



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CANADA INC.

NEWSLETTER

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Canada's Role in the Fight Against Corruption

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In recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day, December 9, Transparency International Canada (TI-Canada), part of the global coalition against corruption, applauds the recent ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption by the Canadian government. As a result of this ratification, Canadians should expect more from their government in the fight against international corruption.

On October 2, 2007, Canada ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), when The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, deposited the instrument of ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Minister Bernier noted that, "Corruption is a worldwide problem that undermines democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Canada plays an active role internationally in fighting corruption, and strongly supports the UN Convention. Ratifying the Convention is the international expression of the Government of Canada's commitment to deliver greater accountability in government and to fight the crime and costs of corruption."

According to the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, "The Convention is a global instrument that takes preventive measures against corruption, which is a scourge for democratic societies the world over. Canada is proud to be joining 92 other nations as full participants in the Convention." In

EthicsCentre and TI-Canada
Invite their members to a breakfast discussion with:

Dr. David Shugarman

Director, York Centre for Practical Ethics, and co-author,
Honest Politics: Seeking Integrity in Canadian Public Life

Update on the Federal Accountability Act:

What has happened;
 What still needs to happen

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addition, the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, noted that, "The ratification of UNCAC is another example of how we are delivering on the Federal Accountability Action Plan. Canada has played an active role in developing the Convention, and is in an excellent position to promote compliance with the accountability and transparency measures it contains." (Quotes taken from press release No. 133, Government of Canada, 2 October 2007)

TI-Canada points out that the ratification of the Convention gives the RCMP and Department of

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Justice more financial and human resources to better expedite convictions under the Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act, passed by the government in 1999. Previous results have been negligible and have secured only one bribery conviction. TI-Canada believes that the UNCAC ratification should enable far more convictions of Canadian company representatives who offer bribes to foreign public officials.

Transparency International also calls on Canada and other UNCAC ratification country members to establish a mechanism for review of UNCAC at the 2nd UNCAC Conference in January 2008. The Review Mechanism is intended to involve the participation of civil society, such as TI-Canada and the private sector. It is essential

for the success of UNCAC and will, among other things, aid in the recovery of several billions of dollars of assets deposited by corrupt officials.

“Corruption is a worldwide problem that undermines democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Canada plays an active role internationally in fighting corruption, and strongly supports the UN Convention”

-The Honourable Maxime Bernier,

In addition to UNCAC, Canada is a signatory to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Anti-Bribery Convention. The latter is the first and most important international convention targeting the curbing of bribery by multinational corporations of foreign public officials. Of the

37 signatory countries, only 14 have shown significant compliance. It is anticipated that Canada will increase this number, as an outcome of its ratification of UNCAC.

TI 2007 Global Corruption Barometer Launch 6 December

Poor families hit hardest by bribery, even in rich countries, finds new TI poll

Global Corruption Barometer 2007: Political parties and parliaments seen as institutions most compromised by corruption worldwide

--Berlin 06 December 2007

Poor families are hit hardest by demands for bribes in developed as well as developing countries, according to Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer 2007. The public opinion survey, published today ahead of International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, also found that citizens in countries across the globe continue to see political parties and parliaments as the institutions most compromised by corruption.

The Barometer, which surveys 63,199 respondents in 60 countries, offers a broad spectrum of data on common experiences of corruption, including which institutions most frequently demand bribes, where citizens see the greatest degree of corruption, and how they see both the future development of corruption and their governments' efforts to eradicate it.

“This year's Global Corruption Barometer has made it clear that too often, people must part with their hard-earned money to pay for services that should be free”, said Transparency In-

ternational Chair Huguette Labelle. “And they do not see enough commitment when they look to their governments and leaders. We are heartened though, that the public is increasingly demanding the accountability of the very institutions that most affect their lives, as this is a powerful driver of change.”

Bribery: A tax on poor families everywhere

The TI Global Corruption Barometer 2007 finds that it is the poor who are most often confronted with requests for bribes, in wealthy and poor countries alike. Extortion hits low-income households with a regressive tax that saps scarce household resources.

More than one in ten respondents reported having to pay a bribe in the past year for access to a service. The countries with the highest level of petty bribery are Albania, Cambodia, Cameroon, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania and Senegal, where at least 30 per cent of respondents reported having paid bribes.

When asked about dealing with services, telephone and natural gas utilities were the least likely to demand bribes, while law enforcement was the most frequent source (25 per cent of respondents who came in contact with the police were asked to pay a bribe) with courts the second most frequent source worldwide.

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Corrupt police and judiciary mean rights denied

“The Barometer reveals that the police and the judiciary in many countries around the world are part of a cycle of corruption, demanding bribes from citizens,” said Transparency International Managing Director, Cobus de Swardt. “This troubling finding means that corruption is interfering with the basic right to equal treatment before the law.”

Transparency International has been campaigning strongly this year against corruption in the judiciary, based on its [Global Corruption Report 2007](#). This report details how bribery affects the courts – judges and other judicial personnel accept bribes to delay or accelerate cases, to allow or deny an appeal, or to decide a case in a certain way. The [Global Corruption Report 2007](#) also includes data from a 2002 survey showing, for instance, that 96 per cent of respondents in Pakistan who had contact with the lower courts encountered corrupt practices, while in Russia, an estimated US \$210 million in bribes is thought to be paid in courts each year.

Bribes by sector: A regional perspective

Although globally the police are the institution most frequently reported to demand bribes, there are important differences across regions. In the countries of the greater EU region, medical services stand out as the most common source of bribe demands. In Latin America, Asia-Pacific and North America, petty bribery in the judiciary is a serious problem. In Africa and the Newly Independent States (Russia, Moldova and Ukraine), however, bribery was most prevalent in the education and health sectors, both vitally important to human development.

Petty bribery increased from 2006 to 2007 in some of the regions, such as Asia-Pacific (22 per cent of respondents reported paying a bribe to receive a service, up from 15 per cent) and South-East Europe (12 per cent, up from 8 per cent). Africa registered a slight decrease (42 per cent, down from 47 per cent).

“These sober figures underlie frightening real-world scenarios where money is extorted from innocent citizens in very vulnerable situations, such as during medical emergencies or when they are the victims of a crime,” said Huguette Labelle. “Entrenched bribery inflicts deep and lasting wounds on a society, destroying belief in those who govern.”

Political parties remain most affected by corruption

The Barometer also asks citizens which institutions they see as most affected by corruption. Year after year, political parties

and parliaments – the very institutions entrusted to represent the public interest in political decision-making – take in first place.

“Our experience has shown that it is commitment at the top that will make or break efforts to fight corruption,” said de Swardt. “These troubling numbers show that government faces a crisis of legitimacy, with the potential to undermine democratisation, stability and the protection of human rights.”

The institutions which fared best in the eyes of ordinary citizens were religious bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Although still relatively clean, the perception of NGOs has worsened globally in comparison to 2004 survey results, as did the perception of private enterprises, indicating that these two sectors are under increasing public pressure to demonstrate transparency and accountability.

Public ready for a change

Public expectations about the extent of corruption in the future have become gloomier when compared to the Barometer 2003, with 54 per cent of respondents feeling that corruption would increase in the coming years – up from 43 per cent four years ago. In 2007, only one in every five respondents expected the level of corruption to decrease in the near future.

The Philippines and India stood out as the most pessimistic countries, with more than 79 per cent of respondents expecting an increase in corruption. Among the most pessimistic countries are Germany, Senegal, South Africa, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. But the negative outlook was not universal: interviewees in Bulgaria, Ghana, FYR Macedonia, Nigeria and Singapore were decidedly optimistic, believing that future levels of corruption will fall.

Governments not doing enough

Attitudes towards government anti-corruption efforts were similar to future expectations of corruption, with over half of all respondents rating their government as ineffective. Only one in three of those polled felt that their government was effective in battling corruption.

The general public was most sceptical, on average, in North and Latin America, the greater EU region and Asia-Pacific. That North Americans and Europeans see government efforts so negatively (with 19 and 28 per cent average approval ratings respectively), despite low levels of petty bribery, suggests that they are concerned about problems of grand corruption and the gap between the major graft that has been exposed and

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commitments to do something about it. The lack of an explicit approach to tackling corruption in the countries of the north may further aggravate this public uneasiness.

Notably, some of the African countries surveyed showed evidence of far greater optimism than that seen in the countries of North America and Europe. Wealthy countries in particular need to listen to what their citizens are saying and adopt the kind of comprehensive approaches to anti-corruption at home that they have demanded from aid recipient countries for years.

Women more pessimistic

Detailed analysis reveals that women are slightly more pessimistic than men about future levels of corruption. This contrasts with another finding of the 2007 Barometer, namely that women were less likely to pay a bribe than men, although this may be attributable to gender-based differences in the frequency and type of institutional contact.

The Barometer vs. the Corruption Perceptions Index

The findings of the 2007 Global Corruption Barometer show a strong correlation (0.66) between the experience of bribery

among ordinary citizens and the perceptions of corruption by experts, which are the basis for the Corruption Perceptions Index, TI's flagship measurement tool. Those countries where business people, country analysts and experts perceive corruption to be widespread are the same ones where, on average, a higher proportion of citizens pay bribes for access to services.

“The Global Corruption Barometer 2007 is a wake-up call – a reminder that people around the world are increasingly demanding an end to corruption and its terrible cost”

- TI Chair, Huguette Labelle

Conclusion: It is not just government that must work harder

“Turning promises into action is essential if anti-corruption efforts are to have an impact on the lives of ordinary people. Governments are key to making good on commitments to fighting corruption. But governments are not alone in

their responsibility. We need to see concerted action from civil society and the private sector too,” concluded TI Chair Labelle. “People are punished by bribery and disgruntled by the corruption they believe plagues key public institutions and services. They deserve a future without corruption. The Global Corruption Barometer 2007 is a wake-up call – a reminder that people around the world are increasingly demanding an end to corruption and its terrible cost.”

Canada and the Global Corruption Barometer

Not unlike many countries in the survey, Canadians interviewed said that Political Parties are the category most affected by corruption in Canada. The next affected sector was felt to be Business/private sector, with Parliament/Legislature, Legal/system/Judiciary and Media, following behind. The least affected sector was reported to be Registry and permit services, with the Education system and the military not far behind.

When asked if they felt the level of corruption would change, in the next three years, a full 36% felt it would increase a little or a lot, while another 36% felt it would stay the same. In assessing the current government's actions in the fight against corruption, only 1% feel it is very effective, while 23% feel it is very ineffective, leading one to surmise that Canadians, like citizens in other developed countries, do not believe their government is taking the corruption fight seriously. On the other

hand, Canada remains one of the most corruption-free countries in the world, with only 1% saying they had bribed someone in order to receive a service.

---the full Global Barometer Report, including Canadian results, is available at:

www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/gcb/2007

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Journalism Remains one of the Deadliest Jobs

Since 2001, when the Arroyo administration came into power in the Philippines, nearly 90 percent of the journalists slain in the line of duty, 33 in number, were exposing corruption, according to the "Philippine Press Freedom Report 2007," a study recently published by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility. The other ten percent were killed for reporting on and criticizing the drug trade and illegal gambling, in their local regions.

-- the full report can be found at: www.cmfr.com.ph/

TI Annual Members Meeting

From 25 to 29 October 2007, 200 people from 81 countries met in Bali, Indonesia, for TI's International Conference and Annual Members Meeting.

The meeting pursued four goals:

1. **Developing global civil society anti-corruption strategies;**
2. **Strengthening anti-corruption technical expertise;**
3. **Building and sharing anti-corruption capacity to enhance effectiveness;**
4. **Enabling collaborative action.**

Important strategic and governance decisions that will substantially shape the work and governance of TI over the next few years, such as the adoption of the TI 2008-2010 Strategic Framework and the updating of the National Chapter accreditation and Individual Member policy, were also taken. We are pleased to note that the Board of TI approved the reaccreditation of TI-Canada for another three years.



TI-Canada has gone green!!

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Happy Holidays!



**Transparency International
Canada**

Wishes all its readers Happy Holidays
and a joyous New Year as we continue
to work together to free the world of
the scourge of corruption



TI-CANADA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: (Fee Range -- \$50 to \$100) Individual members will have full participation and voting privileges at all meetings of the members.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS: (Fee Range -- \$50 to \$500)

The designated spokesperson of an NGO has full voting and participation rights at meetings of members.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES: (Fee -- \$500)

We welcome government departments and agencies as (arm's length) members, but government members will have no voting rights.

PROFESSIONAL FIRMS, BUSINESS CORPORATIONS: (Fee Range -- \$1,000 to \$5,000)

The designated spokesperson of professional and business firms has full voting and participation rights at meetings of members.

CHARTER MEMBERS: (Fee -- \$5,000)

The purpose of charter membership is to put the chapter on a sound financial footing in its first few years of operation. Charter members will have all the rights and privileges of other members and will have the right to sit on a Corporate Advisory Council and assist in advising the Board on policies and programs.

ALL MEMBERS will receive newsletters, information about conferences and workshops, and the right to participate in these conferences and workshops on a cost recovery basis. Membership in TI-Canada will generally be available to all, subject to receiving a written Membership Application and subject to Board approval of the Application. The Board may decline to grant such approval if, for any reason, the judgment of the Board considers membership to be inconsistent or incompatible with the objectives, values and ethical principals of TI-Canada.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ **Fax:** (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Category (Check one):

Individual Volunteer/NGO Government Professional/Business Charter

Fee: Amount _____ (Please enclose cheque payable to “**TI-Canada**”)

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