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## PCU-WHS Welcomes Federal Minister and Deputy Minister Veterans Affairs Canada



February 11 – Federal Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, his Deputy Minister, General Walter Natynczyk, and our Member of Parliament, Gord Johns, took time yesterday from their busy schedules to stop by the University in order to learn more about its unique and innovative Return to Work and Disability Management programming and delivery format.

With Veterans Affairs Canada currently supporting 25 Veterans going through the University's 25-module Disability Management Practitioner continuing education program, a waiting list of 25 individuals, and almost daily enquiries of when this opportunity might be opened again, the collective discussion following an overview of PCU-WHS programming and the Disability Management competency domain areas in general, identified several pathways and necessary steps to be taken in order to make this a reality.

The program to date has been very successful with a significant number of individuals scheduled to complete their courses as scheduled in June 2020, and a number of others requiring accommodations, expected to conclude their courses by early next spring.

We are working with the Public Service Commission of Canada (which is responsible for promoting and safeguarding a merit-based, representative and non-partisan public service that serves all Canadians, in collaboration with stakeholders) where the hiring of Veterans is a priority, in identifying and supporting actual employment / opportunities for our Veteran students as they complete their educational programs.

In the context of operational implementation of C-81, the Accessible Canada Act and the corresponding Public Service initiatives where the "Hiring, Retention and Promotion" of persons with disabilities has been articulated as a key priority, these students can be expected to become major contributors in achieving much improved socio-economic outcomes for federal government employees who acquire a mental or physical health impairment during their employment and are at risk of job loss.

Picture courtesy of Minister MacAulay's Twitter feed.

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