

Be part of the *Walkolution!*

www.worldrecordwalk.ca
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia Out to Beat Canadian World Record Walk on Sept 1, 2008!

On September 1, 2008, Australia's Giant Walk, led by the State of Western Australia, will attempt to break Canada's World Record for the largest simultaneous 1 km walk (see <http://thegiantwalk.com.au/about.php>). In the official launch for "The Giant Walk," Perth Football Captain and Active Western Australia Ambassador Troy Cook spoke of the "pesky Canadians" who broke their record. "We are always keen for a challenge and I am confident we can reclaim it for Australia and walk away with a new world record. Our national pride is on the line, and while this is not a call to arms - it certainly is a call to legs!" said Troy.

On October 3rd, 2007, Canada claimed the World Record for the largest simultaneous 1 km walk at 231,635 participants (see www.worldrecordwalk.ca). It took place at 1,011 venues from coast to coast, launching the *Walkolution*. Ontario's effort, with over 160,000 participants was a result of support from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's Communities in Action Fund.

"We wish our Australian friends success in eclipsing our record. There is an urgent need to promote walking and create walkable communities to impact staggering obesity rates and the juggernaut of climate change. These are global issues. It is time to put walking on national agendas. If any country wants to challenge our world record, we welcome that for the greater good of society!" says Harry Sawchuk, event organizer for Green Communities Canada.

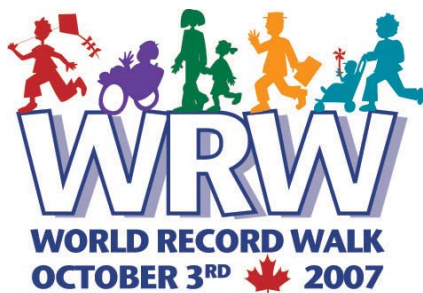
This is the intensifying of a competition that dates back to May 26, 2005, when Albertans, led by the organization SHAPE Alberta (Safe Healthy Active People Everywhere), set the world record with 79,815 Albertans walking 1 kilometre at the same time. In 2006, the state of Western Australia topped that with 100,915 participants walking at 570 venues. Now they want "their" record back and have enlisted all Australian states in the effort!

Although Green Communities Canada is not organizing a World Record Walk this year, we are seeking funding for a 2009 event, engaging all provinces and territories. To support this plan, contact local MPs and MPPs to let them know this is a worthwhile project.

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(Australia Out to Beat Canadian World Record Walk on Sept 1, 2008!)

Green Communities Canada is a national association of community-based non-profit organizations that deliver innovative environmental programs and services, with a focus on household and community action. Green Communities Canada supports member organizations in working together to achieve environmental sustainability, including healthy ecosystems and communities, sustainable resource use, and clean air, water, and soil. See www.greencommunitiescanada.org.

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