

**Transparency International Canada**  
**Twelfth Annual General Meeting**  
**Report of Chair and President on work of TI-Canada – 2008**

June 10, 2009

Clare Bonnell, Chair and President

The priorities of these past 12 months have been the sustainability of the Chapter and coming to grips with our role in contributing to greater transparency at home. Your board and Executive Director have worked hard at these priorities, meeting five times in the year, plus a special meeting with regard to the strategy for obtaining charitable status and a Board Retreat, in March. All of these meetings take place in Toronto and therefore require some Directors to be on the phone, which over 3 hours is a challenge. In September the Membership Committee was re-activated, after two years of this being a full board responsibility; the decision was driven by a passion for increasing attendance at the always excellent annual symposium as well as sustainability concerns.

A significant improvement in expanding options for sustaining the Chapter was achieved at the end of the year when we heard that our final attempt to acquire charitable status was going to succeed. This time last year we were awaiting a decision on our second application for charitable status, which, disappointingly, was negative. However the reasons given by CRA, and a legal analysis provided by a colleague of what could be done to address these concerns, encouraged us to exercise the option of making another attempt. A unanimous decision was taken to invest in specialized expertise to give us the maximum chance of success. The victorious outcome was reported to you earlier this year. The legal costs would have been much higher were it not largely for the tireless, and often late-night, work of Director Bill McCloskey who worked with the Executive Director to re-state the objects of the organization in a manner which retained integrity of purpose and met CRA requirements.

In reporting to you on the significant points of 2008 I will refer to the updated Objects which were key to obtaining charitable status and were approved by the membership in a special meeting in February of this year. They reflect the four long-term goals of TI-Canada set out in 2006 but in essence replace them. I will return to the implications of gaining charitable status later in the report, but first to 2008.

**Object (a) ‘To encourage compliance with Canadian laws and international conventions to which Canada is a signatory, against bribery and corruption (“Canadian Anti-Corruption Laws”) by educating businesses, professional organizations, governments and the public at large about Canadian Anti-Corruption Laws and the adverse impact of noncompliance’** was met largely by the work of the Extractive Industries Committee including participating in the first of the Natural Resources Canada EITI Outreach and Information Sessions as well as the related revenue transparency events on which the Executive Director has reported.

In terms of **Object (b) ‘To develop and promote ethical standards of conduct for businesses, professional organizations, governments and the public at large to**

**assist them in complying with Canadian Anti-Corruption Laws'** the Municipal Governance Committee benefited from the experience of two new members, clarifying a focus on smaller municipalities and determining key associations that could provide us with knowledge of areas of significant risk and weak controls. The Executive Director has reported on the co-sponsoring of talks that took place with other organizations. We also served as a supporting organization of an important first-time event: the *Canadian Forum on Bribery and Foreign Corruption*. The supporting role gave us an opportunity to inform the membership and beyond of this educational event which dealt with matters such as minimizing the risk of third party liability, dealing with suspected and alleged violations and the anti-corruption paper trail among others.

Under **Object (c) 'To conduct or commission research on issues concerning the prevention and elimination of bribery and corruption and to communicate the results therefrom to businesses, professional organizations, governments and the public at large'**, the team of two Directors, a member and colleagues in TI Chapters in the US and Australia further defined an action plan for the project to undertake a comparative analysis of the legal frameworks within which public enquiries are conducted in Canadian, US and Australian jurisdictions. This was carried out with the anticipation that a public inquiry on the Mulroney-Schreiber matter would be called and which, as we all know, happened. Late last year we had submitted a letter to the PM encouraging the calling of a public enquiry. (After consideration, we elected not to participate in the Inquiry, itself.) We continued to collaborate in principle with the Canadian Business Ethics Research Network of which several Directors are members, and in particular on a project addressing corruption issues facing junior mining companies.

**Object (d) 'To assist the Canadian Government in fulfilling its obligations under international conventions to which Canada is a signatory in the prevention of and the fight against bribery and corruption'** was met by the work of the International Conventions Committee which, along with 36 other countries is responsible to the TI Secretariat for producing an annual progress report on the implementation of the OECD Convention On the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. The report, tabled in 2008, was for progress in 2007 and was the fourth such report produced by the Chapter. We also provided information to the TI Secretariat on the position being taken by Canada on the proposed review mechanism for the effective implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (the only anti-corruption convention that is global).

To bring us up to date, in the current year we have been working on prioritizing the projects that will meet the Chapter's goals over time and for which we can seek funding as a registered charity. I do want to emphasise that the revenue from international development contracts which has served us well since 2007 is an interim measure while we increase our membership revenue and initiate project funding.

The Municipal Governance Committee has had meetings with the interim Toronto Integrity Commissioner and the Ontario Ombudsman who have identified a need for developing standards for firms contracted by municipalities to investigate cases where closed meetings have taken place. Many more such information gathering meetings need to be completed before a project to promote greater transparency in smaller municipalities can be fully defined. Finally we recently learned that CBERN's "Socially Responsible Development in the Rapidly Evolving Canadian North" has been funded in which TI-

Canada is a collaborator. For more information, visit:  
[http://www.businessethicscanada.ca/research/projects/csr/file\\_CBERN\\_CURA\\_Grant\\_Application\\_Description.pdf](http://www.businessethicscanada.ca/research/projects/csr/file_CBERN_CURA_Grant_Application_Description.pdf)

My thanks go to the whole board and to our very effective Executive Director for all the work of the last 18 months. Completing their terms on the board this year are Morley Lemon, Treasurer, Joy Kennedy, Chair of the International Conventions Committee, and myself. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I would like to thank Joy, after six years on the board, and Morley after three for their work over the years. We thank you our members, from charter to individual, for your commitment and support. In 2008 membership fees provided just over half the revenue needed to fund the Chapter's work. You are also our moral support in continuing this uphill climb in which there are many false starts and where we can only hope that sometimes our efforts have played a part in Government decisions we have encouraged.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to have led TI-Canada in "interesting times" and wish the Chapter, the Board and the Executive Director fruitful times ahead.