



PHOTO: L to R: Mr. Reginald Thomas, Director of CIESS and Wolfgang Zimmermann, President of PCU-WHS and Executive Director of NIDMAR

MOU Signed with CIESS for the Promotion of Disability Management to its Members



Toronto

A signing was held on January 23 between the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS) and the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) and the National Institute of Disability Management and Research (NIDMAR), which marked a significant expansion of the already broad global adoption of best practice educational, professional and program standards in Return to Work and Disability Management.

Referenced as the “Gold Standard” in the 2013 Best Practice Guidelines on Return-to-Work published by the International Social Security Association (ISSA), individuals who obtain a highly recognized professional competency standard in Disability Management, not unlike many other professional specializations, have demonstrated their significant value in being able to substantially improve socio-economic outcomes following onset of a physical or mental health impairment for the worker, the workplace, and society at large.

Established in 1963, the CIESS, which is headquartered in Mexico City, has developed programs of activities that address priority aspects of social security for their region which encompasses the Americas and the Caribbean, covering 36 countries and a membership of more than 80 institutions.

The intent of the MOU is for the collaboration in offering educational opportunities and professional and program consensus based internationally adopted standards in the field of Disability Management and Return to Work for the members of CIESS.



“Over the last weeks, the Director of CIESS, Reginald Thomas, had the chance to visit and meet several Canadian institutions, both academic and governmental” said Alfonso Zoreda, Coordinator for the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies. “Among them, he met with representatives of the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) and NIDMAR, where he signed an MOU, which would allow the CIESS to create a gateway for the adoption of the University’s educational programming and the best practice professional and program standards in Return to Work and Disability Management of NIDMAR, for the member organizations of CIESS. Soon, the CIESS will unveil a pilot programme in which various countries across the region will participate to understand and better meet the demands of institutional staffing in this most important field.”

As part of this agreement, CIESS has now also joined the International Disability Management Standards Council (IDMSC) which is responsible for the global administration and promotion of the best practice professional and program standards in Disability Management, and which have now been adopted / licensed in 64 countries around the world.

Following the signing, Wolfgang Zimmermann, President of PCU-WHS and Executive Director of NIDMAR said, “We very much appreciate the leadership of Mr. Reginald Thomas in moving this agenda forward since it is broadly understood that an underlying mental or physical health impairment is often the precursor of the individual suffering from poverty, homelessness, addiction or potentially worse. Mr. Thomas’ leadership in adopting global best practice standards in Return to Work and Disability Management will start to turn this narrative in the countries that CIESS is affiliated with and supported by, but also, over time, contribute towards building a global network of professionals able to offer professional knowledge, practical solutions and strategic ideas in improving the economic and social outcomes for individuals challenged with mental and physical health impairments.”



Witnessing the signing of the MOU was a group that included current and former members of the Boards of PCU-WHS and NIDMAR, as well as invited guests who have relationships with PCU-WHS and NIDMAR.