



# THANK YOU!

FROM THE COMMUNITY OF TOTOLIMA & B2P

Our travel team is back from Bolivia with great stories and amazing memories. As Totolima was the community of our chapter's first bridge, it will hold a special place in our hearts.

**STAY UPDATED!**

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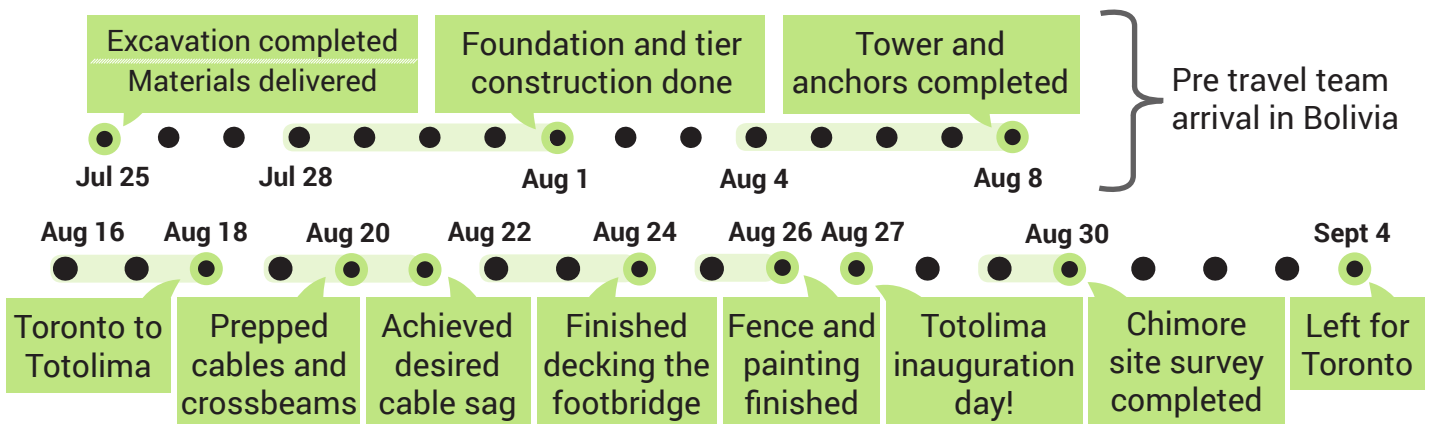
## UPDATE: welcome back travel team

Dilan Badshah, Relja Lukić, Arthur Li, Marianne Baucas and Sion Chung (our UW B2P travel team), came back from their Bolivian footbridge-building adventure in early September with great stories! This newsletter will focus on their work with the community and B2P to help build the path to a better way of life for the people of Totolima.

## WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

Construction	2
Travel Team Q&A	3
Opening Ceremony	3
Future Steps	4
Sponsors Thank You	4
Final Note	4

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS FOR THE UW B2P 2014 BOLIVIA TRIP



## UPDATE: Totolima footbridge a success!

After many months of preparation, our travel team finally set out to Bolivia to build a footbridge for the deserving community, Totolima. It turned out beautifully and was adorned in Bolivia's national colours. To see the steps taken for the construction of the footbridge, please see pg 2.



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## CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2014 TOTOLIMA FOOTBRIDGE: Step-By-Step



1 setting the anchors



3 setting the cable sag



2 installing the cables



4 prepping & painting the crossbeams in Bolivias' national colours



5 attaching supports and suspenders to crossbeams



6 hanging the crossbeams



7 installing the decking



8 securing the side fencing



9 finishing touches



10 celebrate!

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## THE TRAVEL TEAM'S EXPERIENCE: question & answer session



### What was a memorable moment for you?

**A:** Mine was the inauguration ceremony, being given a vegetable necklace and had the opportunity to see members of multiple communities cross the bridge

**R:** For me it was during the painting of the cross beams. We were joking around saying that if it would rain, all our work would get ruined. Marianne assured us that they were oil-based so nothing would happen. Then I said, "Let it rain," and as if on command it started raining! Pouring!

**M:** The day the community came together to build us a door and provide us with light (a light bulb connected to a car battery) where we were staying. It was so thoughtful of them to do so. Having seen their excitement as we drove up to our quarters to find their surprise, it really felt that they were welcoming us.

### Something you didn't realize until you were there?

**D:** The geography of Bolivia is so diverse. We went through snow, mountains, deserts, and forests before we arrived in Totolima.

**S:** How unfair it is that some children don't have the same opportunities we do in Canada. Many of the communities' children decide not to receive higher education since they live far from the city and do not have much financial support. I feel blessed for where I am and all the opportunities given to me.

### How was it living with the Totolima community?

**A:** I felt very welcomed. It was nice that everyone would always say 'buenos dias/tarde/noches [good morning/afternoon/night]', when they passed one another. It was also great how they were so happy.

**R:** I thoroughly enjoyed living in Totolima. The community was super friendly, gracious and welcomed us with open arms. They never complained and always appeared ready and willing to take on another hard day of work.

**S:** Very friendly, they all know each other and help each other like families. Even though I couldn't speak the language they were still willing to talk to me and I would also try to talk to them.

**M:** It felt like we were living with family. Everyone always had a smile on their face wherever we went. People would always greet each other and not think twice about stopping to ask how they were doing.

### What were you happy you brought on the trip?

**D:** The soccer ball donations from Peri Formwork went a long way with the community. We pulled a soccer ball out one morning and started playing with the kids before school started. You could tell it made their day!

## OPENING CEREMONY: the Totolima footbridge inauguration gathering

After weeks of hard work from the community and our team, the Totolima footbridge was ready to be of service! On August 27, the inauguration ceremony was held, and members from various communities who would be using this footbridge gathered to celebrate the grand opening. Complete with a beautiful floral arch over the bridge's entrance, the celebration ensued with flower petal confetti and high spirits.

This was a bittersweet moment for our travel team, marking the end of their time with the wonderful people of Totolima, but it was a perfect commemoration of their journey there.





## FUTURE STEPS

Now that we've finished our footbridge adventure with the Totolima community, we are at the start of a new cycle! During the Bolivia trip, our travel team did a site survey of a potential location for our next community: Chimore. We are still exploring several options with the international organization, but wish to continue our work in Bolivia. We have scheduled our construction for the summer of 2015!

For updates, please check <http://b2p.uwaterloo.ca/pcurrent.html>

## Sponsors' Plank Personalization



Our platinum and gold sponsors had plank personalizations in their names, as shown above. Thank you to our Platinum and Gold sponsors: PERI Formwork Systems, Waterloo Engineering, EngSoc, WEEF, and the University of Waterloo's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department!

## Official T-shirt Customizations



Our travel team, proud to be sporting our sponsors on the backs of their Totolima t-shirts!

**MORE?** for logs, a photo journal, and a large gallery, please visit <http://b2p.uwaterloo.ca/ptotolima.html>

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!



## FINAL NOTE

What a journey it has been! From our chapter's birth just last September to our first footbridge with the Totolima community this summer, we're so glad to say that you've been supporting us all the way. We couldn't have achieved this without you, and there's no way we will be able to with the other communities in need. We hope that your generosity will be able to extend beyond this footbridge!

If you have any comments on how we're doing or suggestions on how UW B2P can work to make our relationship stronger, please contact Grace at [gsjlee@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsjlee@uwaterloo.ca).

