

May 12, 2003

**Annual Report of the Chair and President of Transparency International Canada  
Sixth Annual General Meeting**

In 2002, it became quite clear the extent to which the process of criminalizing the bribery of foreign public officials remains unknown by a very large proportion of the multinational business community. This information has reinforced my view that we should be looking carefully at the possibility of working with Canadian companies with a view to building awareness of the changes in the international environment and to encourage and assist them in developing anti-corruption programs. One avenue we took to accomplish this was our Symposium, in April, where we looked at how we have been doing, in Canada, since the passage of *The Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act*.

Another avenue is the *Business Principles for Countering Bribery*, an initiative of Transparency International and Social Accountability International. These Business Principles represent a partnership project with an international Steering Committee made up of companies, academia, trade unions and other non-governmental bodies. Launched after a series of field tests in 2002, the Business Principles are the subject of a number of workshops worldwide in 2003. To access them, please visit: [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org)

We were fortunate to have a visit from TI Chair, Peter Eigen, in November. At a dinner presentation on “The Fight against Corruption – Are we succeeding?”, Dr. Eigen brought the audience up to date on a variety of anti-corruption fronts, particularly that of the OECD and the effectiveness of its Working Group on Bribery and Corruption. We were also honoured by the presence of ex-Captain Mustapha Adib, of Morocco, one of the winners of the first TI Integrity Awards, in 2000.

The breadth of participants, both governmental and non-governmental, in Canada’s Phase 2 Review of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, February 17 – 21 of this year, is indicative of the importance the issue of anti-corruption is gaining in many sectors in Canada. Thanks and congratulations are due to both Vice Chair Michael Davies and National Coordinator Bronwyn Best for the work they did in coordinating the Canadian Review. Thanks in large part to their work, TI-Canada was able to make contact with a wide number of people and organizations in the business and voluntary sectors. It was a big job but one that was certainly well worthwhile.

Although there is still a lot of awareness building to do with regard to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, it is the feeling of the Board that TI-Canada has completed its initial phase. With that in mind, the Board held a two-day Retreat in September 2002 and a two day Strategy Session this March.

In both cases, it became clear that the mandate of TI-Canada continues to address three areas:

- 1) work with the Canadian government to establish a government-wide anti-corruption agenda, including taking a leadership role in the anti-corruption activities of international institutions, and address other national anti-corruption issues;
- 2) support the Transparency International Secretariat and other international initiatives;
- 3) carry out activities in partnership with other TI National Chapters, where TI-Canada can add value.

Members of our Board have been active in various areas related to anti-corruption, in these three areas. One main area of concentration has been with the monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, with which Board Member Bob Olivero has been intricately involved. We were especially pleased, after a couple of years of courting, that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade took us up on our offer of training trade commissioners in the area of anti-corruption. Board Member P. K. (Sunny) Pal made a presentation to the trade commissioners posted in the Asia Pacific, last fall. We look forward to expanding this training to other DFAIT staff.

Earlier in the year, I had the privilege of representing TI at the launch of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), at the UN, in New York. It was well attended by a large crowd representing all the main stakeholder groups - business, NGOs, labour, intergovernmental organisations and government, and had an air of focus, engagement, commitment and optimism. All these qualities will be necessary to ensure that the GRI maintains momentum as it moves into the next stage of its evolution. The fact that just under half of the GRI Charter Group members were NGOs, including a historic line-up of the leading international NGOs, sent a clear message that sustainability reporting is a shared priority issue. Continued NGO engagement will be essential to this process.

It was also my privilege to work with three TI National Chapters, in three very different parts of the world. In April, I participated in a conference of The Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute, presenting on “Political Party Funding & Regulation.” In June, I presented the keynote address at the “CSR and Sustainability” conference in Santiago, Chile, on “Chile/Canada and the Challenge of Corruption”. In November, I participated in a workshop on Business Ethics in the Caspian Sea Area in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the invitation of TI-Azerbaijan and the TI Secretariat. In all three instances, the economic, political and social environment in which the TI National Chapters work is very different from that of TI-Canada. However, these are instances where we have expertise to offer and where we may continue to work with our counterparts. Our intentions to hold a conference on “Transparency and Accountability in the Oil and Gas Sector in Nigeria” circle on August, this year, once the political situation in Nigeria has settled somewhat.

As Chair of a Committee, which included participants from all areas of the globe, I presented *Developing a National Chapter Code of Ethics: A Manual of Guidelines* to the TI Annual General Meeting, in Casablanca, in October. While this is a culmination of three years’ of effort on the part of many in the TI family, it is a beginning of a living document and continuing project to encourage all parts of TI to produce codes of ethics. In conjunction with this, TI has created an Ethics Committee of the Board, on which I have been invited to sit.

All this provides a flavour of what TI-Canada has accomplished in the past year. This could not have been done without the dedicated effort of the Board Members and National Coordinator or the contributions both from CIDA, through our Contribution Agreement, or the other members of TI-Canada. To all of you, a heartfelt vote of thanks. We could not carry out this work without you. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Cragg  
Chair and President  
Transparency International Canada