also in attendance.

"On behalf of Autism Society Canada's (ASC) Board Members from across the country and our staff, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jonathan and his team for undertaking this courageous and exciting 2008 cross-Canada journey to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorders and to raise funds to support the important work of Canadian autism organizations. Jonathan's motto – "***Dream as though you've never failed***", is inspiring for our community and a perfect fit with ASC's mission to help all Canadians with Autism Spectrum Disorders reach their full potential," says Kathleen A. Provost, CFRE- Executive Director of Autism Society Canada.

On Canada Day Jonathan and Kathleen met with The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and discussed Run the Dream and the challenges faced by individuals and families dealing with an ASD.

Terry Robinson, two-time Canadian Paralympian who uses a wheelchair for mobility, will join Run the Dream from Ottawa through Ontario to Winnipeg. Together, Jonathan and Terry are departing from the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill at 9 a.m. on July 7th.

"As an individual born with Cerebral Palsy, I have first hand experience on how important it is to have necessary services available to you. Autism is impacting more children, adults and their families," says Terry. "My accompaniment of Jonathan, which I have named Terry's Trek, enables me to provide the same support and encouragement to so many families, and to give back to society, especially to kids and families living with Autism. Hopefully, this will help them reach their dreams too. Our goal here is to make life better for others. If we can

make even the smallest difference, we've accomplished what we've set out to do".

To date Jonathan Howard has had the honour of meeting with the Premiers and many other political leaders from each province he passed through, and has been formally recognized within the legislative assemblies of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec. This has facilitated discussions regarding the governments' approach to Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Run the Dream is a nine month solo run across Canada that began in St. John's, Nfld., on March 25th, and will finish in Victoria, B.C., in late December. Jonathan has already covered over 2,700 km of the approximate 8,500 km journey and by journey's end he will have visited more than 650 communities in 10 provinces. The campaign is targeting \$2.5 million in support of a variety of charities that work to assist children and families affected by ASD.

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Run the Dream would like to thank our sponsors: TELUS, Purolator, AON, M-O Freightworks, Gatorade, Medcan Clinic, Flash Reproductions, Mariposa Cruises, Minavox, KCC Leasing, Brightworks, Spa Sensations, The Diamond Studio, Landmark Sport Group, and Whitewater Web Solutions.

For more information or to arrange an interview with Jonathan or Terry, please contact:

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