



News In Wound Care

Resources

National Hybrid Conference: A Wound Care Networking and Educational Experience



Wounds Canada hosted its national hybrid conference at RBC Place in London, Ontario, October 17–19, 2024, with over 400 people in attendance

and over 1000 people joining virtually.

The conference theme, *Canada's Wound Care Landscape: Prevention, Healing and Excellence*, offered attendees a diverse selection of wound care topics and workshops to hone their wound care skills.

The three-day conference featured 35 academic sessions, eight sponsored sessions, three workshops and over 40 research posters. Attendees enjoyed meeting with industry representative in the Exhibit Hall to learn about new products, listen to the research findings at the Poster Café and

connect with policy facilitators to hear about policy implementation from across Canada at the Policy Café.

The first day of the event included the scholarship presentations celebrating the recipients of these beneficial wound care awards. Congratulations to our winners!

Skin Health Advocate Resource Professional (SHARP) Scholarship Awards

1. **Chu Lin MD CCFP**, Edmonton, Alberta. Scholarship funding donated in memory of Bob Wilson.
2. **Julianne Tower RN BScN**, Ardrossan, Alberta. Scholarship funding in memory of Matt Anderson.

Best Practice Approach to Skin Health and Wound Management: (A100MNN) Knowledge Scholarship

Abigail Andoh RN, Ottawa, Ontario.

Unregulated Care Providers Scholarship

Monica Louisor, Scarborough, Ontario.

The ceremony for the first graduating class of the Wound Care Champion Program in Ontario was also held at the conference with a special tribute by Karima Velji, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health of Ontario.

Plans are already underway for the next Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference

celebrating our 30th anniversary. Have your say and complete the needs assessment to offer your input in shaping the next conference agenda.

Click here: [2025 Wounds Canada Needs Assessment](#)

We appreciate your input!

Policy Cafés Explore Regional Health Policies

The inaugural Policy Cafés were held during the 2024 Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, featuring a series of interactive and casual events that included representatives from various provinces who shared crucial information and participated in useful a dialogue with attendees.

Led by Jane McSwiggan, MSc OT Reg MB

IWCC, the informal sessions had objectives which included: sharing success stories related to advocacy at the organizational and regional level to advance enhanced wound prevention



and care; identifying barriers to implementing policies supporting skin health and wound management; engaging in dialogue to determine best ways to spread successes in wound prevention and management across jurisdictions; brainstorming actionable solutions to overcome gaps in wound care policy across jurisdiction and inspiring a network of advocates committed to promoting policy changes in wound care.

Based on positive post-event feedback the objectives were met.

Four round table sessions were held, led by wound care professionals from each region:

- *British Columbia*: Rosemary Hill
- and Dr. John Hwang
- *Ontario*: Allison Luther
- *Alberta*: Charlene Brosinsky
- *Quebec*: Chantal Lebrecque and Joumana Fawaz.

Each café delivered research data and first-hand accounts of their success stories in issues such as: involving offloading (issues with device equity and distribution, roles, building it into curriculums), turning provincial data requests into reciprocal relationships, clinical care topics as documents of change, and how RMAQ requirements relate to prescribing and reimbursements related to wound care.

Look to the summer issue of *Wound Care Canada* for further details about these Policy Cafés sessions and the insights heard by attendees.

Diabetic Foot Ulcer Roundtable Held At 2024 National Conference

Wounds Canada, in partnership with Memorial University and the Limb Preservation Alliance, hosted the Canadian DFU Policy Roundtable: Moving Recommendations at the 2024 Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference.

The burden of diabetic foot complications is alarmingly high in Canada. For individuals with diabetes, these devastating foot complications can lead to illness, lower quality of life, amputation, disability and death. A factor contributing to this burden is limited health-care policies that effectively address the prevention and treatment of these complications.

Led by Dr. Zulfiqarali Abbas of D-Foot International and Dr. Kathleen Stevens of Memorial University, this roundtable captured information crucial to efforts to end unnecessary amputations related to diabetes worldwide. This information will provide help to guide immediate recommendations for action steps for policymakers.



Wounds Canada Partnerships

Wounds Canada Teams With CIHI To Address Inequities In Prevention Of Diabetes Related Leg Amputations

An initiative involving Wounds Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is aimed at revealing inequities in care with the goal of preventing diabetes-related leg amputations.

To urgently assist in providing equitable care, Wounds Canada CEO Mariam Botros, DCh DE IIWCC MEd, and Irmajean Bajnok, RN BScN MScN PhD, Wounds Canada Education and Policy Director, have partnered with CIHI researchers on the recently published report *Equity in diabetes care: A focus on lower limb amputation*.

Equity of preventative care is an issue across Canada. Because lower-limb amputations are largely preventable, timely access to care is essential.

The CIHI report was prompted by the 2021 National Framework for Diabetes Act, which called for expanded data collection and reporting on diabetes-related indicators with a focus on health inequities. Wounds Canada speaks for Canadians health-care providers and patients and their care partners to promote prevention and to ensure that all Canadians have the same, and timely, access to

best-practice-based care.

Key findings from the report include:

- From 2020–2021 to 2022–2023, there were more than 3,000 leg amputations and more than 4,500 ankle, foot or toe amputations associated with diabetes annually.
- Patients who received a leg amputation spent a lengthy 19 days in hospital, at an average cost of \$47,000 per stay.
- Lower limb amputations related to diabetes disproportionately impact men, those living in neighbourhoods with lower income, lower education and higher social isolation and those living in rural and remote areas.

This report will help focus policy makers and health-care providers on early prevention and effective interventions and provide individuals with diabetes and their families with necessary resources and support programs. Wounds Canada will use these data to advocate across the country for more equitable care for all Canadians.

Wounds Canada Prioritizes The ‘Voices Of Patients’ By Partnering With Lakehead University

Wounds Canada joined with Lakehead University in Thunder Bay ON to host a national exchange focused on patients experiences and their journeys through wound care in Canada,

as part of a long-term research project begun in 2022.

The project, called *Our Voices, Our Stories*, kicked off with a unique knowledge mobilization event where patients and patient advocates shared their stories of navigating Canada’s health-care systems and social life challenges to access wound care services. Event participants, including health-care providers and researchers, used the shared stories, reflections and dialogue to highlight several key areas of focus, including advocacy, change, collaboration, wound specialists, barriers, cultural safety and accessibility.

Visit: <https://www.woundscanada.ca/patient-or-caregiver/patient-stories>.

Wounds Canada and the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) Develop And Deliver Wound Care Champion Program

Through the Wound Care Champion program, which has been funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health, Wounds Canada and clinicians are helping to improve skin health.

Education and training are critical components in closing the wound care knowledge and practice gaps across health systems. The Wound Care Champion Program is creat-

ing a critical mass of clinicians ready to lead sustained evidence-based skin and wound management practices and policies in their organizations.

For more information on the Wound Care Champion Program, visit: <https://www.woundscanada.ca/programs/wound-care-champion-program-wccp>

Publications

Updated Best Practice Recommendations For Skin Health and Wound Management 2025 To Launch in New Year

Best Practice Recommendations for Skin Health and Wound Management 2025 is an invaluable resource available to the public that contains new information that

makes it even more useful in a wide variety of scenarios. This essential resource will be available digitally on the

Wound Canada website in early 2025.

These updated recommendations: provide guidance on how to implement the recommendations into practice; provide an overview of the structures and physiology of skin and the process of skin healing;



Best Practice Recommendations For Skin Health And Wound Management 2025

provide general recommendations for all wound types; provide information for specific wound types and factors that may affect wound healing; and use the Wound Prevention and Management Cycle to guide frontline clinicians and health decision makers through a step-by-step process that addresses the assessments, interventions and outcomes.

On publication, the new *Best Practice Recommendations* (BPRs) will be accessible at www.woundscanada.ca

Social Media, Awareness Campaigns, Public Relations

Wounds Canada believes in taking every opportunity to inform our followers and the general public about our crucial mission: raising awareness on the many approaches to effectively tackle

wound care. In the past few months, we ran several initiatives:

- A pressure injuries prevention campaign was executed throughout the month of November leading up to Worldwide Stop Pressure Injury Day, November 21, 2024.
- The CN tower in Toronto was lit up with our colours (red and white) on November 21, 2024, to highlight Stop Pressure Injury Day and Wounds Canada.
- Board member Linda Moss, Wounds Canada CEO Mariam Botros and Wounds Canada Director of Education and Policy Irmajean Bajnok were on the TV program *Savvy Seniors*, where they talked about pressure injuries.
- We posted messages on our multiple platforms on November 14, 2024 - World Diabetes Day.

- A number of media releases were sent out to showcase the key events at conference.



- A crucial article in *Innovation News* was published in November, highlighting our continued efforts.



Editorial deadline for Summer 2025 issue: March 15.

If so, we'd love to share it with the wound care community.

Please send expressions of interest or inquiries to ian.corks@woundscanada.ca