and a variety of other mechanisms has virtually changed the way communication is being conducted today. Without the impact of the technological revolution it can be questioned whether some of the international movements would have taken place particularly the development of a worldwide disability rights movement. The proliferation of new systems of communication have put focal groups of disabled people together and fostered the development of a truly international disability movement. At the same time, new assistive devices and technologies have enabled more severely disabled persons to participate and thus broaden the scope of communication. What must be remembered about these technologies, however, is that they contain within them the possibilities of either liberation or oppression depending on who controls them and has access to them.

The efforts of the international disability movement to communicate within itself and to the larger community has been made all the more important by the questions and problems raised by a host of new cultural and social values. The ongoing phenomena of increasing urbanization often has led to the breakup of smaller communities, established cultural patterns, and clearly defines social relationships. At the same time, novel new health issues such as Aids have appeared and changed the context of debate in some societies about disabilities. The implication of such trends are that social, cultural, and health issues are being worked out in an ongoing fashion. Disability groups and the disability movement are making a vital contribution to the debate around how to build community development and solidarity.

The latter half of the twentieth century has also been marked by wars and conflicts in many regions of the world. The fact that many of these have resulted in millions of people being permanently disabled has provided a new perspective to the discussions. International ethical issues around euthanasia and mercy killing have also had a tremendous impact on the lives of people with disabilities. At the same time they have provided an opportunity for disabled people to raise their voices.

Coinciding with a lot of these international trends has been the realization of the necessity for new frameworks for problem solving. While there has been the increased recognition of the importance of international standards and guidelines there has also been the recognition of the failure of global solutions. Increased democratization has demanded local decision-making and problem solving. Many problems of the twentieth century require local solutions. The phrase "think globally and act locally" has never been so important or true as it is today.

Critical Analysis or Weaknesses that can be Identified

A critical analysis of some of the themes and trends that emerge out of this book lead us to identify a number of weaknesses or areas of concern. It appears that within the Canadian context the early to mid-nineties can be perceived as a golden era. Clearly many new initiatives developed. A significant paradigm shift took place in which