

# National Wound Community Think Tank: Mobilizing Canada's Skin Health And Wound Care Community

By John Hwang MD MSc FRCSC, Crystal McCallum RN MCISc and Darren Levine EdD

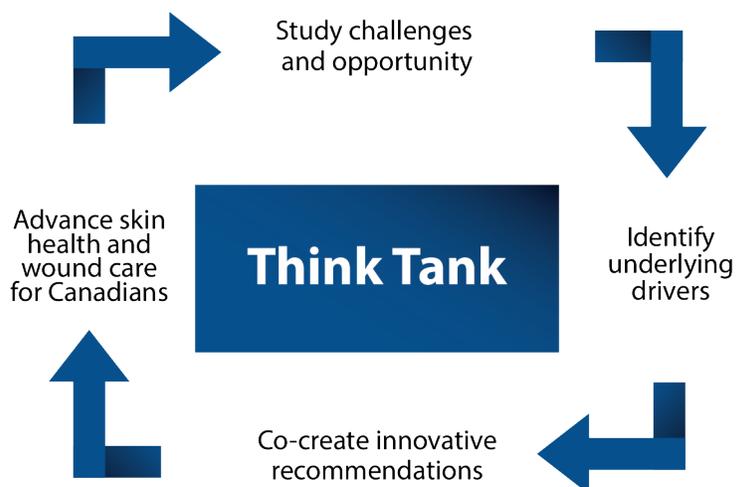
**How to cite:** Hwang J, McCallum C, Levine D. National Wound Community Think Tank: Mobilizing Canada's skin health and wound care community. Wound Care Canada. 2023;21(1): 42-44. DOI: [10.56885/TAQW7181](https://doi.org/10.56885/TAQW7181).

## Introduction

With an aim toward leveraging and mobilizing the knowledge and experience of a diverse and representative group from across Canada's skin health and wound care community, a National Wound Community Think Tank was launched in February 2023 as an action and solutions-oriented working group of Wounds Canada.

## Cultivating 'Outside-the-Box' Thinking

This Think Tank brings together clinicians, patients, patient-advocates, educators, researchers, industry partners and other stakeholders from coast to coast. Through facilitated dialogue and co-creation processes, Think Tank members study areas of challenge and opportunity surrounding skin health and wound care within Canada's health-care system, identifying underlying drivers and





co-creating potential innovative recommendations and paths forward. The shared goal among Think Tank members is the advancement of skin and wound care for all Canadians within the complexities of our health-care system and our current and anticipated post pandemic realities.

### **Reflecting Canada's Diverse Wound Care Community**

The National Wound Community Think Tank aims to represent the interdisciplinary, interprofessional and multicultural nature of Canada's wound care community and is working towards gathering representatives from health regions across Canada. Current membership includes more than 25 leading wound care experts from across academia, hospitals, community clinics, health-care associations and industry, alongside patients, patient-advocates and patient-partners. The diversity of its membership ensures that a range

of perspectives, lived experiences and worldviews are considered and listened to, so that we may learn from one another.

### **Developing Recommendations That Consider Multiple Perspectives**

The National Wound Community Think Tank aims to consider skin health and wound care in Canada through multiple lenses, including (but not limited to): patient experience, provider experience, population health, value-driven care and equity.<sup>1</sup> These perspectives guide Think Tank members in their co-creation of strategic recommendations to advance Wounds Canada's pillars of research, education, awareness and advocacy.

Following Think Tank gatherings, recommendations are shared with, and considered by, the Wounds Canada team and Board of Directors to inform planning and activities.



## 2023 Activities

In early 2023, Think Tank members reflected on Wounds Canada's priorities and national activities, and together, identified awareness of skin health and wound care among Canadians as an important initial challenge and opportunity for the think tank.

Think Tank gatherings were held in spring and fall 2023 and began to explore this area of focus through the perspectives of those delivering care (i.e., health-care practitioners); those receiving care (i.e., patients, family members, caregivers); those funding care (i.e., government policy makers) and through the lenses of educators and researchers across various fields of study associated with skin health and wound care.

Through facilitated dialogue, Think Tank members acknowledged the difficulties both patients and clinicians are experiencing. Members further highlighted the importance of all Canadians realizing how many people are affected by wounds. A key opportunity was identified to blend quantitative and qualitative data to highlight the full extent of the socio-economic impact and burden of wound care in Canada as part of a national awareness campaign. Think Tank members are now actively engaged in co-creating prototypes surrounding potential campaign possibilities to inform Wounds Canada's 2024 awareness strategy and initiatives.

## Cultivating Community And Creativity

Although in its early stages, the Think Tank aims to build a sense of community, unity and social support among members while simultaneously cultivating the collaborative creativity necessary to incubate new ideas. Members have begun to draw on one another's experiences and expertise to question current thinking and practice, explore a range of divergent ideas and possibilities and find unity through diversity to converge on paths forward. Impacts and outcomes of the Think Tank and its activities will be formally evaluated over the course of 2024.

## Next Steps

In the months ahead, the National Wound Community Think Tank will continue to hold space for members to co-create awareness-focused recommendations, while expanding its focus to other areas of priority surrounding skin health and wound care in Canada.

At the same time, the Think Tank will be seeking to expand membership to ensure broad representation from across Canada. In doing so, it aims to mobilize the knowledge, experience, and expertise of Canada's skin health and wound care community to improve outcomes for all Canadians.

To learn more about the National Wound Community Think Tank, as well as other initiatives underway through Wounds Canada, please visit <https://www.woundscanada.ca/about/committees-and-partnerships>. 

## References

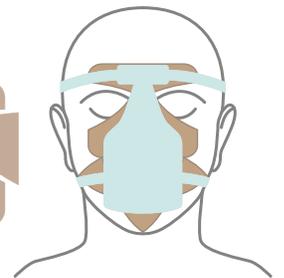
1. Nundy S, Cooper L, Mate K. The quintuple aim for health care improvement: A new imperative to advance health equity. *JAMA* [Internet]. 2022;327(6): 521–522. Available from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35061006/> DOI: 10.1001/jama.2021.25181

Mepilex® Lite with Safetac® Technology

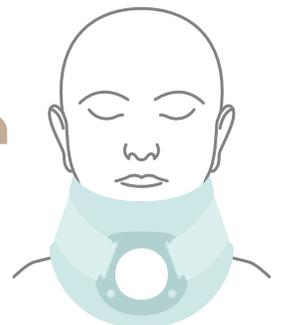
# One dressing, customized to fit.



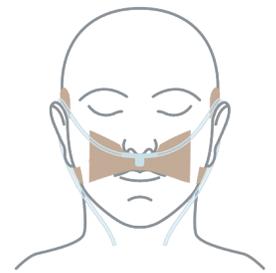
1



2



3



reddot winner 2022

Mepilex® Lite dressings conform well to difficult-to-dress areas

