

## The Quebec Youth Summit Riot: A First Hand Account

By Sarah Murphy  
NEWS EDITOR

Images of riot police and troubled students flooded the tube recently as I and over a thousand other students decided to voice our opinion on the state of education in Québec.

Québec students are annoyed at a provincial government that promises to put money into education but instead wastes it on galas and summits where students are not welcomed. I attended the brawl not only to support them, but also to see what I could have been a part of had I not left Québec three years ago to attend quiet well-mannered UPEI.

A few students in attendance insist that the demonstration was a success, but I disagree. A number of students saw the summit as an opportunity to tell their government what they really thought of a system the province is so proud of, but shouldn't be. But an even greater number of students were unaware of the debate; these same students who go to and from classes, who pay their tuition and their fees

without saying a word or even raising an eyebrow. I assume they did not want to be left out of the debate and that is why they came.

The evening of February 22<sup>nd</sup> boiled down to a pathetic re-enactment of the Saint-Jean Baptiste riots. Québec city is so well known for – a crowd looking for a little excitement and tear gas. Lucien Bouchard said the event had been an embarrassment, and I agree. It was embarrassing for his entourage, but most of all, it was an embarrassment for the students who came to the event with an idea, with a mission. Serious student activists were outnumbered, jokers took over the stage. Mr. Bouchard, you reap what you sow.

At the Youth Summit, the government pledged to reinvest \$1-billion into education, a billion dollars my fellow Québec students and I will probably never see but which we will be reminded of. A journalist in covering the summit believes this three day extravaganza will go down in history not because of what it has accomplished, but rather because it will likely be the last one of its kind. Good riddance.

## Meet Colombia: PBI's Finding Peace Amidst Civil War in Colombia

by Erin Callaghan

Colombia borders the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean in South America. Oil is presently overtaking coffee as Colombia's main legal export but earnings from illicit drugs probably exceed those from any other export.

Colombia has a tropical climate, a poverty rate of 40%, and is the world's largest processor of coca derivatives into cocaine.

Most foreign investors are deterred from the Colombian scene by inadequate energy and transportation infrastructure

and violence stemming from drug trafficking and persistent guerilla warfare.

Colombia is in the midst of a civil war, and bloodshed is a frequent event of daily life. Colombian children want to play hopscotch and basketball in safe freedom as Canadian children can.

Colombia is the site of the worst human rights crisis in the western hemisphere.

Evelyn Jones and Steve Law have recently returned from Colombia where they spent 8 months volunteering with Peace Brigade International (PBI) which has 35 workers in Colombia. In Colombia they provided international accompaniment

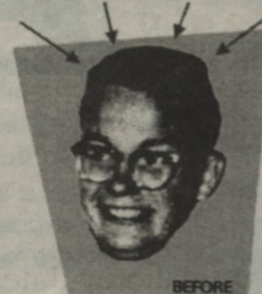
to communities that have been displaced by violence. They were present during one of the most devastating massacres to affect the civilian population striving for peace in the region.

Evelyn and Steve are now on a cross-Canada tour. On March 15 at 7:30 PM they will be hosting a presentation about the peace process in Colombia in Lecture Theatre 'A,' at the Atlantic Veterinary College. They will show excerpts from the film "In the Company of Fear," as well as showing slides from their time in Colombia.

Please join WUSC-UPEI in hosting Steve and Evelyn's presentation. For more information, contact Erin Callaghan, [ercallaghan@upe.ca](mailto:ercallaghan@upe.ca).

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