



Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discover Colombia this Friday at *Ottawa Welcomes the World*

OTTAWA (August 16, 2017) - The Canadian Co-operative Association and the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada invite you to experience Colombia's vibrant culture through sights, sounds and flavours this Friday at *Ottawa Welcomes the World!*

Come and experience Colombian music and dances, enjoy a variety of traditional dishes, and get to know some of Colombia's distinctive crafts and unique tourist destinations. It all takes place this Friday, August 18 at Lansdowne Park (Horticultural building) from 10 a.m. to 8:30 pm.

We'll be there to showcase the many ways rural co-operatives and producer associations across the country are bringing prosperity and hope to their communities. The coffee, cacao, fruit and vegetables they grow are making their way to tables near you, changing perceptions of Colombia as it enters a new era of peace and prosperity.

Meet our Colombian volunteer, Pilar Arjona, as she talks about the exciting ways small producers in her native country are changing the way we think about Colombian cocoa with new and exciting niche products.

Highlights of the program include Colombian cooking demos, dance and crafts workshops for children (and adults!), and a showcase of traditional products that promote fair-trade among their indigenous manufacturers. Also, learn about Canadian projects involving coffee growers in Colombia while you get a sample of the best coffee in the world, and don't leave without paying a visit to our exclusive exhibit featuring the history of the Wayuu 'palabrerros' (the moral leaders who oversee dispute resolution among the Wayyuu people - the largest indigenous group in Colombia), and have been listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

The evening will close with a feature presentation by Colombian singer and composer ESTEMAN at 7pm. ESTEMAN has performed on tour in most of South America, Mexico and the United States with great success, and is emerging as one of the most promising music proposals in Latin America, according to Billboard magazine.

Ottawa Welcomes the World, part of Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations in the nation's capital, features embassies and international partners showcasing their culture through world-class events at Lansdowne Park from March to December 2017.

**Come to Lansdowne this Friday.
Enjoy a cup of peace and prosperity!**

-END-

For more information:

[Ottawa Welcomes the World: COLOMBIA DAY events and activities](#)

To learn about CCA and CDF:

Gonzalo Rodriguez
(613) 238-6711 ext 229

[Check out how co-operatives are transforming rural Colombia](#)

IMPACT (Improving the Economic Performance of Agriculture Co-operatives)

is a five-year food security project that is helping farmer associations in Colombia become registered as legal co-operatives, providing farmer groups with technical, management and marketing training, and facilitating commercial trade among co-operatives. The project is supporting and improving the ability of rural co-ops to manage productivity and growth, to expand into regional, national and international markets, and to access the financing necessary to allow this to occur. IMPACT is being implemented by the Canadian Co-operative Association and Gestando and is funded by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada) and the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada.

[The Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) is a not-for-profit co-operative which establishes and strengthens co-operatives, credit unions and community-

based organizations to reduce poverty, build sustainable livelihoods and improve civil society in developing countries.

[The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada](#) (CDF) is a registered charitable organization that works to alleviate poverty by building and strengthening financial and non-financial co-ops in Canada and around the world. CDF works with the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and other organizations to implement development projects on its behalf.

Canada  Canadian Co-operative Association programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada.

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