

stereotypical assumptions about disability) and de facto lack of application of Canadian human rights standards to those who wish to immigrate to Canada.

Immigration policy is one of those fuzzy areas of government action where it is more often seen as an internal or domestic policy than as a foreign policy. The argument is that Canada can regulate, as an internal policy, who and how many people are admitted as immigrants to Canada by criteria it chooses. Yet there is an overlap with our foreign policies. The Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and International Women's Equality Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has as one of its areas of responsibility to provide input from a foreign policy and trade perspective on Canada's review of immigration policy. As well it is to coordinate policy issues with the department of Citizenship and Immigration. Immigration policy is one of those areas where we see whether the face that Canada shows to the world is the same face it shows to those who come from other countries and want to be part of Canada.

The sections of Canadian immigration law that specifically address people with disabilities have changed very little over the past century and a half. People with disabilities have been consistently prevented from coming to Canada as immigrants, except in cases where they challenge a decision and receive a special Minister's permit (Goundry 1992 and see Table 1). Three persistent ideas about people with disabilities have shaped their exclusion. First, people with disabilities are seen as different from people without disabilities. Their difference stems from stereotyped assumptions based on an individualistic, medical model of disability. Second, "immigration policy has been especially negative toward people with labels of mental disability. Thirdly, legislation consistently anticipates that people with disabilities will be a financial burden on Canada" (Mosoff, 155).