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**Photo:**

**L to R Back Row:** Tom Rodriguez,  
Lorraine Sanderson, Sil Cabral,  
Christine Grzela, Denyse  
McFadden, Lani deHek;

**Front row:** Wolfgang Zimmermann,  
Evie DoCouto, Dianna St-Pierre;

**Missing from photo:** Rebecca  
Chow, Georgja Pomaki.

## New Board of Directors of CSPDM Holds First Meeting



With the significant expansion of the number of Certified Disability Management Professionals and Certified Return to Work Coordinators across Canada and around the world, the newly selected Board of the Canadian Society of Professionals in Disability Management held its first Board meeting at the offices of the WSIB in Toronto on November 28, 2018 under the leadership of CSPDM Board Chair, Evie DoCouto, WSIB Vice-President for Return-to-Work.

The increasing drive towards professionalization in the Return-to-Work / Disability Management field, not unlike other rapidly evolving professional areas, is driving workplace stakeholders across all relevant activities, whether employer, union, government, workers compensation, private providers and other participants, to recruit and employ individuals who have obtained either the CDMP or CRTWC designation following a rigorous 7-hour examination across 9 major, and 120 minor, domain areas of skills and knowledge and administered through a professional test agency.

Recognized in the International Social Security Association's Best Practice Guidelines on Return-to-Work as the gold standard in professional competence, CDMPs and CRTWCs now reflect a global professional community of over 4,000 individuals in 13 countries across all continents and expanding at a brisk pace with almost 700 across all Canadian provinces and territories.

Increasing provincial, national and international legislative requirements are driving increased attention towards improved Return-to-Work outcomes and are also recognizing that mental/physical health impairments play a very significant role in the rising incidence of poverty, homelessness, and addiction, which was recently documented by both federal and provincial public consultations.

CSPDM Board members from across Canada spent the day examining a range of opportunities for the Canadian Society on how best to contribute towards improving socio-economic outcomes for individuals who have acquired a mental/physical health impairment while employed, promote the increased professionalization of a critical skill set, and how to best tackle current and emerging health conditions through education and awareness.

The Board has begun and will continue to consult not only with the Canadian CDMP and CRTWC community, but also with the global CDMP and CRTWC Societies in various countries in order to develop an action plan which will address both identified priorities and deliver optimum value.