JAMES COHEN, MA, BSS

Toronto, Canada

SUMMARY

Anti-corruption, accountability and transparency expert with over a decade of experience managing teams and programmes, building organizational capacity, and conducting research and training. Exceptional communication skills from writing reports and conducting presentations for audiences including governments, civil society, businesses, and media.

- Team and project leadership
- Strategy development and advice
- Program design and management

- Capacity building, facilitation, presenting
- Organization and procedural change
- Working level French language skills

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Transparency International Canada   **Toronto, Canada**   **2018 – Present**
Executive Director

Managing TI-Canada administration, programming, fundraising, and outreach with a broad range of partners in business, government, civil society, and media. Implementing programmes on TI Canada strategic priorities of advocacy, research, and education, through managing two staff and a network of consultants, volunteers, and partner organisations. Manage relations with Board of Directors including activity, budget, and governance reporting.

- Collaborate with partner organizations on beneficial ownership transparency including leading private sector engagement, coordinating research projects, and managing coalition engagement with Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia.
- Manage Accountable Mining programme staff including overseeing quality on research, and guiding and supporting advocacy with stakeholders and rights holders.
- Coordinate and collaborate with TI Canada Legal Committee volunteers including on contributions to Transparency International Exporting Corruption 2020 report and briefing note 'Overview of Remediation Agreements in Canada'.
- Leading development of new TI Canada 2021-2024 Strategy Plan.

Transparency International Canada   **Toronto, Canada**   **2017 – 2018**
Director, Programmes and Engagement

Managed TI-Canada fundraising, membership management, programmes. Implemented TI Canada's fundraising plan to increase revenue. Oversaw programming on beneficial ownership and Western Canada.

- Coordinated volunteers and partners to promote beneficial ownership transparency through advocacy and research.
- Oversaw programme coordination and implementation for events and research in Western Canada including coordinating speakers for discussion forums and carrying out a Western Canada public and extractive sector corruption perception survey.
- Positioned TI Canada funding and budget to grow core budget end of year carry over of roughly $5,000 in 2018 to over $90,000 in 2019.

Transparency International Canada   **Toronto, Canada**   **2016 – 2017**
Interim Executive Director

Managed TI-Canada administration, programming, fundraising, and outreach with a broad range of partners in business, government, civil society, and media. Implemented programmes on improving transparency in beneficial ownership and mining, as well as responding to related initiatives through managing a network of consultants, volunteers, and partner organisations. Manage relations with Board of Directors including activity, budget, and governance reporting.

- Coordinated volunteers and multi-stakeholder relationships to influence increasing federal and government support for transparency in beneficial ownership, including conducting advocacy, media relations, and programme development.
- Led Ontario mining transparency project through managing researchers to produce a report, building multi-stakeholder relationships and facilitating forums. The completion of this project led to securing over $700,000 over 3 years for a phase II.
- Implemented new systems and strategies including a new member management system, overseeing development of a fundraising strategy, and overseeing development of TI Canada's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

United States Institute of Peace   Washington, DC, USA   2015 – 2016
Program Officer, Rule of Law, Justice, Security
Managed a $1.2 million, 6 person team North Africa Border project by designing and facilitating workshops for Moroccan, Algerian, and Tunisian officials. Led project reporting to State Department on deliverables, finances, and learning.
• Supported North African law enforcement officials to develop an unanimously endorsed joint strategic vision on border security cooperation that instilled values and built capacity on human security and rule of law.

African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies   Ottawa, Ontario   2014 – 2015
Consultant   Kampala, Uganda   2014
Led business development by building relations with donors, developing projects with staff, writing funding proposals, and monitoring and reporting on $800,000 of existing funding to 8 different donors. Advised on ACJPS strategies and procedures, including mapping organization processes and editing reports on human rights and rule of law in Sudan.
• Secured 3 new funders for $300,000 and renewed available funds during reduced resources for human rights in Sudan.
• Assessed ACJPS procedures to produce new strategies on communications, documentation, and monitoring & evaluation.

Adam Smith International   London, UK   2013
Business Development Consultant
Recruited consultants including analyzing profiles, managing relations, negotiating fees, and cataloging candidates for DFID project bid. Conducted research and analysis on current security and political trends in Libya and DRC.
• Wrote detailed political economy analyses of Libya and the DRC in a tight timeframe to be include in DFID project bids.
• Supported negotiation of a team of 5 advisors to be part of an ASI bid on a UK security program in Libya.

Transparency International UK   London, UK   2011 – 2013
Project Officer: Defence and Security Programme
Collaborated with civil society, governments, and contractors to conduct research, program design, trainings, and evaluations on corruption's impact on peacekeeping, conflict, and police.
• Led training program impact evaluations and publishing reports providing updates and recommendations for donors.
• Conducted presentations and trainings on corruption in security and governance for a variety of audiences including Bosnian peacekeepers; Canadian, Burundian, Kenyan, and Tunisian officials; and global civil society partners.
• Co-authored published reports on corruption in police, peacekeeping, and Afghanistan.

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces   Geneva, Switzerland   2007 - 2011
Project Officer: International Security Sector Advisory Team
Developed knowledge management program and led after action reviews to develop reports demonstrating good practice in reform processes. Provided project support through research, reporting, trainings, technical advice, and program design.
• Initiated organizational lesson learning strategy and tools including creating a $50,000 Community of Practice.
• Led after action reviews with project teams to analyze lessons and trends to produce first ISSAT lesson synthesis report.
• Supported mapping of Swiss Government governance projects including conducting policy reviews and staff interviews.

Short Contracts:
Canadian International Council (03/2018) Toronto, Canada
• Wrote and presented report for Canadian Joint Operations Command analyzing socio-economics of smuggling in the Sahel.
Global Organisation for Parliamentarians Against Corruption (2014) Ottawa, Canada
• Co-wrote organization's position paper on why and how legislators can address corruption in defense and security.
United Nations (2013) London, UK
• Conducted political-economy analysis of Tanzania for UNODC, contributing to a national anti-corruption plan.
• Analyzed good practices of anti-corruption agencies contributing to policy dialogue for UNDP Egypt.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts (MA), International Studies in Political Science
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies – Geneva, Switzerland

Bachelor of Social Science (BSS), Honours in Political Science
University of Ottawa – Ottawa, Canada

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2020   Transparency International: **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning**
2019   Maytree Foundation: M**aytree Policy School**
2015   USIP: **Toward a Rule of Law Culture**
         USIP: **Managing Intergroup Conflict Through Facilitation**

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- "Accountable Mining: A risk assessment of the environmental assessment process – National Report" TI Canada (2020) (co-author)
- "It's Time for Canada to embrace public UBO registries" FCPA Blog (2020)
- "Addressing Corruption Through Justice Sensitive Security Sector Reform" ICTJ (2017)
- "Building Regional Border Security Cooperation: Lessons from the Maghreb" USIP (2016) (co-author)
- "Oversight is the Continuation of Democracy by Other Means", Position Paper, GOPAC (2015) (co-author)
- "Corruption & Peacekeeping: Strengthening peacekeeping and the United Nations", TI UK (2013) (co-author)