

form was given without substance, and where outright misinformation was presented. These were widely shared within Canada, with other national and international non-governmental organizations, and with the United Nations. They were able to challenge the common perception held internationally that Canada was a leader on women's rights.

A second strategy built on the first. Once alternative or shadow reports had been written, some of the groups presented their findings to the expert bodies reviewing Canada's reports. For example, Josephine Grey and the group Low Income Families Together (LIFT), presented their report and views on the violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1998 and 1999. The Committees which reviewed these reports chastised the governments of Canada publicly for failing to use its wealth to benefit all of its citizens. They called on Canada to address the critical gaps suggested in the alternative reports.

These strategies have been a successful way to raise the profile of the experiences of those in Canada who are often marginalized or excluded in government policies. They have required the active support of like-minded lawyers and human rights experts, and considerable time and energy with little or no pay. Yet they may provide one alternative way to address the gap in Canadian foreign policy around disability, and the less than equal status of people with disabilities in Canada.

**Table 1 Minister's Permits Issued to admit those initially refused under Sections 19(1)a and 19(1)b**