

Luis Felipe

Luis Felipe Rivera Barrera was born in Ibaguè Colombia on March 8, 1988 in a traditional and lovely family. His parents taught him important values, beliefs and educated him in a small town called Florencia, Caquetá in Colombia. This was where he lived for the duration of his youth and part of his adult life. Luis prides himself as a resourceful professional with formal Custom Border Service education at Niagara College. He is motivated to contribute to defence, law enforcement and public protection in Canada, as they did for him when he came looking for safety five years ago. Luis has a Bachelor's Degree equivalent in Food Engineering.

Luis is proud to be a Non-White Latin American member of a visible minority group under the *Employment Equity Act* (EEA). He feels that by being part of a different culture, he has been able to become more adaptable to the diversity within Canada. His experience working with diverse groups of people has given him the ability to develop skills and to interact with people from different backgrounds.

Luis believes that his communication skills are used to deal effectively with individuals in both English and Spanish at all levels. His ability to speak two languages has allowed him to develop and provide valuable education, training and volunteer experience. These skills and services were accomplished through his work with different agencies like the John Howard Society in their various programs: Strengthening Families; Pride Niagara, giving support to the LGBTI community in creating positive awareness, and the Folk Arts Multicultural Center of St. Catharines as an intake worker at the Welcome Center.