



October 2018
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9th International Biennial Congress
on Disability Management and
Return to Work
Vancouver, Canada
October 15-17, 2018

International Forum on Disability Management – IFDM 2018

Third Update

Historic Agreement to be Signed during IFDM

We are extremely pleased to advise that an agreement has been reached, and will be signed during the Opening Session of **IFDM 2018**, between the International Social Security Organization (ISSA) a UN affiliated, Geneva based organization, with over 330 members in more than 150 countries, and Canada's National Institute of Disability Management and Research (NIDMAR), effecting the legal transfer of IFDM associated intellectual property, currently held by NIDMAR to ISSA.

IFDM 2002, the first IFDM hosted by NIDMAR and supported through a national and international steering committee, gave rise to biennial IFDMs held to date in the Netherlands, Australia, Germany, the United States, United Kingdom, Australasia, Malaysia and for 2018 in Canada. IFDM 2020 will be hosted by the Government of Belgium and IFDM 2021 by the German Federal Workers Compensation system.

The prestigious IFDM world congresses are designed as collaborative efforts between employers, workers, governments and all relevant stakeholders with a singular purpose of promoting Innovation, thought leadership and best practice policies and programs leading to improved Return to Work outcomes for disabled workers, and thus reducing the socio-economic impacts of mental/physical health impairments for disabled workers, employers and society at large.

The ISSA / NIDMAR transfer agreement being signed by Dr. Joachim Breuer, President of ISSA as well as Director General of the German Federal Workers Compensation system and Wolfgang Zimmermann of NIDMAR, will see, starting in 2024, the IFDM becoming a triennial World Rehabilitation Congress which will, in perpetuity, ensure that best practice and research-based approaches aimed at offering critical leadership in supporting improved socio-economic, social and psychological outcomes for people with disabilities, will consequently reduce their disproportionate level of poverty and often homelessness, addiction and suicide.

IFDM 2018, hosted by the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS), is a world forum offering global leadership, cutting edge solutions, and evidence-based research findings for key government, business and labour leaders, as well as representatives from the disability management and return to work provider communities.

The Master of Ceremonies for **IFDM 2018** will be the **Honourable Wayne G. Wouters**, PC, OC, Chancellor of PCU-WHS, and former Clerk of the Privy Council.

Co-chairs for the event are the University's Board of Governors co-chairs, **Ken Neumann**, Canadian National Director, United Steelworkers; and **Dean Winsor**, Vice President Human Resources, Teck Resources.

In addition to the **Keynote Address** on Bill C-81 – An Act to ensure a barrier free Canada, and **Opening Plenary** presentations, there will be over 80 presentations from individuals representing 20 countries during the **Concurrent workshop sessions** taking place during the conference.

Three Plenary Panels will address critical workplace health challenges including:



- ***The Disappearing Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities for Workers Compensation Systems***, Chaired by Dr. Joachim Breuer, Director General, German Federal Workers Compensation System
- ***Disability and Poverty: Breaking the Cycle***, Chaired by Hon. Wayne G. Wouters, PC, OC, Chancellor, PCU-WHS
- ***Meeting the Challenge of Mental Health in Today's Workplace***, Chaired by Ms. Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister, Canada's Department of National Defence and Deputy Minister University Champion for PCU-WHS

IFDM 2018 will take place from **October 15-17, 2018**, commencing at 8:30 am on Monday, October 15 at the Vancouver Marriott Downtown Hotel, 1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.

For further Program details, please visit the website at: www.ifdm2018.com

Or, please contact us at:

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