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On the road again: Canadian man Jean Beliveau at the Bluff signpost about to start his walk up the length of New Zealand. This is the last leg of his round-the-world journey, which began 10 years ago. Photo: ROBYN EDIE 624811471

Walker reaches New Zealand

Sarah Lamont

Canadian man Jean Beliveau began a four month walking journey across New Zealand from Bluff yesterday as part of a world tour to promote peace and non-violence.

Mr Beliveau left Canada in August 2000 to walk around the world in support of the UNESCO international decade for peace and non-violence for children.

His New Zealand spokesman, Wellington man Bayly Tanner, who is escorting Mr Beliveau on his trip, said the Canadian felt strongly about peace and non-violence.

His aim was to travel 75,000km over 64 countries with the New Zealand

journey expected to cover 2000km at 27km a day, Mr Tanner said.

He had travelled 68,300 km before leaving Bluff yesterday and worn through 48 pairs of shoes, he said.

Already the support had been excellent from companies such as KEA, Air New Zealand and Biodiesel New Zealand as well as every day people on the street.

A man mowing his lawns in Bluff knew what Mr Beliveau was doing and gave him \$20.

They would stop along the way to speak to schools and rugby clubs about family violence.

As Mr Beliveau walked the length of New Zealand he would collect donations for

Barnados New Zealand and hoped to raise about \$100,000, Mr Tanner said.

"He is just a free spirit . . . One of those happy go lucky kind of people who wants to spread his message."

This was the first time during the round-the-world walk that Mr Beliveau had an escort or raised money, Mr Tanner said.

He would push a stroller along the trip which had become his trademark. The shoes he was wearing now were worn out.

"We would really love someone to sponsor him some new shoes."

New Zealand is the last country of the world trip before Mr Beliveau returns to Canada in February.