

of people who have a disability internationally....Second, a coordinated approach...would leverage opportunities to promote Canada's broader human rights agenda. It provides a vehicle to advance Canadian efforts to engage civil society and promote democratic participation (CACL 1998, 3).

In response to at least one of the suggestions of the CACL paper, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) initiated a "Reference Group on International Disability and Human Rights Issues". Its terms of reference were developed in 2000, but the Reference Group has yet to meet.

Despite the laudable commitments made by DFAIT and the suggestions for a coordinated foreign policy strategy on disability by the CACL, there is little evidence that disability as a human rights issue has become prominent within Canadian foreign policy. It is difficult to find policy statements made by the Canadian government that recognize disability at all, whether or not within a human rights framework. One policy area that has addressed disability is landmines. The Canadian approach, however, fails to address disability within the context of landmines from a human rights perspective.

### **Landmines and disabilities**

The Ottawa Process in 1996 and 1997, leading to signing and ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, is seen by some as a prime example of Canada's commitment to internationalism. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy suggests the landmines process was one of community-building among like-minded states. The Ottawa Process "was