

Congratulations to the DM / RTW Professionals for 2013



The President of the Canadian Society of Professionals in Disability Management, Judy Geary, CDMP, is extending her sincere congratulations to the individuals from across Canada who successfully passed the 2013 examinations.

Congratulations! You are now one of a growing international body of certified return to work and disability management professionals. In achieving the professional designations, you will make an important contribution to the social and economic well being of persons with disabilities; help employers to reduce absence costs and follow a best practice model to fulfill their responsibilities to their disabled employees; and be a more effective practitioner.

The International Disability Management Standards Council (IDMSC), which oversees and promotes the occupational standards of our profession, now has members from 12 countries. The adoption of the standards by organizations and governments in so many countries reflects the increased priority that disability management and return to work is taking across the globe.

A significant development is that the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) recently obtained Ministerial consent from the Hon. Amrik Virk, Minister of Advanced Education for the Province of British Columbia, to offer the world's first Bachelor Degree in Disability Management via a blended delivery model. This program may be of interest to aspiring professionals who may wish to pursue this as a first or second degree. The course outlines were informed by a renowned international group of academics, researchers, and practitioners as well as representatives of other relevant stakeholders in order to ensure its comprehensiveness and relevance to our fast changing workplace environment.

Another exciting development in our field is the creation of return to work guidelines at the International Social Security Association (ISSA). The IDMSC and NIDMAR were consulted on the guidelines, and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ISSA to collaborate on the promotion and dissemination of effective disability management and return to work programs. The ISSA return to work guidelines are expected to support the creation of new or improved programs in ISSA's 338-member organizations in 159 countries, including Canada.

Your professional accreditation is thus a valuable and widely recognized qualification. The learning journey you've been on, and writing the exam, have been challenging, and I trust rewarding, now and into the future.

Again, congratulations, and welcome to the Canadian Society of Professionals in Disability Management (www.cspdm.ca), which will support you via our website, opportunities to network and exchange experiences, continuing education information and offerings, as well as career opportunities.



Congratulations to:

<i>Kelly Alarie</i>	<i>Leanne Kupchik</i>
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