



April 2016
Volume 3: Issue 8



*L to R: Ken Neumann, USW
Canadian National Director and
Wolfgang Zimmermann,
President, PCU-WHS*

USW Canadian National Director Recognized

The United Steelworkers Canadian National Director, Ken Neumann, was recognized recently at its conference in Montreal on April 7. The USW, a large private sector union in Canada and in North America, but especially its long time Canadian National Director Ken Neumann, played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS), which is unique in Canada through its establishment via private legislation in July 2007, and with the consent of every Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

PCU-WHS's campus is located in Port Alberni on Vancouver Island on a significant parcel of land donated by the City and with physical construction having been supported through a broad cross section of private and public stakeholders including the Federal Government.

PCU-WHS is Canada's only University exclusively dedicated to all aspects of Workplace Health: Occupational Health & Safety, Health Promotion, Return to Work and Disability Management, together with all Rehabilitation related fields.

In order to support a balanced socio-economic education and research focus in perpetuity, PCU-WHS's enabling legislation includes a requirement for equal representation from worker and employer representatives on its Board of Governors, its Academic Council and its Research Advisory Board.

The University obtained degree approval for Canada's first Bachelor of Disability Management in September 2013 and on December 17, 2015, the Hon. Wayne G. Wouters, PC, was sworn in as the University's Founding Chancellor by Her Honour, Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

The picture presentation to Ken Neumann, Labour Co-Chair of PCU-WHS, by Wolfgang Zimmermann, President of PCU-WHS, a disabled former member of IWA-Canada (now USW), who suffered a severe industrial accident during his first week on the job, recognizes that pivotal moment in time, with both Ken and Dean Winsor, Employer Co-chair of PCU-WHS (who is Vice President Human Resources of Teck Resources) assisting the Lieutenant Governor during the formal installation process.

While the establishment of PCU-WHS as a unique and dedicated University focused on achieving better outcomes in all areas related to Workplace Health was supported by many individuals and organizations across Canada and around the world, Ken's personal leadership and the USW's institutional support made it not only a reality, but created an invaluable instrument designed to provide leading edge research and education in Workplace Health for the future.

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