



feminist action for justice

annual report 2021



this has been
a year of almost
unimaginable
change

As you read this report, you will see evidence of our commitment to women's rights and gender justice, peace and democracy, economic justice and food sovereignty. Yet while these concerns remain constant, the pandemic has seen new depths of inequality enmeshed into the fabric of our unequal world.

At Inter Pares, we hold a heavy load of sharp contradictions as we work to address injustices. We:

- hold the state accountable with the support of state funding.
- work with short-term funding to build and nourish long-term relationships with our counterparts.
- deepen our anti-colonial understanding and practise, while operating in colonial contexts at home and globally.
- use the resources of a Northern state to open dialogue between Southern activists, which requires us to step back while speaking out to raise awareness.

With your support, we are able to navigate these contradictions and work with our counterparts to cultivate change. In 2021, your generosity supported democracy activists in Burma and Sudan, LGBTIQ+ people seeking equality in Colombia, farmers cultivating food sovereignty in West Africa, and many more transformative efforts.

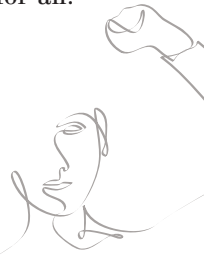
As an organization – and a country – in dialogue with human rights defenders around the globe, we have a very long road ahead. Last year we received terrible news from the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation that the unmarked remains of 215 children were found on the site

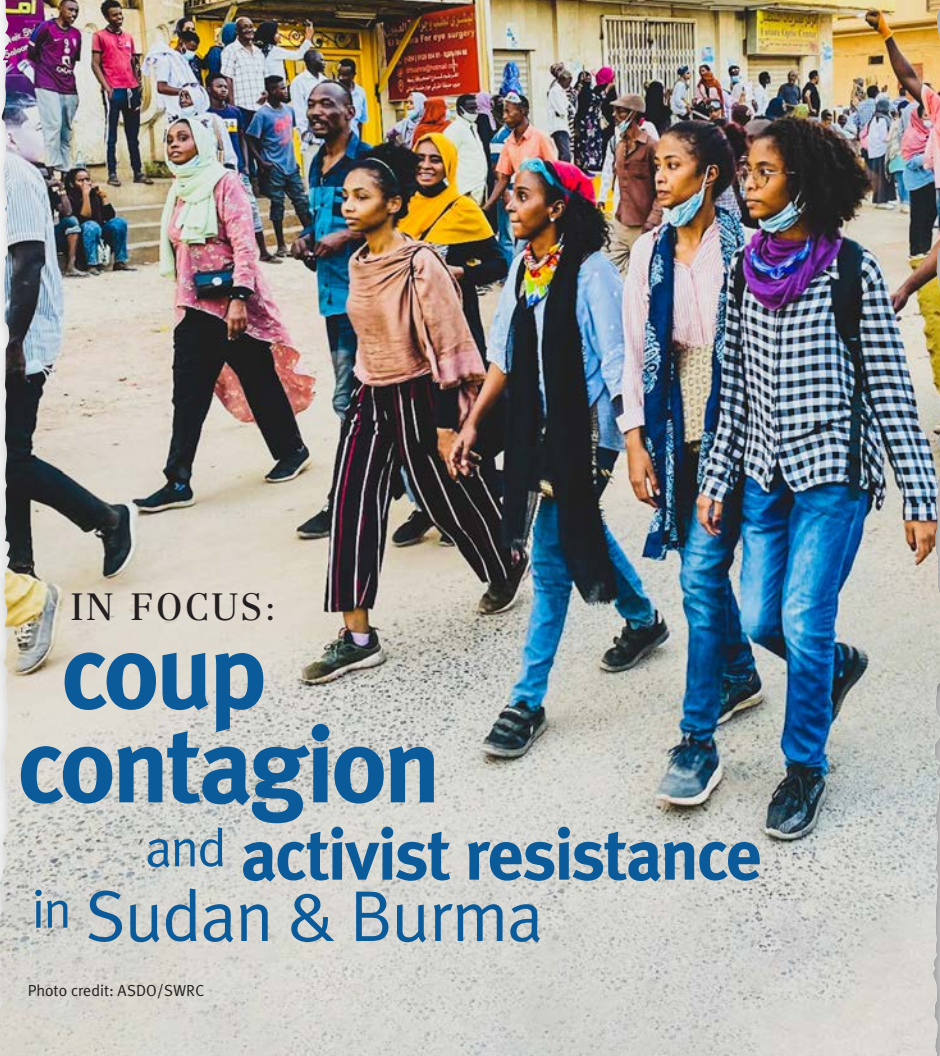
of a former residential school. A year of revelations of Canada's colonial violence followed and continues today.

The anti-racist understandings of our work and our commitment to “decolonizing development” has always preoccupied us. Now, more than ever, we see this in the context of Indigenous rights action here at home.

Thank you for staying with us on this journey. Together, we are not only surviving, but using this moment of national and global self-reflection to push for more lasting transformation and equality for all.

Amanda Dale
Chairperson,
Inter Pares Board of Directors





IN FOCUS:

coup contagion

and **activist resistance**
in Sudan & Burma

Photo credit: ASDO/SWRC

Last year was marked not only by COVID-19, but by another type of pandemic: coup contagion.

In 2021, more military power grabs were attempted globally than in the *previous five years combined*. In February, the Burma army attempted a coup d'état, trampling the country's fragile, decade-old democracy. In October, a power grab by Sudan's military destroyed hopes that a transitional government – formed after a popular revolution unseated a 30-year dictatorship – would make way for democratic transformation. Since these coups, each country's military has intensified its attacks against protestors, killing many and wounding, arresting or displacing thousands more.

The brutality and scope of junta power in Sudan and Burma is nothing new. Despite both countries' democratic veneers prior to 2021, military power was entrenched: from control over their political structures, economies and natural resources, to the patriarchal cultures typical of historically militarized states. These militaries and their cronies thrive on impunity.

Yet the people persist in their resistance, and their power is growing. Youth and women are bringing their strength and resilience to the frontlines. Millions of activists are risking everything to reverse the attempted coups.

Before the coup in Sudan, our counterparts there had been demanding equal representation for



Photo credit: Facebook/Nu Tsen Mun Hpaula

women in a future democratic state. Now, they continue to make space for women and to protect activists.

“Regardless of what happens in the political sphere, the Sudanese ‘street’ shows the tenacity and resolve that stands Sudan in the best possible position to see through the democratic and civilian demands,” says Sudanese activist Kholood Khair.

In Burma, Inter Pares’ counterparts are leaders in advancing policy solutions that articulate the future federal democratic nation they are striving for.

“Years of work have prepared us for this. Our uprising will be hard to quash, especially women’s resistance to military power. This uprising is deeper than in the past.”

K’nyaw Paw,
an Indigenous Karen activist.

We have witnessed remarkable civil society responses to the military’s actions in Sudan and Burma. With your support, Inter Pares will continue to work in solidarity with these courageous activists in pursuit of peace, justice and democracy.

decolonization here at home

Since our founding, we have sought to understand our role as an anti-colonial organization in a sector with deep colonial roots.

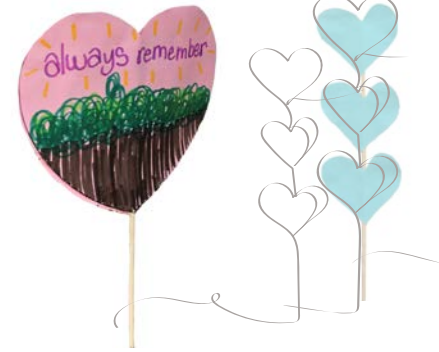


Photo credit: Ashley Armstrong/Inter Pares

We look not only at North-South relations, but also at our role closer to home. It seems that – for all of us – 2021 in particular was a year of reflection and learning about the reality of Indigenous rights in the land now called Canada.

In addition to honouring the victims of residential “schools” and observing the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Inter Pares released our *Action Plan for Working in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples in Canada*.

This plan is the result of reflections on the impacts of colonialism and how we contribute to perpetuating injustices against Indigenous peoples. It expresses our commitment to support Indigenous movements.

We have seen this awareness flourish in many places, including among many of our counterparts. Inter Pares is particularly proud to support the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group of our counterpart, the National Farmers Union (NFU). In 2021, the group held a series of



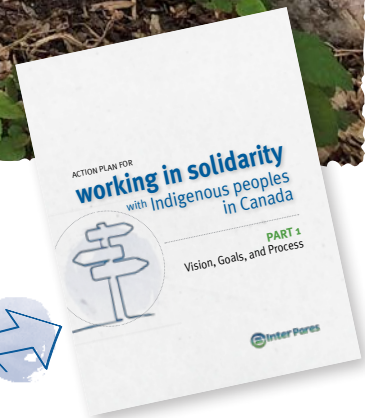
learning sessions on a variety of topics, including Indigenous food sovereignty, residential schools and the land back movement. In collaboration with Indigenous leaders, the NFU is also exploring how to do more to turn learning into action and political change.

Both the NFU and Inter Pares are going through profound moments of transformation. Our solidarity must be reflected right here in our organization, our team and our local work.



Photo credit: Ashley Armstrong/Inter Pares

We look forward to sharing our ongoing learning with you. For more information, you can find our report here: interpares.ca/action-plan



IN FOCUS:

women-led agroecology is climate action

In Guinea-Bissau, women's collectives and community organizations are fighting climate change through the way they produce and prepare food. And for the past year, together with our long-term counterpart, Tiniguena, you have been supporting their efforts through your donations to Inter Pares.



Photo credit: Eric Chaurette/Inter Pares

Guinea-Bissau is a low-lying country on the West African coast, rich in biodiversity, forests, rivers, inlets and islands, where most of its population lives directly off the land and sea. Rural women here often hold vast farming knowledge and steward diverse foods and seeds. This diversity is crucial for climate change adaptation. In a rapidly changing world, crop diversity helps to mitigate risks and ups a farmer's odds of achieving a harvest in spite of rising temperatures, droughts, saltwater intrusion and increasingly violent storms.

Protecting existing ecosystems from further degradation can help mitigate climate change. This is done through agroecology, where ecological principles and local farmers' knowledge guide the way food is grown in an effort to protect soil, water and biodiversity.

With agroecology, farmers grow crops without the use of synthetic inputs such as chemical fertilizer.

In Djabada Porto, a community in the Quinara region, Tiniguena supported the rehabilitation of a high-efficiency fish smoker, which allows the women's collective of about 150 members to smoke 600 kilograms of fish per month – an important source of income. This smoker uses just 20% of the wood usually needed, meaning fewer trees cut down and less burden on the women who collect firewood.

Women farmers you support are also *guardiões das sementes*, or seed savers. In this region that means that they protect incredible crop diversity, including upward of 30 rice varieties! Tiniguena works with a network of seed savers to maintain and exchange seeds with farmers from other areas to build up seed reserves and conserve diversity.

This past year, Tiniguena also inaugurated a rice processing station equipped with a machine that de-husks rice, getting it ready to sell and eat. This dramatically reduces the time and energy women spend processing rice, while also providing communities with locally-sourced, ecologically-grown rice.

Inter Pares looks forward to keeping you informed about this promising work that you support, in the years to come.



Photo credit: Fernande Abanda/Inter Pares

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 2021 we collaborated with **more than 70 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

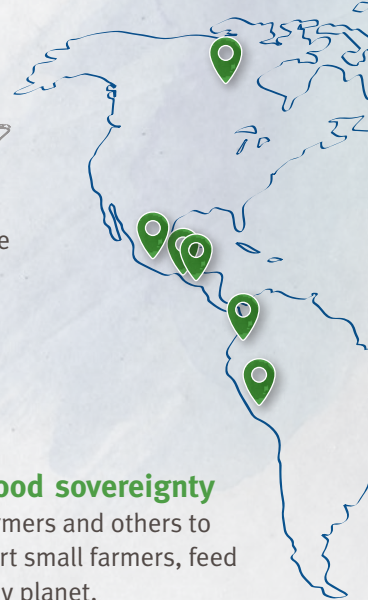


We work with people who promote women's leadership, economic well-being, health and autonomy.



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.





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 advocate for strong, public healthcare systems

We see health as a political issue and fundamental to social justice. We promote an approach that addresses the nexus of health, poverty, equality and social conditions. We advocate for integrated, accessible, publicly funded healthcare systems.



celebrating our donor community



Photo courtesy of Patricia Charest

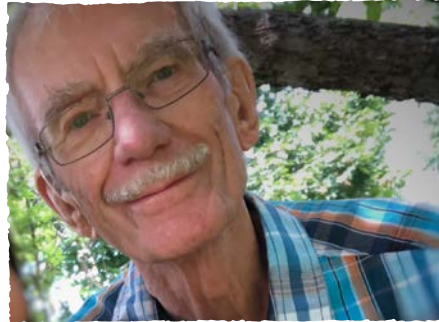


Photo courtesy of Jacques Gelinas

Our donors sustain Inter Pares' work of advancing social justice. Donating is more than a financial transaction: it's a political commitment to building a more just and equal world. This and every year, we cherished the moments that allowed us to connect with our supporters.

“I support Inter Pares because, beyond the relationship of support and solidarity with its counterparts, it helps to advance thinking about equality and social justice among its peers and donors, and policymakers.”

Patricia Charest

“I believe that Inter Pares remains the best non-governmental organization for development cooperation in the Global South. The consistency of its egalitarian approach with Southern organizations and people is remarkable.”

Jacques Gelinas

“Inter Pares is unlike any organization I have ever experienced or heard of before. They truly honour their commitment to solidarity, equality, and participation – shown in their feminist approach and co-management structure. Inter Pares has inspired me and positively influenced the way I understand collaboration and equality and for that, I am forever grateful.”

Taina Roberts

”



Photo courtesy of Taina Roberts

In 2021:

We welcomed
319 new donors
into our community.



Inter Pares received bequests from
10 long-time donors as part of
their social justice legacy.



125 donors deepened their understanding of systemic racism by requesting a booklet created by our counterpart La Ligue des droits et libertés.



4,138 generous donors gave a total of \$2,009,330 to Inter Pares, of which \$539,364 came from our dedicated Sustaining Donors!

CONTENT WARNING: sexual assault and child abuse

IN FOCUS:

there can be

no justice
**without
truth**

Maria*, an Afro-Colombian trans woman, knows this all too well.

*Name is changed to protect Maria's privacy



She was only five years old when she was lured into the jungle behind her home in Colombia by a man whistling and offering her candy. Maria was abducted and led to a makeshift camp, occupied by FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) guerrillas.

For hours, she was sexually abused by several insurgents. When they sent her back to her village, they promised to return and kill her entire family if she reported what had happened.

There is no doubt in Maria's mind that the perpetrators targeted her because of her perceived gender identity. From an early age, Maria, who was assigned male at birth, was scorned by villagers and family members alike who identified her as a *marica* – a queer person.

Sadly, Maria's experience is not uncommon. According to official statistics, Colombia's more than 50-year armed conflict left a staggering toll of more than

4,000 LGBTIQ+ victims. Perpetrators included all armed actors: army, paramilitary and guerrilla forces. These were not random attacks, but rather targeted and sustained practices, rooted in systemic gendered inequality and patriarchal cultural prejudices. These attacks helped the armed groups win legitimacy among and exercise control over civilian populations.

After many years, Maria broke her silence about the attack she survived. With the support of Colombia Diversa, our counterpart organization, she agreed to give her testimony as part of the transitional justice process established through Colombia's 2016 Peace Agreement.

Thanks to the work of the women's and LGBTIQ+ rights movements, this is the first peace agreement in the world to explicitly include LGBTIQ+ rights.

For five years, Colombia Diversa has been supporting LGBTIQ+ participation in this process by providing legal, mental health, emotional, and social support to LGBTIQ+ victims and survivors. The Colombian peace agreement has created a unique opportunity to seek truth and justice for LGBTIQ+ victims, break down stigmas, and forge a more inclusive society.

Inter Pares is proud to be supporting this ground-breaking work.

by the numbers

2021

Likhaan Women's Health Center, our counterpart in the Philippines, reached more than **23,000 people** with information on sexual and reproductive health, sexual and gender-based violence and safety measures for COVID-19, using new funding from Global Affairs Canada.



Photo credit: Likhaan



In Senegal, Inter Pares supported Réseau National des Femmes Rurales du Sénégal to strengthen its governance and its work with **35,000 rural women.**



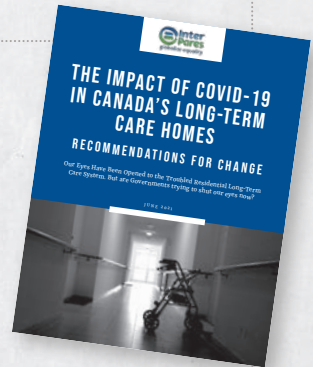
Photo credit: Eric Chaurrette/Inter Pares



Marches of the millions: Sudanese protestors all over the country have marched against the military coup twice weekly since October 25, 2021.

The deaths from COVID-19 of more than **15,000 people** in Canada's long-term care facilities exposed serious flaws in the system. Inter Pares discussed the horrible consequences of these flaws and how to do better in our report, *The Impact of COVID-19 in Canada's Long-Term Care Homes and Recommendations for Change*.

Read more here: [interpares.ca/LTC-homes](https://inter pares.ca/LTC-homes)



by the
numbers 2021 *continued*

We planted **215 hearts** outside our Ottawa office in honour of the 215 children found at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, and the thousands of other children across the country, whose lives were lost to genocide.



Our community of supporters requested **326 copies** of the booklet “Systemic racism... let’s talk about it!” created by our Canadian ally, la Ligue des droits et libertés.



In India, **1,950 women farmers** sold their crops to Sangham Market, an initiative the women themselves collectively own and operate. The market purchases their crops at 10% above the market price and creates employment for women in its production centre.



Photo credit: Deccan Development Society



Colombia Diversa provided training about sexual orientation and gender identity issues to almost **200 members** of Colombia's transitional justice institutions.

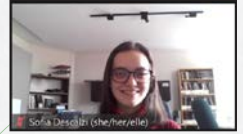
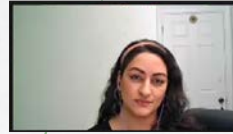
The local groups of Nijera Kori, our counterpart in Bangladesh, staged **1,601 protests** to counter violence against women. They protested cases of illegal divorce, polygamy, rape and physical assault – succeeding 97% of the time in getting justice for the women involved.



Photo credit: Nijera Kori



Counterparts in Burma organized **307 community dialogues, trainings and meetings** on health, human rights, women's rights, environment, peace and sustainable development, for **10,848 participants** – nearly half of them women.



the Inter Pares team



among equals

Inter Pares means “among equals” in Latin. It spells out a principle we strive to practice in all parts of our work: from our relationships with more than 70 counterpart organizations, to our participation in the dozen or so coalitions we are part of, to the collaborative way staff work together daily.

Did you know that, as part of this commitment to equality, Inter Pares has a flat structure?

Inter Pares was founded in 1975 to address injustice and inequality around the world. Ten years later, inspired by feminist movements, the staff cast a critical lens on their own workplace and recognized inequalities in the organization.

They resolved that the way Inter Pares worked internally needed to reflect those values of justice and equality.

So, in 1985, staff took the bold step of flattening the hierarchical institutional structure. Full-time staff became “co-managers,” agreeing to make decisions and run Inter Pares through consensus.

Decades later, we still strive to live up to the potential of our name. Although each co-manager plays a different role, we share equal responsibility in managing the organization and all of us earn the same base salary.

Our long-term experiment in resisting hierarchy has strengthened Inter Pares, empowered us as co-workers and shown us that no matter how inevitable inequalities may seem, we can work with feminist principles to dismantle them together.

Financial Statements

Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$3,812,667	\$1,977,168
Short-term investments	557,022	886,286
Accounts receivable	116,026	258,946
Program advances	382,523	1,049,490
Prepaid expenses	21,532	43,135
	\$4,889,770	\$4,215,025
INVESTMENTS	4,726,105	3,710,892
CAPITAL ASSETS	511,372	521,335
	\$10,127,247	\$8,447,252
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	54,769	39,976
Deferred revenue	3,275,409	1,850,830
	\$3,330,178	\$1,890,806
CEBA LOAN PAYABLE	40,000	30,000
YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE	165,391	152,279
	\$3,535,569	\$2,073,085
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted	144,488	311,209
Invested in capital assets	511,372	521,335
Reserve Fund	1,044,879	1,037,844
Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund	4,890,939	4,503,779
	\$6,591,678	\$6,374,167
	\$10,127,247	\$8,447,252

Statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2021

	2021			2020	
	General Operations	Reserve Fund	Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund	Total	Total
REVENUE					
Donations	\$1,711,881	-	\$297,449	\$2,009,330	\$2,086,347
Global Affairs Canada					
MNCH	-	-	-	-	90,183
Buil-Mo	1,258,179	-	-	1,258,179	699,178
PSOP Colombia	155,530	-	-	155,530	120,616
IDB	2,312,287	-	-	2,312,287	3,056,000
COVID Philippines	660,012	-	-	660,012	26,979
PSOP Sudan	606,596	-	-	606,596	116,983
Interest and other	19,289	7,035	89,711	116,035	150,229
	\$6,723,774	\$7,035	\$387,160	\$7,117,969	\$6,346,515
EXPENSE					
Program					
Projects	4,881,435	-	-	4,881,435	4,196,932
Operations	1,208,043	-	-	1,208,043	1,203,265
	6,089,478	-	-	6,089,478	5,400,197
Administration	243,387	-	-	243,387	228,187
Fundraising	567,593	-	-	567,593	469,947
	6,900,458	-	-	6,900,458	6,098,331
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR	\$(176,684)	\$7,035	\$387,160	\$217,511	\$248,184

Inter Pares Expenses in 2021

71% Program projects:

Funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America

18% Program operations:

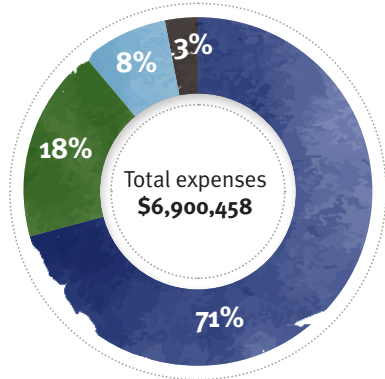
Monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries

8% Fundraising:

Receipting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries

3% Administration:

Office costs, governance, financial management, finance staff salaries



About Us

Inter Pares draws on over forty years of experience and a worldwide activist network to challenge inequality in Canada and abroad. Known for our 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 more than 70 counterparts and, together, identify the root causes of injustice and act for sustainable social change.

Our Team in 2021

Ashley Armstrong
Bharat Bishwakarma
David Bruer
Eric Charette
Sofia Descalzi
Mariétou Diallo
Bill Fairbairn
Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti

Lorraine Hudson
Amani Khalfan
Charlotte Kiddell
Lise-Anne Léveillé
Samantha McGavin
Rita Morbia
Maélie Morrissette

Marie José Morrissette
Laura O'Neill
Nikki Richard
Taina Roberts
Jean Symes
Juan Camilo Suárez
Colmenares
Rebecca Wolsak

Board of Directors in 2021

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Philippe Frowd
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James Loney
Michael Manolson
Esperanza Moreno
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Jeannie Samuel

Holly Solomon
Viola Thomas
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