

# Voz | Voice

The arts of resistance and resilience

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Patricia Deadman

Cristina Luna

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Haruko Okano

Adán Paredes

Lorena Silva

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Photo courtesy GOVERNMENT OF YUKON

**EXHIBIT CONTINUES** – Joyce Majiski, the *Llama* project co-founder, Cristina Luna, Mexico; Haruko Okano, Vancouver; Lorena Silva, Mexico; and Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor are seen left to right at the festive opening of the *Llama* exhibit at the Yukon Arts Centre earlier this month. The exhibit runs to Dec. 22.

sides, have been approved by the tourist board and are sparse yet clean and the beds have plenty of brightly coloured woven blankets, needed in the chilly night air at the end of May.

Visitors don hand-knitted Peruvian hats provided by the hosts. Whether or not you bought one, you were encouraged to wear one as the women recognize their own handiwork and can pick their guests out of the crowd.

After getting settled, our group of 12 reconvened near the community centre, where our hosts demonstrated their weaving skills, how they pound millet into flour with a heavy grindstone and how they prepare the hard soil for sowing seeds with a pickaxe. This was also an opportunity for hosts and guests to ask questions in an effort to get to know one another. The people speak Quechua and perhaps a little Spanish, so our English-speaking local guide translated for us, but once in their homes, we were on our own.

No sleek stainless-steel appliances or flush toilets here. Crouching by a hearth, the women cooked our evening meal of assorted potatoes, beans and mint tea and a breakfast of thin pancakes over a smoky fire by candlelight. Guests are given a basin of steaming water in which to wash in the morning. There is a basic outhouse.

Gifts of fresh fruit and vegetables for your host family can be purchased at the Puno dock before boarding your boat and are greatly appreciated. The people don't have much in the way of worldly goods and are paid roughly \$8 per person for an overnight stay.

After dinner, our hosts dressed the women visitors in snowy-white hand-embroidered blouses, several skirts tied tightly about the waist and a black