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Four MacEwan University students go ‘homeless’ to raise funds and food for YESS

Edmonton - Four MacEwan University students will go homeless for five days to raise funds and food for Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS). The four students from the School of Business are hoping to raise $20,000 to help YESS fund their projects.

“Participating in 5 Days Homeless last year opened my eyes to the unforgiving circumstances youth at risk face,” said Ellisha Sharma, who is helping organize the fundraising event. “I chose to participate in the event again this year because I recognize the hope provided through organizations like YESS, and I hope I can encourage others.”

During the five days homeless the students will have to meet several requirements, including:

- Remain on campus for five days
- Receive food only through direct donations and all non-perishable food items will be donated to YESS
- Have only a pillow, sleeping bag and the clothes on their back
- Have no access to showers, or facilities to which their student status would usually grant them
- Sleep outside, except during extreme inclement weather
- Attend all classes, complete all academic responsibilities
- Avoid personal communication devices such as cell phones, labtops for social networking, and
- Write about their experiences on the online blog: www.5days.ca

The students will begin on Sunday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m. They will wrap up on Friday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor Amargeet Sohi will be joining the students and sleeping outside on the first night, Sunday, March 10.

Last year the MacEwan University students raised more than $14,000 for YESS.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is a comprehensive university offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, academic excellence, and providing career opportunities continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

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