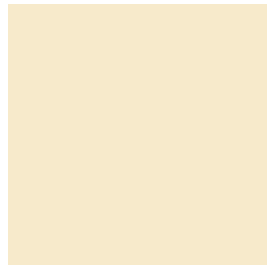




# The People of Inter Pares

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*It is the tiniest spring and the most modest stream that eventually turn the waterwheel and the turbine. If each spring and stream knew this, they would experience the power of mighty rivers. Successful social movements teach what rivers know.*

BRIAN K. MURPHY, AN OPEN CONSPIRACY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

## HOW THE RIVER GROWS

MURDER, RAPE, FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND OTHER CRIMES CONNECTED with the activities of Canadian mining companies overseas are now a horrific but well-known story. For over a decade, people in Canada and around the world called for Canada to address this travesty. In January 2018, the Canadian government announced the establishment of an independent human rights watchdog for the overseas operations of Canadian companies, with an initial focus on mining, oil, gas and textiles.

The first of its kind in the world, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise will investigate and report on allegations of human rights violations associated with Canadian companies' overseas operations. Not intended to replace the courts, the Ombudsperson nevertheless will be able to make recommendations for remedy and to prevent future harm. Companies found to have breached basic human rights standards will no longer receive the significant public resources that the Canadian government provides to support overseas investment.

Over thirty organizations make up the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA), which drove the push for an Ombudsperson, and kept the issue of Canadian corporate complicity in human rights abuses on the national agenda. As a co-founder and active member of its steering committee, Inter Pares is proud of its role in collaborating to sustain CNCA and its activities since 2005.

In 2017, with the assistance of legal experts across the country, CNCA developed guidelines to ensure an effective Ombudsperson. CNCA member organizations such as Kairos and MiningWatch Canada invited activists from affected communities in the Philippines, Mexico and Guatemala to come to speak to Canadians and to our MPs. Grassroots organizations such as the Mining Injustice Solidarity Network in Toronto and faith-based United for Mining Justice held demonstrations at MPs' constituency offices to insist that human rights defenders be heard. Above Ground brought government officials and elected representatives together with Canadian and international legal experts to examine government accountability for human rights violations by transnational companies.



Inter Pares helped present online workshops for grassroots organizations and individuals – including our own supporters across the country – to prepare to meet their local MPs. With the Canadian Labour Congress, Steelworkers Humanity Fund and others, we met with MPs, including the Minister for Trade, analyzing and responding to the arguments from industry. Some of our supporters with expertise in law, trade and development advised us and wrote letters and op-eds themselves, and other Inter Pares supporters joined with members of Amnesty International and Development & Peace to write letters of concern to their local MPs and community newspapers across the country.

What has been achieved was made possible by hundreds of thousands of Canadians who cared. Grassroots groups, students, church congregations, academics, grandparents and families provided money, time, expertise, creativity, passion for justice – whatever they could contribute. All this was done in collaboration with hundreds of affected communities, human rights defenders and local NGOs around the globe, in profound solidarity with their remarkable courage, hope and determination.

While the establishment of the Ombudsperson is a significant advance, it has always been seen as just a first, and urgent, step. Inter Pares continues to support affected communities in their efforts to regulate corporations and hold their own governments accountable for protecting human rights, and for maintaining financial and environmental standards. And we collaborate in global networks working to change the structures of international finance – tax havens, obscure corporate ownership, unfair loans, lopsided investment treaties – that empower the already powerful and weaken democratic process.

As we face a world riddled with problems, addressing any one of them seems like a formidable, even impossible, task. But we are not alone. We are with millions of people, all over the world, each of us contributing our energy, our talents to the work of change. Any one of us may feel like a mere trickle of a stream, but we are truly part of a mighty river.

## A SOCIAL JUSTICE LEGACY

Inter Pares' Bequest Fund has been built over the past three decades by bequests from nearly a hundred people who were committed to supporting future generations in their efforts to build a better world for all. Leaving a gift in your will in this way is a powerful expression of your values, and enables you to leave a lasting legacy.

In 2017, Peter, Mary and Richard's gifts of compassion, solidarity and hope were combined with bequests from many other supporters, enabling Inter Pares to put \$269,390 from our Bequest Fund into social justice action. We used these funds to:

- ENABLE ACORD** to creatively engage youth from six regions of Mali in dialogue and consciousness-raising about the peace and reconciliation processes;
- SUPPORT** Nijera Kori women's groups in Bangladesh to stand up for equal compensation between women and men farm labourers;
- HELP** SISAY to facilitate group counselling sessions in Peru with victims of forced sterilizations, breaking their isolation, and generating resilience in networks of mutual support;
- ASSIST** the incredible work of Tiniguena and La Colectiva Feminista, organizations about which you can read in Miguel's and Morena's stories in this Annual Report.

Inter Pares donors such as these, who leave a gift in their will, support people around the world through their profound generosity, during their lifetime and beyond. We honour the legacy of all those who look to the future to create a better world.

In this year's Annual Report we honour three donors who in 2017 made gifts to Inter Pares through their will. **Peter Pope** from Flatrock, Newfoundland, **Mary Martin** from Grande Prairie, Alberta, and **Richard Forer** from Salmon Arm, BC, all left Inter Pares a legacy in this way, and it makes a world of difference for our work.



BILL FAMBALIN



DAVID BRUER



ERIC CHAUBRETTE



TINIGUENA

## Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Board of Directors, Inter Pares

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017 and summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Inter Pares for the year ended December 31, 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 5, 2018.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Inter Pares.

### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in the note entitled Basis of Presentation included as part of these summary financial statements.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

### Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Inter Pares for the year ended December 31, 2017 are a fair summary of those financial statements, on the basis described in the note entitled Basis of Presentation included as part of these summary financial statements.

Ottawa, Ontario  
March 5, 2018

Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP  
Licensed Public Accountants

### Basis of Presentation

The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, as at December 31, 2017, and for the year then ended.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in the summary financial statements so that they are consistent, in all material respects, with or represent a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

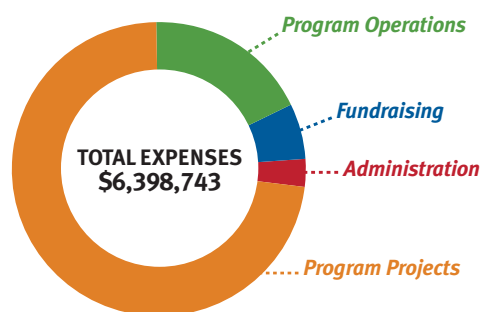
These summarized financial statements have been prepared by management using the following criteria:

- whether information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete audited financial statements; and
- whether, in all material respects, the summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited financial statements, including the notes thereto.

Management determined that the statement of changes in fund balances and cash flows do not provide additional useful information and as such have not included them as part of the summary financial statements.

For the full financial statements, please contact Inter Pares to request a printed copy by mail or visit [www.interpares.ca/2017finances](http://www.interpares.ca/2017finances)

## Inter Pares Expenses in 2017



**73% Program Projects:** funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America

**18% Program Operations:** monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries

**6% Fundraising:** receipting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries

**3% Administration:** Office costs, governance, financial management

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

					2017	2016
	General Operations	Bequest Fund	Reserve Fund	Margaret McKay Restricted Fund	Total	Total
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Donations	\$ 1,750,444	\$ 98,010	\$ —	\$ 300	\$ 1,848,754	\$ 1,600,262
Global Affairs Canada—PCB	—	—	—	—	—	34,032
Global Affairs Canada—MNCH	633,661	—	—	—	633,661	488,806
Global Affairs Canada—IDB	3,694,072	—	—	—	3,694,072	3,780,806
Project-generated grants	9,000	—	—	—	9,000	9,000
Interest and other	43,389	76,518	24,624	18,096	162,627	182,286
	6,130,566	174,528	24,624	18,396	6,348,114	6,095,192
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
Program						
Projects	4,364,338	269,390	—	—	4,633,728	4,553,555
Operations	1,175,301	—	—	—	1,175,301	1,071,982
	5,539,639	269,390	—	—	5,809,029	5,625,537
Administration	203,260	—	—	—	203,260	247,608
Fundraising	386,454	—	—	—	386,454	386,557
	6,129,353	269,390	—	—	6,398,743	6,259,702
<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR</b>						
	\$ 1,213	\$ (94,862)	\$ 24,624	\$ 18,396	\$ (50,629)	\$ (164,510)

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 3,339,729	\$ 3,167,954
Accounts receivable	178,143	146,991
Program advances	642,490	433,665
Prepaid expenses	27,768	21,228
Short-term investments	872,525	407,801
	5,060,655	4,177,639
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>		
	3,475,015	4,036,578
	560,128	577,236
	\$ 9,095,798	\$ 8,791,453
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 59,612	\$ 55,189
Deferred revenue	3,296,101	2,978,910
	3,355,713	3,034,099
<b>YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE</b>		
	148,261	114,901
	3,503,974	3,149,000
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Unrestricted	275,739	257,418
Invested in capital assets	560,128	577,236
Bequest Fund	3,369,223	3,464,085
Reserve Fund	974,667	950,043
Margaret McKay Fund	412,067	393,671
	5,591,824	5,642,453
	\$ 9,095,798	\$ 8,791,453

Inter Pares draws on over forty years of experience and a worldwide activist network to challenge inequality here in Canada and abroad. Known for a progressive and innovative approach to international cooperation, Inter Pares supports people's struggles to build societies that are fair for all by using the power of solidarity. We collaborate with over 100 counterparts and, together, identify the root causes of injustice and act towards sustainable social change. Join us: [www.interpares.ca](http://www.interpares.ca)



## STAFF IN 2017

Bharat Bishwakarma	Bill Fairbairn	Samantha McGavin
David Bruer	Sandra Gasana	Rita Morbia
Guillaume Charbonneau	Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti	Marie José Morrissette
Eric Charette	Jack Hui Litster	Laura O'Neill
Mariétou Diallo	Johanna Jimenez-Pardo	Jean Symes
Kathryn Dingle	Kevin Malseed	Rebecca Wolsak

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2017

Amanda Dale	James Loney	Lis Suarez
Annette Desmarais	Michael Manolson	Sari Tudiver (Chair)
Nathan Gilbert	Shree Mulay	Bill Van Iterson (Treasurer)
Mireille Landry	Jeannie Samuel	
Tamara Levine (Vice-chair)	Holly Solomon	

221 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6P1 Canada  
 Tel: 613-563-4801 • Toll free: 1-866-563-4801 • Fax: 613-594-4704  
[info@interpares.ca](mailto:info@interpares.ca) • [www.interpares.ca](http://www.interpares.ca)

Charitable registration number (BN) 11897 1100 RR000 1

# Morena Herrera

## La Colectiva feminista, El Salvador

For almost 15 years now, la Colectiva feminista has been promoting and protecting women's rights in El Salvador. Violence has permeated many aspects of our daily lives and affects women disproportionately, as gender-based violence has often become commonplace. There have been important legislative advances in recent years, but addressing the root causes of violence against women takes time. It also takes a lot of mutual trust-building when working with the authorities to create change.

In 2017, the Salvadoran National Police reached out to us to help establish a Policewomen's Rights Network. Concerned officers described a lack of accountability towards members of the force who committed acts of gender-based violence against civilians or other officers, and a culture of tacit acceptance of the domestic abuse suffered by women officers. This Network is intended to intervene in all cases of gender based violence when the aggressor is a policeman, and to provide accompaniment and counselling to women officers who experience such violence themselves.

Throughout the year, we have also trained 93 teachers in 21 schools on a holistic approach to sexual education focussing on the prevention of sexual harassment and teenage pregnancies, benefitting over 3600 high school students nationwide.

La Colectiva feminista also operates centres for victims of gender-based violence in San Salvador and Santa Ana. In 2017, these centres provided frontline services and accompaniment to 288 survivors. At the municipal level, we have helped create special support systems within local administrations across the country, and advised 20 townships in the creation of local plans for the prevention of violence against women.

Inter Pares' support has allowed us to advance women's rights in El Salvador: creating and consolidating spaces to support the emergency needs of victims of gender-based violence, while also carrying out the necessary long-term advocacy with all levels of government to meet their legal obligations towards women.



STEPHANIE MEJÍA



# Miguel de Barros

## Executive Director of Tiniguena, Guinea-Bissau

In 1995, when I was 14 years old, I was one of 15 students selected from schools in Bissau to participate in a learning exchange organized by Tiniguena in Guinea-Bissau. The study tour visited Rio Grande Buba and Lagaou de Cufada, two important breeding areas for birds in West Africa. There, we stayed with peasant families, learned about the value of sacred forests, and how people meet their own medicinal and nutritional needs through a deep understanding and careful use of the rich diversity of native plants. Spending time in a rural area was eye-opening for me. In the city, our schools were more modern. We had books and libraries. In the rural areas these were virtually non-existent.

As part of the exchange, the students we visited in the countryside came to Bissau. Together, we met the Minister of Education and demanded quality education for all. Then we organized fundraising events and campaigns that led to the establishment of a new rural school. We were proud of this. It was deeply fulfilling.

Soon after, my fellow students and I created Geração nova da Tiniguena, a youth group promoting environmental education and participation of young people in civic processes, through weekly radio programs and regular events.

Inter Pares has supported Tiniguena and these rural-urban exchange visits for over two decades. While the destination changes from year to year, the motto stays the same: “to know is to love, to love is to protect”. In 2017, students visited the region of Farim, and witnessed the impact of open pit mining, and the suffering it was causing nearby communities. On their return to Bissau, the students organized public forums calling for greater regulation of mining companies.

These exchanges are building common cause and helping the youth of Guinea-Bissau to become socially engaged. This work is made possible thanks to the long-time support of allies like Inter Pares, and their generous supporters across Canada.



MIGUEL DE BARROS



# Dr. Junice Melgar

**Director of the Likhaan Centre for Women's Health,  
Philippines**

In November 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited one of our clinics. As the Director of the Likhaan Centre for Women's Health in the Philippines, I was thrilled. This visit comes after decades of hard work by all of my colleagues at Likhaan to implement the principles of equality, justice, feminism and universal healthcare. This is the first time that a Canadian Prime Minister visited one of Inter Pares' international counterparts.

The number of women in the Philippines who die in childbirth is appalling. We also have amongst the highest and most consistent adolescent pregnancy rates in Asia. Historically, women and girls have faced numerous economic, social and religious barriers in accessing contraception. Abortion under any circumstances is illegal. Combined with poverty and inequality, too many women have little control over their bodies, their lives, the ability to fulfil their aspirations, and their future. I have been working for my entire life to change this.

Likhaan's community organizing and health promotion work with women and youth groups reached over 20,000 people in 2017. We provided services such as family planning and birthing support to over 30,000. We work to ensure that women and girls know their rights and are able to assert them, with respect to reproductive health issues and beyond.

In a very real way, Inter Pares' donors across Canada have been helping to make Likhaan's work possible since 1995. Our relationship is collaborative, and reliable, based on shared values of feminism and justice. Inter Pares has been, throughout the years, the one organization that stood with us and by us. I want to thank the Inter Pares community across Canada. I look forward to continuing our collective journey, and to finding new ways to express solidarity.

# Micheline Brunelle

## Inter Pares donor

I love making connections with new people. My background is in theatre, and I have always loved to travel. I eventually became a therapist, so that I could help people to find their inner strength and their autonomy. Community work fascinates me, but it did not end up being my career path. So, for me, supporting organizations who are working for social change is very important.

In Inter Pares' work, I see the values that are meaningful to me. Inter Pares' vision is based on mutual respect and creating autonomy. I have been a loyal supporter of Inter Pares for nearly twenty years. What first drew me to Inter Pares is the idea of working towards social justice, on the understanding that we are all equal.

Many years ago, when my partner Claude and I were travelling in Asia, it really dawned on me how privileged we are in North America. And yet, on that trip, despite what to my eyes appeared as a life of struggle for so many, we saw so much vitality, and happiness. And that is so often what we are really trying to find.

It is an honour for me to be part of Inter Pares as a donor. The bridges that are built through this work, between different communities across the world, creating opportunities to share experiences with each other - that, for me, is inspiring. I recently returned to university and I am now studying international relations and human rights. I look forward to finding new ways to become involved in this work not only as a donor, but also as an activist.



JACK HUI LITSTER

# Samantha McGavin

**Inter Pares Burma program manager**

After 15 years of doing communications and fundraising at Inter Pares, in mid-2017 I transitioned to take on co-management of our Burma program. Stepping into this role at this time led to a deep dive into the world of advocacy.

Inter Pares has worked in solidarity with ethnic civil society organizations in Burma for a quarter-century, and with organizations promoting Rohingya rights for more than a decade. When the latest wave of anti-Rohingya violence began in August 2017, we had to speak out. Inter Pares denounced the crimes against humanity and called for a vigorous Canadian response. As the staggering scope of the violence kept emerging, we increased our advocacy efforts.

With my colleague Kevin Malseed, who has been defending human rights in Burma for over 25 years, we insisted that Canada recognize the direct link between the Rohingya genocide and a half-century of military assaults against Burma's ethnic minorities. A holistic response to the crisis must address not only the country's ongoing militarization but also its troubled democracy.

In early November, we had the opportunity to travel to refugee camps around Cox's Bazar, near the Burma-Bangladesh border. Hosted by our partner Kaladan Press Network, Burma's first Rohingya independent news organization, we heard first-hand accounts from refugees about the terrible violence their families and neighbours had endured, and their desire to return to Burma only in a context of safety and rights. We brought their stories back to Canada, sharing them with MPs, Senators, Special Envoy Bob Rae, officials at Global Affairs Canada, journalists, and Inter Pares supporters alike.

As the world awakens to the extent of atrocities, we are renewed in our efforts to promote a new era of accountability, peace, and inclusive democracy in Burma. We are grateful to our supporters for helping Inter Pares and ethnic civil society to play a role in this movement.



# Jeannie Samuel

## Inter Pares board member

In 2016, I travelled to Peru for research on marginalized communities' access to healthcare. While I was there I visited DEMUS, one of Inter Pares' amazing counterparts. I got to hear about their work to protect and promote women's reproductive rights in Peru. This connection deepened my relationship with Inter Pares even further. As a member of the Board of Directors, I travel to Ottawa from Toronto four times a year to participate in board meetings. I have been on the board since 2010, but the years have flown by.

I became an activist when I was young. The social justice issues that I am passionate about are the environment, gender issues, access to healthcare. In my work, I have been involved with informal groups with shoestring budgets, community-based services, as well as the United Nations. These days, I am a professor at York University's inter-disciplinary health program. This gives me the opportunity to link my past experiences to my current work on health and human rights, and bring these issues alive for my students.

Inter Pares' international solidarity approach fits well with my values. I love that the work is firmly rooted in social justice, rather than in a charity model. And as a person who has travelled and worked in different parts of the world, I think it is important that we make linkages between issues in Canada and abroad. My own research on marginalized people's challenges in accessing quality healthcare is echoed in Inter Pares' work – in Canada through the Canadian Health Coalition, and in the Philippines with Likhaan Centre for Women's Health. I am also an Inter Pares donor, and it is an honour for me to be part of the Inter Pares community.

