



Appointment of Eric Costen as Deputy Minister University Champion

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Eric Costen

The Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) is very pleased to announce that Mr. Eric Costen, Associate Deputy Minister of Health, has been appointed the Deputy Minister University Champion for PCU-WHS. Mr. Costen began his public service career in 2003 and has held senior roles across the federal government including at Health Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

The Deputy Minister University Champion (DMUC) initiative was launched in 2002 to strengthen linkages between the Government of Canada and Canadian universities. Since its inception, the strategy has advanced public administration by supporting and promoting education and research. The DMUC identifies shared priorities, aligns university research and curricula with Federal Public Services goals, promotes and facilitates exchanges on public policies and programs, and builds awareness of career opportunities in the federal public service.

The President of PCU-WHS, Wolfgang Zimmermann, noted that he is very pleased with Eric Costen's appointment. "The high rate of unemployment persistently facing persons with disabilities, and with more than 80 percent of mental and physical health impairments occurring during someone's working life, coupled with often nonexistent workplace accommodations, is one of the key challenges facing an effective disability inclusion strategy. This level of often marginal economic participation for persons with disabilities is of course also the main contributor to their highly disproportionate share of Canada's poverty population with outsized impact from our acute housing shortage.

With the adoption of the Federal Accessibility legislation affecting the Federal Government as Canada's largest employer, promoting much improved return to work outcomes, both for its own workforce and as a significant public policy strategy, is completely aligned with our return to work / disability management objectives through the promotion of effective education and Disability Management program and professional standards, not only across Canada but internationally."

Associate Deputy Minister Costen said, "I am proud to be the new Deputy Champion for the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences. The federal Public Service is committed to creating and maintaining safe and healthy workplaces that can serve as models for other Canadian employers. I look forward to working with PCU-WHS in areas such as return to work and disability management to find collaboration and research opportunities that will increase knowledge and lead to better workplace practices."

About PCU-WHS

PCU-WHS 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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