



2025 SOLIDARITY TOUR PERU – INFORMATION GUIDE

The Solidarity Tour has returned with a Tour planned for *July 13th-25th, 2025 to Peru* (including travel days)! Those involved with Development and Peace, or those with similar experiences and interests for social justice, are invited to join us for a visit to our partners in Peru!

In the past, we have organized solidarity tours to give opportunities for members of the movement to meet the partners we work with on the ground, to better understand the work and to reinforce their commitment to social justice. This tour is also an excellent opportunity to encounter a different reality and a different culture. This will be a pan-Canadian travel, operating with translation from Spanish to English. This is an excellent chance to share an enriching experience with members and those who are new to Development and Peace from across the country!

Attached, you will find a description of the application criteria, and a Participant Application form. Interested participants must complete the form and send it to Jason Cegayle no later than **April 30, 2025**.

Email: icegayle@devp.org

Applications will be evaluated by the committee selection of staff from Development and Peace. Participants will be selected and contacted during the first week of May 2025.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jason Cegayle
Solidarity Tour Coordinator for Peru and
Regional Animator for Manitoba and Thunder Bay
1-204-231-2848/ icegayle@devp.org

2025 SOLIDARITY TOUR TO PERU DETAILS OF TOUR

General objectives:

- To promote better understanding of the development work of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners on the ground.
- To enable participants to visit a country in the Global South where they will gain concrete understanding of more complex social issues that they can then bring back to their communities.
- Reinforcing participants' motivation for solidarity and social justice and encourage participation in DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.
- To strengthen links between the members of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE at the national level.

Who is Development and Peace?

Founded in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada works closely in over 30 countries and over 100 different projects addressing the root causes of poverty in the Global South. A pan-Canadian movement of over 11,000 members, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada works closely with partner organizations in a spirit of solidarity by:

- Educating Canadians on the root causes of poverty around the world.
- Fundraising to directly support the work of partner organizations so that they can be the protagonists of social change.
- Mobilizing Canadians to partake in democratic action to ensure that the Canada's policies favor the poor and most vulnerable at an international level.

Although the work of Development and Peace is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, please note that participants applying for the Solidarity Tour do not need to be of Catholic background. However, the interested applicant must be aware of Development and Peace's work and relationships with various partner organizations that includes working closely with many sectors related with the Catholic Church. These would include Bishops, religious social movements, ecclesiastic networks, etc. We will be celebrating Catholic mass, prayer services etc., so please consider an openness in this regard prior to applying.

Overview of the situation of poverty in Peru:

Peru is blighted with chronic political instability, a legacy of former dictator Alberto Fujimori, who was deposed in 2000 and is serving a prison sentence for corruption and human rights abuses. The return to democracy has been marked by four presidents and two congresses between 2017 and 2022, and polarization between the right led by Keiko Fujimori, daughter of

the dictator, and the progressive sector, led by Pedro Castillo until December 2022. President Castillo's impeachment after he dissolved the national Congress caused a political earthquake and unleashed severe repression against demonstrators protesting the ascension of vice-president Dina Boluarte to the presidency. With 50 dead in the unrest, most killed in use of excessive force by the security forces, our partners called on the police to use proportional force and for new elections.

The backdrop in Peru is of a growing gap between rich and poor, unbridled extractive projects damaging some of the continent's most important ecosystems, and increasingly eroding environmental norms.

Nearly 26% of the country's population lives in poverty, worsened by pandemic lockdowns. About 220,000 people lost their lives to COVID 19, one of the highest per-capita death rates in the world. This high rate, particularly in the Amazon region, exposed the lack of state investment in national health and the vulnerability of poor people to infectious diseases. Peru is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, with 67% of its national territory in the Amazon. It is also one of the most vulnerable to climate change, accelerated by poorly regulated extractive projects that have left serious environmental impacts, in many cases severely affecting public health.

Canadian businesses, with strong support from the Canadian government, are one of the most important investors in the extractive sector, which is central to the country's economy. However, mining, oil and gas concessions are handed out with little transparency and failure to consult local communities, often resulting in severe social conflicts and even murders of environmental defenders. Rampant corruption exacerbates lack of responsible regulation of extractive projects.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE Partners in Peru – The Church as the voice for the poor

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada works in Peru because of its dynamic civil society and its capacity to mobilize for social change. Also, the voice of the progressive Catholic church of Peru has a significant influence on the rest of Latin America. Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez formulated his innovative pastoral approaches to working with the poor in the marginal areas of Lima in the 1960s. He made an important contribution to liberation theology, which is a major current of Peruvian church life today.

The Church works to support communities impacted by extractive projects throughout Peru, advocating for their right to free, prior and informed consent, better environmental regulation and appropriate medical care for those suffering from mining pollution. The Church is a major voice in the movement to tackle impunity, and has pushed for justice for the victims of murders, disappearances and torture during the Fujimori dictatorship. It has spoken out against a pardon for Fujimori called for by the political right.

Pope Francis's 2018 visit to the Peruvian Amazon and the northern city of Trujillo, which was

severely impacted by climate change-related flooding, set a new agenda for the Church on the implementation of the encyclical *Laudato Si*. The process for the 2019 Synod on the Amazonian region was launched in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, which the Pope called “the periphery of the peripheries.” The synod declared that care for the fragile Amazon ecology and its indigenous peoples at the centre of the Church’s modern-day calling, leading to the creation of the new Episcopal Conference for the Amazon Region (CEAMA).

Our programming focuses on ecological justice, democracy and citizen participation. We support local communities through various activities such as:

- Training church and lay leaders to lead grassroots processes of social transformation
- Accompanying communities impacted by extractive projects
- Defending threatened and criminalized environmental defenders
- Accompanying 11,000 Peruvians demanding the government addresses the public health impact of mining activities
- Advocating implementation of Peru’s commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Protecting Andean forests and water supplies
- Accompanying the vicariates of the Amazon advocating for protection of the Amazon, increasing the visibility of its leaders, and defending Amazon environmental leaders.

Partners and areas to visit in Peru:

Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas (IBC) : Founded by Fr. Gustavo Guitierrez in 1974, one of the founding fathers of Liberation Theology, IBC works closely with communities affected by poverty through formation and training emphasizing the preferential option for the poor. Trainees are equipping and empowering:

- marginalized communities, including women and Indigenous peoples.
- Defence of human rights and the environment threatened by extractive industries.
- Revitalization of regional social organizations and church networks by local activists.

Comisión Episcopal de Acción Social (CEAS) : Established in 1965, CEAS aims to proclaim the joy of the Gospel in its social dimension, encouraging and articulating a national social pastoral from the option for the poor, promoting an active citizenship with the capacity of advocacy in the defense and enforceability of human rights, the search for the common good and integral ecology.

Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica (CAAAP) : CAAAP is a non-for-profit civil association serving those living in situations of poverty, particularly with Indigenous peoples, in the Amazon regions of Peru. Founded in 1974 by the Conference of Bishops of the Amazon Peruvian jungle. CAAAP collaborates closely with la Red Eclesial Panamazónica (REPAM), a network of church social movements working towards safeguarding, defending and preserving the Amazon for extraction and exploitation.

You can read more about the work of our partners in Peru at :

[CAAAP statement in defence of the Common Home: hope and a call to action by the Amazonian Church | Development and Peace](#)

[A Group of Bishops in Peru Send a Letter to the Government in Defense of International Cooperation | Development and Peace](#)

[A plea from Peru to the Canadian mining industry | Development and Peace](#)

Dates of Tour:

The tour to Peru is planned to take place between **July 13th – 25th 2025**. Participants would arrive in Lima on Sunday, July 13. First orientations will take place in Lima on Monday, July 14 with the last day on July 24. The Solidarity Tour will last approximately 11 days and 2 days of travel.

Location:

Peru, South America

Financial Information:

Each participant will have to contribute approximately **\$3500** toward the cost of their Tour. This can be amassed through fundraising in their local community (hosting fundraising events, applying for grants, sales of fair-trade products, etc). Look for ways to fundraise that will provide educational opportunities for those in your community and give better visibility to your journey and its purpose. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE animation staff are happy to provide you with ideas and support along the way! The amount you contribute will be used to cover costs of the tour including international and local transportation, accommodation and food, etc.

NOTE:

- As of April 2025, there are not requirements for vaccination to Peru. You should consult a physician in a travel health clinic to inform you of recommended vaccines.
- As we will be visiting the Amazon region, it is highly recommended to receive the Yellow Fever vaccination prior to arrive. Please consult your travel health clinic in this regard.
- The successful candidates will have to submit a first non-refundable deposit of \$100 to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE by the beginning of May.
- Flights costs are included in the required amount to pay. Please note that depending on departure cities for individuals, accommodation and flights may vary.

Eligibility:

- Be at least 18 years old. 5 spots will be reserved for participants under 35, with preference to participants who were previously selected for the Solidarity Tour to Brazil in 2020 (which was unfortunately canceled to the COVID-19 pandemic).

- Be an active member of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and your involvement must have been consistent and notable throughout the year.
- Participant needs to hold a passport that does not require a visa to Peru.
- Be available for travel between July 13 and July 25th, 2025 (arrival date + tour + travel home)
- * in good physical and mental health
- * willing to adapt to a different culture (food, manners, etc.)
- * undertake to use this experience to enhance their involvement in and to promote Development & Peace in their parish, diocese, school etc. level upon return
- Priority will be given to those who have not already participated in a D&P Solidarity Tour.

Who:

The group will be comprised of 10-15 people:

- 10 members
- 2 staff persons from DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Medical: It is important to ensure that your routine vaccinations are up to date. Talk to a travel health care professional at least 6 weeks prior to travel to discuss what is right for you.

Mosquitos: It is important to ensure that you take precautions against mosquito bites, as they can carry many diseases. Wearing long sleeves, light-coloured, loose clothing and using bug spray and mosquito nets are good ways of preventing bites.

You can find more information at this link: [Travel advice and advisories for Peru](#)

We encourage all participants to obtain their own travel and health insurance.

INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED

Prior to Departure:

- Participate in preparatory meetings by phone (once a month in May and June and possibly for early July).
- Be able to participate in self-study before departure, specifically doing research and reading related to the tour.
- Participate in fundraising activities to contribute financially to the project.

During the Tour:

- Actively participate in conferences and activities organized by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and those of the host partners (visiting partners and projects, etc).
- Be able and willing to write articles and testimonials for the organization's website during and immediately following the tour.
- Participate in daily debriefing sessions to share thoughts and learnings in connection with the day's activities and involvement in the tour.
- Participate in an evaluation at the end of the tour prior to leaving for Canada.

Upon Return Home:

- Participate in the drafting of a group report and articles for the website and other media.
- Organize and lead educational activities or events to raise awareness in your community about the issues raised during the tour and in relation to the campaign themes of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.
 - Share your experiences with members of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE during certain events: the National Youth Assembly, Diocesan Council meetings, etc.
 - Share your experiences outside the framework of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE to encourage others to join the movement and educate others about the work of the organization worldwide.
- Continue your involvement in the general activities of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in your region or group. Participate in campaigns in connection to ecological justice and share your knowledge on the subject.

If you would like to be a member of the delegation to Peru to meet our partners, read and complete the registration form!

We look forward to receiving your application!