

Transparency International Canada Inc.

Thirteenth Annual General Meeting

President's Report for 2009

Thirty years ago, drinking and driving was not considered taboo; nor was it taboo to pay bribes in international business. But, once the Canadian public recognized the consequences of drunk driving, it was no longer considered acceptable behaviour. While slower to gain momentum, a similar rejection of the acceptability of corruption is finally beginning to take hold, not just in Canada, but in most developed countries around the world. As this change develops, the Board of Directors of Transparency International Canada is seeking to take a leadership role in Canada.

Over the past year since I assumed the role of President and Chair, TI-Canada has entered into dialogue with key players and stakeholders in the anti-corruption world. Our mandate remains focused on the eradication of corruption in Canada, and in helping to ensure that Canadians do not participate in corruption abroad. We are examining ways in which TI-Canada can take a more active leadership role, including the creation of our Business Roundtable. We are also focusing on policy initiatives designed to plug loopholes in Canada's anti-corruption and accountability legislation. We are making concentrated efforts to help Canadian companies understand and comply with their anti-corruption legal obligations, and to create governance standards by which companies can measure themselves. And, we are exploring ways in which we can assist the justice system to understand the harmful effects of corruption.

Although we achieved charitable status over a year ago, we have yet to capitalize on the fundraising opportunities that this provides to us. Funds are needed to pursue many (but not all) of the items in our agenda, and we are developing a fund raising strategy and tactical plan that will facilitate our agenda going forward.

We have a talented, dedicated, professional and pro-active Board of Directors. Their contribution of time, energy and intellectual capital to TI-Canada has been immeasurable and we are grateful for their support and commitment.

James M. Klotz
President and Chair