

## Recognizing Professional Excellence in the Re/integration of Persons with Disabilities



*Recognition given to 2017 CDMPs and CRTWCs*



*Ken Neumann, USW*



*Evie DoCouto, WSIB*



*Judy Quillin, MODC*

**Toronto** – On September 28, an event hosted by the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) and NIDMAR, was held to honour those individuals who were able to attend the event and who achieved the Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMP) and Certified Return to Work Coordinator (CRTWC) designations in 2017.

Those individuals attending represented a broad cross section of stakeholders in the return to work / disability management process from across a range of diverse workplaces and proudly displayed their hard earned certificates which indicate having achieved these internationally recognized professional designations in the field and are joining a global group of almost 4,000 distinguished professionals in 12 countries to date.

Wolfgang Zimmermann, Executive Director of NIDMAR and President of the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) acted as MC for the event. He provided background details on the development of the Occupational Standards for the field, working with the Occupational Standards Branch of Employment and Social Development Canada. This process was followed by the development of the professional certification examinations to meet those standards, following Government of Canada Guidelines.

Referenced as global best practice in the International Social Security Association (ISSA, a United Nations affiliated agency based in Geneva) Guidelines on Return to Work and Reintegration, these prestigious professional designations have now been formally licensed in 28 jurisdictions around the world, which must adhere to a globally consistent exam administration and certification maintenance process coordinated through the International Disability Management Standards Council.

Keynote speakers at the event included the following:

*Ken Neumann*, Canadian National Director for the United Steelworkers, and Co-Chair of NIDMAR and PCU-WHS, who talked about the importance of health and safety to the United Steelworkers. He said it was especially poignant this year, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Westray Mine Disaster. He also touched on the Steelworkers National Policy Conference that took place in 2016 at which a unanimous vote took place to approve the policy to include Return to Work provisions in collective agreements going forward. “We know that successful return to work programs require a broad range of participants and NIDMAR / PCU-WHS has been a pioneer in developing programs that are innovative in that they focus on cooperation and the sharing of ideas to make the return to work process as smooth as possible. More importantly, the process will have a much higher likelihood of success when everyone works together.”



*Evie DoCouto*, Vice President, Return to Work Division, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board, spoke to the progressive changes that the WSIB has undertaken in the area of return to work. The revitalized Return to Work Strategy will be a blend of best current practices and new strategies that will support an outcome-based approach. The Strategy is grounded in a customer-centric model that provides attention to at risk cases, and allows for optimized WSIB channels, digital and otherwise, to better serve customers. The focus, as always, will continue to be achieving the best possible Return to Work and Recovery outcomes for the people of Ontario. Ms. DoCouto also had the distinct pleasure of congratulating 11 WSIB graduates on acquiring their CDMP designation in 2017.

*Judy Quillin*, National Director of Employment Services, March of Dimes Canada (MODC), talked about the history of the March of Dimes, first created in the 1940's to find a cure and protect children from polio. By the 1960's, the organization had grown and shifted its mandate to serve the broader needs of all adults with physical disabilities. Today, they are dedicated to helping children and adults across Canada to lead more independent lives. March of Dimes Canada has entered into an MOU with NIDMAR and PCU-WHS to offer educational opportunities in the field of Disability Management / Return to Work for MODC's management staff and client base through its newly-established Training Institute.

In addition to the certificates that were presented to the 2017 candidates by Steve Jackson, Special Advisor to the President and CEO and Vice President Workplace Health & Safety Services, WSIB and Ken Neumann as Board members of NIDMAR, recognition was made to the following:

Sil Cabral, who achieved his designation in 2006 and has continued to maintain his designation since then.

Erika Pond Clements, who wrote the examination with the first cohort in 2003 and provided the following quote at that time, "I was excited to find that a specific designation was available with a clearly defined set of standards. I felt it would give me the opportunity to reflect on my own practice and discover if my approach was in line with national and global indicators of excellence."

For further information concerning the professional designations in the field of Disability Management and Return to Work, please visit the Certification webpages of the NIDMAR website at [www.nidmar.ca](http://www.nidmar.ca)