



*Preventing Needless Work Disability Across North America*

## The 60 Summits Project Fact Sheet

The 60 Summits Project is taking a grass-roots approach to transforming North American disability benefits and workers' compensation systems and the outcomes they produce. The plan for our national non-profit organization is to inspire people in a variety of professions and organizations to join together as volunteer groups and then to support them as they:

- Plan and convene Summit meetings in all 50 US states and 10 Canadian provinces on the topic of improving how the stay-at-work and return-to-work (SAW / RTW) process\* works. In the Summit meetings, all stakeholders\*\* sit side by side in a workshop format to:
  - Learn about the new work disability prevention paradigm embodied in an ACOEM guideline entitled "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed"
  - Decide whether and how to implement each of ACOEM's 16 recommendations for improving the SAW / RTW process, and then make plans to make those things become standard practice in their own daily practice, organization, community, and state / province.
- Form action groups that continue to propagate the work disability prevention paradigm among their colleagues and constituencies, and take on-going action to implement positive changes in disability benefits and workers' compensation programs in their own organizations, community, and jurisdiction.

The 60 Summits Project's founder and national chairperson is Dr. Jennifer Christian who has received several awards for this work. She led the committee of 21 U.S. and Canadian physicians who developed the guideline for the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM).

Since its founding in 2006, The 60 Summits Project has been gaining strength and momentum. Our mission and approach appeal strongly to experienced professionals who are uncomfortable with the harm being done to people and the resources wasted by today's "systems." They want to be part of an effort to improve outcomes.

- Summits already held: Arizona, British Columbia, California, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana (3), New Mexico, North Dakota (4), Ohio, Oregon (2), Wisconsin
- Action groups formed: Arizona, British Columbia, California, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Wisconsin
- Summits scheduled: Nevada, Ontario
- In active planning: Hawaii, Indiana

The 60 Summits Project is a non-profit corporation equipped to provide thought leadership for this project on a continental scale -- to hold the on-going catalyst meetings that get new Summit planning groups started, to partner with those groups and guide them as they plan their Summit events, to keynote and facilitate the Summits, and support follow-up action groups. We are now building capability to serve as a central administrative and communications hub for follow-up action groups. Our sponsors underwrite central office activities, enable us to enter new jurisdictions, and support local activities. Additional sponsors are welcome.

If you are intrigued by the idea of a Summit in your state / province or are curious about The 60 Summits Project, go to [www.60Summits.org](http://www.60Summits.org), call 877-607-8664, or email [Jennifer.Christian@60Summits.org](mailto:Jennifer.Christian@60Summits.org). We welcome your joining forces with us. Let's turn ACOEM's blueprint for a better process into a reality!

---

\* The SAW / RTW process occurs whenever an employed person becomes injured, ill, or has had a change in their ability to function. It consists of a series of decisions and actions made separately by several parties that, taken as a whole, determine whether, when and how that person stays at or returns to work.

\*\* Stakeholders include all the parties who can either forward / support or delay / obstruct the SAW/RTW process: treating physicians and other clinicians, employers, benefits administrators, workers, judges, unions, legislators, regulators and policymakers, nurse case managers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, and so on. They are invited to the Summit meeting and sit side by side working on the issues together.