

personnel landmines. In like manner the Canadian government played an important role in the disability movement. In the early nineteen eighties the influence of government created a tipping point working collaboratively with disability organizations contributed to a radical paradigm shift within the United Nations. Canada provided funding to promote the full participation of disabled people within the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons 1983-1992. Canada also took the initiative and introduced a resolution to conduct an international study on the violation of the rights of disabled persons. Perhaps nowhere is the concept of a tipping point more dramatically seen as when Canada cast the deciding vote within the International Labour Organization to adopt a convention of rehabilitation and employment for persons with disabilities (1984). This happened during the committee meetings in preparing for the ILO General Assembly. Business was totally opposed to the idea of the convention. Labour was totally supportive. The government had the deciding vote to approve the convention to be recommended to the General Assembly. The vote within the government sector was extremely tight. Even though the Canadian delegation had received instructions not to support our concept of a convention, they changed their minds at the last minute and the idea of the convention passed. During the General Assembly it received unanimous approval.

A third theme is that the **disability movements as other social movements reflect the values of their countries of origin**. Certainly within Canada the respect for the rule of law, of a democratic process in decision making and the concept of the "just society" is in evidence both in Canadian-based organizations working abroad and in Canadians working within international organizations. Canadians also have a sense of caring for what happens to people in other countries as is evidenced by humanitarian assistance in many international disasters. The principle of participation has drawn the attention of many people at the United Nations to talk about the "Canadian model". They characterize this as the participation of citizens in government to develop policies and program direction. Certainly these values have had important impact in influencing the role that Canadians have played in international disability issues.

The values of participation and democratic decision-making also have been brought into international disability organizations by Canadians in leadership positions. These include Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International and others. Further, the more than one hundred years experience with forming and operating small and large disability related non-governmental organizations, amongst the most extensive in the world, contributed to development of a strong sense of those organizational values that are important to effectiveness. These too have been transmitted to international organizations.

A fourth theme is the **priority placed by Canada on multi-lateral policy** within the United Nations. Canada has always supported multi-lateral institutions and emphasized their importance. Together with this has been a policy on the **importance of the voluntary or non-governmental sector**. As a result of these policies, Canada has supported in a variety of ways the emergence of the disability movement within the United Nations. This approach was evident in developing the activities of the