

International Year of Disabled Persons, the United Nations World Programme of Action, the United Nations Standard Rules for Equalization of Opportunities, and the introduction of the resolution to conduct an international study on the violation of the rights of disabled people. These are only a few examples.

A fifth theme is the **strong sense of mission** that can be identified in the international work of Canadians in leadership positions. This mission has often been driven by the desire to create change. In order to create change they have had to advocate for strategic changes such as at the United Nations and also within the Canadian government. The disability movement promoted the human rights framework within CIDA already back in early 1980's when the officials within CIDA clearly stated that human rights has nothing to do with development. Over the years considerable influence was brought about by the disability movement. Within international organizations Canadians have often modeled new and creative approaches, based on models developed within Canada. The idea of developing an international development program that would promote organizational development was initiated within the Canadian context and promoted through Disabled Peoples' International. The models of community participation, grassroots empowerment and human rights emerged in Canada out of a historic orientation towards rehabilitation and medical and charity models towards disability that institutionalized hundreds of thousands of people within Canada. The leaders have taken the new ideas developed within Canada as a reaction to the old paradigms and promoted them internationally.

A final trend of note is that those people from Canada who have played international leadership roles almost invariably came from **personal experiences of marginalization or oppression**. They typically came from regions of the country that were economically disadvantaged, or from minority or immigrant backgrounds. These experiences seemed to contribute to a style of leadership emphasizing participation, human rights, community, and democratic decision-making processes within to the international organizations.

What Can Be Said to Have Been Achieved?

No country alone can take credit for accomplishments in an environment as complex as that at the international level. It typically involves leadership on the part of a number of like-minded states working together in persuading others of the merits of a particular initiative or point of view. Within that context, there is fairly strong evidence for the following activities and accomplishments with which Canada was associated, as derived from various chapters in the book.

1. Championing the involvement of disabled people in significant decision-making on issues of immediate relevance to them. Though Canada wasn't alone in this (countries such as Algeria, the US, Sweden and Finland also had disabled people as part of their delegate bodies at various times), the Canadian delegate body