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International Forum on Disability Management

Towards IFDM 2020 – Brussels



*Minister's Roundtable:
Federal Minister Carla Qualtrough
met with international delegation
prior to start of IFDM 2018*



IFDM 2018 Canada Declaration



*Handover of IFDM flag from the
Hon. Wayne G. Wouters, PC, OC,
Chancellor of PCU-WHS, to
François Perl, Director General of
INAMI, host of IFDM 2020 to be held
December 2-4, 2020 in Brussels*

With the successful conclusion of IFDM 2018 held October 15–17 in Vancouver, Canada, attended by 400 delegates from 30 countries, organized by the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS), the IFDM flag, its international symbol, has now been raised in Brussels, site of the 10th International Biennial Congress on Disability Management and Return to Work, IFDM 2020, to be hosted by the Belgium Federal Social Security Organization, INAMI.

IFDM 2018 brought together key leaders, professionals and practitioners from all stakeholder groups, i.e. employers, unions, governments, service and insurance providers, persons with disabilities, and researchers, all committed to a singular goal of driving “innovation vs. the status quo”, “inclusion vs. exclusion”, and demonstrable, evidence based successful outcomes for persons with disabilities in terms of economic, social and psychological parameters.

IFDMs held to date around the world, starting with IFDM 2002 in Vancouver, have been a hallmark of collaboration, innovation and thought leadership, recognizing that over 80% of all mental and physical health impairments are acquired during a person’s working life and, following onset of a health impairment, maintaining employment is critical towards maintaining equitable economic and social participation rather than getting pushed to the margins of society.

IFDM 2018 included many highlights, from an international pre-conference expert Roundtable with the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Federal Minister for Public Services, Procurement and Accessibility, to welcoming messages from Ministers Qualtrough and the Hon. Patty Hajdu, Federal Minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, as well as the Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, to over 80 presentations delivered by experts from 20 countries. The conference delved into critical challenges and opportunities through key presenters and senior plenary panels addressing such key topics as The Disappearing Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities for Workers Compensation Systems; Disability and Poverty: Breaking the Cycle; and Meeting the Challenge of Mental Health in Today’s Workplace.

We look forward to IFDM 2020 in Belgium continuing this drive towards best practice outcomes, followed by the German Workers Compensation System (DGUV) hosting IFDM 2022 and then, IFDM 2024 being hosted under the auspices of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), a UN affiliated organization located in Geneva with more than 330 member organizations in 150 countries as a triennial event building on the rich history on what will by then have been 11 successful world congresses on Disability Management and Return to Work.

For a UN affiliated agency to commit towards maintaining this series of world congresses provides much hope for all relevant stakeholders that innovation, thought leadership and best practice outcomes in RTW / DM will remain at the forefront of our national and international societal agenda.

A formal agreement for the transfer of the IFDM name and symbol was signed during IFDM 2018 between Prof. Dr. Joachim Breuer, President of ISSA, and Wolfgang Zimmermann, Executive Director of NIDMAR, which organized IFDM 2002 and had developed / owned the relevant Intellectual Property.



Prior to the official handover to Belgium by the Hon. Wayne G. Wouters, PC, OC, Chancellor of PCU-WHS and Master of Ceremonies for IFDM 2018, Chancellor Wouters read the **IFDM 2018 Canada Declaration** which, following the 2016 Kuala Lumpur Declaration, sets out a series of challenges and opportunities for all relevant stakeholders on a range of key initiatives which could be undertaken and contribute towards achieving much improved and sustained social and economic outcomes for disabled workers, employers and our society at large. The **Canada Declaration** is available for downloading and viewing on the IFDM 2018 website.

To view the **Presentations** that were delivered by experts from 20 countries during the conference, please click on the tab marked Program, and click on the links provided in the titles of the Plenary presentations as well as the Concurrent Workshop presentations.

To view the **Gallery of Photos** taken at IFDM 2018, please visit the website – see web address below and click on the tab marked Gallery of Photos.

To view the **Welcome videos** from Federal Ministers Carla Qualtrough and Patty Hajdu and BC Premier John Horgan, please click on the tab marked Video Library on the website

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