



This year, a long-time donor from Ottawa, Francine Cyr, accompanied me throughout the mission. She is retired and has been a secretary in various Canadian embassies around the world for *Global Affairs Canada*. Miriam Castro, Executive Director of the *Fondation Père-Ménard*, also joined us in Ayacucho for a week.

The inaugurations



Canuja:
thanks from Chief Moses Tapia

From August 1 to 8, we were in the Amazon to inaugurate drinking water projects in three native communities: Canuja, Shinipo and Shirintiari. After days of intense and suffocating heat, a torrential and cold rain began to fall all day long. Francine played the role of godmother with pleasure and became an expert at breaking sparkling wine bottles!

In Shinipo, we highlight the exceptional work of the inhabitants who dug a 6 km long trench in the middle of the tropical forest to install the main water pipe. The pride of the work accomplished is evident on their faces. In Shirintiari, the solar panels that replace batteries for pumping water are the pride of the indigenous people of this village. In Canuja, the ceremony was almost cancelled due to the heavy rain but it finally took place with its feet in the mud.



Shirintiari: the 8 solar panels near the well



The Shinipo Drinking Water Committee

Now, all families in these villages have their own washbasins and running water 24 hours a day. With enough water, the villagers build a shower that uses the same sewer as the sink. ▶



Darinka and Francine unveil the plaque to Shirintiari

Between August 9 and 15, we are in the Andes. We are inaugurating the Antapite project and the Pillpag-Quishuarpata annex. Miriam is the designated sponsor since the *Fondation Père-Ménard* has funded a large part of this project.

On August 17 and 18, we are in the Supe-Barranca region. The water projects in the new urban areas of Rio Seco and Santo Domingo are inaugurated. It was a great joy for the villagers who had lost everything during the March 2017 floods. We invite you to listen to the interview with Verónica Flores of Rio Seco, conducted by Leonora Chapman of *Radio Canada International*: : <https://www.rcinet.ca/es/2019/08/27/ong-canadiense-y-joven-lideresa-peruana-unidas-por-el-oro-azul/>



The Rio Seco reservoir topped by the chlorination caseta



An Antapite schoolboy reciting a poem on water



Miriam Castro and an Andean peasant woman



Meeting with Sofia Principe Ly de Rotary Barranca (3rd lb-right)



Handover of balloons to Rio Seco by Francine and Verónica

Ongoing projects

On the Ucayali River, we visited the indigenous community of Nuevo Progreso and then had a meeting with the community of Shenontiarí on the banks of the river. Indeed, this last community being two and a half hours' walk in the middle of the tropical forest, nearly forty villagers came to meet us..



The sink makes mothers happy



Children from Nuevo Progreso



Three young members of the Shenontiarí Water Committee

Francine sighed with relief at the thought of not having to do this 5-hour round-trip walk.

Darinka Pacaya is currently taking over the social part of the projects in the Amazon. She therefore visits all the communities we have supported for access to water in order to review their organization, documentation, registration in public registers and accounting.

In the department of Ayacucho, in Azángaro, where the work is starting, we had a monster reception. Representatives from neighbouring villages also came to meet with us to solicit a water project. Word of mouth is very effective in Peru! We also made a short visit to Waripercca where the construction of ecological dry toilets continues.



Azángaro welcomes us

The farmers of Pujas and Rurunmarca received us with great attention. They had prepared a meal for us and presented us with the produce from their gardens. They took the opportunity to ask for the extension of the sprinkler irrigation project. It should be noted that these projects are generating real interest and herald a better and more prosperous future. Nevertheless, some additional recommendations to users are essential to consolidate the training given by the agronomist Silvestre Quispe.

In the Pacific coastal region, we met with the people in Huaralica (50% of the project has already been completed) and Villa Los Ángeles (about to



Drip irrigation of avocado trees in Pujas



In Waripercca's kindergarten, we learn to wash our hands



My dance teacher in Rurunmarca

start). To carry out these two projects, we receive financial support from the *Rotary Foundation*.

Further north, in Las Torres de San Borja, Trujillo, we had a last meeting before the start of the work with the water committee. The same is true in Cajamarca, Simbal, where we have an agreement with *Water Mission* to carry out the project.

Finally, we went to La Ramada, two hours from Chiclayo. A large part of the community gathered to receive us in the room built at the end of the 90s, under the direction of our friend and collaborator Chantal Desfossés. The memory of her and her team is still alive and well in this community.



Water Users' Assembly in La Ramada

We are currently waiting for the green light from the ANA (*Autoridad Nacional del Agua*) to start drilling a new 50 m deep well. Indeed, the flow rate of the current 11 m well has drastically decreased. It must be

said that in 23 years the population of La Ramada has increased significantly. We were also very satisfied to see that the population had managed the water system built in the mid-1990s in an exemplary manner.

In Chiclayo, Elizabeth and I met twice with Carla Gamarra, an official member of the Peruvian team of Alas de Esperanza Perú. We discussed the organization of the projects. Carla is Vice President of the Research Department at the *Universidad Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo* in Chiclayo.



Don Zenon de La Ramada: faithful and devoted servant of his community



André and Carla Gamarra

Upcoming projects in 2020-2021

The communities send their request for support to the Peruvian team of Alas de Esperanza Perú, which then carries out the first audits and evaluations. Then, during the annual mission, we meet the communities in which we think we can intervene. This year, we visited Santa Luz in the Amazon, Allpahurccuna and Colpapampa in the Andes and four forgotten communities in the Barranca region: Peñique, Monguete, Limán and Jesús de Nazareth.

Water, mayors and politics

Water is scarce in the Andes and on the Pacific Coast. We see this through the decrease in water flow from springs and wells. The project to perforate a 50 m deep artesian well in La Ramada is an illustration of this. In the Amazon, the amount of water is still enormous but it is increasingly polluted and contaminated.

Mayors: the tide is turning and mayors are now giving much more importance to access to safe drinking water for all communities. We welcome the government's initiative to oblige each municipality to set up an ATM (*Area Técnica Municipal*) office for water and sanitation. The staff in these offices are now more stable and efficient. We are also working in coordination with those ATM.

In Vilcashuaman, we had a very constructive meeting with the new mayor Agliberto Martinez and his ATM staff who are watching the grain so that the chlorination of the water is done properly.

On August 15, I went to meet the young mayor Mario Romisoncco at Ricardo Palma. It should be recalled that here one of his predecessors had eliminated the users' association that we had set up in 1990. The Municipality has since experienced serious difficulties in providing water to all residents of the district. The infrastructure we built 30 years ago, two huge reservoirs, the 45 m well and the distribution network, among others, are in perfect condition.

To solve the problem, I strongly advised the mayor to install a solar energy pumping system (solar panels and pump). If he accepts, Wings of Hope will then consider bringing the water to the new district 9 of *Octubre* where 500 families reside.

Conclusion

Through our projects, we see that access to water is really the most effective way to fight extreme poverty. I invite you to read Francine Cyr's articles that will be published in our next newsletter in the fall.

Thank you to each and every one of you for reading us and supporting the efforts of Peruvians to have reliable

We still wonder why in 2019 there are still so many villages and people who do not have access to safe drinking water? It is heartbreaking to hear these poor people tell us about their misadventure and frustration with the indifference of their government. They know our conditions and fully accept them.

Let us talk about Peruvian politics. Because of the shameless corruption, it has both good and bad surprises in store for us. The recently enacted law referring to the OTASS (*Organismo transitorio de administración del servicio de saneamiento*) is an example. This project seems quite illusory and could be a step towards the privatization of water! Fortunately, several mayors object and challenge this law.



Meeting at Atalaya ATM with Cory, the director

and permanent access to clean water. Receive the expression of their most sincere and warmest gratitude.

André Franche
President

To make a donation: <https://ailsdelesperance.org/donnez>