



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 21, 2008**

---

## **Jonathan Howard Honoured by Nova Scotia Premier and Legislature**

HALIFAX - Jonathan Howard, a 24-year-old Mississauga, Ontario resident, who is running across Canada in support of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), was honoured this afternoon by the Nova Scotia Legislature when the Province officially endorsed the Run the Dream campaign and Jonathan's "extraordinary efforts" to raise awareness of ASD and \$2.5 million "towards improving services to children with ASD". In a rare event, only seen one other time in the House, Premier, the Honourable Rodney MacDonald; Leader of the Official Opposition NDP, Darrell Dexter; and Leader of the Liberal Party, Stephen McNeil jointly introduced an all-party special resolution (*text attached to this press release*) which was unanimously adopted by the House of Assembly.

"Being recognized by the three Provincial Party leaders and the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia is a significant step for the Run the Dream campaign, and an honour for which I'm truly appreciative, but more important is the recognition for those who need support in dealing with ASD," said Howard, whose campaign is partnered with the Autism Society Canada and its local Chapters. "Nova Scotia has been extremely welcoming, and I know that the endorsements that we have had in Atlantic Canada will generate a lot of interest in the rest of the country."

Earlier in the day, Jonathan was officially greeted into the Province, and the City of Halifax, at a support rally outside Province House by the Provincial Party leaders, Councillor Patrick Murphy representing Mayor Peter Kelly, and Vicki Harvey, Executive Director of Autism Society Nova Scotia.

"We are so excited to welcome Jonathan and his team to Nova Scotia. The commitment they have shown to this cause, and the awareness and funds they are raising will make a real difference to all individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders," said Harvey. "Autism Society Nova Scotia applauds your initiative!"

-more-

Following Halifax, Jonathan will continue through Nova Scotia towards Digby, where he will cross Bay of Fundy to Saint John, New Brunswick. Jonathan's full itinerary through the Maritimes is available at [www.runthedream.ca](http://www.runthedream.ca).

Run the Dream is a nine-month solo run across Canada that began in St. John's, Nfld., on March 25<sup>th</sup> and is expected to finish in Victoria, B.C., in December. Jonathan has already covered over 1,300 kilometres of the approximate 8,500 kilometres his journey will take, in which he will have visited more than 650 communities in 10 provinces. In addition, the campaign is targeting \$2.5 million in support of a variety of charities that work to assist children and families affected by ASD.

Log on to [www.runthedream.ca](http://www.runthedream.ca) for more details and to track Jonathan's location via TELUS GPS tracking service.

-30-

Attachment: ***Special Resolution by the Premier, the Honourable Rodney MacDonald; Leader of the Official Opposition NDP, Darrell Dexter; and Leader of the Liberal Party, Stephen McNeil***

Run the Dream would like to thank our sponsors: TELUS, 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.

To arrange an interview with Jonathan in the Maritimes, please contact:

Sarah Hill, Communication Coordinator

Unique Events Production

t: 902.444.3887

c: 902.448.3757

e: [sarah.hill@runthedream.ca](mailto:sarah.hill@runthedream.ca)

[www.runthedream.ca](http://www.runthedream.ca)

To arrange an interview with Jonathan in the rest of Canada, please contact:

Alex Bittner, General Event Manager

Run the Dream

t: 888-507-5885 ext. 4

e: [alex.bittner@runthedream.ca](mailto:alex.bittner@runthedream.ca)

[www.runthedream.ca](http://www.runthedream.ca)

RESOLUTION:

DATE: May 21, 2008

NOTICE OF MOTION

MOVED BY:

Rodney MacDonald  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party

Darrell Dexter  
MLA Cole Harbour  
Leader of Opposition

Stephen McNeil  
Leader of the Liberal Party

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder can severely affect the ability of children to interact with the world around them, and the Autism Society of Canada estimates the incidence rate for Autism in Canada is one in every 286 births; and

**WHEREAS**, so much needs to be learned about the causes of Autism, and how we can all better help families deal with the physical, emotional and financial challenges that come with having a child with Autism; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this House of Assembly rise and acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Jonathan Howard, as he runs across Canada on his Run the Dream campaign to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder and raise \$2.5 million towards improving services to children with ASD.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.