

# PROFILE



## **MIKE BIRKS NICARAGUA**

Presbyterians Sharing supports Mike Birks, a Young Adult Intern working in Nicaragua with CEPAD, a partner of Presbyterian World Service and Development. CEPAD (The Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua) is a Christian institution that works to serve poor communities and to promote justice, peace and equitable solidarity with the aim of improving quality of life.

Mike is working with one of CEPAD's new agricultural projects in Jinotega to distribute certified, good-quality, indigenous seeds to local farmers. He is responsible for tracking the results of this project to determine whether or not it will be a viable option to continue with and possibly expand it in the future.

Mike is a member of Knox Waterloo. He graduated from Trent University with a Bachelors of Arts in International Development Studies in 2010. The CEPAD internship provides an excellent opportunity for him to engage in some practical, hands-on learning following his studies and a chance to apply some of what he has learned in the real world.

He participated in the Youth In Mission trip to Malawi in May 2010 as well as a youth mission trip to Winnipeg organized by his church in 2005. The trip to Malawi introduced Mike to some of the work that is being carried out internationally by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and was part of what encouraged him to apply for this internship.

Mike feels that his experience in Nicaragua will provide him with many challenges, but also many opportunities to learn, meet new people and to grow in his faith.