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*Jody Thomas  
Canadian Coast Guard  
Commissioner*

## **Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner Jody Thomas Appointed Deputy Minister Champion for PCU-WHS**

The Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) is pleased to announce that Ms. Jody Thomas, Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard has been appointed the Deputy Minister University Champion for PCU-WHS.

The Deputy Minister University Champion initiative was launched in 2002 to strengthen linkages between the Government of Canada and Canadian universities. The strategy is designed to support relevant public administration education and research so that the federal public service has access to leading edge ideas.

The goal of the Deputy Minister University Champion is to build relations between the federal government and universities in order to identify shared priorities, align university research and curricula with federal public service priorities, promote and facilitate exchanges on public policies and programs, and build awareness of career opportunities in the federal public service.

The President of PCU-WHS, Wolfgang Zimmermann, said the University was extremely pleased with this appointment. "With the new government's focus on some of the key areas targeted by the University, specifically, improved Return to Work / Disability Management practices and outcomes for workers who acquire a disabling impairment, workplace well-being, and the development of leading edge education in all aspects of the life-long "Workplace Health Cycle", this appointment offers a significant opportunity to support the federal government as Canada's largest employer in its own Return to Work / Disability Management efforts, but also to assist in identifying innovative solutions through PCU-WHS's global network."

Commissioner Thomas, having had a long public service career since 1988, joined the Canadian Coast Guard in 2010 when she was appointed the Deputy Commissioner Operations. On January 1, 2015, she became the first woman to be appointed as the Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner. Ms. Thomas was also recently appointed as the Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations) at the Privy Council Office.

"I am very pleased to begin the important work of helping to strengthen linkages between the Government of Canada and PCU-WHS" Commissioner Thomas stated. "The federal public service has a strong commitment to creating and maintaining safe and healthy workplaces, which is an important topic to me personally, as I have seen firsthand the dangers that await the brave women and men of the Canadian Coast Guard, in their never-ending pursuit of public safety and environmental protection. I look forward to seeing the innovations PCU-WHS will bring to this worthwhile cause."

The Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences is a statutory not-for-profit post-secondary degree granting education and research institution for the special purpose of creating and disseminating new knowledge including applied research in the fields of workplace safety, health promotion, return to work and disability management, comprehensive rehabilitation and disability leadership studies. Its primary values are a strong commitment to a safer work environment and the integration of disabled workers into the workforce through advanced education and research knowledge.

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