

## ***Dear Canadians,***

During this election campaign, we are bringing your attention to a 12-billion-dollar issue that will affect everyone in Canada at some point in their lives. On any day, there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians living with or at risk for serious wounds—including pressure injuries (bed sores), diabetic foot ulcers and complex surgical incisions. These wounds impact individuals, families and our economy through prolonged hospital stays, preventable foot and leg amputations, lost productivity and more. The infographic here highlights the costs and gives a snapshot of the issue.

### **Government Needs to Be Part of the Solution**

Experience and research have demonstrated that when governments step in to support excellence in skin health and wound care everyone benefits.

*Why?* Because every dollar invested in skin health and wound care reduces suffering, saves lives and delivers measurable returns for Canada. These returns include improved health in people at risk for or with wounds; less time away from family, work and play; less strain on the health system and a better work environment for our essential health-care providers. Government awareness of this issue is particularly important now as we are entering an era of supply and resource challenges given the global response to changes in trade practices. Such changes could risk access to wound care supplies and services essential to skin health and wound care. Wounds Canada believes Canadians requiring wound care should not be disadvantaged in any way due to the global trade disruptions.

### **Wounds Canada recommends that governments invest in:**

1. Making skin health and wound care a priority as part of our national publicly funded not-for-profit health system
2. Training health-care providers across all sectors in skin health and wound care
3. Ensuring Canadians and health-care providers have uninterrupted access to wound care supplies, services and products that meet their care needs

### **How You Can Help**

As you get to know the candidates in your riding, **share this information and our recommendations** to inform their views on skin health and wound care.

**With \$12 billion being spent annually on wound care in Canada, this issue must be taken seriously. Let's work together to make skin health and excellence in wound care priorities!**


*Best regards,*  
Wounds Canada

# A Hidden Epidemic

**Dear Canadians,**  
When you **vote** in this election,  
please consider ...



CANADA WOUND CARE SPENDING:  
**\$12.0 billion**  
DIRECT COSTS

 **50% of nursing visits** involve wound care delivery in the community

 **35% of persons** receiving community care have a chronic wound

 **26% of persons** in any health-care setting have a pressure injury

**Preventing and treating wounds** must be a **priority** for policy makers.



**Patients and their families** need to know that skin health and wounds will affect them all at some point in their lives.

Funding skin health and wound care will **save Canada money** in the long run.



Health-care professionals need **training** to learn and implement best practices.

