

Winter Coats urgently needed for First Nations Teens in the North!

HIP ('Honouring Indigenous Peoples') received a request from Andrée Cazabon (Director of the movie "Third World Canada") for **winter coats and running shoes for 100 teens attending Thunder Bay's "Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School."** (DFC). To attend the closest high school, these indigenous students must live away from home throughout their 4 high school years, and board in Thunder Bay. Unfortunately, there is no other high school in their 20+ remote, fly-in, First Nations communities. They come from the northwest quadrant of the province of Ontario, a catchment area larger than the size of some entire countries. There's lots of info online about DFC and the challenges faced by DFC students, eg.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/breaking-the-cycle-inside-a-high-school-that-is-reimagining-indigenous-education/article25146175/>



These high school students, ages 14 & up, miss their families and home communities, throughout their grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 high school years. They don't have money, and need new or gently used, adult sized (not child or youth sized, with a special need for some larger adult sizes too):

- ***winter coats (+ hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, snow pants, boots)***
- ***backpacks***
- ***running shoes & sports gear (eg. soccer, baseball, skating, hockey or other)***

Once generous donors provide these much-needed items, HIP will help ship them directly to the school, so the students receive warm coats in the bitterly cold Winter Semester.

How you can help!

1. Donate a new, or gently used and clean, adult sized winter coat (hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants are also welcome!), backpack, running shoes or sports gear, during February!

Please drop off items (or donation cheques for which tax receipts are provided by HIP) at Richmond Hill United Church, 10,201 Yonge St (at Centre Street just north of Major Mackenzie Drive), Richmond Hill L4C 3B2. Please bring donated items to the church office for storage until shipment, or the Coffee Room behind the Office. [Church hours: Deb Fratin (905) 884-1301 ext 5 office@rhuc.org] **Questions?** Kathy & Rod McBey (647) 458-2717 kathryn.mcbey@gmail.com

2. Make a financial donation!

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/HIP/campaign/coatdrive/>

All funds raised will go directly to purchasing and transporting donations to students of Dennis Franklin Cromarty School in Thunder Bay. HIP is a registered charity and tax receipts will be provided. No amount is too small and all donations are thankfully received! Cheques delivered to the church should be made payable to 'HIP'. ***Please, on the cheque, (and on online donations @ "Include a Message for this Charity"), identify this special project, by noting "Winter Coats - DFC High School".***

3. Spread the word!

Please forward and **share this request with all of your contacts**. Donations from friends, family, neighbours, coworkers, and email contacts, are all gratefully received and will be well used!

~ This is our chance to give important support to Ontario First Nations teens who truly need our help! ~