

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CANADA NEWSLETTER

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OFFICIAL LAUNCH SET FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15

With this, the first of what we now expect to be regular TI Canada newsletters, we announce the official launch of the Canadian chapter. It will take place on Friday, November 15 at York University's Downtown Management Centre from 9 to 4 pm.

As many of you will know, Transparency International is an international coalition against corruption. For those who are less familiar with TI, please write to us for a copy of the document "Introducing TI."

Our focus in this newsletter is TI Canada. We have therefore included information about our plans for the new chapter. Please feel free to copy and circulate this information to anyone you think might be interested, and do send us names of people who should be on our mailing list. Also, please post the attached flyer on bulletin boards or wherever you think it will catch the eye of other concerned Canadians.

The program for November 15 is now taking shape. The morning will be devoted to the problem of corruption in international business transactions and possible responses. In the afternoon we will convene the first annual meeting of the organization, elect a board and discuss plans for the coming year.

We anticipate the participation of many guests. Representatives from Transparency International will include Peter Eigen who is the President and Chairman of Transparency International, George Moody-Stuart who is the President of TI in the United Kingdom and the author of "The Good Business Guide to Bribery" and "Grand Corruption," and Fritz Heimann who is the President of TI-USA and the producer of the "Best Practices Manual."

We also anticipate the participation of Christine Stewart (Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America) and members of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the federal government, and the corporate sector.

We plan to incorporate the new chapter both as a voluntary sector organization and as a foundation. As a charitable foundation, TI Canada will be able to accept tax deductible donations and grants from other charitable foundations. As a voluntary sector organization, the chapter will be empowered to act in the political arena as an anti-corruption advocate.

The process of establishing a charitable foundation is complex and time-consuming. It will probably not be completed until next spring. In the interim, membership fees will be directed to "Transparency International Canada Inc." which will be a voluntary sector corporation. Therefore, membership fees will not be tax deductible during our first year of operation.

We anticipate that the new chapter will work actively to communicate its message through newsletters and other publications, workshops and seminars in cooperation with our members, government departments and agencies such as CIDA, and private sector partners. We also expect the new chapter to have a research function and anticipate involvement in the further development and refinement of Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index." (Copies of the 1996 index are available from the address below on request.)

The study of legislative responses to the problem of corruption will undoubtedly have a high priority. The new board will also be invited to cooperate with the American chapter in the development of a private sector anti-corruption "Best Practices Manual."

Our membership structure includes room for individuals and non-profit organizations, government agencies and departments, professional firms and corporations. Information on the membership fee structure can be found on the other side of this document.

We are inviting corporations to become charter members of the organization. The purpose of charter membership is to put the new chapter on a sound financial footing for its first two years of operation. Charter members will have access to the services and programs of the chapter, will be acknowledged in all public meetings financed by their membership fees, and will sit on a Corporate Advisory Board which will recommend programmes of action.

We look forward to seeing you all at our launch.

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