

intentionally promoted a process whereby the role of consumer representative, bureaucrat and politician were distinguished and used to advantage to influence the development of disability friendly international initiatives such as the United Nation's *IYDP Plan of Action* and ensuring that disabled people were protected under the category of "other" within the *International Covenant of Human Rights* s).

2. Development of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). There is good reason to doubt whether DPI would have developed into as a strong and credible an international voice of disabled people as it is if support from Canada had not been there. The Government of Canada along with a non-governmental international development organization, the Mennonite Central Committee, took a particular interest in providing support at critical times in DPI's early years. Funding was by no means easy to achieve, and frequently involved a significant struggle, but such support was there at the beginning and to varying degrees has been maintained over time. Other countries, notably Sweden and Finland, also have provided support at various times; but, Canadian support has been the most consistent.
3. A number of statements adopted by the UN and UN related bodies were initiated or strongly influenced as a result of the combined action of Canadian government activities working in collaboration with leaders of the disability movements. In addition to those already identified these included the *World Programme of Action* that formed the framework for the UN Decade of Disabled Persons and the International Labour Organization Convention of 1984.
4. There also were a number of initiatives promoting the rights of disabled people and the adoption of policies of inclusion within extra-UN international organizations within Canada's sphere of influence such as the (formerly British) Commonwealth of Nations and the Francophonie.
5. Organizations of disabled people in low and middle-income countries received support in an effort to promote the development of greater capacity as self-advocates within their own countries. Such support in part was provided through Canadian organizations of disabled people, which received project funding for such purposes, but also through "Mission Funds" available through Canadian Embassies for small project support. Both the initiatives by disability organizations and the nature of support by government have been quite unique. Having said this, there have been significant struggles for organizations of disabled people to obtain funding in support of international development work on a sustained basis, particularly in recent years.
6. A number of Universities and Colleges along with university-affiliated centres became involved in international CIDA funded projects, which were supportive of community inclusion. Again, funding for initiatives supporting the social inclusion of disabled people has not been easy to get, and many possibilities have been by-passed. Nevertheless, the fact that there have been some successes and that these are relatively unique on the world stage is worthy of note.