

"Disabled Peoples International", 1980 in which representation of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities played a major role. The fact that this continued focus survived three changes in government at the federal level says something about its salience and staying power.

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 intentionally promoted a process whereby the role of consumer representative, bureaucrat and politician were distinguished and used to advantage to influence the development of disability friendly international initiatives such as the United Nation's *IYDP Plan of Action* and ensuring that disabled people were protected under the category of "other" within the *International Covenant of Human Rights*.
2. Development of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). There is good reason to doubt whether DPI would have developed into as a strong and credible an international voice of disabled people as it is if support from Canada had not been there. The Government of Canada along with a non-governmental international development organization, the Mennonite Central Committee, took a particular interest in providing support at critical times in DPI's early years. Funding was by no means easy to achieve, and frequently involved a significant struggle, but such support was there at the beginning and to varying degrees has been maintained over time. Other countries, notably Sweden and Finland, also have provided support at various times; but, Canadian support has been the most consistent.
3. A number of statements adopted by the UN and UN related bodies were initiated or strongly influenced as a result of the combined action of Canadian government activities working in collaboration with leaders of the disability movements. In addition to those already identified these included the *World Programme of Action* that formed the framework for the UN Decade of Disabled Persons and the International Labour Organization Convention of 1984.
4. There also were a number of initiatives promoting the rights of disabled people and the adoption of policies of inclusion within extra-UN international organizations within Canada's sphere of influence such as the (formerly British) Commonwealth of Nations, 1991 and the Francophonie, 1993.
5. Organizations of disabled people in low and middle income countries received support in an effort to promote the development of greater capacity as self-