



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Witness

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Please indicate
your interest in
participating in
this opportunity as
soon as possible.

Deadline for
signing up for this
experience is July
31st, 2003. There
are only a limited
number of spaces
available. Please
act quickly!

Contact:

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Mennonite Church Canada: Colombian Learning Tour

Proposed date: November 13 – November 25, 2003

MC Canada is promoting this learning tour to foster greater awareness of the challenges and responses of ministry in the Colombian context. Robert (Jack) and Irene Suderman will lead this delegation in encountering the beautiful yet troubled country of Colombia.

Objectives for Learning Tour:

1. We will **experience** what it means to live, to work, and to be an Anabaptist Christian in Colombia.
2. We will **observe** how the Mennonite Church of Colombia has responded to challenges and opportunities of the Colombian context.
3. We will **interact** with and learn from both rural and urban congregations as they confront the challenges and opportunities.
4. We will **explore** how sister congregational partnerships are appreciated from a Colombian perspective.
5. We will **be touched** and embraced by the Colombian culture and people.
6. We will **observe** both the beauty and tragedy of Colombia.
7. We will **learn** about MC Canada Witness' meaningful partnerships within this setting.
8. Participants will **be encouraged** to share how this experience has widened their understanding of God's mission in the world.
9. If participants are part of a congregation that has partnership with a congregation or ministry in Colombia, efforts will be made to visit these places. Fostering a greater relationship between congregations and ministries is one of the objectives of this exchange.

Components of the Experience:

Daily Devotional Times to focus and centre ourselves on why we are here and what God is saying to us.

Members of the group will be more than tourists (here to see), but representatives of their home congregation and Mennonite Church Canada. We invite members of the group to think about their own experience and to prepare themselves to respond to questions about how their faith experience is shaped in Canada. Each member of the group will have many opportunities to ask important questions that are critical for understanding and sharing with people in Canada about their experience.

We invite interested persons to join us on this experience. We ask those who come to seek their home congregation's support and prayers while on this tour.

Each participant will be asked to keep a journal of their experiences that will help them to provide either a written reflection on their journey or a taped interview.

Cost:

The cost of the experience is currently estimated between \$3000 - 3500 CDN. A portion of this cost will be tax deductible. The cost will include all travel and accommodation expenses except for a few meals in cities of departure and arrival.

Safety:

The Colombian Mennonite Church considers it safe for Canadians to make this kind of a visit. They warmly welcome this possibility. However, we need to be aware that Colombia is "at war" and there is thus a certain degree of risk involved. You would be asked to sign a waiver releasing Mennonite Church Canada and the Colombian Mennonite Church of all responsibility in case of unanticipated events.