

# mobilizing for change

annual report 2019

# confronting injustices together



Photo Credit: Susanne Ure

In 2019 Inter Pares continued to work in deeply unsettling local, regional and global contexts. As the world continued to burn, melt and flood, as locusts devoured crops and millions fled violence and poverty, emboldened political leaders further consolidated wealth and power, undermined democratic principles, practices and human rights and tunneled a deep trough of populism. Their strategies included disparaging scientific inquiry and promoting misogynist and other hate-fueled false forms of public discourse, with dire consequences.

But 2019 was also a year of hope in which people created spaces to mobilize, often at great personal risk, to secure democratic and human rights. For example, people took to the streets worldwide in anti-government protests. In April, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan was ousted and civil society organizations, including Inter Pares counterparts, are now working to re-envision and democratize their society. Women's voices gained further momentum through the #MeToo movement. And many of us marched behind young environmental activists calling for urgent political action to heal our planet.

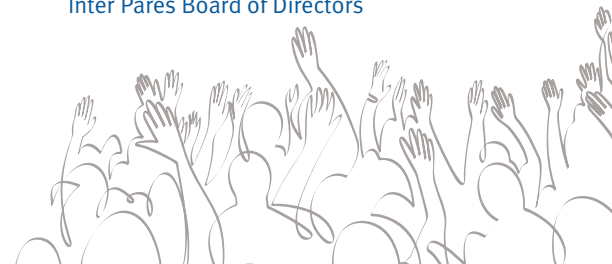
Our annual report documents measurable achievements and sustainable approaches forged by our counterparts and allies, in Canada and other parts of the world, accompanied by Inter Pares and our supporters. You'll read about Indigenous women seeking justice for forced sterilizations; women farmers working to mitigate climate change; Bangladeshi girls and boys addressing child marriage and harassment; celebrating activism in Canada to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, and more.

As a Board member and Chairperson, I am privileged to meet many Inter Pares long-term counterparts and gain

insights into complex struggles to confront injustices. I have learned such struggles do not follow a linear trajectory towards greater equality and democratization, but rather gains are fragile and must be renewed to address the present historical moment. As I reflect on how communities mobilized for change in 2019, I am hugely confident Inter Pares and our counterparts have the strength and tenacity to continue to globalize equality.

**Sari Tudiver**

Chairperson,  
Inter Pares Board of Directors



IN FOCUS:

# speaking their truths

They came from different worlds: a Quechua-speaking Indigenous farmer and community leader from the Peruvian Andes, and a Dené actress and author from northern Saskatchewan. But when Victoria Saccsara heard the story of Morningstar Mercredi during a human rights forum in November 2019, she felt an immediate, visceral connection.



Photo Credit: Edmonton Journal / Larry Wong

Photo Credit: Bill Fairbairn

Victoria Saccsara is a survivor of forced sterilization, a practice carried out through a deliberate policy implemented by Peru's Fujimori government in the 1990s. Under the pretext of eradicating poverty, up to 300,000 women – the majority rural Indigenous women – were subjected to involuntary tubal ligation.

A survivor of sexual abuse, Morningstar Mercredi became pregnant at the age of 13. She sought help in a hospital in Saskatoon. Instead, without her consent or knowledge, the physicians removed one ovary and fallopian tube. Forced sterilization of Indigenous women

in Canada has been documented from the 1800s to the present, and is currently the focus of a class action lawsuit.

Victoria and Morningstar's lived experiences were central to the 2019 forum which took place in Quito, Ecuador alongside meetings of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Court. For Inter Pares and our Peruvian counterparts, SISAY and DEMUS, it was critical that survivors be heard

*“It gives me strength to know that we are not alone. We must join our efforts to denounce what happened and demand justice so that this never happens again!”*

Victoria Saccsara  
President, Sumaq Huayta Association of  
Women Affected by Forced Sterilizations

and acknowledged. To that end, we facilitated the participation of Victoria Saccsara and two other Peruvian survivors. For its part, Semaganis Worme Lombard, the Indigenous firm spearheading the lawsuit in Canada, brought forward the stories of Morningstar Mercredi and other Indigenous women, revealing the extent of this phenomenon in Canada.

As the stories gradually emerge – not only from Peru and Canada, but from many other parts of the world – Inter Pares will continue to make connections, raise awareness, and demand concerted action to address this crime against humanity.

# Taking to the streets

In 2019, people globally took to the streets en masse to call for change.



Photo Credit: Colombia Diversa



Photo Credit: Cristian Medina Arteaga

Inspired by the leadership of Chilean women, many of our Latin American counterparts came together to denounce gender-based violence by means of a new, powerful feminist anthem.

Colombia witnessed the largest protests in decades as citizens across the country demonstrated against the government's economic policies, its lack of commitment to implement the peace agreement, and its failure to curb the ongoing murder of social leaders.

In many parts of the world, Inter Pares' counterparts and staff marched, danced, and sang to commemorate Pride and



Photo Credit: Bill Fairbairn



**6,000 people** and nearly **40 civil society organizations** in Canada

signed a petition led by the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability denouncing the government's failure to create an independent Ombudsperson with the power to investigate companies for wrongdoing overseas.

the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stonewall, and to celebrate diversity in all of its beauty.

Over 7 million people marched worldwide in the September 2019 climate strikes. Inter Pares staff joined the hundreds of thousands of people who marched in Canada to call for immediate action on climate change.

Our counterpart the Sudanese Organization for Research and Development was active in Sudan's revolution, from organizing at the grassroots to influencing high-level policy discussions. Sudanese women continue to strive for more than democracy; they want equality.



Photo Credit: Sari Omer

# marking milestones



The Canadian Health Coalition celebrated **40 years** of advocacy to keep our health care system public and universal.



The Back Pack Health Worker Team marked **20 years** of delivering mobile primary health care and health education services to conflict-affected communities in Burma.

40

30

20

20



The Mae Tao Clinic celebrated its **30<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of providing health care, education, protection and more for people from Burma.



The **20<sup>th</sup>** edition of the Mobile Biodiversity Festival, coordinated by the Deccan Development Society, highlighted agroecology and the vital role of women farmers in India.





The work of 2 Inter Pares counterparts, the Deccan Development Society in India and Tiniguena in Guinea-Bissau, was recognized with the Equator Prize by the United Nations Development Program for efforts to address land degradation, biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement in a socially equitable manner.



MiningWatch Canada marked 20 years of working in solidarity with communities dealing with industrial mining operations that affect their lives and territories.



Colombia Diversa celebrated 15 years of promoting the full inclusion and respect for the rights of LGBTI people in Colombian society.

20

15

15



From a small gathering 15 years ago in Ivory Coast, COPAGEN is now a key actor in West Africa on the risks of genetic engineering and land grabs.



One lawsuit was brought

against Burma by The Gambia at the International Court of Justice – the first-ever attempt to hold the State responsible for the Rohingya genocide.

IN FOCUS:

# organizing youth against violence

Gender-based violence in Bangladesh is pervasive, transcending class, religion and age. Religious fundamentalists assert that women must not leave the home, girls should marry young, and gender-based violence should be tolerated.



Photo Credit: S M Mahfuzul Islam Rahat

Alarming, violence starts at a young age and girls frequently experience sexual harassment in schools.

Ten years ago, in reaction to severe incidents of sexual harassment, the Supreme Court ordered all schools to form sexual harassment committees. Almost all schools ignored the order. In response, Nijera Kori, Inter Pares' long-term counterpart, mobilized landless group members, adults and youth, to pressure schools to comply.

*"I want to continue my studies and join the police so I can stop harassment and child marriages."*

Sanjida Akhter

Incredibly, in 2019 they succeeded in getting sexual harassment committees formed in 324 schools.

Some youth have gone further, and Sanjida Akhter is one of them. Sanjida, a grade 10 student, formed a committee to stop child marriages, denounce harassment of girls, and educate local youth on these issues. Her committee successfully prevented the marriage of a 15-year old girl and received coverage in the local newspaper. While working to stop child marriage in her village, Sanjida herself rejected a proposed marriage.

Nijera Kori youth are determined to make a change and organize activities to educate their communities about sexual violence. In 2019, over 200 girls and boys held a run to raise awareness of and denounce sexual violence. A bike rally highlighted the harassment of girl students and challenged the stereotype that girls should not ride bikes.

Challenging gender norms and patriarchal practices is not easy, especially for young people who are often ignored. But Nijera Kori youth are passionate in their struggle for gender justice and we are proud to support them.

Inter Pares – which means among equals – believes in solidarity, not charity, as our approach to international cooperation. We work closely with courageous activists and inspiring organizations throughout the world to build peace, advance justice, and globalize equality. In 2019 we collaborated with **over 75 social justice organizations** across **22 countries**.

#### AMERICAS

Canada  
Colombia  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Mexico  
Peru

#### AFRICA

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Ivory Coast  
Mali  
Niger  
Senegal  
Sudan  
Togo

#### ASIA

Bangladesh  
Burma  
India  
Malaysia  
Philippines  
Thailand

### We put feminism into practice



We see issues of equality as important elements of our political analysis. We value methodologies that promote collaboration, foster good process, and encourage the agency of those with less power.



### We believe in the strength of women

We work with women and men who promote women's leadership, economic well-being, health, and autonomy.





## We engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation

We help enable grassroots participation in peacebuilding efforts, and support those who challenge the power structures that lead to violence, displacement, poverty, and corruption.



## We support refugees, migrants, and displaced people

We provide political, humanitarian, and financial assistance to refugees, displaced people, and those who support them through documenting abuses, providing health services, building livelihoods, and promoting peace and democracy.



## We promote fair economies

We collaborate with groups promoting fair trade agreements, support communities affected by resource extraction, and help rural communities develop management plans to protect resources and livelihoods.



## We promote food sovereignty

We work with farmers and others to promote food systems that support small farmers, feed communities, and ensure a healthy planet.



# Connecting across borders

Learning from one another is central to globalizing equality.



Photo Credit: Likhaan



**25,000 women** in Metro Manila and Eastern Samar received reproductive health services through the Likhaan Center for Women's Health in the Philippines.

In 2019, we connected Likhaan, our counterpart in the Philippines, working on reproductive health with Canadian professionals who have common areas of interest. These exchanges strengthened Likhaan's capacity and marked the beginning of mutually supportive relationships.

Professor Joanna Erdman from Dalhousie University visited Likhaan to discuss legal and policy strategies to address unsafe abortions. She advised making use of the robust guarantees for post abortion care in the Philippines' Reproductive Health Law, noting that the law is rooted in social justice, and connects reproductive and economic justice.

Jennifer Gibson from Island Sexual Health in Victoria, British Columbia talked about sexual health with Likhaan and groups they collaborate with, including teachers, community health mobilizers, and nurses. She shared her experiences making sexual health education accessible, relevant and fun for participants. Jennifer also shadowed Likhaan community health mobilizers as they visited communities in Metro Manila, providing feedback to strengthen their work.

Inter Pares recognizes Global Affairs Canada for its financial support towards these exchanges.

# highlighting issues for **election 2019**



**1,000 farmers and  
civil society leaders**  
provided input to Enda Pronat to inform  
the Government of Senegal's efforts to  
transition to agroecology.



Canadians for Tax Fairness presented its Platform for Tax Fairness which included closing tax loopholes, getting tough on tax havens, restoring progressive tax rates, leveling the digital playing field, and combating climate change.



The Canadian Health Coalition emphasized public health care as a social equalizer and outlined four priorities for the federal government: keeping health care public, ensuring adequate funding for health care, providing universal pharmacare, and creating a national strategy for seniors care.



The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group outlined its Top 10 Asks to protect civil liberties and undo the harm of over-reaching anti-terrorism laws. The issues related to surveillance, security certificates, deportations, torture, the No Fly List, the Safe Third Country Agreement, xenophobia and more.



Food Secure Canada relaunched Eat Think Vote, convening communities and candidates to discuss food issues. The campaign built momentum for Canada to transition to a more sustainable and just food system, and to establish a long-overdue universal school food program.



IN FOCUS:

# recognizing social justice activists

Working for social justice is a long road. Setbacks, burnout, and shoestring budgets are all part of the activist life. For 25 years Peter Gillespie worked at Inter Pares, bringing passion, courage, talent, and deep commitment to social justice.



Photo Credit: Inter Pares



“We are honoured to have our work recognized as we continue bringing birth back to our communities.”

Claire Dion Fletcher  
Co-Chair, National Aboriginal  
Council of Midwives

”

Following Peter’s death in 2015, we created the Peter Gillespie Social Justice Award in his memory. Each April since 2017, this Award has been presented to outstanding social justice organizations in Canada, to honour and recognize their contributions.

In 2019, Inter Pares presented this Award to two exceptional organizations: the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM), which is working towards

the sustainable return of birth to Indigenous communities, and Clinic 554, the only out-of-hospital access for abortion services and sole LGBTIQ2 clinic in New Brunswick.

In recognizing NACM, we honour their critical work in reproductive health care for Inuit, Métis and First Nations women. NACM is helping to fulfil the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action to recognize the value of Indigenous healing practices, and to increase the number of Indigenous professionals working in health care.

By working to bring national attention to Clinic 554, we acknowledge the services they provide to the most marginalized in New Brunswick. Migrant workers, undocumented residents, patients

with mental health issues, patients fleeing intimate partner violence, those with addictions, and those who are involved in sex work, have all been supported by Clinic 554.

We are honoured to shine a light on these hardworking social justice organizations with the Peter Gillespie Social Justice Award, and look forward to continuing to do so in years to come.

“Having our struggles witnessed and acknowledged with a social justice award of this calibre is more uplifting than we can say.”

Dr. Adrian Edgar  
Clinic 554

”

“I take great comfort in knowing that there are people all over the world engaged in social justice work.”

Susan Wismer

”

# celebrating our donor community



Photo courtesy of Susan Wismer



Photo courtesy of Susan Formosa

“I support Inter Pares because of your philosophy that people in a country know better how things need to be changed than we could every know.”

Susan Formosa

”



28 visits to meet  
Inter Pares donors

across Canada strengthened our social  
justice community.

Donating is more than a financial transaction: it is an act of solidarity, a commitment to social justice, an expression of shared values, and a part of one's political journey. In 2019, 4,476 donors gave a total of \$2,664,011 to Inter Pares!

“Inter Pares has inspired me to become more involved with social justice. Of many respected organizations, I have chosen Inter Pares to receive my RRSP when I die. This gives me great pleasure.”

Anne Christians



Photo courtesy of Anne Christians

This year, we asked our donors how they engage with social justice. Their responses moved and inspired us:

Our donors' top three concerns:



- climate change
- corporate accountability
- xenophobia



68% donate because of the direct political and financial support Inter Pares provides to counterparts.



82% donate to make the world better for future generations.



48% volunteer in their communities.



76% are rabble-rousers, participating in campaigns, petitions and protests to advance social justice.



Photo Credit: Inter Pares

# Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2019

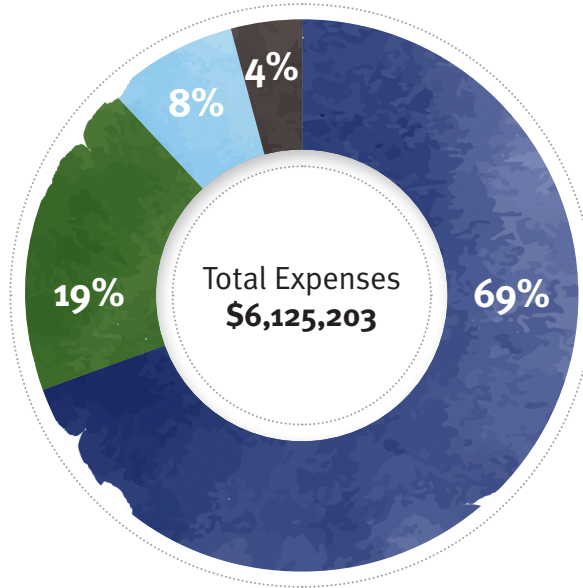
	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$3,839,992	\$3,444,559
Accounts receivable	126,444	121,563
Program advances	458,481	743,194
Prepaid expenses	48,150	29,306
Short-term investments	369,796	622,855
	<b>\$4,842,863</b>	<b>\$4,961,477</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	4,475,302	3,559,270
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	533,385	546,008
	<b>\$9,851,550</b>	<b>\$9,066,755</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$40,891	\$80,063
Deferred revenue	3,525,200	3,565,455
	<b>\$3,566,091</b>	<b>\$3,645,518</b>
<b>YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE</b>	159,476	143,200
	<b>\$3,725,567</b>	<b>\$3,788,718</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Unrestricted	331,715	290,739
Invested capital assets	533,385	546,008
Reserve Fund	1,015,006	992,495
Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund	4,245,877	3,448,795
	<b>\$6,125,983</b>	<b>\$5,278,037</b>
	<b>\$9,851,550</b>	<b>\$9,066,755</b>

Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2019

			2019	2018	
	General Operations	Reserve Fund	Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund	Total	Total
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Donations	\$1,816,488	\$-	\$709,241	\$2,525,729	\$1,849,793
Global Affairs Canada					
-MNCH	523,544	-	-	523,544	593,292
-Buil-Mo	113,806	-	-	113,806	-
-PSOP Colombia	23,850	-	-	23,850	-
-IDB	3,606,655	-	-	3,606,655	3,361,447
Project generated grants	77,756	-	-	77,756	-
Interest and other	(8,543)	22,511	87,841	101,809	153,536
	<b>\$6,153,556</b>	<b>\$22,511</b>	<b>\$797,082</b>	<b>\$6,973,149</b>	<b>\$5,958,068</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Program					
-Projects	4,256,027	-	-	4,256,027	4,439,777
-Operations	1,152,761	-	-	1,152,761	1,141,046
	<b>5,408,788</b>	-	-	<b>5,408,788</b>	<b>5,580,823</b>
-Administration	244,566	-	-	244,566	250,357
-Fundraising	471,849	-	-	471,849	440,675
	<b>6,125,203</b>	-	-	<b>6,125,203</b>	<b>6,271,855</b>
<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$28,353</b>	<b>\$22,511</b>	<b>\$797,082</b>	<b>\$847,946</b>	<b>\$(313,787)</b>

## Inter Pares Expenses in 2019

- 69% Program Projects:**  
Funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America
- 19% Program Operations:**  
Monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries
- 8% Fundraising:**  
Receipting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries
- 4% Administration:**  
Office costs, governance, financial management, finance staff salaries



### A deep commitment to social justice

We honour a special group from the west coast for their momentous gift to Inter Pares in 2019. This group, which prefers to remain anonymous, has always believed in the central role that women play in creating social change. Their gift will help to globalize equality for years to come.



**\$4,267,855 in Canadian government funding** supported Inter Pares counterparts to expand their long-term work for social justice in their communities.

# Honouring human rights defenders

2019 was another deadly year for human rights defenders around the world. Those defending the environment or advocating for Indigenous, LGBTI, or sexual and reproductive rights faced particular risk. Some reports state hundreds of activists were killed in the year; others record several deaths daily. Still more activists were silenced or restricted.

Our community has been deeply affected by this violence. We mourn the loss of allies, colleagues, and leaders of social justice movements. We are angered and saddened by the risks activists must face to build a more equal, just world. But we remain encouraged to see our counterparts and others speaking out against this violence and persevering in their critically important work. We continue our work in solidarity.



Photo Credit: Inter Pares

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 75 counterparts and, together, identify the root causes of injustice and act towards sustainable social change.

## Our team in 2019

Ashley Armstrong  
Bharat Bishwakarma  
David Bruer  
Eric Chaurette  
Mariétou Diallo  
Kathryn Dingle  
Bill Fairbairn

Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti  
Lorraine Hudson  
Charlotte Kiddell  
Lise-Anne Léveillé  
Jack Hui Litster  
Nelly Marcoux  
Samantha McGavin

Rita Morbia  
Marie José Morrissette  
Laura O'Neill  
Nikki Richard  
Jean Symes  
Rebecca Wolsak

## Board of Directors in 2019

Amanda Dale  
Annette Desmarais  
Mireille Landry  
James Loney  
Michael Manolson

Esperanza Moreno  
Shree Mulay  
Sharon Nyangweso  
Jeannie Samuel  
Holly Solomon

Sari Tudiver  
Bill Van Iterson  
Barbara Wood



326 women and  
158 men participated

in training to prevent violence against women provided by the Network of Women's Organizations of the Ixcán (ROMI) in Guatemala.



50 community-led  
sustainable development

projects were implemented by conflict-affected villagers in Burma.





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)

Facebook: @InterParesCanada

Twitter: @Inter\_Pares

Instagram: @InterParesCanada

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