

Hello all.

August 28, 2018

It is with sincere regret that I must inform you of a very recent decision I have made to postpone this years Fiesta Capacita fundraising event coming up at the end of September. For the past eighteen years, Community Living Windsor has held this fundraiser in support of our work in Nicaragua to provide medication and medical aid to children who have an intellectual disability.

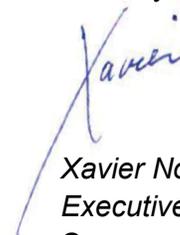
For the past five months, there has been significant political unrest in the country. Perhaps you have seen or read news accounts of this. Protests and violence erupted in Nicaragua after President Daniel Ortega announced changes to the country's social security system. Confrontations between protesters and police and pro-government forces spread throughout the country with many opposing increasingly authoritarian government policies. There have been calls for President Ortega and his wife, who is also the country's vice-president, to step down from power, and for early elections. To date, President Ortega has rejected those calls. The climate has become increasingly violent since the protests began last April. Human rights organizations have indicated that 448 people who have been peacefully protesting have been killed and over 2,100 people injured. The Nicaraguan newspaper *La Prensa* reported that the conflicts have left 250,000 people without jobs and more than a million Nicaraguans on the verge of poverty due to job losses. President Ortega has ordered public hospitals not to treat injured protesters and declared any doctor who does treat them a terrorist. The United Nations has indicated that nearly 23,000 Nicaraguans have sought asylum in Costa Rica.

We have been in contact with our partners in Nicaragua. Our normal channels to deliver our supports have been compromised by the current situation. They have indicated that visits to our medical clinics in rural areas have not been possible and that medication that we must purchase in the country has only been available sporadically at best. At this time, we are unable to visit Nicaragua to ensure that the funds we raise and that many of you so graciously give are going to the people in need. As such, I do not believe it is proper to hold this years Fiesta Capacita fundraiser when oversight is not currently possible.

As I know you can appreciate, this is a very difficult and scary time for people and families supported by our project. While there is growing international pressure condemning government for their actions, it remains very unclear for now how the situation in Nicaragua will progress. The immediate need now for most of the families we know is for basic food and we will work through our channels to see if we can provide some assistance with this.

I thank you for your understanding of this situation....which we hope will improve and that we can resume our work soon..... and have your support for a future Fiesta Capacita fundraiser! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to connect with me directly.

Thank you,



Xavier Noordermeer
Executive Director
Community Living Windsor