

We must take sides.

Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. when human dignity is in sensitivities become irrelevant. because of their race, religion, must – at that moment – become

When human lives are endangered, jeopardy, national borders and When men and women are persecuted or political views, that place the centre of the universe.

NOBEL LAUREATE ELIE WIESEL

InterPares 2007 ANNUAL REPORT InterPares

taking sides for

During 2007, Inter Pares invited our supporters to share their thoughts of how they found hope and inspiration in their own lives. One supporter wrote, "I am not as actively involved as I was before, but I find comfort in knowing I stepped in when I could, and I still support wholeheartedly the struggle for peace." Another wrote, "Because of all the news... my heart is in great pain. At 83, I am not sure of anything but I still have hope because of organizations like yours."

Comments such as these are affirming because they demonstrate that many people believe that Canada, and Canadians, must actively support the struggle for peace and justice in the world today. This is encouraging, too, because we know that sometimes it is easier to turn away rather than face the pain and suffering others are enduring.

It is this turning away from human suffering that is the greatest moral failure of the modern era. Over the last several decades the world has remained silent while crimes against humanity have been committed in places such as Cambodia, East Timor, Burma, Rwanda, the Congo, Sudan and Guatemala. In the face of these atrocities many of us – sick at heart – have felt powerless, that there was nothing we could do.

But we are not powerless. Millions of people are advocates for peace and justice, in their own places and internationally. These people refuse to be silent about the crimes committed against themselves, and against others. They insist that we all have a responsibility to speak out when human lives are threatened. And the world is responding to these calls for justice, sometimes slowly and belatedly, but progress is being made.

In Cambodia, the first trials began this past November for those who led the pogroms that killed almost a quarter of the country's population. Those who committed these crimes are finally being brought to justice.

Women who were brutalized during armed conflicts in places such as Peru, Colombia, and Guatemala are coming forward to demand that these crimes be publicly acknowledged. This violence is now being recognized by governments and reparations being made.

justice and peace

In Burma, the uprising led by monks and nuns last September was violently crushed by a ruthless military junta. In response to public outrage, the Canadian government imposed comprehensive trade and economic sanctions against the Burmese regime.

In the midst of the appalling carnage in Sudan, women's organizations are working with those who have been victimized, as well as engaging in political processes to outline a vision for peace and reconciliation that defends and promotes the rights of women.

In all of these situations, and others, progress is being made because people have chosen to engage in the struggle for social justice. People are demanding an end to violence and insisting that governments be held accountable. People are speaking out because they know that injustice in one place imperils justice everywhere. As Elie Wiesel has said: "What all victims need above all to know is that they are not alone...that when their voices are stifled we shall lend them ours, that while their freedom depends on ours, the quality of our freedom depends on theirs."

Inter Pares works with activists and citizens' groups around the world who are working for justice. They include human rights activists involved in the often dangerous task of documenting and exposing crimes against humanity. They include women's rights organizations that are supporting and seeking justice for women who have been brutalized in armed conflicts. They include those working with indigenous peoples to assert their land rights in order that their communities become self-reliant and productive. They include organizations devoted to research and education, and to challenging the doctrine that there is no alternative to the current world order. It is these countless actions for peace and justice that undermine the fortresses of oppression.

Inter Pares and our counterparts are part of a network of solidarity and common cause in which acts of courage and audacity in one place resonate in all of our places. Our supporters are part of this network too, choosing to engage instead of turning away, embracing hope rather than neutrality and silence. It is through persistent and shared action that our dreams are nourished and our hopes can be realized.



Inter Pares collaborates with social change organizations around the world. We seek to build lasting relationships of common cause, where people work together to overcome inequality, violence and injustice, recognizing that the success of each depends on the success of all. We view our collaborations as “conspiracies” – drawing not only on the common definition of “conspire,” to work together, but also on the Latin origin of the word, to breathe together. These are open conspiracies, which bring more and more people together in the struggle for justice. Below we share a few of Inter Pares’ conspiracies, and the ways in which they are unfolding.

mobilizing resources

Mobilizing resources to support social justice action is an integral part of Inter Pares’ work. We have learned through experience that modest amounts of money, used strategically and wisely, can help people to strengthen their own organizations and nurture creative initiatives for change.

By raising funds from the public to support social justice work around the world, Inter Pares provides an opportunity for Canadians to engage with people who are bringing about positive change. Through their gifts, our supporters make concrete contributions to dynamic, life-sustaining action in diverse places and circumstances, and send a strong message of moral support to colleagues in other countries that Canadians are in solidarity with their struggles.

The money Inter Pares receives from Canadians also allows us to raise funds from private foundations and government agencies, in particular the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In addition to multiplying the financial contribution we provide to social change organizations, the government support we receive strengthens our policy work. We engage with decision-makers on issues that concern us all – gender equality, human rights, environmental stewardship, economic justice, democratic development – and advocate for change in our country’s policies that affect the lives of people elsewhere. Inter Pares also helps our counterparts to diversify their funding base by introducing them to other potential collaborators, thus helping to build broader networks of political and financial support for their programs.

In these ways, contributions from Inter Pares supporters are multiplied, and can have a deep and enduring positive impact beyond the borders of a community or country.

Learning together

Dialogue is an essential tool and practice in the struggle against injustice and indifference. Inter Pares creates opportunities for people to share skills and learning on issues that are of concern to all of us. Through roundtable events, learning circles, exchanges among counterparts, and community dialogues, we facilitate collective knowledge-creation and learning from each other’s successes and failures, and support one another to address common challenges.

In September 2007, Inter Pares brought together fifteen women’s rights activists from Africa, Asia and Latin America to engage in a dialogue on sexual violence against women in armed conflict with Canadian women’s organizations, activists, researchers and policy makers. Participants compared experiences of the many manifestations of sexual violence against women, and on the strategies to address both the violence experienced in conflict and the violence that remains so pervasive in ‘peacetime’. Although the women present recognized that they were acting in very different contexts, they also identified that their distinct struggles had commonalities. They agreed on the need to challenge militarization as a way of ending violence against women. As one participant declared, “In the end, we are all on the same plane. Some of us might be in first class with a bit more space, but we are all heading in the same direction.”

Also in 2007, Inter Pares facilitated an exchange between the *Coalition pour la préservation du patrimoine génétique africain* (COPAGEN) and the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), two activist networks defending the rights of farmers and citizens to determine what kind of food they want to produce and how they want to produce it. One point of convergence was the desire to put food sovereignty and Canada’s role in agriculture on Canada’s domestic and foreign policy agenda. COPAGEN has built and sustained a growing movement for food sovereignty in West Africa, and the learning that took place in this meeting was an important step in forming relationships of mutual support and collaboration between Canadian and West African farmers.



opening space for dissent

The courage to speak out and resist is reinforced when people come together to create space for discussion and debate. An integral part of Inter Pares' work is to encourage and support those who dare to speak out in the face of injustice throughout the world, including in Canada.

The work of Likhaan, a women's health organization based in Manila, exemplifies the courage needed for people to come together and act where there are few spaces to do so. The increasingly conservative ideology of the current government and the Catholic Church in the Philippines has narrowed the space for the women's movement to speak out on issues of reproductive health and reproductive choice. Despite the challenges, Likhaan continues working with women in marginalized urban areas to offer access to high-quality health services including contraception and pre/post-natal care. Internationally, Likhaan is part of a strong solidarity movement advocating for reproductive choice and universal health care.

In 2007, the Gender Centre for Research and Training (GCRT) celebrated its first decade of work in the struggle for women's rights and gender equality in Sudan. Working under a fundamentalist military regime, colleagues from the GCRT have fostered debate on the treatment of women in Sudan by documenting and exposing women's realities, which have otherwise been denied or ignored. The GCRT launched a research project to document women's experiences with domestic violence and shed light on the normalization of violence against women.

In Canada, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) has helped bring public attention to issues such as the creation of a Canadian no-fly list, the security certificate legislation, and the increased trend towards criminalization of solidarity. The ICLMG also participated as a witness in the Iacobucci Inquiry, set up in 2007 to investigate the role of Canadian officials in the sharing of information, detention and torture of Canadians Abdullah Almalki, Ahmed El-Maati and Muayyed Nureddin. As an active member and co-founder of the ICLMG, Inter Pares has supported its efforts to protect individual freedoms, democratic values and civil liberties in Canada.

working in solidarity

International solidarity sends a message to those struggling to realize their dreams that they are not alone. When we bear witness to the experiences of others, we can raise awareness about their situation and engage others to act. Inter Pares stands in solidarity with communities in other countries who are working for change, using our position as Canadian allies to marshal political and financial resources in support of their efforts.

One such example is our support to Burmese struggles for democracy and justice. Working with organizations based on Burma's borders, including the Burma Relief Centre and the Thailand Burma Border Consortium, we collaborate to provide food, shelter, and health services to refugees living in Thailand, to strengthen independent local media, and to provide information to national and international bodies such as human rights organizations and the UN. This work overseas guides our education, coalition-building, and advocacy efforts here in Canada.

The Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) is a small organization with a network of researchers based inside Burma who document human rights violations in Karen State. This often dangerous work gathers and gives voice to the perspectives and experiences of villagers, and supports their strategies to defend their rights. In coalition with other Canadian NGOs and solidarity groups, Inter Pares provides information to Canadians and our government about the human rights situation in Burma through reports such as those produced by KHRG.

The "Saffron Revolution" led by monks and nuns last September brought unprecedented world attention to this beleaguered nation. In solidarity with the people of Burma, the Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB) helped coordinate a Global Day of Action on October 6 to raise public awareness and to pressure world leaders to take concrete action. CFOB was also instrumental in the formation of the Parliamentary Friends of Burma, a group now composed of thirty-six MPs and senators from all political parties in Canada. Throughout 2007, CFOB provided this group with current information and promoted a progressive Canadian foreign policy on Burma. In November 2007, these efforts culminated in the Canadian government's announcement of comprehensive targeted sanctions against the military regime.



acting for change

In every place where inequality exists, there are also people who are asserting their right and responsibility to imagine and create a better future. Inter Pares has the privilege of working with a number of those people and their organizations, supporting them and others to take action together for positive change.

Grassroots organizations, women's groups and local NGOs are important crucibles for local action and innovation. In Managua, Nicaragua, with Inter Pares' support for citizen participation in municipal development, community organizations in three vulnerable barrios successfully carried out a program with the municipality to give poor families full title to their land and homes. These same citizens' groups were then able to develop and submit a plan to the municipality to provide potable water to all three communities.

In Ghana, Third World Network Africa (TWN-Africa) educated and mobilized citizens of African countries about the impacts of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union. The European Commission's own assessment found that EPAs would stifle African countries' efforts to develop an industrial base and further undermine local farmers, whose livelihoods would be threatened by heavily subsidized European imports. The Africa Trade Network, hosted by TWN-Africa, led a campaign to stop the EPAs. The Network brought together citizens from across Africa and Europe to protect local economies, and to demand trade agreements that allow African countries to pursue their own development strategies.

In Huancavelica, Peru, where many communities are still trying to recover from the damage of last year's devastating earthquake, young indigenous people are joining together in the Network of Community Development Facilitators. Supported by Project Counselling Service (PCS), many of its members are graduates of the Diploma program for young leaders developed by PCS in collaboration with the National University of San Marcos and the University of Huancavelica. Network members are working in areas hardest hit by the earthquake, assisting in the assessment of damage and reconstruction. Through radio and television shows written and produced by the young people themselves, they are also educating each other and the public about human rights and the exercise of citizenship, transparent administration of local budgets and good governance.

transforming aid

Inter Pares has often chosen to work within broad coalitions of organizations who share our commitment to international cooperation and social justice. Through these coalitions we unite our efforts with others for greater impact. We also seek to influence the conditions under which international cooperation takes place and bring about greater equity and mutual respect in North-South relations.

In Africa, we have worked through the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), and in Latin America, through the Project Counselling Service (PCS). These coalitions of development NGOs came together in the late 1970s in order to pool financial resources, share learning, and implement programs. They sought to work in places where local organizations either did not exist or were in need of sustained, coordinated external support due to situations of geographic isolation, war and conflict, and widespread human rights violations.

Inter Pares participated actively in the governance structures of ACORD and PCS, and provided financial, political and technical support to their programs in many countries across Africa and Latin America. Over time, both organizations built reputations for effective and courageous action addressing the needs and aspirations of some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged members of the societies in which they worked.

By the end of the 1990s it became clear, however, that "working for change" would require changing the way we work. Recognizing the evolution of local organizations and the need for greater autonomy, both ACORD and PCS began processes of organizational transformation to devolve responsibility to the South, in order to become more relevant and effective in the changing environment of development cooperation.

Inter Pares staff engaged actively in both institutional change processes, sharing lessons and addressing challenges as we sought to re-create organizations that could build on the achievements of the past, while having the resources and political support to move into the future with confidence and independence. Both ACORD and PCS now have management and decision-making structures that rely on and strengthen local knowledge and leadership.



Auditor's Report to the Members, Inter Pares

We have audited the statement of financial position of Inter Pares as at December 31, 2007 and the statement of revenue and expense and changes in fund balances 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 Canadian 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, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Ottawa, Ontario
February 22, 2008

Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP
Licensed Public Accountants

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2007

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Cash | \$ 1,322,302 | \$ 812,309 |
| Accounts receivable | 78,144 | 54,601 |
| Program advances (note 3) | 1,170,535 | 723,297 |
| | 2,570,981 | 1,590,207 |
| INVESTMENTS (note 1) | 1,142,187 | 704,531 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS (note 2) | 721,375 | 730,585 |
| | \$ 4,434,543 | \$ 3,025,323 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 51,207 | \$ 56,485 |
| Current portion of mortgage payable (note 4) | — | 150,859 |
| Deferred revenue (note 3) | 1,859,047 | 890,422 |
| | 1,910,254 | 1,097,766 |
| SEVERANCE PLAN PAYABLE | 90,024 | 84,191 |
| | 2,000,278 | 1,181,957 |
| FUND BALANCES | | |
| Unrestricted | 11,824 | 72,462 |
| Invested in capital assets | 721,375 | 579,726 |
| Bequest Fund (note 5) | 719,225 | 556,545 |
| Reserve Fund (note 6) | 750,000 | 419,601 |
| Endowment Fund (note 7) | 231,841 | 215,032 |
| | 2,434,265 | 1,843,366 |
| | \$ 4,434,543 | \$ 3,025,323 |

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

| | | | | | | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Unrestricted Net Assets | Invested in Capital Assets | Bequest Fund | Reserve Fund | Endowment Fund | Total | Total |
| FUND BALANCES – BEGINNING OF YEAR | \$ 72,462 | \$ 579,726 | \$ 556,545 | \$ 419,601 | \$ 215,032 | \$ 1,843,366 | \$ 1,471,736 |
| Excess of revenue over expense | 206,011 | — | 355,296 | 12,783 | 16,809 | 590,899 | 371,630 |
| Purchase of capital assets | (25,662) | 25,662 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Amortization of capital assets | 34,872 | (34,872) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Principal repayment of mortgage | (150,859) | 150,859 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Interfund transfers (note 5 and 6) | (125,000) | — | (192,616) | 317,616 | — | — | — |
| FUND BALANCES – END OF YEAR | \$ 11,824 | \$ 721,375 | \$ 719,225 | \$ 750,000 | \$ 231,841 | \$ 2,434,265 | \$ 1,843,366 |

Statement of Revenue and Expense for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

| | | | | | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | General Operations | Bequest Fund | Reserve Fund | Endowment Fund | Total | Total |
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
| Donations | \$ 1,670,590 | \$ 335,024 | \$ — | \$ 5,500 | \$ 2,011,114 | \$ 1,508,764 |
| CIDA–VSP | 1,531,927 | — | — | — | 1,531,927 | 1,853,207 |
| CIDA – other projects | 3,048,406 | — | — | — | 3,048,406 | 3,383,011 |
| Project generated grants | 189,757 | — | — | — | 189,757 | 248,666 |
| Interest and other | 79,009 | 20,272 | 12,783 | 11,309 | 123,373 | 41,890 |
| | 6,519,689 | 355,296 | 12,783 | 16,809 | 6,904,577 | 7,035,538 |
| EXPENSE | | | | | | |
| Program | | | | | | |
| Projects | 4,753,436 | — | — | — | 4,753,436 | 5,166,306 |
| Operations | 936,161 | — | — | — | 936,161 | 924,470 |
| | 5,689,597 | — | — | — | 5,689,597 | 6,090,776 |
| Administration | 298,069 | — | — | — | 298,069 | 282,687 |
| Fundraising | 326,012 | — | — | — | 326,012 | 290,445 |
| | 6,313,678 | — | — | — | 6,313,678 | 6,663,908 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR | \$ 206,011 | \$ 355,296 | \$ 12,783 | \$ 16,809 | \$ 590,899 | \$ 371,630 |

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2007

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Organization:** Inter Pares works overseas and in Canada in support of self-help development groups, and in the promotion of understanding about the causes, effects and solutions to under-development and poverty. Inter Pares was incorporated without share capital under Part II of the Canada Business Corporations Act. The Corporation is a registered charity under Section 149(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act and as a result is not subject to income taxes.

(b) **Revenue recognition:** Inter Pares follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Funds received from CIDA for overseas programs are recorded as program advances when sent overseas, and are subsequently recorded as expense when amounts are spent by overseas partners. Donations are recorded as revenue when received.

(c) **Investments:** Investments consist primarily of government bonds and other loans receivable. Effective January 1, 2007 the organization adopted the new provisions concerning the recognition and measurement of financial instruments. Investments are classified as held to maturity and are recorded at amortized cost.

(d) **Capital assets:** Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a straight line basis over 5 years for office equipment. Computer equipment is amortized 50% in the first year and 25% in the remaining 2 years. The building is amortized on a straight line basis over 40 years.

(e) **Use of estimates:** The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(f) **Financial instruments:** The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable and severance plan payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

2. CAPITAL ASSETS

| | Cost | Accumulated Depreciation | 2007 Net | 2006 Net |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Land | \$ 200,000 | \$ — | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Building | 582,230 | 81,250 | 500,980 | 515,730 |
| Computer and office equipment | 128,824 | 108,429 | 20,395 | 14,855 |
| | \$ 911,054 | \$ 189,679 | \$ 721,375 | \$ 730,585 |

During the year, depreciation of capital assets amounted to \$34,872 (2006 - \$32,579).

3. PROGRAM ADVANCES AND DEFERRED REVENUE

Program advances can vary significantly from year to year depending on the timing of funds sent overseas and the reporting back by overseas counterparts. Deferred revenue consists mainly of revenue related to unspent overseas program advances.

4. MORTGAGE PAYABLE

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------|------------|
| Royal Bank of Canada - mortgage payable at \$3,945 monthly including interest at 7.75%, due July 1, 2007, secured by 221 Laurier Avenue East | \$ — | \$ 150,859 |
| Less current portion | — | 150,859 |
| | \$ — | \$ — |

5. BEQUEST FUND

During 2004 a bequest fund was established. Bequests received are recorded as revenue in this fund. During the year \$192,616 (2006 - \$nil) was transferred from this fund to the reserve fund.

6. RESERVE FUND

Inter Pares maintains an unrestricted operational reserve to assure that obligations are honoured in the event of unanticipated changes in external funding. During the year, \$125,000 (2006 - \$100,000) was transferred from unrestricted net assets to the reserve fund.

7. ENDOWMENT FUND

The Margaret Fleming McKay Endowment Fund receives gifts whose principal is invested and held for a minimum of ten years. In addition to such externally restricted gifts, the Endowment Fund contains transfers from Inter Pares which are subject to the same restrictions. As at the year end, the Endowment Fund includes \$82,100 (2006 - \$76,600) in externally restricted gifts.