

**Transparency International Canada**  
**Ninth Annual General Meeting**  
**Report of Vice Chair from June to December 2005**

May 26, 2006  
Clare Bonnell, Vice Chair

**TI AGM and conference, Berlin, Germany, November**

My primary objective in attending these events for TI-Canada was to prepare myself for assuming the role of Chair and President at the AGM in 2006 by gaining an understanding of how the international movement operates as a body, to learn something of the work of other National Chapters and of the Secretariat, and to form my own view of the relations between the centre (the International Board and the Secretariat) and the frontlines (the National Chapters), which has been viewed differently by different Directors on the board of the Canadian Chapter.

I participated in a workshop on measurement tools and observed the workshop on the accreditation review process which gave me a reading on the above. With regard to organisational tensions, my impression is that there certainly are concerns with regard to decision making and control, that these concerns are fairly widespread and that they are readily, and even stridently, voiced. However, it was also evident that most of the issues are recognised by the leadership and are being addressed. The make-up of the new 2005/2006 board includes some who have been voicing concerns; this will give excellent opportunities for finding solutions. The international TI community is a unique collaboration and collection of varied interests, passions and personalities. For the future, it is my view that our board does not need to play a leadership role in international governance matters but should continue to respond to opportunities for input to this important aspect of the continued formation of the movement.

With regard to our focus in Canada, a number of National Chapters have been working on municipal transparency and there are several tools available for us to consider for our project as well as people to provide guidance. There are many other successful examples of progress in the TI annual report.

**IV Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata, Argentina, November**

I was unexpectedly asked to go as neither Wes Cragg nor Bob Olivero was able to attend. This is the second NGO pre-Summit meeting we had been invited to, the first being four years ago in Quebec City. Funding to attend had been secured from CIDA by TI-Canada member Sharon O'Regan, who was also indispensable in connecting me to people while there. We achieved an intervention at a meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Americas exhorting them to make anti-corruption a feature of all their poverty reduction policies and programs, and to adequately fund the convention monitoring process set up by the OAS. The Hon. Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and The Hon. Stockwell Day, in a later meeting between the Government and the Canadian NGOs present (not all of whom made interventions), expressed satisfaction that TI-Canada was there. Opportunities to network beyond this were unexpectedly eliminated with no access

to the Summit hotel once the Heads of State arrived. Opposition to the Free Trade of the Americas Agreement, while not a focus of the Summit, had galvanised 25,000 people from across the region, and it is understandable that security was tightly controlled. This was well reported in the media in Canada. There were no personal security risks.

It is the monitoring of the implementation of agreements made at conventions that, in my view, is more important than making interventions. Our Americas Committee is working on deciding what our priority actions are in the light of many options for engaging in promoting transparency in the hemisphere.

**Assuming the Leadership role**

In preparation for assuming the Chair and President role on May 26<sup>th</sup>, I spent time with Wes Cragg, discussing goals, priorities and resources for the Chapter. Among these are to:

- be selective in what we engage in
- focus on achievable goals
- emphasise issues and opportunities within Canada
- maintain our contribution to international TI efforts
- align our selective priorities with Board Member interests and expertise to fuel the voluntary commitment that each of us is making
- engage members in tasks

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Bonnell