

Rotary Club of North Vancouver Lionsgate
1325 Keith Rd E, North Vancouver, BC V7J 1J3

Subject: Thank you & update on Rotary Peace Fellowship

April 12, 2020

Dear Members of the Rotary Club of Vancouver,

First, I want to wish you all well during these difficult times. I hope you have been able to stay safe during what has certainly been one of the most challenging times our world has faced in recent history. Although we are (physically) distant, we can still support one another and I stand ready to help in any way that I can.

I am writing to share some good news though. I am delighted to say that my application for the Rotary Peace Fellowship has been successful! As you are aware, the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation choose approximately 50 fellows each year to pursue graduate studies at one of the five Rotary Peace Centres around the world.

I am set to begin my studies at the UNC-Duke Peace Centre in the fall of 2020, and recently gained admission to pursue a Master's degree at the UNC *Environment, Ecology and Energy Program (E3P)*.

I want to thank you for having believed in me. **Thank you** for not only endorsing my application, but also for your continuous support of the years. I remember when I first joined Rotaract and then had the chance to get to know many of you, including through the Colombia STEM literacy project. It's always been fulfilling to be in the company of Rotarians, and I hope this is only the beginning of another chapter of friendship and fellowship with you all.

Much has changed since then though. After founding and leading a UBC-based youth-engagement startup for nearly three years, I made some big life changes, and returned to Colombia in 2019 to work with the United Nations. This was the first time I'd been back in 19 years, after my family and I were forcibly displaced from our home due to the armed conflict. It was a transformative year to say the least and likely had an impact on my next move, which was to relocate to Ottawa to join the Canadian Department of Global Affairs as a Policy Advisor.

My passion for a few years now though has been environmental governance, sustainability and policy. At UNC, I'd like to research the role of public-private partnerships and innovative policy tools to incentivize decarbonization and environmental protection – through the transformation of energy systems and integration of nature-based solutions – while leveraging the digital and innovation economy to reduce skills shortages to scale-up 'green jobs.'

I believe a greener and more inclusive economy can go in tandem with the private sector and now more than ever, we need mediation but also action. This is why I'm excited to leverage the knowledge I'll gain as a Rotary Peace Fellow. I aspire to be a convener, a bridge-maker, while doing my part to build a world that is cleaner and better for all, and hope I can continue to share this journey with you all in the years to come.

COVID-19 has also made me realize the imperative of public health in policy and will endeavor to consider that in my research and career moving forward so we can avoid another pandemic as we are seeing today. On that note, I also wanted to acknowledge that the current situation in the U.S. and around the world is fluid. I will make sure to keep you updated should there be any developments. For the time being though, thank you again for all your support. I look forward to remaining in touch and please don't hesitate in reaching out.

Sincerely,

Miguel A. Roza

E: mrozo@ideasxchange.org

W: www.miguelroza.com

T: (778) 231 8279