



CIVIL SOCIETY

Holding governments to account

Mayan Q'eqchi' women from Guatemala celebrate a guilty verdict against two military officers who subjected them to sexual and domestic slavery over 30 years ago. The women covered their faces throughout the trial, reflecting the real risks of testifying.

Watersheds: Seizing the moment

Periodically, we suddenly feel that we're in a 'watershed' moment. We are surprised that seemingly out of nowhere, the world is awakening to a new day. But watershed moments aren't built in a day. Nor do they always bring lasting transformation.

Tracing these moments' roots usually takes you back through years of difficult struggle, often frustrating or thankless, led by committed individuals and groups. Historically, the most effective protection against dictatorship has always been a strong and vibrant civil society – holding governments accountable, creating and maintaining public awareness, supporting people to claim their rights. This work enables strategic steps toward that watershed moment, while building preparedness so that people have the plans, positions, and policies to jump into the breach and negotiate a better future.

A watershed moment may be a great achievement, but is not an end in itself. It is a transitory opening when a different future becomes possible – but this opening may evaporate, or be hijacked by parties with other interests. From the French Revolution to the Arab Spring, people have been left wondering after victories how everything then went off the rails.

A recently celebrated 'watershed' in 2011 saw Burma take its first tentative steps away from a military dictatorship. In response, sanctions were abruptly dropped, investment poured in, mass abuses and human rights benchmarks were suddenly forgotten. When Burma's activists and civil society called for caution and continued pressure from foreign governments, outside 'experts' declared that criticism would undermine progress.

Five years later, the world struggles to understand why Rohingya Muslims are still fleeing violence, why armed conflict still continues, and how the military still wields power despite democratic elections. But civil society in ethnic conflict zones continues to work under the radar, successfully exploiting very limited

openings to get civilian concerns into peace negotiations, to gain government recognition of community-based health initiatives, and to advance proposals that would make Burma's fledgling democracy more inclusive. These are among the efforts Inter Pares supports, and in 2015 we convinced the Canadian government to fund this difficult but exciting work for the next five years.

We're also working on other transformations. For instance, in Canada, counterparts like Food Secure Canada are finally beginning to see years of research and advocacy reflected in government policies. In the Philippines, it has been over three years since the 'watershed' signing of a comprehensive reproductive health law, but our counterpart Likhaan is still working hard to secure its implementation and help impoverished women access its provisions. Over a decade of advocacy by counterparts in Peru has finally led to cases against military personnel for crimes against humanity, and the government has accepted accountability for forced sterilizations of Indigenous women in the 1990s. Whether in Burma, Canada, Peru, or elsewhere, watersheds are opportunities that require renewed efforts, solidarity, and support. These are opportunities we cannot afford to miss.

Inside this *Annual Report*, you'll find examples of Inter Pares' work with counterparts worldwide building toward moments of opportunity, negotiating through them, and most importantly, making them yield lasting results. Some of these moments are occurring right now; some have transpired, and some are on their way. Together, we can make them happen – and we can make the change stick.

By offering long-term accompaniment and financial, organizational, and political support, Inter Pares draws on the strength of local counterparts to address root causes of inequality and to hold governments to account. Here are some examples from 2015.

AFRICA



ACORD UGANDA

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In north-west Tanzania, ACORD supported local women's organizations to establish a district network on sexual violence against women, which is pushing local governments and police to take this issue seriously. The network is also engaging important religious, cultural, and community structures (particularly those of Maasai men and women elders) by raising awareness and recruiting them to address harmful social norms that encourage and sanction violence. As a result, the Police Gender Desk has seen a 50% increase in reported cases.

ASIA

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Burma has recently somewhat relaxed the restrictions on its highly censored media, but media from the country's ethnic regions remain extremely restricted. The Burma News International (BNI) coalition, which includes most of Burma's ethnic media groups, has actively advocated for greater recognition and independence for ethnic media. In 2015, BNI was allocated a permanent seat on the newly formed national media council, a government-mandated self-regulatory body to oversee and protect media freedom in Burma.



KEVIN MALSEED

LATIN AMERICA



PROJECT COUNSELLING SERVICE

PEACEBUILDING

In the context of Colombia's peace talks, the City of Bogotá began developing a policy to support the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of combatants after a 60-year-long internal conflict. As a recognized expert on peace and human rights, Project Counselling Service was brought in to help. This included analyzing previous peace processes and organizing 15 workshops in which over 400 people took part, including key figures from Central American peace processes in the 1980s.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

In recent years, Canada has enacted “anti-terror” laws that strip Canadian residents of their civil liberties and Charter protections. None has gone further than Bill C-51, which was widely opposed but enacted in 2015. The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group repeatedly called for public consultations on C-51 and equally controversial no-fly lists. In January 2016, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale announced public consultations on both issues.



PATRICIA CHAREST MUGWANEZA



JEAN SYMES

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Third World Network (TWN)-Africa collaborates with communities, scholars, and NGOs from across Africa to hold governments to their obligation to adopt policies and legislation that benefit all of their citizens. In early 2015, TWN-Africa collaborated in producing detailed recommendations to the African Union for diversifying African countries’ economic activity, reform of the international tax system so that it benefits the majority, and creating fair international trade and investment policies.

PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

Inter Pares has supported local civil society in Burma for over twenty years, through the darkest days of military dictatorship. The country is now undergoing a partial transition toward democracy, but armed conflict, racial and religious persecution, and sexual violence by the military remain prevalent. In 2015, our new five-year program will support civil society groups in conflict-affected areas so that marginalized ethnic groups can claim their rights and play an active role in Burma’s transition.



KEVIN MALSEED



DEMUS

IMPUNITY

In February 2015, criminal charges were laid against 11 Peruvian military personnel for crimes against humanity in the rape of 14 women, three of whom have been accompanied by DEMUS since 2004. This is an important legal precedent in Peru and throughout Latin America, as it is the first time that rape has been prosecuted as a war crime in the country where it occurred.

TAX JUSTICE

During the 2015 federal election campaign, Canadians for Tax Fairness met with federal parties, encouraging them to tackle tax havens and loopholes that cost Canada billions of dollars each year. The new federal government has committed to crack down on tax havens and loopholes, to overhaul the Canada Revenue Agency, and to double assistance to help developing countries build capacity in their own tax administrations.



DON KOSSICK



COPAGEN

CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

From 2012 to 2015, Inter Pares coordinated a participatory research project on landgrabs with Université de Montréal and the West Africa biodiversity movement COPAGEN. The research results were widely disseminated in 2015 through a booklet and the video documentary “Green Fever.” The booklet and video ignited grassroots resistance: 19 landwatch committees have been established in four countries to help communities better protect their lands from landgrabs, and efforts are underway to reform land laws.

GOVERNANCE

In Bangladesh, Nijera Kori landless groups used right to information laws to prove local corruption and mismanagement in the Wapda dam reconstruction project. Over 100 landless group members were part of the work crews hired by the project, but after they obtained the lists of workers, they discovered false names and payment of wages to non-existent people. After the community informed higher-up authorities, the project was stopped and new managers put in place.



DAVID BRUER



INTER PARES

INDIGENOUS & ETHNIC RIGHTS

Aiming to promote Mayan women’s political participation and influence, the Movement of Mayan Women of Huehuetenango in Guatemala held an assembly that brought together women from the region’s 10 different Mayan ethnic groups. The assembly elected a representative to the Regional Development Council, making hers the only Indigenous woman’s voice in an institution whose policies have a direct impact on Mayan communities’ social and economic lives.

OUR ROLE

All around the world and at home, Inter Pares collaborates with people and organizations who are struggling to build more just societies and create change. This is how we do it.




We raise money to support our counterparts



We advocate for improved policies



We support women's leadership



We facilitate learning exchanges by linking people together



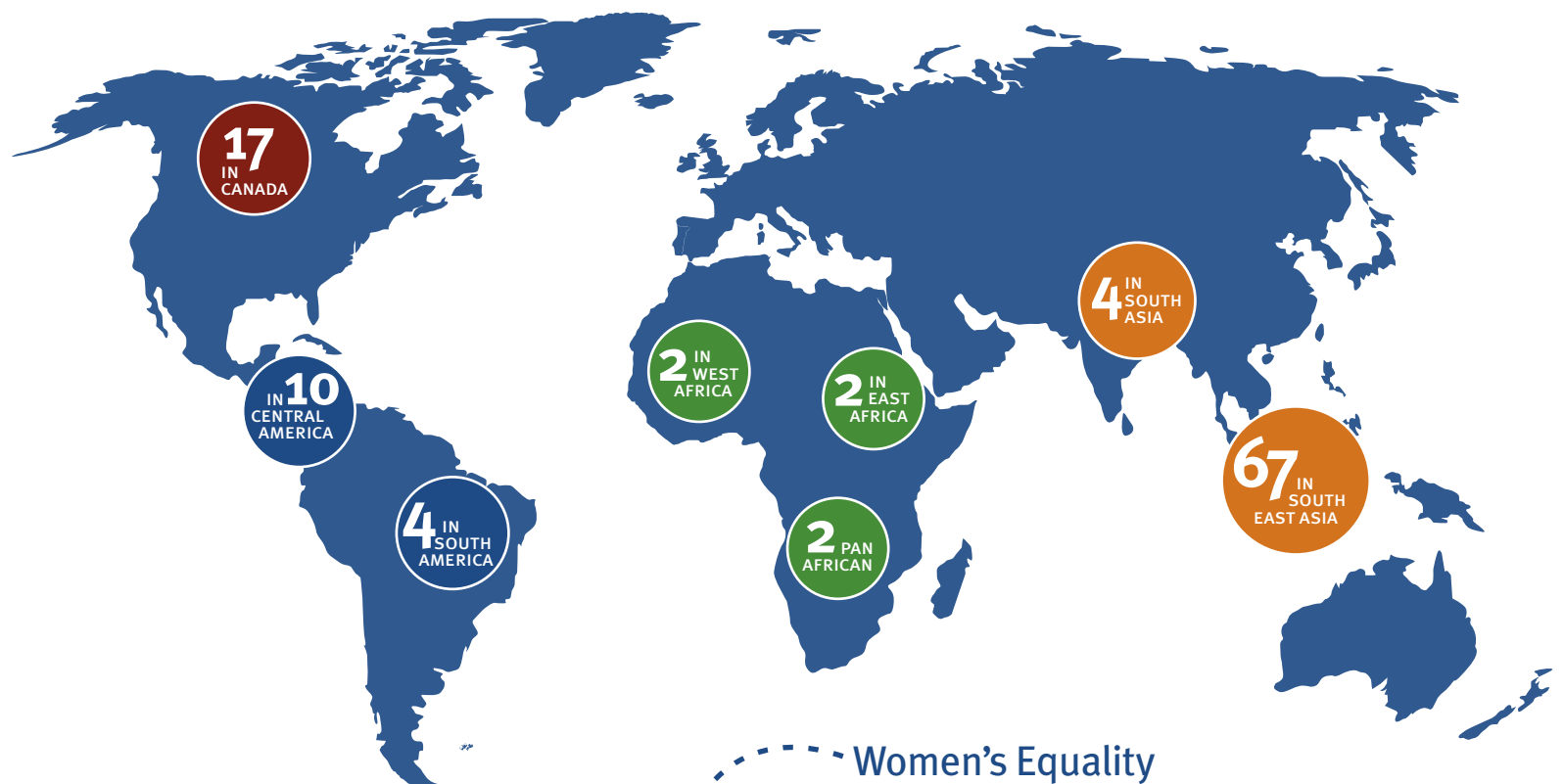
We provide financial and organizational support



We share stories to inspire Canadians

OUR COUNTERPARTS

In 2015, Inter Pares collaborated with 108 social justice organizations across 38 countries.



ISSUES WE ADDRESS

Peace & Democracy

Freedom of expression
Governance / Human rights
Impunity / Indigenous & ethnic rights
Militarization / Natural resources
Peacebuilding

Health

Health policy
Health promotion
Health services
Women's health

Women's Equality

Women's Health / Women's leadership
Feminism / Women's rights
Violence against women

Economic Justice

Corporate accountability
Natural resources
Tax justice
Trade

Food Sovereignty

Agriculture
Biodiversity
Food policy
Food security
Genetic engineering
Land

Migration

Internal displacement
Migrant labour
Refugees
Undocumented migrants

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, 2015 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, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated March 7, 2016.

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.

Auditor's 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, 2015 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 7, 2016

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, 2015, 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/2015finances

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 3,284,801	\$ 1,414,684
Accounts receivable	185,120	127,360
Program advances	33,030	1,263,012
Prepaid expenses	30,225	23,337
Short-term investments	535,994	529,041
	4,069,170	3,357,434
INVESTMENTS		
	3,781,405	3,669,875
CAPITAL ASSETS		
	588,521	606,117
	\$ 8,439,096	\$ 7,633,426
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 39,473	\$ 55,735
Deferred revenue	2,482,660	1,675,013
	2,522,133	1,730,748
YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE		
	110,000	100,501
	2,632,133	1,831,249
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted	242,458	235,978
Invested in capital assets	588,521	606,117
Bequest Fund	3,667,836	3,681,595
Reserve Fund	927,645	901,422
Margaret McKay Fund	380,503	377,065
	5,806,963	5,802,177
	\$ 8,439,096	\$ 7,633,426

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

					2015	2014
	General Operations	Bequest Fund	Reserve Fund	Margaret McKay Restricted Fund	Total	Total
REVENUE						
Donations	\$ 1,498,450	\$ 40,132	\$ —	\$ 300	\$ 1,538,882	\$ 1,782,245
Global Affairs Canada—PCB	1,403,877	—	—	—	1,403,877	1,417,556
Global Affairs Canada—other projects	1,640,626	—	—	—	1,640,626	3,346,169
Project-generated grants	55,807	—	—	—	55,807	71,818
Interest and other	22,941	80,554	26,223	3,138	132,856	120,655
	4,621,701	120,686	26,223	3,438	4,772,048	6,738,443
EXPENSE						
Program						
Projects	3,106,924	134,445	—	—	3,241,369	5,021,568
Operations	1,006,190	—	—	—	1,006,190	1,027,193
	4,113,114	134,445	—	—	4,247,559	6,048,761
Administration	228,231	—	—	—	228,231	248,012
Fundraising	291,472	—	—	—	291,472	318,993
	4,632,817	134,445	—	—	4,767,262	6,615,766
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR	\$ (11,116)	\$ (13,759)	\$ 26,223	\$ 3,438	\$ 4,786	\$ 122,677

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

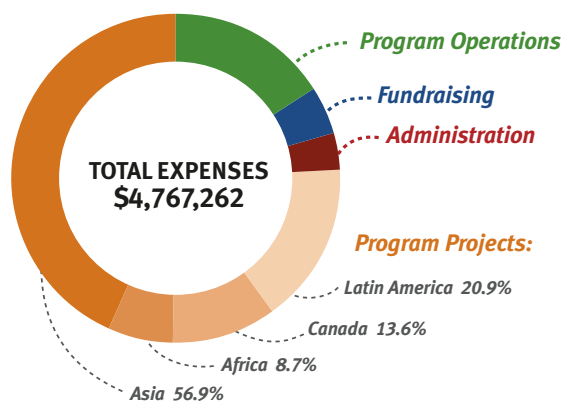
Staff in 2015

- Bharat Bishwakarma • David Bruer • Guillaume Charbonneau
- Patricia Charest Mugwaneza • Eric Chaurrette
- Kathryn Dingle • Bill Fairbairn • Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti
- Jack Hui Litster • Kevin Malseed • Samantha McGavin
- Rita Morbia • Marie José Morrissette • Laura O'Neill • Jean Symes
- Sheila Whyte • Rebecca Wolsak

Members of the Board of Directors in 2015

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

Inter Pares Expenses in 2015



- **68.0% Program Projects:** funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America
- **21.1% Program Operations:** monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries
- **6.1% Fundraising:** receipting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries
- **4.8% Administration:** Office costs, financial management, governance, administrative staff salaries