



## NIDMAR audit tool adopted in Saskatchewan



*Susan Antosh, SAHO president and CEO and Wolfgang Zimmermann, NIDMAR executive director, at the official signing.*

**REGINA:** Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) is the most recent organization to adopt NIDMAR's Consensus Based Disability Management Audit (CBDMA).

SAHO is a non-profit, non-governmental association of health organizations in Saskatchewan, whose members include Saskatchewan's regional health authorities, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, independent hospitals and special care homes, as well as various agencies and associations that provide health services, education and/or regulations. SAHO provides its more than 160 members with leadership, services and a common voice.

"We have disability management programs in all the health regions," says Leanne Hamm, manager, Consulting Services, Workplace Health, Safety and Education Services. "These have been implemented slowly over the past three years. They all have a program, but now we're at a level where we can go and audit them and recommend ways to improve on any weak areas."

Identifying opportunities for improvement allows SAHO to add value for its membership.

"The Consensus Based Disability Management Audit provides SAHO's membership an opportunity to evaluate their disability management performance," says Susan Antosh, president and CEO. "This is a service we can provide to our membership that they can't get from anyone else in the province."

As the only auditor in the province, Hamm expects to be busy. "It will be voluntary whether they want to be audited, but there is already significant interest. I already had one health region tell me, 'As soon as you have your audit certificate, let us know.'"

Safety programs are helping reduce injuries in the province's healthcare sector. Improving disability management and return to work programs will reduce suffering for sick and injured workers and have a lasting impact on Saskatchewan's healthcare sector.

"We're on the edge of what's happening in the industry, so we're leaders in the province," says Hamm. "We're hoping that we can do enough audits to prove that, and we'd like this to be an ongoing service we can provide." ■