

# transforming systems — the **feminist** way

**annual report 2022**

A portrait of an older woman with short, curly grey hair tied up in a bun. She is wearing large, dark-rimmed glasses, a small hoop earring, and a necklace with a vertical bar pendant. She is wearing a light-colored, textured sweater over a dark top. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# renewing hope for social justice

It has been three years since the beginning of the pandemic. As we reflect on Inter Pares' work in 2022, we are reminded that the pandemic was – and is still – an extremely trying global experience. Profound lessons surfaced that gave us all cause to rethink our common future. Amidst it all, we continued to work for change.

### But transformation takes time.

The structures and systems that produce and perpetuate the impoverishment of people, communities and countries are well entrenched and difficult to shake. They continue to benefit the wealthiest individuals and corporations who enjoy unparalleled power. Since 2020, the rich have gotten richer while the rest of the world has been hit harder. This trend is happening in Canada, too.

And yet, our hopes for greater equity, peace and climate justice are as alive as ever.

In 2022, in the face of persistent inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic, Inter Pares' counterparts and allies in Canada and around the world continued to work with conviction, creativity and courage to develop alternative systems rooted in justice and equality. The courage and determination of Inter Pares' counterparts continues to inspire us – staff and Board alike.

In keeping with our commitment to support organizations working on both immediate and long-term needs, Inter Pares collaborated on powerful initiatives to support publicly funded healthcare, foster

sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation, and promote Indigenous-led humanitarian responses and land preservation.

We are grateful to our community of supporters and donors who, despite economic uncertainty, are deeply committed to transformative social justice.

**We are honoured and privileged to be a part of these shared struggles of hope.**

**Esperanza Moreno**  
Vice Chairperson,  
Inter Pares Board of Directors





IN FOCUS:

# balancing today's needs and tomorrow's hope in Burma

Sometimes the sound overhead is a surveillance drone. Other times, it's an approaching airstrike.



Photo credit: KSWDC

## Since the military in Burma

attempted a coup in early 2021, fear, scarcity and violence have become the norm in parts of the country. As of January 2023, the junta has conducted at least 600 airstrikes against everyone from school children to resistance fighters, according to the BBC.

The military's escalating brutality has forced farmers off their lands, leaving fields fallow and harvests non-existent. Hunger is becoming another weapon of the military.

It could be hard to think about the future amid such a precarious present.

But the civil society organizations Inter Pares supports in Burma are doing double duty: providing emergency support to communities *and* building the systems they need for a democratic future.

“There are desperate humanitarian needs ... Only civil society organizations can access communities to provide emergency support ... We will risk our lives to deliver the food.”

Activist in Burma  
(Not named for their safety)

One of these groups is a Karenni organization we are not naming for security reasons. From setting up water services in temporary encampments for protesters who fled the junta, to collaborating to plan an Indigenous protected conservation area, they are balancing today's needs and tomorrow's hopes.

The planned Thawthi Karenni Indigenous Park will be more than a conservation area. It will be a political statement – an act of self-determination in a country where autonomy is brutally punished.

Despite the army attacking the area throughout 2022, our counterpart worked with 80 villages and Indigenous communities to map out their borders and stitch together the outline of the Indigenous protected area. The result is more than 2,100 square kilometres of locally managed land where the people who care for it can live, work and grow food.

**This is how our Karenni counterpart nurtures hope: supporting communities with their daily needs, while taking steps toward a peaceful future they can own.**



Photo credits UKSY



# by the numbers 2022

Inter Pares is honoured to support activist struggles in partnership with organizations around the world. Here are just a few results of our collective work from last year.

Likhaan created a series of educational, sexual health themed memes that garnered more than **600,000 views online** and thousands of shares in the Philippines.



**45 LGBTQI+** activists gained leadership skills through training with one of our counterparts: Colombia Diversa, Asociación Lambda (Guatemala) or Fondo Lunaria (Colombia).



Asociación Lambda in Guatemala collected nearly **100,000 signatures** on its petition against a proposed law that would have threatened access to abortion and LGBTQI+ rights. Backlash to the law – including the petition – prompted the country's president to veto the bill.





Inter Pares and partners secured funding from Global Affairs

Canada for **two** areas of work:

**\$16 million** to strengthen the

participation of rural women and youth in community-based climate change adaptation in West Africa; and **\$25 million** to support marginalized, conflict-affected and Indigenous people in Burma.

Nearly **200 Inter Pares supporters** sent letters to their members of Parliament asking the Canadian government to take specific actions to end mass atrocities in Burma. Important progress has already been made on **two** of those asks.



Through mass protest, Nijera Kori secured private spaces for women and girls in **19 community clinics** in Bangladesh – a small victory for improving access to sexual and reproductive health services. Our counterpart also supported **664 demonstrations** where activists rallied to stop child marriages from happening and demanded justice in cases of gender-based violence.



Deccan Development Society brought together **43 women farmers**, from **14 organizations** across India, to talk about millet and share climate change strategies, emphasizing the importance of crop diversity and locally controlled seed systems.





IN FOCUS:

# farming for a better food system

Corporations are increasing their control of the world's food systems. From field to fork, this concentration of corporate power has devastating consequences for farmers and eaters alike.

Photo credit: Mariétou Diallo/Inter Pares





Crop diversity is disappearing as corporations consolidate their shares of the global seed market and push uniform, one-size-fits-all seeds that require costly synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Land and soil are degrading as decades of these inputs take their toll. Companies are buying up fertile land and relegating farmers, especially small-scale farmers in the Global South, to marginal land. Farmers are impoverished as corporations grow richer.

But there's another way.

Aminata Seydou Ba (pictured left) leads a women's group in Lerabé, Senegal, supported by Inter Pares counterpart, ENDA Pronat. She and her fellow group members farm food for their community, using practices that nourish the Earth and keep biodiversity alive.

"It's not enough to have land for food self-sufficiency."

Aminata Seydou Ba  
Women's group leader, Senegal

It's also about caring for that land, she says.

Farmers like Aminata plant a diversity of crops, save seeds from them for next season's planting and breed crops better suited to their environmental conditions. They're protecting agricultural biodiversity on their farms. They use agroecology – farming with nature instead of against it – to ensure their land stays healthy for future generations.

For decades, Inter Pares has collaborated with counterparts on sustainable food production. From working with Deccan Development

Society in India, to supporting the National Farmers Union in Canada, Inter Pares helps communities build up their own food systems. Along with supporting innovative, Earth-friendly farming practices, this involves advocating for policies to support small-scale producers.

In 2022, Inter Pares began advancing these goals with five more counterparts and 25,000 farmers, including Aminata, in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Togo. This project supports agroecological farming, local food systems development and women's empowerment, while challenging government to develop policies for the common good rather than private gain.

**We're honoured to support farmers like Aminata growing food – their way.**

# addressing poverty through tax justice

Recent years have not been easy for many people in Canada. The pandemic continued. Climate change caused deadly disasters. Inflation soared.



Photo credit: Wance Paleri/Unsplash



Many people struggled to make ends meet. But not everyone did.

Canada's biggest corporations made record profits while avoiding \$30 billion in taxes in 2021. Wealthy individuals didn't struggle either. During the pandemic, the wealth of Canada's top 44 billionaires surged by more than \$50 billion.

These facts are just some of what Canadians for Tax Fairness (C4TF), an Inter Pares counterpart, reported in 2022. Their series of reports documented and detailed how corporations and the wealthy are exponentially

skirting taxes for their own gain. Amid a pandemic, this greed is even more concerning.

When wealthy individuals and corporations pay less tax, governments are pressured to cut services or increase taxes for everyone else. Government tax revenue is essential to fund the services that people in Canada, especially those with lower incomes, depend on.

Since 2011, C4TF has sounded the alarm on economic inequality in Canada – exposing corporate tax dodging and growing profit margins, to name a few –



with the aim to change an unfair tax system into one that addresses poverty and inequality.

C4TF's advocacy has been critical to advance Canada towards a fairer tax system. Last year, their research and analysis pushed for and informed some government steps in the right direction. For example, the 2022 federal budget introduced an extra levy called a windfall tax on the financial sector, which had seen a whopping \$141 billion profit the previous year. The budget also included establishing a public registry of "beneficial owners" – the actual owners behind companies' named directors – to better understand who is really benefiting from companies' business.

**Inter Pares is committed to collaborating with C4TF to make the tax system fair for everyone.**



Photo credit: Osarieme Eweka/iStock

Inter Pares – which means among equals – believes in solidarity, not charity, as our approach to international cooperation. We work with courageous activists and inspiring organizations throughout the world to build peace, advance justice and globalize equality.

**In 2022, we collaborated with more than 70 social justice organizations across 22 countries.**

#### AMERICAS

Canada  
Colombia  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Mexico  
Peru

#### AFRICA

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Mali  
Niger  
Senegal  
Sudan  
Togo

#### ASIA

Bangladesh  
Burma  
India  
Malaysia  
Philippines  
Thailand

#### We put feminism into practice



Issues of equality are important elements of our political analysis. We value ways of working that promote collaboration, foster good processes and encourage the agency of those with less power.

#### We believe in the strength of women

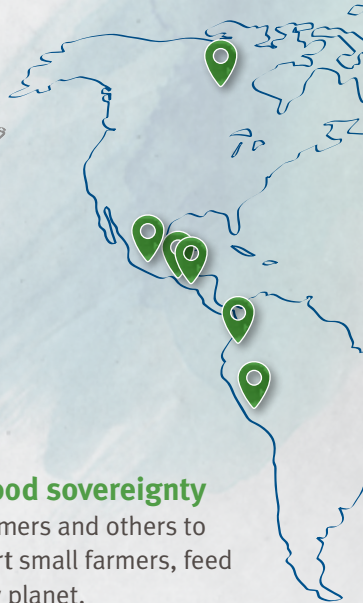


We promote women's leadership, economic well-being, health and autonomy.



#### We promote food sovereignty

We work with farmers and others to promote food systems that support small farmers, feed communities and ensure a healthy planet.





### **We engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation**

We enable grassroots participation in peacebuilding efforts, and support those who challenge the power structures that lead to violence, displacement, poverty and corruption.



### **We support refugees, migrants and displaced people**

We provide political, humanitarian and financial assistance to refugees, displaced people and those who support them, through documenting abuses, providing health services, building livelihoods, and promoting peace and democracy.



### **We promote fair economies**

We collaborate in the promotion of fair trade agreements, support communities affected by resource extraction, and help rural communities develop management plans to protect resources and livelihoods.



### **We advocate for strong, public healthcare systems**

Health is a political issue fundamental to social justice. We promote an approach that addresses the nexus of health, poverty, equality and social conditions. We advocate for integrated, accessible and publicly funded healthcare systems.





# celebrating our donor community

“I have always admired how Inter Pares combines the two essentials of, first, working with local organizations with an intimate knowledge of their specific conditions and needs, and second, working extensively with women and women’s organizations.”

Peter Lemieux

”

Donating is more than a financial transaction; it is a political act.

During a time of economic uncertainty, our community of supporters came together to strengthen their commitment to social justice and support the activists and organizations with whom we work. Here is what inspires them to give to Inter Pares.



Photo courtesy of Peter Lemieux



Photo courtesy of Bibiana Seaborn

“When I first heard about Inter Pares’ work, I knew it was an organization that I wanted to support. Inter Pares’ philosophy of working with and supporting people’s collectives and organizations as those entities pursue social justice, gender equality, environmental justice and care for the Earth, is remarkable. I urge others to share in this important work.”

Elizabeth Ruljancich



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Ruljancich

“Inter Pares values and listens to the voices of southern partners while developing strong connections. Their commitment to a feminist approach is transparent and focused on following the lead of all local partners. We stand together no matter what. This trust inspired me deeply to start donating to this organization and continue to do so in the future.”

Bibiana Seaborn



## In 2022:

We welcomed **174 new donors** into our community.



**11 long-time donors** left a gift in their will to Inter Pares as part of their social justice legacy.



**3,742 generous donors** gave more than **\$1,839,513** to Inter Pares, of which **\$521,828** came from our dedicated monthly Sustaining Donors!



Photo credit: Rita Morbia/Inter Pares

IN FOCUS:

# organizing for public healthcare

Sub-zero temperatures didn't faze hundreds of demonstrators on Parliament Hill this February. At a Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) rally, endorsed by Inter Pares, they demanded the federal government strengthen a public approach to healthcare rather than further entrench privatization.



In 2022, the CHC organized on multiple fronts – rallies, social media, dozens of meetings with members of Parliament and more – to ensure policy makers heard this message loud and clear. They even

In the Philippines, Inter Pares supports Likhaan Center for Women's Health, established to model the quality and cost-effective public services that governments should provide, and founded on building feminist relationships

**Inter Pares is inspired by our allies and counterparts, who advocate for, organize and build healthcare systems based on justice and equality.**



# addressing inequalities



## • Health

📍 In a webinar with Inter Pares' supporters, La Colectiva Feminista and La Clinique des femmes de l'Outaouais discussed sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the right to abortion, in **EL SALVADOR, CANADA** and the **UNITED STATES**.



Courtesy of  
Morningstar  
Mercredi

📍 Inter Pares supported the launch of Sacred Bundles Unborn, a collection of essays by Morningstar Mercredi and Fire Keepers. The book discusses the forced sterilization of Indigenous women in **CANADA**. It includes a contribution from Victoria Saccsarra, a Quechua woman from Peru whose grassroots survivors' association is accompanied by our counterpart, SISAY.



Photo credit: Colectiva Feminista



## • Food sovereignty

📍 Counterparts gathered in Senegal to build capacity on community seed security by scaling up women-led agroecology in **SENEGAL, GUINEA-BISSAU** and **TOGO**.



## • Control over resources

📍 The Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability called for all-party support to Bill C-262, which would require companies based in **CANADA** to uphold human rights and environmental due diligence in overseas operations.



Photo crédit: La Ligue des droits et libertés



## Women's rights and gender justice

- Inter Pares co-manager Rita Morbia received Cooperation Canada's Karen Takacs Award, in recognition of her feminist advocacy and collaborative leadership in global cooperation.
- Tamil Nadu Women's Collective joined Inter Pares and our supporters for a virtual discussion on working for women's empowerment in **INDIA** and how to counter violence against women.
- In **MONTREAL**, Inter Pares counterpart, La Ligue des droits et libertés, commemorated 60 years

Photo credit: Kath Clark/Inter Pares

of social justice work with a mural depicting the right to protest and the interconnected nature of human rights.

- LGBTQI+ activists from **GUATEMALA** and **COLOMBIA** visited **CANADA**, strengthening networks between Canadian and Southern organizations.



Photo credit: Rita Morbia/Inter Pares



## Peace and democracy

- The Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada, Sudan Women's Rights Action and Inter Pares co-hosted a virtual discussion with four Sudanese human rights defenders on the aftermath of the recent military coup in **SUDAN**.
- A delegation of Indigenous activists from **BURMA**, including from our counterpart KESAN, attended COP15 in **CANADA**. They met with officials to share their work for inclusive peace, biodiversity conservation and Indigenous self-determination.



Photo courtesy of Paul Sein Twa



# the Inter Pares team



# our feminist values at work

| At Inter Pares, relationships are the core of our work.

Since our inception in 1975, we've been dedicated to transforming colonial "aid" relationships into equal partnerships working for social justice around the world. This mission is built into our DNA and the way we work is structured around it.

This means we work with local organizations. From our office in Ottawa, we work with more than 70 social justice organizations across 22 countries, including Canada.

We seek out partnerships with social justice activists, strengthening ties based on

mutual respect, shared values and collective commitment. These partner organizations – our counterparts – know best their communities' needs and the local solutions to meet them.

Our relationships are not immune to power imbalances. They can't be in an unequal world, where all the systems we use – banking, supply chains, our languages and more – advantage the Global North.

But because we work with counterparts over the long term, we build the kind of trust in each

other that only comes with time. With this understanding and trust, we and our counterparts are committed to transforming these realities, working side-by-side, among equals, toward justice.

Inter Pares donors invest in solidarity, not charity, to support peoples' struggles in Canada and around the world.

**We put our values to work every day – and are proud to be a vehicle for our donors to live their values, too.**

# Financial statements

## Statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022

|                                          | 2022                | 2021                |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                            |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                           |                     |                     |
| Cash                                     | \$ 4,429,225        | \$ 3,812,667        |
| Short-term investments                   | 225,000             | 557,022             |
| Accounts receivable                      | 165,454             | 116,026             |
| Program advances                         | 1,424,985           | 382,523             |
| Prepaid expenses                         | 23,894              | 21,532              |
|                                          | <b>6,268,558</b>    | <b>4,889,770</b>    |
| <b>INVESTMENTS</b>                       | 4,775,556           | 4,726,105           |
| <b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>                    | 496,349             | 511,372             |
|                                          | <b>11,540,463</b>   | <b>10,127,247</b>   |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                       |                     |                     |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                           |                     |                     |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 50,562              | 54,769              |
| Deferred revenue                         | 4,620,979           | 3,275,409           |
|                                          | <b>4,671,541</b>    | <b>3,330,178</b>    |
| <b>CEBA LOAN PAYABLE</b>                 | 40,000              | 40,000              |
| <b>YEARS OF SERVICE BENEFITS PAYABLE</b> | 176,540             | 165,391             |
|                                          | <b>4,888,081</b>    | <b>3,535,569</b>    |
| <b>FUND BALANCES</b>                     |                     |                     |
| Unrestricted                             | 14,805              | 144,488             |
| Invested in capital assets               | 496,349             | 511,372             |
| Reserve Fund                             | 1,034,306           | 1,044,879           |
| Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund       | 5,106,922           | 4,890,939           |
|                                          | <b>6,652,382</b>    | <b>6,591,678</b>    |
|                                          | <b>\$11,540,463</b> | <b>\$10,127,247</b> |

## Statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2022

|                                           |                     |                    |                                    | 2022             | 2021              |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                           | General Operations  | Reserve Fund       | Margaret Fleming McKay Legacy Fund | Total            | Total             |
| <b>REVENUE</b>                            |                     |                    |                                    |                  |                   |
| Donations                                 | \$ 1,624,914        | -                  | \$ 214,599                         | \$ 1,839,513     | \$ 2,009,330      |
| Global Affairs Canada                     |                     |                    |                                    |                  |                   |
| Buil-Mo                                   | 1,563,479           | -                  | -                                  | 1,563,479        | 1,258,179         |
| ACTIF Columbia                            | 149,050             | -                  | -                                  | 149,050          | 155,530           |
| SCSM Burma                                | 2,857,942           | -                  | -                                  | 2,857,942        | 2,312,287         |
| COVID Philippines                         | 113,008             | -                  | -                                  | 113,008          | 660,012           |
| WLA West Africa                           | 724,491             | -                  | -                                  | 724,491          | -                 |
| PSOP Sudan                                | 596,156             | -                  | -                                  | 596,156          | 606,596           |
| Interest and other                        | (657)               | (10,573)           | 78,853                             | 67,623           | 116,035           |
|                                           | <b>7,628,383</b>    | <b>(10,573)</b>    | <b>293,452</b>                     | <b>7,911,262</b> | <b>7,117,969</b>  |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>                            |                     |                    |                                    |                  |                   |
| Program                                   |                     |                    |                                    |                  |                   |
| Projects                                  | 5,303,027           | -                  | -                                  | 5,303,027        | 4,881,435         |
| Operations                                | 1,709,773           | -                  | -                                  | 1,709,773        | 1,208,043         |
|                                           | <b>7,012,800</b>    | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>                           | <b>7,012,800</b> | <b>6,089,478</b>  |
| Administration                            | 272,149             | -                  | -                                  | 272,149          | 243,387           |
| Fundraising                               | 565,609             | -                  | -                                  | 565,609          | 567,593           |
|                                           | <b>7,850,558</b>    | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>                           | <b>7,850,558</b> | <b>6,900,458</b>  |
| <b>NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b>\$ (222,175)</b> | <b>\$ (10,573)</b> | <b>\$ 293,452</b>                  | <b>\$ 60,704</b> | <b>\$ 217,511</b> |



## Inter Pares expenses in 2022

### 68% program projects:

Funds sent to counterparts working in Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America

### 22% program operations:

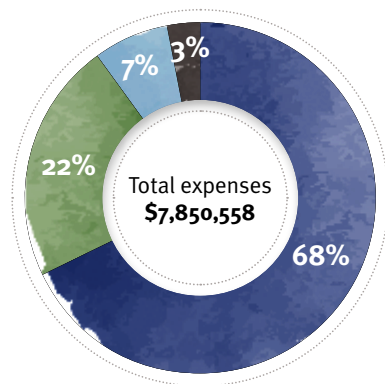
Monitoring programs, management, program staff salaries

### 7% fundraising:

Receipting, online donation systems, printing costs, bank charges, donor stewardship, fundraising staff salaries

### 3% administration:

Office costs, governance, financial management, finance staff salaries



## About us

Inter Pares draws on more than 40 years of experience and a worldwide activist network to challenge inequality in Canada and abroad. Known for our 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 more than 70 counterparts and, together, identify the root causes of injustice and act for sustainable social change.

## Our team in 2022

Fernande Abanda  
Ashley Armstrong  
Bharat Bishwakarma  
David Bruer  
Eric Chaurette  
Kath Clark  
Sofia Descalzi  
Mariétou Diallo

Bill Fairbairn  
Aden Gebremeskel  
Rasha Hilal Al-Baiyatti  
Lorraine Hudson  
Amani Khalfan  
Lise-Anne Léveillé  
Samantha McGavin  
Rita Morbia

Maélie Morrisette  
Marie José Morrisette  
Nasya Razavi  
Nikki Richard  
Jean Symes  
Juan Camilo Suárez  
Colmenares  
Rebecca Wolsak

## Board of Directors in 2022

Amanda Dale  
Philippe Frowd  
Beth Jordan  
Mireille Landry  
Patricia LaRue

Michael Manolson  
Karen Moir  
Esperanza Moreno  
Shree Mulay  
Jeannie Samuel

Holly Solomon  
Viola Thomas  
Sari Tudiver  
Barbara Wood



221 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa,  
Ontario K1N 6P1 Canada

Tel: 613-563-4801

Toll free: 1-866-563-4801

Fax: 613-594-4704

[info@interpares.ca](mailto:info@interpares.ca)

[www.interpares.ca](http://www.interpares.ca)

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