

such as in the case of immigration, creating a foreign policy which excludes on the basis of disability. As a result, Canadian foreign policy is unable to address disability effectively.

The context of Canadian foreign policy

Foreign policy refers in general to what governments do, their actions and their policies, towards other countries or international organizations like the United Nations (Nossal 1997). Foreign policy most often includes policies related to war and peace, economic or trade practices and development assistance. Governments can conduct their foreign policy with another country or in the context of multilateral organizations like the United Nations, the World Trade Organization or the World Bank.

A key component of Canadian foreign policy has been internationalism, that is, working with others in the context of broader international goals or organizations.¹ “Internationalism is, at bottom, directed toward creating, maintaining and managing community at a global level” (Nossal 1998-9, 99). Governments work to create common frameworks or sets of rules to guide international actions. In this setting, Canada often takes on the role of mediator, ‘tipping agent’ (as the editors of this volume suggest), or what others have termed being a good international citizen. Who is part of a global community has broadened in the Canadian perspective to include states, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and individuals.

¹Internationalism has been debated in discussions of Canadian foreign policy. Some argue we are seeing the decline in internationalism (Nossal 1998-9 ; 1997), while others suggest that Canada has practised selective or limited internationalism (Neufeld 1995; Rioux and Hay 1998-9). Smith (forthcoming) suggests that our definitions of internationalism are exclusive, built on keeping some inside and others outside.