



# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON DISABILITY MANAGEMENT | 2018

## ***Challenges and Innovations for Workforce Health***

October 14-17, 2018  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



The Honourable W. G. Wouters, PC, OC  
Chancellor  
Pacific Coast University for  
Workplace Health Sciences

### *Welcome to IFDM 2018*

As Chancellor of the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the International Forum on Disability Management 2018. IFDM 2018 will be held on October 14-17, 2018 at the Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown Hotel in Vancouver, Canada.

It was my great pleasure to have accepted the official IFDM handover at the last Forum hosted by the Social Security Agency of the Government of Malaysia held in Kuala Lumpur in 2016. IFDM 2016 was preceded by a global series of highly successful IFDM's held in Vancouver in 2002, Maastricht in 2004, Brisbane in 2006, Berlin in 2008, Los Angeles in 2010, London UK in 2012, and Melbourne in 2014. And now it is back to Vancouver for 2018, and is scheduled for Brussels in 2020. Following the IFDM 2020, the Forum will be held as a triennial event hosted by the International Social Security Association, a United Nations affiliated agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

While the IFDM's have been very successful at highlighting leadership, innovation and leading edge research in our quest to reducing the socio-economic impact of mental and physical health impairments, we all know that our journey is far from over. There remain far too many citizens of the world who continue to suffer from a mental or physical health impairment. As a result, they are unable to find work and feel the stresses that unemployment and poverty can bring to them and their families, and the loss of self-respect when one is unable to participate fully in society.

I invite you to join us at IFDM 2018 as we continue with our efforts in identifying opportunities, potential solutions and successful programs and models which can assist those with a disability in their daily lives, and provide valuable ideas for employers, unions, governments and all other stakeholders engaged in increasing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.