



IN COMMON CAUSE:

Sharing Action, Sharing Humanity

INI
58 ru
0419
KIR
Tele:
Tele:
Fax:
INTER PARES
Annual Report

1997

We HAVE A FRIEND, AN ACTIVIST FROM PERU, WHO BRINGS WIT AND A WRY OPTIMISM TO HIS WORK, WHICH INCLUDES TEACHING LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS ABOUT ECONOMICS. ONE OF THE INSIGHTS THAT HE SHARES IS A SIMPLE TRUTH THAT HIS AUDIENCES FIND SANE, AND LIBERATING.



Pedro Izurin

He tells how the concepts “eco-logy” and “eco-nomy” come from the same Greek root: *oikos*, meaning “house.” He explains that the original meaning of “economy” has to do with understanding and managing the resources of the household. It has to do with livelihoods, in the broadest sense, and the interdependence among livelihoods and households in a community. Our understanding of the economy, he concludes, should be an *ecological* appreciation, which emphasizes managing resources and livelihoods in an equitable, balanced and healthy way that uses and conserves local resources for the benefit of all.

This ideology of raw power, individualism and greed is an explicit repudiation of the ideal of social solidarity and international cooperation, of global interdependence and a global commons.

The prophets of economic globalization – the so-called “world without borders” – are in fact creating a world that is devoid of the benevolent vision of a planet that is valued as the common heritage of all people and peoples, to be shared in the interest of all.

But not all have forsaken the vision of one shared world, of social solidarity and mutual support. While the architects of globalization fracture the world and compete over the spoils, treating human beings as expendable commodities, there are others – people such as our friend in Peru – who promote another, holistic and more humane vision of society.

These are people who believe that economic activity is an invention and extension of human social affinities. These are people who understand that producing and marketing goods and commodities are first and foremost social and cultural actions. These are people who believe that rather than individuals being the servants of economies, economies are relevant and rational only as they serve human beings, their communities, and society as a whole. These are people who believe that governments, too, are meant to serve people, rather than demand servitude; that governments are accountable to citizens, rather than being their masters.

Most importantly, these are people who believe that human beings are defined by relationships of affinity and common cause: sharing values, sharing dreams, sharing a common humanity, and sharing action for change, locally and internationally.

Inter Pares works with such people, as part of this ethos of common cause and common humanity. We work for change with others, sharing our visions and hopes for transforming the world. We challenge together the dominant ideology of greed, and the devastating effects of the concentration of wealth and economic power on the lives of the poorest and most marginal throughout the world. And working in common cause, we promote the idea of the global commons, of one shared world, and the vision of one common standard of dignity for all human beings on the planet.

Unfortunately, this idea of economics is not the one that prevails today. Everywhere we turn we hear about the new world that is emerging to greet the next century. We have entered, we are told, the era of “globalization” – an era of global competition and economic restructuring, of dynamic opportunity and risk, of winners and losers. The message is one of survival of the fittest, focused on the private, on the personal, on the individual.

Amid the incredible fortunes and enclaves of privilege and affluence in every country – North and South – this new world is, for the majority, increasingly ruthless and cold, threatened by economic chaos, social disintegration and civil conflict, a world where international economic and political forces leave nations and governments with little power or will to protect the well-being of all citizens.

But in reality this world is not a new world at all. It is not progress toward a *new* and brighter future, but regression to a cruel past of intense concentration of unregulated economic power and individual wealth, at the expense of the common good.

Globalization is, in reality, its own opposite: not one world, but many; not one humanity, but no humanity. Over half the planet’s population goes to sleep hungry every night, lacking the very basics of a humane and fulfilling existence, while 500 men control more individual wealth than the combined worth of the poorest two billion people on the planet. And, critically, it is a world where such inequity is accepted as natural, an effect of merit, rather than of criminal exploitation and injustice.

Philip Gains



Globalization is, in reality, its own opposite: not one world, but many; not one humanity, but no humanity.

What is Inter Pares?

When Inter Pares was founded in 1975, our philosophy was that rather than setting up overseas offices and implementing our own program, we would build relationships with existing Third World groups, supporting their own self-help community-based programs. Twenty-two years later, we continue to develop these kinds of relationships with people who share an analysis that poverty and underdevelopment are caused by structural inequalities between nations and within nations, and who are working to promote social and economic justice in their communities and countries.

Inter Pares supports people's efforts to rebuild community, and create the social cohesion necessary for healthy, caring societies. Inter Pares assists in the development of sustainable livelihoods that meet the needs of all community members. And Inter Pares accompanies people in their efforts to hold their governments accountable, promote democratic social and economic policies, and bring about real possibilities for change.

The name Inter Pares – among equals – conveys our approach. Many of the groups we support are organizations led by the people whose interests they represent, usually the poorest of the poor. These groups know that they are not poor by nature, but by design. They want our solidarity, not our charity. We support their efforts to challenge structural obstacles to change, their struggle for self-determination, and their alternative development approaches. We attempt to learn from these efforts, make them known to Canadians, and advocate nationally and internationally for global justice and equitable development. Inter Pares also relates to social and economic issues in Canada, linking social action at home with social change in the Third World.

The name Inter Pares also describes how we work internally. Inter Pares staff form a cooperative management team based on the principle of parity – parity of salary and parity of responsibility. In our approach to the public, rather than spending time and resources on large fundraising and publicity campaigns, we have chosen to develop more slowly, building a solid core of committed supporters over the years. This strategy has not made Inter Pares a household name, but it is respectful of the type of commitment our donors and partners expect of us.



Pierre St-Jacques – CIDA

This process usually takes place in the context of national development, but its essence is the free participation of citizens in the creation and expression of their communities and their society. People are the agents of development and change. People develop themselves, their societies, and their nations. This is the essence of democracy, and democracy is the heart and engine of authentic development.

This vision of development sees the true national interest to be the interests of all people and their communities, including the poor. National development benefits the poor when the goal is not simply the creation of wealth, but the redistribution of wealth, and the social transformation that this implies. National development protects and assists local communities only when its goal is to nurture the economies that sustain them.

What does Inter Pares do?

Inter Pares creates relationships of sustained common cause with other activist organizations in Canada and around the world. These relationships are developed with people and organizations who share our values and concerns and are eager to work and learn together with us, for a common cause – peace-building, environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods, reproductive rights, and political freedom, among others. It is with these organizations that Inter Pares carries out its mission. Inter Pares staff work directly with our colleagues, whether in Canada or overseas, sharing problems and dilemmas, providing open and critical perspectives on activities, contributing our own experience, and participating in programming.

CREATING COMMON CAUSE

Inter Pares develops relationships of profound collaboration with people and organizations to address the causes and effects of inequality and poverty. The contribution that Inter Pares brings to this work takes place on many levels. Inter Pares brings open and critical perspectives to the design and implementation of programs, provides conceptual, political and financial support, contributing our own experience and expertise. Inter Pares also helps to build coalitions and networks so that activists can come together and work toward common goals.

- In the border region of western Thailand, Inter Pares is a member of the Burma Border Consortium, a coalition of local and international organizations providing political and humanitarian assistance to the thousands of refugees who have fled the violence and tyranny of the Burmese military dictatorship. In 1997, Inter Pares assisted 7,000 refugees in Thailand with food, housing and medical assistance. At the same time Inter Pares worked with Canadian Friends of Burma to educate the Canadian public and advocate for a strong role by the Canadian government in resolving the Burma crisis.
- In the small West African country of Guinea Bissau, Inter Pares is supporting Tiniguéna to work with people, particularly youth, to promote the protection and sustainable use of their environment. Tiniguéna helps young people learn more about their social and cultural context, rural and urban, so that they can participate in mobilizing public interest and support for policies that recognize the needs and contributions of all citizens. Inter Pares also assists Tiniguéna to share its experience in public education with other activists from neighbouring countries.

Karin Gregow



Inter Pares supports people's efforts to rebuild community, and create the social cohesion necessary for healthy, caring societies.



David Barbour – CIDA

What is Development?

When we speak of development we refer to the development of people and their communities. This is a historical process in which people act together, learn together, make political and economic choices together, and create the world for themselves. Development is a permanent, ongoing process of cultural invention, and of directed and dynamic social change.

Women Working for Change

Women are people. As the major contributors to the productive life of the community, women are the heart of social development and change. Yet women are also the first victims of injustice. Inter Pares emphasizes working with women to make their lives and work visible, and to empower them in their role as community leaders and as agents of change. Together we are committed to working toward achieving one universal standard of opportunity and dignity for all, regardless of gender. No other goal is as important to Inter Pares as this one.

This means that in Inter Pares' programs, women are not seen as a special category. Inter Pares strives to establish women as essential primary partners and colleagues integral to all of our work. Yet we recognize that precisely because we live in a world where pervasive discrimination against women makes this goal so difficult to achieve, we must also work with women to develop programs that are specific responses to their particular needs for health care, for education, for independent organization and empowerment.

- In the Philippines, Inter Pares is supporting the Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes, which is helping to negotiate the peaceful transfer of more than 50,000 hectares of land in 17 provinces to farmer's groups. As part of a long-term strategy for change, PhilNet-RDI and the peasant and farmworker organizations that are its members are discussing with local government plans for a mix of diversified farming and sustainable rural industry over which the communities themselves will have control.

LEARNING AND ACTING TOGETHER

Inter Pares works with our counterparts to promote learning about social change and to create new knowledge as the basis for sustainable alternatives. We assist our counterparts to make contact with each other – across regions, nations and continents – to exchange experiences, skills and knowledge, and to support each other in our common work. We also assist in linking southern counterparts with activists and organizations in Canada who are working on similar issues.

- For some years, Inter Pares has supported coastal communities in India to rebuild livelihoods destroyed by commercial shrimp farming, and has helped bring these communities together with communities in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand to document the impacts of industrial aquaculture. In 1997, with Inter Pares' support, members of these communities attended the APEC People's Summit in Vancouver where, with people facing similar issues in the Americas, they began to develop ways of working together in a global action plan to resist the theft and pollution of their lands.
- After years of war, civil conflict and repressive governments, our counterparts in Central America are experiencing the successes and challenges of building working democratic structures within their communities and municipalities. Inter Pares is contributing to an investigation to document the experiences of communities in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, to identify lessons that could be used by other communities in Latin America and elsewhere to promote participatory processes in local governance and development.
- In Africa, Inter Pares collaborates with ACORD in the Central African countries of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to support the efforts of people to reconstruct their lives amid continuing conflict after the catastrophic events of 1994. As a consortium of several international organizations, ACORD provides a critical forum to coordinate support for housing, for re-establishing agriculture and production, as well as to learn about and contribute to the tentative processes of social reconstruction, reconciliation, and peace-building in the region.

GLOBAL ACTION FOR CHANGE

Inter Pares participates in developing and implementing international advocacy strategies in support of our counterparts' work at the local level. These activities aim to influence the policies of governments and multilateral organizations – including the policies of the Canadian government – so that sustainable alternatives are made more possible.

- Human rights activists from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, alarmed with the increase in the number of women and children coerced or kidnapped into sexual slavery, have organized themselves into a regional network, and launched a campaign aimed at governments in the region. With Inter Pares' support, the activists are researching the plight of trafficked women and children, and advocating for international action. A major goal was achieved in May 1997 at a meeting of South Asian Heads of State, where in response to this lobbying, all countries committed themselves to develop a regional strategy to put an end to trafficking in human beings.
- Inter Pares is collaborating with Asian and Latin American counterparts to challenge the negative environmental and social impacts of the practices of Canadian mining companies in their communities. In 1997, Inter Pares brought activists from Nicaragua and the Philippines to Canada to discuss their concerns with each other, as well as with Canadian First Nations organizations and environmental and labour groups, leading to an agreement to work together to monitor and publicize the activities of Canadian mining companies in these and other countries.
- A long-standing partner of Inter Pares, Third World Network is invaluable in developing the capacity of many of our other counterparts in Asia, Africa and the Americas to translate the work that they do at the community level into policy proposals at the national and international level. TWN conducts and disseminates research to help hundreds of organizations around the world participate in and influence international economic and social policy formulation, and links activists from the South and the North to promote collaboration and build an international movement for justice and social transformation.



Fark Ambed



Inter Pares works
with our counterparts
to promote learning
about social change
and to create new
knowledge as the
basis for sustainable
alternatives.

David Barbour, CIDA



Staff

Larry Frazer, Peter Gillespie, Molly Kane, Lise Latrémouille, Marie José Morrisette, Brian Murphy, Bibiana Nalwiindi Seaborn, Nathalie Parent, Rita Parikh, Yves Rochon, Karen Seabrooke, Jean Symes, Roch Tassé, Sheila Whyte, Anne-Marie Zilliaccus

Board

Caroline Andrew: Dean of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.
Penny Bertrand: Organizer, PSAC; child care advocate.
Lyse Blanchard: Activist, animator, former Executive Director of CUSO.
Sel Burrows: Community economic development organizer in Manitoba.
Agathe Gaulin: Director, Continuing Education Centre, Faculté St-Jean, University of Alberta.
Nathan Gilbert: Executive Director, Laidlaw Foundation.
Joan Kuyek: Community organizer, writer in Northern Ontario.
Hélène Lagacé: Program Officer, Central America, Human Rights Section, CECI.
Paul Langelier: Community organizer and adult educator in Québec.
Yew Lee: Consultant, specializing in community and organizational development.
Deborah McIntosh: Lawyer, specializing in human rights.
Shree Muly: Professor, McGill University, and women's health activist.
Margaret Phillips: Social development consultant and researcher in northwestern Ontario.
Mark Stiles: Consultant, communications and human resource development.
Doug Ward: Former Director of Radio, CBC, Ottawa.

Supporters

In addition to the generous support of thousands of individuals and local community groups, the work of Inter Pares was assisted in 1997 by contributions from:

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) • Alliance syndicat tiers monde CSN • Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund • Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace • Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) • Canadian Friends of Burma • The Clifford E. Lee Foundation • Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada • CUPE Local 2323 • CUSO – Central America • The EJLB Foundation • Filles de la Sagesse d'Ontario • Fitzhenry Family Foundation • Fleming Foundation • Fondation Internationale Roncalli • Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception • Hawthorne Charitable Foundation • The Howard C. Green Memorial Fund • The Isdell 86 Foundation • Jay P. K. Kenney Foundation • The K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation • K.W. Bridgehead – Waterloo • Latin American Support Group – Niagara • Mennonite Foundation of Canada • Nicaragua Children's Fund • The P. & P. Murray Foundation • Self Connection Books • Sisters of St. Joseph (Willowdale) • Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London • Steelworkers Humanity Fund • Tides Foundation • Tools for Peace – Edmonton • Tools for Peace – Maritimes • Tools for Peace – Manitoba • Tools for Peace – Ontario • The United Church of Canada • Wild Rose Foundation

And we are also grateful to those who have chosen to support our work through a bequest:

The Estate of Helen E. Coleman • The Estate of Clare M. Slater

Auditors' Report

To the Members, Inter Pares.

We have audited the balance sheet of Inter Pares as at December 31, 1997 and the statements of members' equity and income for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 1997 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Ottawa, Ontario
January 29, 1998.

McCay, Duff & Company
Chartered Accountants

Inter Pares, 58 Arthur Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 7B9
(1-613) 563-4801 Fax (1-613) 594-4704
Charitable registration (BN) 11897 1100 RR0001

Balance sheet as at December 31, 1997

ASSETS	1997	1996
Current		
Cash	\$ 497,544	\$ 625,229
Accounts receivable	101,522	25,758
Investments	220,235	143,635
	819,301	794,622
CAPITAL (note 2)	17,811	-
	\$ 837,112	\$ 794,622
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Advances on projects	\$ 268,603	\$ 261,129
Accounts payable	126,852	149,998
	395,455	411,127
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	45,911	66,684
Reserve fund (note 3)	337,131	280,234
Endowment fund (note 4)	58,615	36,577
	441,657	383,495
	\$ 837,112	\$ 794,622

Statement of Members's Equity for the Year Ended December 31, 1997

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	1997	1996
Balance – Beginning of year	\$ 66,684	\$ 69,736
Net income for the year	58,162	67,777
	124,846	137,513
Allocation to reserve fund	56,897	54,969
Designated to endowment fund	22,038	15,860
Balance – End of year	\$ 45,911	\$ 66,684
RESERVE FUND		
Balance – Beginning of year	\$ 280,234	\$ 225,265
Allocation from accumulated surplus	50,000	50,000
Accumulated interest	6,897	4,969
Balance – End of year	\$ 337,131	\$ 280,234
ENDOWMENT FUND		
Balance – Beginning of year	\$ 36,577	\$ 20,717
Designated endowment gifts	20,000	14,370
Accumulated interest	2,038	1,490
Balance – End of year	\$ 58,615	\$ 36,577

Statement of Income for the Year Ended December 31, 1997

REVENUE	1997	1996
Donations (note 4)	\$ 1,064,152	\$ 960,002
C.I.D.A. – N.G.O. projects	1,519,407	1,544,369
– Other projects	884,137	686,440
Project generated grants	344,162	373,247
Interest and miscellaneous	13,016	23,147
	3,824,874	3,587,205
EXPENSES		
Program		
Projects	2,843,894	2,526,092
Operations	455,300	496,935
	3,299,194	3,023,027
Administrative	179,315	194,961
Fundraising	288,203	301,440
	3,766,712	3,519,428
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	\$ 58,162	\$ 67,777

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 1997

- SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**
 - Basis of Accounting** – Revenue and expenses are recorded on the accrual basis, whereby they are reflected in the accounts in the period in which they have been earned and incurred respectively, whether or not such transactions have been finally settled by the receipt or payment of money.
 - Tax Status** – Inter Pares was incorporated without share capital under Part II of the Canada Business Corporation Act. The Corporation is registered as a non-profit organization under Section 149 (l) (c) of the Income Tax Act and accordingly is not liable for income tax.
 - Investments** – Investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates, treasury bills, bonds and loans receivable and are recorded at cost which approximates market value.
 - Amortization** – Amortization of computer equipment is provided on a straight line basis over three years.

2. CAPITAL ASSETS

	1997		1996	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Computer Equipment	\$ 35,621	\$ 17,810	\$ 17,811	\$ -

Amortization of computer equipment in the amount of \$17,810 has been allocated as follows: administrative expense – \$7,421 and operations expense – \$10,839.

3. RESERVE FUND

Inter Pares maintains an unrestricted operational reserve to assure that obligations are honoured in the event of unanticipated changes in external funding.

4. ENDOWMENT FUND

The Margaret McKay Endowment Fund has been created to receive gifts whose principal will be invested and held for a minimum of ten years. During the year, donation income to Inter Pares included gifts totalling \$20,000 (1996 – \$14,370) that were designated to the Endowment Fund.

5. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

This statement has not been provided as it would not provide additional useful information.