



NURSES SPECIALIZED IN  
WOUND, OSTOMY AND CONTINGENCE  
CANADA

INFIRMIÈRES SPÉCIALISÉES EN  
PLAIES, STOMIES ET CONTINGENCE  
CANADA

# 2023-2024 Annual Report

**Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and  
Contingence Canada (NSWOCC)**

1-888-739-5072 | [www.nswoc.ca](http://www.nswoc.ca) | [office@nswoc.ca](mailto:office@nswoc.ca)





NSWOCC Members from Quebec Region & French Community of Practice pose for a photo at the 42nd National Conference in May 2023

**NSWOCs and SWANs lead excellence in wound, ostomy and continence care, enhance lives and innovate. It is their calling and passion.**

**We embrace this in our mission and vision as we strive to build a vibrant profession and supported healthcare system.**

**We believe that every person deserves specialized wound, ostomy and continence care.**

## **Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC)**

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**We wish to acknowledge the traditional homeland of the many diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people whose Elders have walked this land before us and those persons of whom we share this great land with today.**



**Bev Smith and Michelle Buffalo, co-leads of the Indigenous Wound, Ostomy and Continence Health Core Program**







## NSWOCC President Report

**Marcia Leard, RN, BScN, NSWOC,  
WOCC(C)**

It is never quiet at the NSWOCC. There are always multiple activities at all levels and all with a goal of promoting growth and knowledge for Members of the association. Activities need to demonstrate benefits to patients and to the specialty for Members to find worthwhile the countless hours they contribute to their completion through participation in BPR development, peer review and Core Programs.



There is no doubt that the Association is growing. By the end of 2023, the 1000 Member mark was reached which is a new record. New Members bring new experiences and new perspectives to the association. A new Core Program was also launched in the past year – Harm Reduction in Wound, Ostomy and Continence. The current issues in Canadian health care make the work of this new Core Program both necessary and timely. We look forward to hearing about their accomplishments.

Advocacy efforts are always in progress. Summits to advocate for Wound, Ostomy and Continence care have occurred in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Alberta in the last 18 months and the next is scheduled for Mississauga, Ontario on June 7, 2024. With every outing, more is learned about the challenges facing wound,



ostomy and continence patients, their caregivers, and healthcare professionals. These discussions with government and healthcare administration/management have resulted in more meetings about ostomy and supply reimbursement and the enrollment of professionals in several WOC Institute programs. Slowly but steadily progress is being made.

Multiple projects and resources have been completed which you will see highlighted throughout this annual report. Several new projects will be introduced at this year's NSWOCC National Conference in Calgary. A huge "Thank You" to all our Members involved in this work. We recognize how much time and effort you put in on behalf of your patients and colleagues!

After three years of virtual conferences, we met again – Face to Face – for our National Conference in Ottawa in May 2023. It was great to see everyone! Attendance was strong at just under 600 and there were excellent and informative education sessions to meet a wide range of needs. Thank you to Mary Hill and the conference planning team! We are looking forward to what you have for us this year in Calgary (May 1 to 5, 2024).

Dr. Kimberly LeBlanc and her team at the WOC Institute are always busy. Program offerings continue to expand, and the number of students increase. There is a new course offering to help us better serve the needs of patients in the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community. Please check it out on the [www.nswoc.ca](http://www.nswoc.ca) website.

NSWOCC continues to collaborate with multiple organizations in order to provide superior patient care and Member service. These include Ostomy Canada, Wounds Canada, WoundPedia, and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario to name a few. Also, we cannot forget to include our collaborative activities with our industry partners. This relationship has always been of great benefit to patient care. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your President for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed the experience and learned so much from being a part of this dynamic association. It has always been a pleasure to work with my Member colleagues. I would like to welcome Corey Heerschap into the role and know he will be a terrific representative of the association.

Sincerely,

Marcia Leard RN BScN NSWOC WOC(C)







## Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Report

Catherine Harley, RN, IIWCC, eMBA



### A Summary of NSWOCC Results 2023-2024

Exceeding 1,000 Members and Associates with a 20% growth rate by the end of 2023 was a major achievement. With generational shifts in the healthcare work force, a recession prone economy and the availability of new and innovative technology, our Membership Core Program has been diligently working to better understand the needs of our Members and Associates through survey results and develop a benefits package with newer offerings like a Journal Club and Newsletter that bring value. We have a responsibility to keep Membership relevant, meaningful, and cost value evident. Maintaining and growing our Members and Associates is a key priority for NSWOCC and we will continue to work on ways to improve the Membership experience

Our mission is top of mind:

- Leading excellence is our passion.
- Enhancing lives is our inspiration.
- Innovation is our commitment.

and we work to support our vision:

- Every person deserves specialized wound, ostomy and continence care.



## CEO Report



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- It takes a team of committed staff and volunteers to deliver the results that have been achieved. Thank you to all Board Directors, Core Program Leaders, volunteers, and staff who contributed to the following in any manner:

### Launch of new groups to better meet the needs of the Members and Associates:

- Membership Core Program, which includes the Journal Club
- SWAN Community of Practice
- Paediatric Community of Practice
- Harm Reduction Community of Practice
- NSWOCC Industry Advisory Council (NIAC)
- Canadian Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (CPIAP)
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility Task Force

NSWOCC Members and Associates are welcome to join any of the NSWOCC Core Programs and or Communities of Practice by e-mailing [office@nswoc.ca](mailto:office@nswoc.ca).

### Successful completion of the following projects:

- Paediatric Incontinence- Associated Dermatitis (PIAD): Canadian Best Practice Recommendations
- Parastomal Hernia Prevention, Assessment, and Management: Canadian Best Practice Recommendations
- Percutaneous Enteral Feeding Tubes: Canadian Best Practice Recommendations (available in English/French)

All of the above documents are available on the NSWOCC website at <https://www.nswoc.ca/bpr> in order for you to be able to access them and use within your clinical practice.

### New Projects Available May 2024 – May 2025:

- Malignant Cutaneous Wounds – Canadian Best Practice Recommendations
- Urinary Catheter Decision Aid
- Virtual Consultation Tool Kit
- Canadian Best Practices in Wound Care for people Who Use Drugs: A Harm Reduction Approach
  - available May 2025

### In order to strengthen communications:

- Both the NSWOCC and Wound, Ostomy and Continence websites were re-designed for easy navigation and a more modern look.





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- Launched the Sharing Circle website to support culturally safe communications on wound, ostomy and continence to Indigenous Communities.
- A Digital Marketing Coordinator was hired to increase our communications and social media reach.
- A new Member Newsletter: “The Integrity/L’Intègre” was launched.

### Continuing Education Was Expanded

- Webinar Series was expanded
- Registration increased from 35-40 registrants in 2020 to up to one webinar even having over 600 registrants in 2024.

### NSWOCC National Conferences went back to “in-person”

- Westin Ottawa had over 550 participants May 3-7, 2023
- Calgary Hyatt Regency May 1-5, 2024
- Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal, Quebec, May 25-28, 2025

### Partnerships

- NSWOCC supported the Ontario Skin and Wound ECHO Project in Ontario for continuing education.
- Collaborating with the WOCN on a North American Skin Tear Best Practice Document
- Collaborating with Mimosa of Nova Scotia on a research study focused on early detection of patients at risk of pressure injuries.
- Formed a partnership with the Canadian Palliative Care Nurses Association to work on the best Practice Recommendations for Malignant Cutaneous Wounds
- Developed a partnership with the Canadian Harm Reduction Nurses Association and Canadian People who use drugs to work on the Canadian BPR for people who use drugs- a harm reduction approach.
- Discussions on partnering with Indigenous Services Canada are taking place.

### Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility (EDI and A)

- A task force was established
- An EDI and A policy was developed and approved by the NSWOCC Board
- A plan to implement the policy is in progress
- Three new scholarships were established for NSWOC and SWAN students:
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Nurses Award, Black Nurses Award, Nurses of Colour Award





### Advocacy

Implementation of two Summits in 2023 and one coming in 2024 which supported the positioning of the NSWOC and SWAN role, the value of the tri-specialty of wound, ostomy and continence, and ostomy reimbursement as follows:

- New Brunswick Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit – June 1, 2023
- Alberta Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit – October 5, 2023
- Ontario Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit - June 7, 2024

NSWOCC supported a group of dedicated NSWOCs and ostomy patients to develop a new model for ostomy reimbursement in the province of New Brunswick.

### Recognition of NSWOCs and SWANs 2023 and 2024

- NSWOC Week was celebrated April 17-21, 2023—save the date for April 15-19, 2024
- SWAN Week was celebrated September 18-22, 2023 –save the date for September 16-20, 2024

### Publications

#### **We continued to grow and develop NSWOCC Publications:**

- Further development of the NSWOC Advance
- Peer reviewed articles continued to be published in English and French
- French language reviewer added to the team

#### **Continued our business relationship with WOCN with the JWOCN**

- Provided Canadian feature articles.
  - Signed another 5-year contract with no price increase

#### **Joint Consensus on Debridement between the Society of Tissue Viability & NSWOCC – is ready for publication in 2024.**

- This article will be published in the Society of Tissue Viability Journal in 2024 or 2025

### Wound, Ostomy and Continence (WOC) Institute Key Results

- Achieved recognition of credits for the NSWOC Program to be applied to the entry of the Curtin University (Perth, Australia) Masters of Advanced Practice in Wound, Ostomy and Continence.
- Launched the:
  - SWAN Program and more than doubled the registration within 2 years
  - Advanced Wound Debridement Course





## CEO Report



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- Paramedic Wound Care Associate Course
- Ostomy Management Course
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Basics for Health Care Professionals Module
- Filled all seats for the English NSWOC Program.
- Grew the French NSWOC program.
- Re-developed the Wound Management PES
- Re-developed the ISWA Program.
- Maintained CNA certification.
- Achieved Canadian Nurses Association accreditation for NSWOC, SWAN and Wound Management PES programs.
- Achieved ongoing WCET Accreditation for the NSWOC Program
- Achieved long term accreditation from WCET.
- Grew the number of scholarships for WOC Institute students.
- Moved the textbook project to a professional publisher: Springer.

### Official Interest Group Support and Management

NSWOCC continued to provide support and management of the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) and the Canadian Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (CPIAP)

### Where do we go next? The 2024-2027 NSWOCC Strategic Plan

On October 21, 2023, the NSWOCC Board of Directors, Core Program leaders and NSWOCC Staff, came together virtually in order to participate in a strategic planning session. The goal was to develop a strategic plan to provide direction to NSWOCC from 2024 to 2027. After completing a pre-meeting questionnaire and giving considerable thought to what the next three years in the Canadian healthcare system could look like and the role that NSWOCC will play, they debated the top strategic priorities of the association for the next three years.

Innovation in wound, ostomy and continence care, technological advances, the use of data, and growing pressures on the healthcare system are redefining wound, ostomy and continence care and the context in which the NSWOCC contributes to the health of Canadians. While these changes bring new opportunities to the nursing profession, they also come with unprecedented challenges.

These challenges include evolving our health care system to better meet the needs of our nation's aging population, new understandings about delivering culturally appropriate health care, and an intense focus on outcomes and value. NSWOCC has now adopted a new three-year strategic plan that embraces a new health care landscape and strengthens our contribution to society. We aim to drive positive change that ultimately results in a vibrant profession and a supported wound,





ostomy and continence patient population. To implement this strategic plan, NSWOCC will be courageous and influential in addressing issues, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and unite and inspire nurses and aligned healthcare professionals on significant health matters in wound, ostomy and continence.

The NSWOCC 2024-2027 strategic plan is about boldly taking on the issues that impact wound, ostomy and continence that nurses, aligned health care professionals and patients care about. Our strategy recognizes that education is an essential part of our mandate and achieving success in advocacy depends on a highly engaged nurses specialized in wound, ostomy and continence (NSWOCs) and skin wellness associate nurses (SWANs) combined with an ongoing dialogue with patients, administrators, government and aligned organizations. As we look to new cooperative approaches with key partners, our commitment to Members and the profession remains front and centre in our new strategic plan. Our goal is to unite and inspire Canada's nurses specialized in wound, ostomy continence (NSWOCs) and skin wellness associate nurses (SWANs) and aligned healthcare professionals on important health issues, related to wound, ostomy and continence and to work tirelessly to improve the health of the patients that we serve.

I look forward to the launch of the new 2024-2027 strategic plan. Please attend the 2024 Annual members Meeting May 2, 2024 in order to learn more about the strategic plan. In the meantime, I will provide a summary over the next few pages of this annual report.

Thank you again to the Board, the Core Program Leaders, The WOC Institute Chair and Faculty, to everyone who volunteered for NSWOCC and to the staff - without you we would not be able to accomplish what we do.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harley, RN, IIVCC, eMBA  
CEO NSWOCC



# 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Summary

## NSWOCC's Purpose

**As a registered charity, the purpose of Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada is to promote public health by:**

- 1. providing access to comprehensive specialized nursing care for patients with challenges in the areas of wound, ostomy, and or continence;**
- 2. educating the public and allied health professional, community, and government groups about the practice of wound, ostomy and continence nursing;**
- 3. developing and maintaining a code of ethical conduct for nurses specialized in wound, ostomy and continence, and educating the public and allied health professional, community and government groups about said code;**
- 4. defining, evaluating, and revising core clinical competencies for nurses specialized in wound, ostomy and continence;**
- 5. providing a specialized nursing wound, ostomy and continence educational program for registered nurses that supports eligibility for Canadian Nurses Association certification;**
- 6. providing and promoting continuing education for nurses specialized in wound, ostomy and continence as well as educational programs for allied health professionals and students who are interested in advancing their knowledge of the nursing management of patients with wound, ostomy, or continence issues; and**
- 7. supporting research in the areas of wound, ostomy and continence.**







## Mission

Leading excellence is our passion.  
Enhancing lives is our inspiration.  
Innovation is our commitment.

## Vision

Every person deserves specialized wound, ostomy and continence care.

## Strategic Objectives

Profession

Patients & Aligned Organizations

1. Inspire by providing value in the lives of Members and the people we serve.
2. Innovate wound, ostomy & continence education.
3. Advocate to influence policy & change.
4. Collaborate to find solutions uniting members and patients on WOC causes that matter.



# NSWOCC's Core Values are Guiding Principles

NSWOCC continues to be defined by its core values, which guide its actions and decisions. We are known for:

## Nursing Specialty Excellence.

Setting the highest standards of wound, ostomy and continence through education, national standards, advocacy initiatives and Core Programs.

## Leadership.

Influencing and inspiring others to achieve optimal wound, ostomy and continence outcomes for all.

## Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility.

Bringing diverse communities together to pursue excellence in wound, ostomy and continence care.

## Collaborative Partnerships.

Uniting aligned organizations in order to achieve common goals.

## NSWOCC Value Proposition



**ONE VOICE:** We advocate for solutions.



**COMMUNITY:** We convene and connect diverse networks & communities of practice across the continuum of care.



**AUTHORITY:** We bring credibility with relevant partnerships to address members issues.



**INSIGHT:** We engage health leaders & health researchers to develop policies that shape the future of WOC health for Canadians.



**LIFE-LONG LEARNING:** We develop & empower WOC leaders as transformation agents now & in the future.



**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** We support wound, ostomy & continence initiatives internationally.



# Environmental Scan

## Wound

### Canadian Wound Care Statistics

1. 1/3 of all community care clients have wound care needs<sup>1</sup>
2. 50% of care delivered by Home Care programs in Canada involves the management of wounds<sup>2</sup>
3. 80% of chronic wounds occur in community<sup>3</sup>
4. \$11 billion dollars is spent annually on wound care in Canada<sup>4</sup>

### The Cost of Wounds for Canadians (2022)



Source:

1. Biach, Wilson, Cummings 2010
2. Mclsaac, C. 2017
3. Graham et al 2003
4. Wounds International, 2023







## Pressure Injuries are Prevalent in Canada

**25%**  
ACUTE CARE

**30%**  
NON-ACUTE  
CARE

**22%**  
MIXED HEALTH  
SETTINGS

**15%**  
COMMUNITY  
CARE

**26%**  
MEAN  
PREVALENCE

Source:

5. Woodbury, M. G., & Houghton, P. E. (2004). Prevalence of pressure ulcers in Canadian healthcare settings. *Ostomy Wound Management*, 50(10), 22-24.
6. Boyle, D.K., Bergquist-Beringer, S., & Cramer, E. R. (2017). Relationship of wound, ostomy, and continence certified nurses and healthcare-acquired conditions in acute care hospitals. *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing*, 44(3), 283-292.





# Ostomy

## Canadian Ostomy Statistics

1. More than 135,000 people in Canada live with an ostomy and thousands undergo an ostomy surgery each year.<sup>7</sup>

Source:

7. Ostomy Canada Society 2023 based on disability tax credit claims

# Continence

## Canadian Continence Statistics

1. Urinary Incontinence : 3.3 million Canadians – nearly 10% of the population.<sup>8</sup>
2. According to the Canadian Urinary Bladder Survey, 16% of men and 33% of women over the age of 40 have symptoms of urinary incontinence but only 26% have discussed it with their doctor. <sup>8</sup>
3. Urge incontinence accounts for 22% of all incontinence and mixed incontinence accounts for 29% of all incontinence. <sup>8</sup>
4. 1% of people under the age of 65 and 4%–7% of people over 65 have fecal incontinence ( approximately 1 out of every 10 people).<sup>8</sup>

8. Source: Canadian Continence Foundation 2023.



# Nurses in Canada

## Total Number of Nurses Statistics

In 2021, there were 459,005 regulated nurses eligible to practise. The distribution of nurses by licence type is as follows:

### 312,382 registered nurses (RNs)

a growth of 2.5% from 2020. **Target for NSWOC Program and Advanced Wound Debridement Course.**



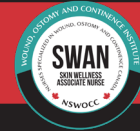
### 7,400 nurse practitioners (NPs)

a growth of 10.7% from 2020, the largest increase of all the nursing designations. In fact, NPs became one of the fastest-growing professions in health care. **Target for NSWOC Program and Advanced Wound Debridement Course.**



### 132,886 licensed practical nurses and registered practical nurses (LPNs/RPNs)

a growth of 1.6% from 2020. **Target for SWAN Program**



### 6,337 registered psychiatric nurses

a growth of 3.6% from 2020.

**LPNs/RPNs are the youngest group of nurses with an average age of about 41 years. RNs, NPs, and RPNs all had an average age of between 43-44 years. As a group, the nursing workforce is becoming younger, with average ages among each licence type decreasing slightly over the past year.**

Source:  
7. Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2023







## Employment Statistics

Percentage of regulated nurses by employment setting:

**54.6% worked in a hospital**

**13.7% worked in community health**

**13.6% worked in a nursing home/long-term care**

**7.4% worked in other employment settings**

Employment status of nurses in the workforce:

**60.8% of the workforce was employed full time**

**29.6% were employed part-time**

**9.5% were employed on a casual basis**

Source:

8. Canadian Institute for Health Information 2023





## Why NSWOCs and SWANs are needed in the Canadian Healthcare system

### 1. Canadian Healthcare System needs solutions for wound, ostomy and continence care

- Provincial and territorial governments spend over \$300 billion on health care each year.
- Healthcare spending makes up more than 35% of annual provincial/territorial budgets.
- Spending will only go up as Canada's population ages and chronic disease rates climb.
- Administrators and clinicians face pressure to minimize costs and deliver high-quality care. NSWOCs and SWANs can provide quality care for people experiencing wound, ostomy and continence issues.

Source:

9. Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2018). National Health Expenditure Trends, 1975 to 2018. Ottawa, ON: CIHI.



# The need for NSWOCs and SWANs



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## 2. The aging population and rise of chronic disease

- Proportion of people aged 60 years & older is growing faster than any other age group as a result of both longer life expectancy and declining fertility rates (WHO, 2014).
- By 2050, the proportion of Canada's elderly is estimated to be one in four persons (Statistics Canada, 2022).
- Economic models suggest that growth in healthcare costs due to population aging will be about 1% per year between 2010 and 2036. (Mackenzie & Rachlis, 2010)
- 1% growth still translates into considerable expenditures given that the public share of healthcare spending topped \$140 billion in 2013. (CIHI, 2013)

## 3. Social Determinants of Health

- Poverty is a greater risk factor in diabetes than diet or exercise.
- Canadians with annual incomes under \$30,000 are at least twice as likely to contract diabetes as those with incomes over \$80,000. (CMA 2016)
- Research estimates that 1 in 10 hospital admissions in Canada are due to diabetes and its complications. (CDA 2016)
- NSWOCs are trained to assess the lower limb and support limb preservation – SWANs can support NSWOCs in limb preservation as a part of the healthcare team.

## 4. Need to provide equitable access to wound, ostomy and continence care in Indigenous Communities

- Very few Indigenous communities have access to specialized care in wound, ostomy and continence.
- There is a need to train more nurses as NSWOCs and SWANs to better support Indigenous communities.







Corey Heerschap, RN, BScN,  
MScCH (WPC), NSWOC,  
WOCC(C), IIWCC

NSWOCC President 2024-2026.

## Let's Build a Movement to Drive Evidence-Based Wound, Ostomy and Continence Management in Canada

to make specialized wound, ostomy and continence management a national priority. As we implement this strategic plan together, we're calling NSWOCs, SWANs, aligned healthcare partners, and policymakers to join us in co-creating a better future for healthcare.

To stay updated on our progress please visit [www.nswoc.ca](http://www.nswoc.ca).



# NSWOCC: The People





# NSWOCC Leadership



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## Executive Board

President: Marcia Leard, RN, BScN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

President-Elect: Corey Heerschap,  
MScCH(WPC), BScN, RN, NSWOC,  
WOCC(C), IIWCC

Secretary: Tracy Fournier, RN, BScN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Treasurer: Misty Stephens, RN,  
MCISc(WH), BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Chief Executive Officer: Catherine  
Harley, RN, eMBA, IIWCC

## Core Program Leaders

Community Engagement: NSWOCC  
Board of Directors

French Community of Practice: Valérie  
Chaplain, IA, BSc Inf, ISPSC, PSCC(C)

Harm Reduction Community of Practice  
Co-Chairs:

- Lili Berescu, BScN, RN, NSWOC,  
WOCC(C)
- Priyanki Jani, BScN, RN, NSWOC,  
WOCC(C)

Indigenous Wound, Ostomy and  
Continence Health Co-Chairs:

- Bev Smith, RN, BScN, NSWOC
- Michelle Buffalo, RN, BScN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Membership: Shelly Barnes, RN, BN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

## Regional Directors

BC & Yukon: Rochelle De Clerk, RN,  
BScN, NSWOC

Prairies, NWT and Nunavut: Bev Smith,  
RN, BScN, NSWOC

Ontario: Roxie Demers, RN, BScN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Quebec: Audray Lafortune, Bsc.,  
infirmière clinicienne, stomothérapeute,  
PSCC(C)

Atlantic: Nancy Schuttenbeld, RN, MN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

National Conference Planning: Mary Hill,  
RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Paediatric Community of Practice: Emily  
Woodgate, BScN, RN-AP, NSWOC,  
WOCC(C)

SWAN Community of Practice: Sharon  
Hunter, RPN, IIWCC, SWAN

Professional Development: Debra  
Johnston, MN, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C),  
IIWCC

Publications: Lina Martins, RN, BScN,  
MScN, WOCC(C)

Research and Practice Co-Chairs:

- Karen Campbell, PhD, MScN, RN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)
- Kevin Woo, PhD, RN, FAPWCA,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

## NSWOC Advance Editorial Board

NSWOC Advance Editor in Chief: Lina  
Martins

French Editor: Louise Forest Lalande

British Columbia/Yukon: Karen Campbell

Prairies/Northwest Territories/Nunavut:  
Kevin Woo

Ontario: Lina Martins

Quebec/Atlantic: Louise Forest-Lalande





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INFIRMIÈRES SPÉCIALISÉES EN  
PLAIES, STOMIES ET CONTINENCE  
CANADA

# Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute

## WOC Institute Academic Chair

Kimberly LeBlanc, PhD, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C), FCAN

### Academic Registrar

Cheryl Harding

### French Program Manager

Nadia Houde

### Program Development: Preceptor Manager

- Cathy Downs
- Kim Merritt
- Julianne VanderMeer
- Carly Lindsay
- Nicholas Joachamides

Nicole Denis

## Academic Advisors

### Student Placement Coordinators

- Victoria McCallum
- Christie Cowan
- Jessica Larose

### Preceptor Markers

- Liette St Cyr
- Cecilia Yeung
- Barb Plumstead

### ISWA Program

- Nicholas Joachamides

### SWAN Program

- Vida Johnston
- Shelly Barnes
- Sue Bolton
- Susan Chandler
- Tracy Lillington

### NSWOC Program

#### Wound

- Cathy Downs
- Nicole Pitcher
- Susan Peckford
- Melanie Fauteaux
- Svea Menard
- Jacynthe Viau
- Stephanie Bourget

#### Ostomy

- Eleanore Howard
- Louise Samuel
- Mary Engel
- Josée Sénéchal

#### Continence

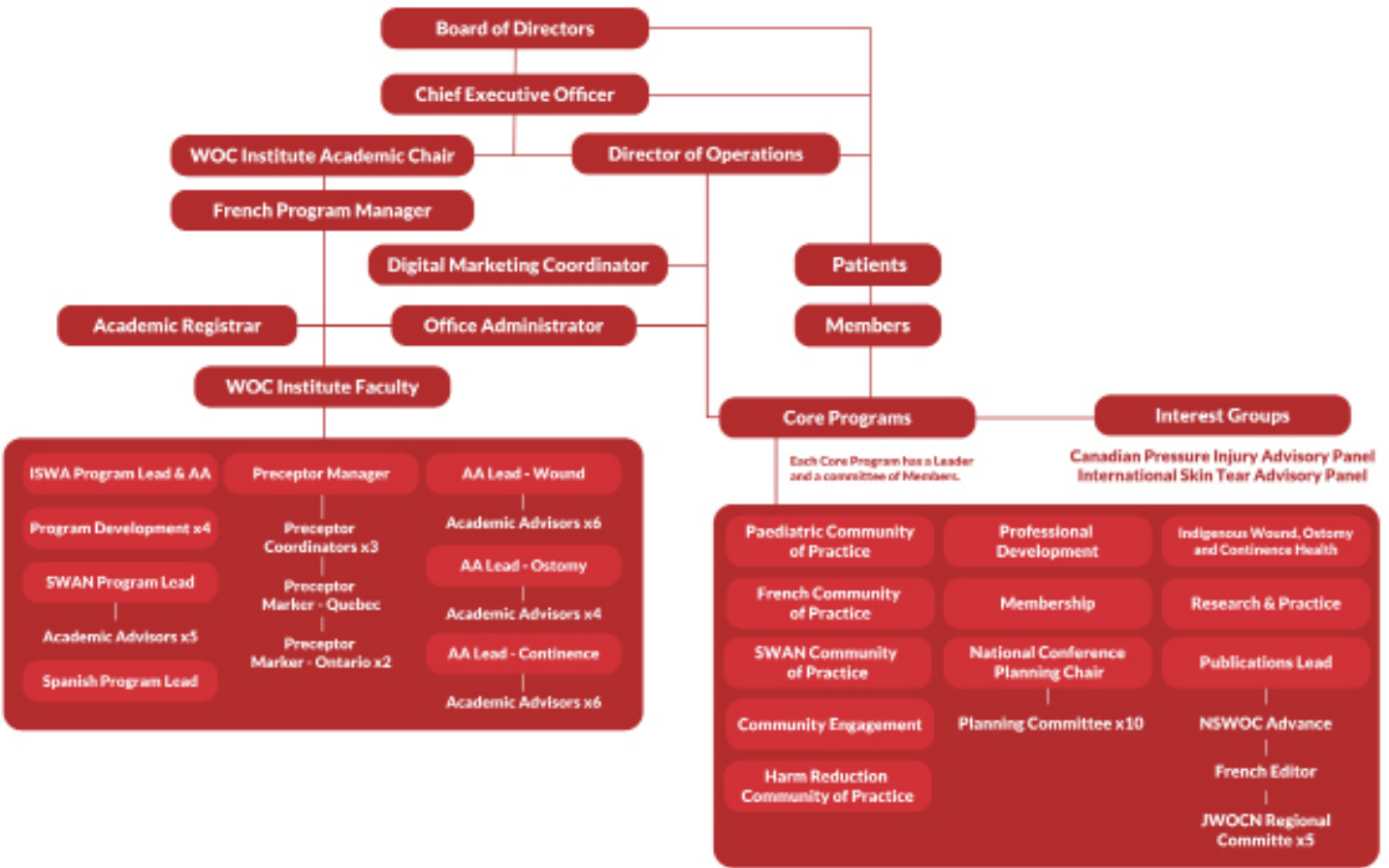
- Nicholas Joachimides
- Najwa Shbat
- Laura Robbs
- Carly Lindsay
- Marie-Andrée Masson
- Louise Forest-Lalande







# NSWOCC Organizational Chart



# Director of Operations Report

Troy Curtis, BHum(hons)



## Membership & Continuing Education Webinar Series

From 2023 to 2024, the NSWOCC membership experienced significant growth, indicating a positive trend in engagement and interest within specialized wound, ostomy and continence nursing across Canada.

All reports generated as of March 29, 2024.

### Registration by type

Analysis by registration type reveals varied patterns. Notably, Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy & Continence Members increased by 6.36%, demonstrating steady growth within this professional segment. Additionally, NSWOC (NSWOC Program) Student Associates surged by 50.87%, indicating a burgeoning interest among students pursuing specialization in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

The most remarkable growth was observed among Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) Student Associates, skyrocketing by 241.86%.

Registration Type	2023 Annual Report	2024 Annual Report	Growth
Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy & Continence Member	503	535	6.36%
NSWOC (WOC-EP) Student Associate	173	261	50.87%
Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) Student Associate	43	147	241.86%
Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) Associate	52	58	11.54%
Practice Enrichment Series Associate	37	24	-35.14%
Allied Healthcare Professional Associate	9	9	0.00%
Honorary Lifetime Member	6	9	50.00%
Industry Associate Plus	10	9	-10.00%
Full-time Student Nurse Associate	4	6	50.00%
Industry Associate	3	4	33.33%
Retired NSWOC Member	4	4	0.00%
Admin	4	2	-50.00%
International Associate	1	1	0.00%
Government/Administrative Professionals Associate	1	1	0.00%
Grand Total	850	1070	25.88%





**NSWOC Members from the Atlantic Region  
the 42nd National Conference in May 2023**

### Members by Region

Examining membership growth by region provides further insight into geographic trends. Ontario maintained its position as the most populous region with 48.4% of the total membership. British Columbia/Yukon followed, representing 15.7% of the membership, with British Columbia alone contributing 15.3%. The Prairies, NWT, and Nunavut collectively accounted for 14.6% of the membership, indicating a substantial presence in Western Canada. Notably, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces each represented 9.0% of the membership, highlighting a balanced distribution of members across various regions, in line with the general population distribution across Canada.

When considering the distribution of NSWOC Members, NSWOC Student Associates, SWAN Associates, and SWAN Students across each region, it's noteworthy that while 82% of SWAN Associates are currently from Ontario, the next cohorts of SWAN graduates will see a better distribution across Canada, with 25% of SWAN Students being from BC/Yukon, 12% from the Atlantic Region, and 11% from Prairies, NWT, and Nunavut.

Region (Province/Territory)	Total	%
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>48.4%</b>
<b>British Columbia/Yukon</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
British Columbia	164	15.3%
Yukon	4	0.4%
<b>Prairies, NWT, Nunavut</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
Alberta	101	9.4%
Saskatchewan	27	2.5%
Manitoba	16	1.5%
Northwest Territories	10	0.9%
Nunavut	2	0.2%
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Atlantic</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
Nova Scotia	41	3.8%
New Brunswick	38	3.6%
Prince Edward Island	9	0.8%
Newfoundland and Labrador	8	0.7%
<b>Not Provided</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>International</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

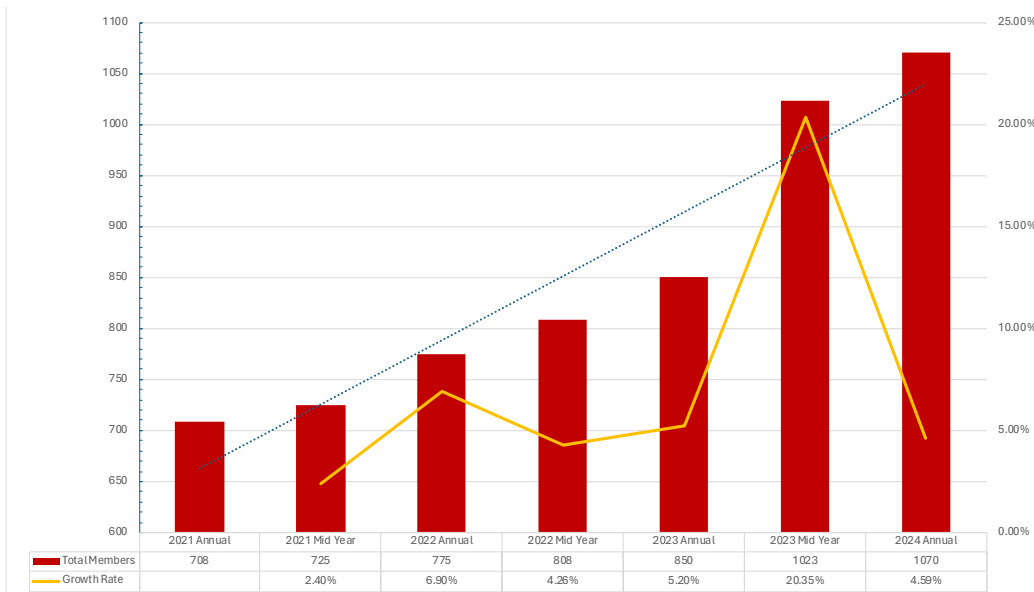




## Membership Growth 2021-2024

The overall growth of NSWOCC Membership from 850 in 2023 to 1070 Members in 2024, marking a 25.88% increase, underscores the Association's expanding reach and influence as the Canadian leader in specialized wound, ostomy, and continence care. This growth signifies a promising trajectory for NSWOCC and our wound, ostomy and continence community, indicating more engagement, increasing interest in specialized WOC Care among healthcare professionals & healthcare facilities, and growing geographic presence across Canada.

Continued efforts to support and bring more benefits to Members, along with targeted initiatives to address areas of decline or stagnation, will be vital in sustaining this positive momentum in the coming years. As a commitment to this mission, I'm delighted to be working alongside the Membership Core Program, led by Shelly Barnes, to help better our membership offerings & support, increase members' understanding of their role in the Association, and boosting engagement amongst members.



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## Membership Survey

In December 2023, we conducted a Membership Survey targeting NSWOCC Members. The survey was divided into three separate versions: one for NSWOCs and NSWOC Students, one for SWANs and SWAN Students, and one for all other NSWOCC Associates. Each version contained specific questions tailored to the respective groups.

The primary objectives of the Survey this year was to gather insights on:

- Duration of members' current positions.
- Roles and responsibilities in wound, ostomy, and/or continence care.
- Routes through which members obtained their roles.
- Recognition of NSWOC or SWAN roles by their facility/organization at a higher level than RN or LPN/RPN roles, potentially resulting in increased pay.
- Impact of becoming an NSWOC or SWAN on career progression.
- For NSWOCs/NSWOC students:
  - a. Benefits of becoming WOCC(C) certified for their careers.
  - a. Interest in pursuing a master's degree in wound, ostomy, and continence.

The survey results will be utilized to:

- Enhance efforts to attract more nurses to become NSWOCs and SWANs.
- Understand existing career growth pathways for NSWOCs and SWANs and provide support for their advancement.
- Advocate for the recognition of the valuable contributions of NSWOCs and SWANs by employers, facilities, and governments within the Canadian healthcare system.

By leveraging the insights gained from this survey, we aim to attract more nurses to become NSWOCs and SWANs, and to strengthen the position of NSWOCs and SWANs in the Canadian healthcare landscape and ensure their essential roles are acknowledged and valued appropriately.

NSWOCC is so thrilled to be able to announce that NSWOC® Program Graduates are now eligible for formal credits towards a Master of Advanced Practice (Wound, Ostomy and Continence Specialization) online through Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Learn more about this here: <https://www.nswoc.ca/post/masters>.

Finally, it was also to help inform the merchandize preferences from those Members who are planning to attend the NSWOCC 43rd National Conference. We look forward to seeing NSWOCC Members at the National Conference at the Hyatt Regency Calgary in Calgary AB from May 1-5, 2024, where we will be offering some of your most preferred NSWOCC merchandize at our dedicated boutique.



# Director of Operations Report



## Continuing Education Webinar Series

The Continuing Education Webinar Series underwent strategic refinement in 2023, emphasizing a standardized approach to booking, promoting, and facilitating webinars in collaboration with our Industry Associates partnered with NSWOCC.

The results indicate positive growth trends and enhancements in key metrics such as average viewership and registrants. With the support of our Industry Partners, we successfully hosted 22 webinars in 2023, and as of March 29th, 2024, we have conducted 9 webinars this year.

### Key Highlights:

- In 2023, the average number of live viewers per webinar rose to 151, compared to 113 in 2022.

In 2024, the average live viewership has increased to 167 so far.

- The average number of registrants per webinar reached 345 in 2023, up from 273 in 2022. In 2024, the average number of registrants stands at 364 so far.
- Attendance rates showed improvement, with the average attendance rate reaching 44% in 2023, compared to 41% in 2022. In 2024, the average attendance rate has risen to 46% so far.

Metric	2023	2024	Growth
<b>Number of Webinars</b>	22	9	
<b>Average # Live Viewers</b>	151	167	9.5%
<b>Average # Registrants</b>	345	364	5.3%
<b>Average Attendance Rate</b>	44%	46%	4.2%

The webinar topics covered a diverse range of subjects including Integration of Technology in Wound care, sharp & enzymatic debridement, infection management and biofilm defense, hard to heal wounds, Venous Leg Ulcers & Diabetic Foot Ulcers, NPWT, complex ostomies, peristomal skin complications, intermittent catheterization, and Paediatric Incontinence-Associated Dermatitis.

All past webinars remain available for on-demand viewing at <https://www.nswoc.ca/webinar-series#past-webinars>.

In October 2023, in response to a surge in demand for certificates of attendance from viewers accessing webinars on demand, we introduced an automation system. Now, attendees can instantly receive certificates upon submitting the form online. This change has had a significant positive impact on our office administration, and has also notably reduced the waiting time for attendees to receive their certificates.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue the Webinar Series throughout 2024. We are committed to maintaining and improving upon our strong performance in 2023. To ensure relevance, we will take into consideration Members' preferred educational topics identified in the Educational Needs Assessment Survey as we plan upcoming webinars.







## Educational Needs Assessment Survey

In February 2024, we conducted a comprehensive Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Educational Needs Assessment survey targeting NSWOCC Members & Associates, as well as healthcare professionals within our network interested in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

The survey aimed to collect valuable insights from these professionals regarding their educational requirements and preferences in wound, ostomy, and continence care. Covering various aspects such as knowledge levels, preferred learning topics, practice challenges, and learning methods, the survey sought to tailor educational programs and resources to meet the diverse needs of NSWOCC Members & Associates, while also enhancing the quality of wound, ostomy, and continence care across Canada for other healthcare professionals.

A total of 119 NSWOCC Members & Associates and healthcare professionals in our network with an interest in wound, ostomy and continence care responded to the survey, with 49% identifying as NSWOCs. Among respondents, 25% held the job title of “NSWOC”, while 25% were LPNs or RPNs. 42% of respondents indicated that they worked in Community/Home Care, followed by those in Acute Care/Hospital (36%) and Long-Term Care (22%).

### Wound Topics:

Most sought-after wound education topics according to respondents include:

1. Diabetic foot ulcers
2. Venous leg ulcers
3. Difficult-to-heal wounds
4. Lower limb assessment
5. Vascular assessment
6. Surgical site infections/ complications
7. Pressure injury prevention
8. Moisture-associated skin damage
9. Wound management in community settings

Specifically among NSWOC respondents, preferences align closely with the overall trend, with some variations:

1. Diabetic foot ulcers
2. Venous leg ulcers
3. Lower limb assessment
4. Difficult-to-heal wounds
5. Vascular assessment
6. Surgical site infections/ complications
7. Post-operative management of wounds
8. Frostbite/Moisture-associated skin damage/ Wound management in community settings (tied for 8th)



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### Ostomy Topics:

The most desired ostomy education topics across respondents include:

1. **Complex ostomy**
2. **Pouching challenging abdominal areas/  
challenging stoma profiles**
3. **Parastomal hernia**
4. **Management of different types of ostomies & anatomy**
5. **Peristomal skin complications**

For NSWOC respondents, the preferences are slightly different:

1. **Parastomal hernia**
2. **Complex ostomy**
3. **Pouching challenging abdominal areas/  
challenging stoma profiles**
4. **Prolapses**
5. **Nutrition/Diet**

### Continence Topics:

The top continence education topics as per respondents are:

1. **Assessment of continence issues**
2. **Infection management and prevention**
3. **Management of C Difficile**
4. **Gender reassignment surgery/Urological changes**
5. **UTI risk factors/Fecal impaction (tied for 5th)**

Among NSWOC respondents, the priorities differ slightly:

1. **Assessment of continence issues**
2. **Infection management and prevention/Gender reassignment surgery/  
Urological changes (tied for 2nd)**
3. **Management of C Difficile**
4. **Fecal impaction**

Respondents also evaluated questions about their educational needs on a scale of Novice, Advanced Beginner, Competent, Proficient, Expert, and a weighted average was calculated for each response. See the next page for the full summary report.

Overall, NSWOCs tended to rate their level of expertise higher across all educational assessment topics compared to general respondents. Particularly notable were the differences in weighted averages between NSWOCs and general respondents in the Ostomy category, indicating specialized focus and expertise among NSWOCs in managing complex cases, recommending innovative products, and educating patients about long-term care.



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Additionally, NSWOCs reported a significantly higher weighted average for Debridement techniques and best practices. However, there was a noticeable gap between Continence expertise and Wound & Ostomy expertise among all respondents, suggesting an area for further attention and development in educational initiatives

Educational Assessment Topics		Respondents Weighted Avg.	NSWOCs Weighted Avg.	Difference	% Difference
Wound	Debridement techniques and best practices	2.94	3.51	0.57	16.22%
	Evidence-based practices for wound care	3.31	3.89	0.58	14.84%
	Assessment & management of chronic wounds	3.42	3.98	0.56	14.09%
	Assessment and management of stalled/hard to heal wounds	3.30	3.83	0.53	13.91%
	Assessment & management of acute wounds	3.50	4.02	0.52	12.91%
	Infection Management vs. Biofilm treatment	3.29	3.76	0.47	12.48%
	Assessment of skin cancer & common skin disorders	2.76	3.10	0.34	10.91%
	<b>Average</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>3.73</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>13.67%</b>
Ostomy	Recommending & implementing latest innovations in ostomy products and accessories	3.15	3.84	0.69	18.05%
	Managing complex cases of ostomy care; skin complications and appliance leakage	3.36	4.04	0.68	16.91%
	Educating patients about long-term ostomy care, and recommending effective strategies or resources for patient education.	3.25	3.89	0.64	16.43%
	The psychosocial aspects of living with an ostomy, role of a nurse in providing support; emotional well-being of ostomy patients.	3.17	3.78	0.61	16.09%
	The unique needs of pediatric patients with ostomies.	2.42	2.71	0.29	10.83%
	<b>Average</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>15.98%</b>
Continence	Interdisciplinary collaboration for continence care	2.78	2.95	0.17	5.86%
	Implications of cultural diversity & individual preferences in tailoring continence care plans.	2.50	2.61	0.11	4.36%
	Latest evidence-based practices for managing continence care in elderly populations.	2.98	3.11	0.13	4.30%
	Promoting patient education and self-management strategies for continence issues.	2.75	2.82	0.07	2.41%
	Emerging tech and interventions in continence management; integrating them into practice.	2.60	2.59	-0.01	-0.35%
	<b>Average</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>3.41%</b>

## Digital Marketing

**Samaia Aidroos**

**Digital Marketing Coordinator**

## Social Media Report

NSWOC uses four main social media platforms: [Instagram \(@nswoc\)](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [X \(formerly known as Twitter\) \(@NSWOC\)](#). Don't forget to follow us on social media!!





## Director of Operations Report



All statistics have been generated using Hootsuite, a social media marketing and management tool, for the period of March 15, 2023 to March 15, 2024 compared to March 15, 2022 to March 15, 2023, combining the metrics across each of our accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram:

Metric	March 2022-2023	March 2023-2024	Percent change
Page and Profile Impressions	148,870 impressions	236,007 impressions	58.50%
Fans and Followers across networks	3,564 users	4,325 users	21.4%
Posts across networks	563 posts	970 posts	72.30%
Post reach across networks	83,439 users	132,423 users	58.7%
Average post engagement rate	5.12%	5.98%	16.90%

### Key Insights and Important Trends:

- Of all four platforms, LinkedIn has experienced the greatest increase in impressions (308% increase), reach (280% increase), and followers (39.9% increase).
- Overall, Facebook has the greatest number of impressions (128,214), reach (80,092), and followers (1.7k).
  - Followed by LinkedIn (72,542 impressions, 34,864 reach, 1,582 followers).
- Across all platforms (excluding Instagram) posts with photos receive the most engagement.

### WOC Institute Website

Since launching the new WOC Institute website in March 2023, we have seen a big boost in traffic, which is in large part due to increased and improved marketing campaigns & tactics over the last 12 months.

In response to a massive influx of leads from prospective students on our WOC Institute website requesting more info about specific programs and courses, we have integrated new automations to provide prospective students with automated emails providing more information to them via email should they request more information about certain programs and courses.

Myself and our Office Administrator, Zachary Abraham, will continue to work with the WOC Institute on ways to better simplify and automate the registration



# Director of Operations Report



process for new students as a part of making WOC Institute programs and courses accessible, and with the mission of providing wound, ostomy, and continence education to as many healthcare professionals as possible.

Our French Program Manager, Nadia Houde, has helped translate the content on the WOC Institute website into French, and Zachary, Samaia and I are setting up the fully bilingual version of the WOC Institute site, to be launched by the summer. We aim to do the same for the NSWOCC website in the next half of 2024.

## NSWOC Website

With the help of Samaia Aidroos, we have seen a big boost in traffic to our websites due in large part to improved SEO through increased blog posts, which was a key part of our communications plan for 2023-2024. This year, we've seen over 32,000 unique visitors, with visitors accessing our site via Google searches up over 500% in 2023-2024 compared to the previous period.

We will continue to improve our SEO practices to make NSWOCC & WOC Institute information as accessible as possible for our Members, future students, patients, and the public.

### NSWOCC Site Traffic

March 15, 2023 to March 15, 2024 compared to March 15, 2022 to March 15, 2023:

Metric	March 2022-2023	March 2023-2024	Percent change
Site sessions	18,421 sessions	48,862 sessions	167%
Unique Visitors	8,255 users	32,343 users	2.12

### Key Insights and Trends:

- Traffic increased the most between May 3 and May 27, 2023 (around the National Conference).
- The highest amount of traffic occurred on May 21, 2023 with 6,077 users
- 97% of site viewers were new to the site, while 3% were returning users
- Our most popular pages in order are our Webinar Series, CNA Certification, followed by Jobs Listings, WOC Institute, Best Practice Recommendations, About Us, and "What is an NSWOC".

### Other Insights:

- Average pages per session is 1.3
- The most popular flows are:
- Homepage > webinar series (5%)
  - Homepage > what is an NSWOC (4%)

- Homepage > about (4%)
- The most searched terms, in order, were:
- Swan
  - Login
  - Webinars
  - Conference



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## Communications

### Communications Survey

In February 2024, we initiated the 2024 Communications Survey as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance member experience and improve communication channels. The active participation of NSWOCC Members in this survey provided invaluable insights into their preferences, needs, and suggestions regarding NSWOCC's communications.

Email Communication emerged as the predominant mode of communication from the NSWOCC National Office to NSWOC Members, with nearly 100% of respondents indicating its use for staying informed about NSWOCC activities. Following closely behind were “The Intergity/L’Intègre” newsletter and the NSWOCC [www.nswoc.ca](http://www.nswoc.ca) website.

The development of “The Intergity/L’Intègre” newsletter in early 2023 by the Membership Core Program was driven by Member feedback indicating a preference for less frequent email communication. Results from the 2024 Communications Survey revealed similar preferences regarding email frequency, with 27% of respondents preferring emails from NSWOCC no more than once per week, 13.5% bi-weekly, 19% monthly, and 11% only for important updates. However, 30% of respondents had no specific preference. Notably, nearly 90% of respondents expressed a preference for concise emails over detailed newsletters and social media updates.

While acknowledging the desire for less frequent emails, we recognize the importance of timely communication regarding news, opportunities, and events within the Association and WOC Institute. Efforts will continue to be made to strike a balance and optimize communication methods to ensure members receive pertinent information without overwhelming their inboxes.

Social media use amongst Members, although relatively low compared to website and email use, is still significant, with approximately 25% of respondents utilizing at least one social media platform to stay updated with NSWOCC. Facebook (68% of Members active on this platform) emerged as the primary platform used by Members by a large margin, followed by Instagram (40%) and LinkedIn (14%).



Troy poses for a photo with members of the National Conference Planning Core Program during the 42nd National Conference in May 2023



### Exploring an NSWOC Mobile App

Considering the desire for concise updates and more frequent notifications, we are exploring the possibility of developing a simple mobile app version of the NSWOC [www.nswoc.ca](http://www.nswoc.ca) website. Two-thirds of respondents expressed interest in such an app, with the majority indicating preferences for features including webinar registration, event reminders, course information and content, and patient support.

Moving forward, we will collaborate with Cathy Harley and Samaia Aidroos to conduct further assessments of members' communication needs and preferences, ultimately determining whether the development of an NSWOC mobile app aligns with our objectives.

### National Conference

I'm so proud to be part of the amazing National Conference Planning Core Program, who are working hard to take our learnings from last year to make our upcoming 43rd National Conference an even bigger success. It was especially rewarding last year to be part of my first in-person conference with NSWOC, and I truly appreciated meeting so many Members face-to-face whom I had not met before, or only virtually.

I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you again or for the first time in-person at our upcoming 43rd National Conference in Calgary, AB from May 1-5, 2024. For more information about the conference, please visit [www.nswocconference.com](http://www.nswocconference.com).

For membership inquiries or to provide feedback/suggestions, please feel free to email me at [tcurtis@nswoc.ca](mailto:tcurtis@nswoc.ca). I'm always happy to help!

Troy Curtis  
NSWOC Director of Operations







# Regional Directors Reports

Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada is a national organization which is set up in five regions to strengthen communication. Each Region is led by a Regional Director who is an elected Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence (Member of NSWOC). The NSWOC Regional Directors are NSWOC Board Members and they report to the NSWOC Executive Board.

## **Engagement and collaboration to drive meaningful change.**

To create improvements in wound, ostomy and continence care, NSWOC continues to engage members to discuss issues and create solutions not only at scheduled events but also year-round through ongoing reflection and dialogue during Regional Meetings.



## Regional Directors Report

### British Columbia & Yukon Region

Regional Director: Rochelle De Clerk, RN  
BScN, NSWOC



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#### Regional Meetings:

- There were two regional meetings held between 2023 and 2024

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#### Key Regional Highlights

- Equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility was a topic at one of our meetings, thank you NSWOC Canada for establishing a EDI and A task force and creating a policy for our members to inform and shape nursing practice.
- Our Provincial Skin and Wound Committee has worked hard to get funding for orthotics and specialized shoes for patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers. This new approval will impact the healthcare system in a major way, excited for the future of this specialized area.
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy procedures and videos are almost completed for the province of British Columbia
- The Provincial Ostomy Committee has completed the Urostomy Urine Collection for C&S Procedure and are currently working on Pouch change procedures both One Piece and Two Piece.
- Patients living with an ostomy can connect with the Ostomy Patient Peer Support Group that is in Vancouver but provides support to patient's Province-wide.
- Virtual education sessions through NSWOCC have been shared with the BC and Yukon members.
- Our members are very excited to have an in-person meeting this year at the NSWOCC 43rd Annual Conference on May 2nd, 2024, and many will be attending. I hope to see you in Calgary!







## Prairies, Northwest Territories, Nunavut Region

Regional Director: Bev Smith, RN, BScN, NSWOC



### Regional Meetings:

One virtual meeting in February 2024 and planning an in person casual meet & greet before the 2024 NSWOC Annual Members Meeting in Calgary, May 3, 2024.

### Key Regional Highlights

- The Alberta Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit was held in Red Deer 2023 with over 100 key decision makers in wound, ostomy and continence care and it was a great success. This included a segment on the need for equitable wound, ostomy and continence care for Indigenous people.
- At least one fulltime NSWOC position was created directly due to this Alberta Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit.
- Participated in a meeting with senior management of United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) in order to discuss the declassification of NSWOC positions and lack of standardization in the classification of NSWOCs in the province of Alberta.
- United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) has filed a grievance on behalf of the Alberta NSWOCs for reclassification. Currently in progress and waiting outcome.
- Alberta government is pushing forward on the dismantling of Alberta Health Services- many unknown changes to come.
- Work is being done on development of clinical protocols for Saskatchewan.







## Ontario Region

Regional Director: Roxie Demers, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



### Regional Meetings:

- Two regional meetings were held in 2023
- One regional meeting has been held to date in 2024

### Key Regional Highlights

- NSWOCC has been working with Premier Ostomy to advocate to Health Canada to ensure Medina Catheters for Koch pouches are available for patients as there are currently non for sale in Canada.
- Ontario Summit will be held in Mississauga at the Sheraton Airport Hotel and Convention Center on June 7, 2024. In addition to NSWOCs and SWANs, invitees will include MP's, MPP's, CEOs of Ontario hospitals, Chief Nursing Officers, Professional Practice Management, Agency Leaders, Indigenous Health Leaders, LTC Leaders and Industry Leaders.
- Membership is requesting to hold regional meetings to discuss local issues which we are in the process of doing and have already held one meeting in 2024.
- Membership is also requesting and Education Day for Ontario, as many feel they will not be able to attend the conference in Calgary, and they miss the local focus. We will be looking at the feasibility of doing this in the near future.
- Dr Kimberly LeBlanc was a speaker at the UHN Wound Care conference February 24, 2024.
- NSWOCC was represented by Cathy Harley and Dr. Kimberly LeBlanc at the Wound Care Niagara meeting on March 22, 2024.







## Québec Region

Regional Director: Audray Lafortune, Bsc.,  
infirmière clinicienne, stomothérapeute,  
PSCC(C)



### Regional Meetings:

- One meeting will be held in April 2024 and 2 e-blast has been sent to notify members.

### Principales caractéristiques régionales :

- Édith Gendron a reçu le prix Coup de Coeur de L'Ordre régional des infirmières et infirmiers de l'Outaouais.
- Nevart Hotakorzian a reçu le prix Alice-Girard de l'Ordre regional des infirmières et infirmiers de Montréal/Laval. Ce prix reconnaît les réalisations professionnelles exceptionnelles et ceux qui ont contribué de façon significative au développement de la pratique et au rayonnement de la profession. Nevart est un ancien président du ISPSCC.
- Laurie Lechasseur a été retenue comme finaliste pour le prestigieux prix Florence pour l'Excellence des soins de l'OIIQ.
- Louise Samuel, Audray Lafortune et Nadia Houde étaient présentes lors du RQSP à Trois-Rivières le 19 et 20 avril pour représenter ISPSCC et PF-PSC (ISPSCC)
- La rencontre de l'AIISQ était le 12 avril dernier. Lors de la rencontre, nous avons fait la promotion de la conférence du ISPSCC et de la semaine des ISPSCs ainsi que le suivi des dossiers en cours.

### Key Regional Highlights

- Édith Gendron was awarded the prize Coup de Coeur from the Ordre regional des infirmières et infirmiers de l'Outaouais.
- Nevart Hotakorzian was awarded the Alice-Girard prize from the Ordre regional des infirmières et infirmiers de Montréal/Laval. This prize recognizes exceptional professional accomplishments and people who have made significant contributions to the development of the nursing practice. Nevart is a past president of NSWOCC.
- Laurie Lechasseur was one of three finalists for the prestigious Florence prize for Nursing Excellence from the OIIQ.
- Louise Samuel, Audray Lafortune and Nadia Houde were at the RQSP in Trois-Rivière on April 19th & 20th to represent NSWOCC and NSWOC Program.
- The AIISQ had their bi-annual meeting on April 12th. The promotion of the NSWOCC 43rd National Conference, NSWOC Week and follow up on active business were discussed.



## Atlantic Region

Regional Director: Nancy Schuttenbeld,  
MN, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



### Regional Meetings:

- Two Atlantic Regional Meetings have been held 2023-24
- One face to face in Moncton NB on October 28th, 2023. The second virtually via Zoom on February 13th, 2024. We had participants from three of the four provinces.

### Key Regional Highlights

- Monthly e-mail communication is sent to encourage member engagement, networking, and knowledge sharing of initiatives across our four provinces.
- New Brunswick Wound Ostomy, Continence Summit was held on June 1, 2023. Following the summit, 30 seats were given by NSWOC for nurses to participate in an online wound care course. These were distributed across NB to increase transfer of wound care knowledge into practice. Particular focus was given to long term care areas to address the need for wound care education in this population.

### Provincial initiatives:

- PEI updated their Pressure Injury program and have adapted an eLearning module for pressure injury prevention. PEI is also in process of developing clinical order sets for NSWOC's. We are proud to report that Michelle Langille completed her master's in nursing.
- Nova Scotia has NSWOCs and a SWAN enrolled in the prescribing program through Dalhousie University. Emily Woodgate is now leading the Pediatric Community of Practice for NSWOC. Emily was instrumental in developing the Paediatric Incontinence Associated Dermatitis: Canadian Best Practice Recommendations. Provincially, a policy on E-Stimulation for wound healing is being rolled out. Karla Lohnes has been a key player in this great initiative. The NS Provincial Wound Care program is supporting 80 nurses to complete the Wounds Canada wound champion program.
- NB has been advocating to Provincial government for better financial coverage of ostomy appliances and supplies. Denise Nicolson has been a key player and is now leading this much needed initiative. The NSWOC classification across the province is inconsistent with some NSWOC' at a level B and others at a level C with different pay scales for same role. Kirsten Nickum has taken the lead to apply for standardized of classification of NSWOC role. Horizon Health completed a pressure injury study lead by NSWOCs this past fall and Lynn Reid from Saint John is implementing a new PIP (pressure injury prevention) program across Horizon.
- Newfoundland has several members on our Atlantic team.
- There is a need for improved understanding of the NSWOC and SWAN role across the Atlantic provinces as well as a need for more NSWOC & SWAN positions.
- We will continue to strive to improve communication & networking to share practice ideas, standardize practices and support each other as Atlantic members.
- A huge shout out to all our members for participating on our Atlantic team.
- We hope to see lots of our members attend the National Conference in Calgary this May!





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# NSWOCC Core Programs





## NSWOCC Core Programs



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Core Program	Core Program Leader(s)
<b>Membership</b>	Shelly Barnes, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC (C)
<b>Professional Development</b>	Debra Johnston, RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC (C)
<b>Research and Practice</b>	Kevin Woo, PhD RN NSWOC WOCC(C) Karen Campbell, PhD RN NSWOC WOCC(C)
<b>Community Engagement</b>	NSWOCC Board of Directors
<b>Indigenous Wound, Ostomy and Continence Health</b>	Bev Smith, RN, BScN, NSWOC Michelle Buffalo RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)
<b>National Conference Planning</b>	Mary Hill, RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC (C)
<b>Publications</b>	Lina Martins, RN, BScN, MScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)
<b>French Community of Practice</b>	Valerie Chaplain, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)
<b>Paediatric Community of Practice</b>	Emily Woodgate, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)
<b>SWAN Community of Practice</b>	Sharon Hunter, RPN, SWAN, IIWCC
<b>Harm Reduction Community of Practice</b>	Priyanka Jani, RN, BScN, NSWOC Student Lili Berescu, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)





## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Professional Development Core Program

Core Program Leader: Debra Johnson, RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



- The ongoing development of the inaugural Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for the Topical Management of Malignant Cutaneous Wounds, which began on January 26, 2023, will be completed by April 2024.
- We are pleased to have worked on this project as a collaboration between NSWOCC and CPCNA (Canadian Palliative Care Nurses Association)
- The task force consists of ~32 working group members, including 6 CPCNA nurses with IIWCC education.
- This best practice is focused on adults because after surveying our task force, we did not have enough members with pediatric malignant wound expertise to include the pediatric population.
- Task force members completed the second Delphi process in October 2023. Greater than 87% consensus was achieved for all 23 recommendations.
- The Peer Review Process has been completed and the final revisions are being made.
- We will present this project at the 2024 NSWOCC National Conference in Calgary. It will be available on the nswoc.ca website under best practice recommendations for download. It will also be available on the CPCNA website. The NSWOCC members will be receiving an e mail announcing the launch of this best practice recommendation and are encouraged to share it with your peers. We will also be submitting this to Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto and multiple home care agencies and hospices in order to support nursing practice and other cancer agencies across the country.
- Thank you to all of the project team members and to our project manager, Mr. John Gregory of Open City.
- Thank you to Mölnlycke Health Care for an educational grant which has made the completion of this project possible.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Advocating for Improved Wound, Ostomy and Continence Care

## Community Engagement Core Program

Core Program Leader: NSWOCC Board, represented by NSWOCC CEO Cathy Harley



#### Key Highlights:

Advocacy work included the successful implementation of three summits which supported the positioning of the NSWOC & SWAN roles, the value of the wound, ostomy and continence tri-specialty, and ostomy reimbursement as follows:

- The Nova Scotia Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit – September 25, 2022
  - The NSWOC and SWAN Program registrations have increased
- The New Brunswick Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit – June 1, 2023
  - An ostomy reimbursement initiative with the New Brunswick provincial government took place after the summit – a new model of ostomy reimbursement was developed and presented to the health ministry and other government officials for consideration.
  - 30 nurses were registered for the Practice Enrichment Series Wound Management Course
- The Alberta Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit – October 5, 2023
  - A new full-time NSWOC position was established in Edmonton.
  - There have been meetings with the Union of Alberta Nurses and a strategy is in place to standardize the classification of NSWOCs in the province to a higher level.
- The Ontario Wound, Ostomy and Continence Summit will take place June 7, 2024 in Mississauga, Ontario. Key government, administrative and management individuals involved in WOC as well as NSWOCs and SWANS will be invited to attend. Improved access to specialized WOC care and ostomy and continence reimbursement will be key themes.
- NSWOCC participated in the DTC Fairness Alliance Meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> to describe the need to have NSWOCs as authorizers for the disability tax credit for ostomy products, as all other disabilities have an assigned specialist.
- NSWOCC actively participates in the Ostomy Canada Society “Joint Advocacy Committee” which meets bi-monthly.
- NSWOCC will support both NSWOCs and SWANs to advocate for their roles in 2024.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Meeting our Members Needs

## Membership Core Program

Core Program Leader: Shelly Barnes, RN, BN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



#### Key Highlights:

- Our membership continues to grow – we are now at 1070 members strong! Incentives for new members is being discussed and we are still actively recruiting members from all Territories/Provinces, and programs, to ensure we represent and grow diverse membership. If you are interested in joining, please email [office@nswoc.ca](mailto:office@nswoc.ca).
- 2023-2024 Membership Survey results: Members choose certification for better recognition of their role; becoming an NSWOC/SWAN resulted in more confidence, recognition, pay and career opportunities. Stay tuned for more social media posts showcasing these results!
- Educational Needs Assessment Survey results helped inform our membership offerings, especially with regards to continuing education opportunities for NSWOCC Members.
- Our quarterly newsletter has a new name “The Integrity/L’Intègre” to represent both French and English-speaking members. A French translation will be available soon! We are asking members to submit photos, and recognition of fellow members to feature in the newsletter. You can submit photos here: <https://forms.wix.com/f/7136424131695739551>
- Journal Club
  - Journal club is led by Angela Koziak, and continues to gain momentum with her leadership – there are now over 50 recurring Journal Club Members on our mailing list.
  - We held 11 Journal Club meetings in 2023 and 2024 so far, rotating wound, ostomy and continence topics.
  - Any NSWOCC Member can preregister online for Journal Club meetings on our website at <https://www.nswoc.ca/journal-club>. We encourage members to submit articles they would like featured, and to lead/co-lead a meeting. Go to <https://www.nswoc.ca/journal-club> for more information.
- Membership Webinars and Podcasts
  - In June 2023, Shelly Barnes, interviewed the WOC Institute Academic Chair, Kimberly LeBlanc, on everything you need to know about the Preceptorship Experience, which can be found in our [Education Podcasts webpage](#)



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- Troy and Angela recorded a webinar featuring Networking and Collaboration, which can be found in our [Education Podcasts webpage](#)
- To further highlight collaboration, a webinar that reflects Unity and Community is being planned to feature NSWOC and SWAN teams.
- Our Core Program is developing a Merchandise Boutique that will be available at the National Conference May 1-5 in Calgary, A. We will also be announcing a new award at the National Conference that Members can apply for in 2024-2025.
- The Facebook group has over 70 members to date, and is a place to ask questions and highlight the work being done by Members – you can join the group online at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nswoccc>

Thanks to our Membership Core Program Members and those who have contributed in any capacity to the Core Program in the last year!

Shelly Barnes

Angela Koziak

Mildred Ababio

Troy Curtis

Kimberly Grimaldi

Jared Trombetta

Cassie Jilek

Joanah Eloisa Sique

Alexsandrine Stevens

Heather Walsh





## NSWOCC Core Programs



## Harm Reduction (in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence) Community of Practice

### Core Program Co-Leaders:

Lili Berescu (they/them), RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C) and  
Priyanka Jani (she/her), RN, BScN, NSWOC (student)



### Community of Practice Status:

- Membership: 90+ people
- 3 meetings completed to date - we completed regular meetings once every 2 months (excluding summer months) for people intersecting in harm reduction work to connect and share resources, information, tips/tricks in wound, ostomy, and continence care

### Activities to Date:

#### **Canadian Best Practice Recommendations in Wound Care for People Who Use Drugs - A Harm Reduction Approach**

- Project Duration: Start date-January 2024 End Date: April 2025
- Implementation Plan will be developed for the launch in April 2025
- Thank you to the following team members who have contributed their time and expertise: Alex Johnson, Amanda Pheeney, Ashley Smoke, Charlene Chan, Corey Ranger, Debra Johnston, Dee O'Sullivan-Drombolis, Eileen Emmott, Jennifer Dresser, Jenny Kirby, Jessica Artega, Jessica Lee, Johnny Lavergne, Kate Hodgson, Kelly Sair, Kendrick DeBoer, Kimberly LeBlanc, Kirsten Locher, Lachlyn Habermehl, Lesley Dacks, Maria Scotton, Marina Deziel, Matthew Brocke, Michael Stacey, Nat Kaminski, Priyanka Jani, Shannon Copeland, Sophie Sanfacon, Taya Doucet, Valerie Chaplain, Natasha Touesnard - particularly those with personal lived or living experience, now being compensated for sharing their expertise
- Thank you to John Gregory of Open City

#### **First Aid Kit Supply List Recommendations for Shelters**

- Providing a list of supplies helpful to have for exposure related skin conditions and wounds
- 2 meetings completed to date (meeting monthly at this time)
- Next meeting to review information gathered to compile 3 total pages (1) basic first aid kit supply list, 2) cold weather edition, 3) warm weather edition) - final product will be delivered for board to review



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- Thank you to the following group members who have contributed their time and expertise: Ashley Smoke, Taya Doucet, Nicholas Joachimides, Kasia Zurawski, Alice Maguire

### **Evergreen “Cheap and Cheerful” Document - Ongoing**

- Where cost-efficient tips and tricks are documented from our discussion during CoP meetings
- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s\\_tjUK4IDR8lseVfAdOMQLkZM0Nk4\\_pE/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s_tjUK4IDR8lseVfAdOMQLkZM0Nk4_pE/edit?usp=drive_link)

### **Resource Library - Ongoing**

- A central location to collect harm reduction forward research and resources in wound, ostomy, and continence care
- <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/19HQ9oNDZRyyOACbOSsUde9DrOVc5KJo5>



## NSWOCC Core Programs



Providing Opportunities to Publish

### Publications

**Core Program Leader: Lina Martins MScN, BScN, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)**

**Editor-in-Chief, *NSWOC Advance*  
NSWOCC Canadian Features Section Editor,  
*JWOCN***

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French Editor, *NSWOC Advance*

Louise Forest-Lalande, inf., M.Éd., stomothérapeute

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Editorial Board Members:

Karen Campbell PhD, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Kevin Woo PhD, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

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Peer Reviewers:

Karen Campbell, Valerie Chaplain, Julie Gagnon, Corey Heerschap, Stephanie Laferriere, Kimberly LeBlanc, Mary Hill, Laura Robbs, Elysa Roy-Sylvain, Kevin Woo



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#### Why Publish?

- Add to body of knowledge in our tri-specialty
- Become a recognized expert in the field
- Help others understand how findings affect high-quality patient care
- Indexed in CINAHL, EBSCO Publishing, and part of the EBSCOhost suite of CINAHL programs, Cengage Learning/ Gale

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#### Why Be a Peer Reviewer?

- Contributes to staying up-to-date on research and developments in your specialty
- Helps you be a better clinician and teacher
- Demonstrates involvement in your specialty and that your opinion and leadership matters
- Provides insight that will allow you to better write your own papers down the road





## NSWOCC Core Programs



### NSWOC Advance Key Highlights

- Continue to grow our association's publication
- 2-3 peer reviewed manuscripts included with each issue
- Ongoing review of submitted articles with submission of articles into peer review process to determine suitability for publication as a peer reviewed manuscript. To this end, we have introduced Scholastica, an online submission and review process
- Ongoing Industry support with communication of company messages, products, services
- Continued work with our French colleagues, both nationally and internationally, for French-language manuscript submissions
- Yearly Manuscript Award, recognizing an author of a peer reviewed manuscript published in NSWOC Advance, that has contributed to knowledge in skin and wound, ostomy and/or continence care or the tri-specialty of wound, ostomy and continence nursing practice.
- Reaching out to investigate affiliations with international ostomy care publications
- Continue to reach out for submissions – adult, paediatric, both French- and English-written, focusing on area(s) of our tri-specialty, in the categories of research, case studies, education, clinical practice, standards of practice, professional development, quality improvement, systematic reviews

#### Manuscripts:

##### Volume 34, Issue 2

- The role of dietary fibre in the prevention and treatment of functional constipation in adults (Author: L. Robbs)
- Electrical stimulation: Introduction of a new advanced wound therapy in Nova Scotia (Author: K. Lohnes)

##### Volume 34, Issue 3

- Lotions and potions: Managing moisture lesions down under (in the genital, anus, groin, buttocks, and thigh areas) in adults (Author: M. Hill)
- Sole survival: A scoping review of the literature exploring the link between diabetic foot ulcers and limb loss in underserved communities (Authors: M. Langille, N. Kwiatkowski, S. Raphael, A. Silva, E. Kennedy)

##### Volume 35, Issue 1

- Development of a decision aid for nurses supporting urinary catheter selection (Authors: L. Robbs, B. Chan, N. Kameka, J. Lognon, V. Popov, J.H. Gregory, K.E. Campbell)
- Surgical closure of pelvic pressure injuries in spinal cord injured adults: A literature review (Author: L. Teague, K.E. Campbell)

### JWOCCN Key Highlights

- All timelines for submission of articles to JWOCCN for 2023 were met as per the NSWOCC-JWOCCN affiliation agreement:



## NSWOCC Core Programs



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- Let's Face It! Together! NSWOCC In-Person 42nd National Conference. (Author: M. Hill) (Volume 50, No. 2)
- Guiding the Practice of Wound Debridement Using Best Practice Recommendations and Consensus Statements. (Author: K. LeBlanc) (Volume 50, No. 4)
- The Importance of the Skin Wellness Associate Nurse Program. (Authors: S. Hunter, V. Johnston, K. LeBlanc) (Volume 50, No. 6)
- Continue to support and promote NSWOC manuscript submissions
- Participation in JWOCN Fall in-person board meeting
- member of selection committee for manuscript award
- "Pancakes, Posters, and Publications": Articles, Abstracts and Poster Development Workshop presented at NSWOCC Conference 2023 in Ottawa, ON; attended conference as Education Committee member and to solicit manuscripts for NSWOC Advance

**Writing for publication is a mechanism for sharing best practices. We all have something to share.**



## NSWOCC Core Programs



## National Conference Planning

Core Program Leader: Mary Hill, RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



National Conference Planning Committee:

Cathy Harley, NSWOCC CEO  
Troy Curtis, NSWOCC Director of Operations  
Kim Mayenburg, BC  
Samantha Chisholm, SWAN BC  
Julie Tjan Thomas, ON  
Monica Frecea, ON  
Lina Martins, ON  
Kim Meeker, ON  
Folashade Aladade, ON  
Louise Samuel, QC  
Jodi Quinlan, AB

Highlights from the NSWOCC 42nd National Conference

### **The Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, May 3-7, 2023**

- First in person conference since the pandemic 2020. No virtual option.
- Over 550 Health Care Professionals and Industry Partners.
- Positive conference and speaker evaluations. Recommendations from the evaluations carried over to the planning of the 2024 conference.
- Dermatology program that ran parallel to the conference sold out.
- The Disney networking event was well attended and a great deal of fun for all who participated.
- The NSWOCC National Conference banquet and WOC Institute Graduation was a special event that honoured our students and award winners.

NSWOCC 43rd National Conference

### **Hyatt Regency Calgary, Calgary, AB, May 1-5, 2024**

- Theme: "Rising to the Challenge"
- New workshops:
  - The Sweet and Salty of managing planter foot pressures,
  - Managing the Bulge: Peristomal Hernia Prevention, Assessment and Management,
  - Taking the Pressure Off Pressure Injuries: A-Z of Pressure Injuries,





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- Redistribution, slings, boots, urinary devices and more, and
  - Let's Wrap it Up! -Advanced Lower Extremity Compression Workshop.
- Wound Ostomy Continence Institute workshops will feature Continence Management, Advanced Ostomy and Fistula Management, Product Selection workshop and Debridement workshop that will be presented twice at the conference to meet the demands for this popular workshop.
- Educational Program will feature local Alberta experts as well as national and international speakers presenting on wound, ostomy and continence subjects. The conference program will also showcase NSWOCC best practice recommendations including Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Feeding Tubes, NSWOCC Urinary Catheter Selection Decision Aid, NSWOC Virtual Consultative Tool Kit, and Malignant Wounds.
- Networking events:
  - Posters, Product and Punch event. This networking events showcases poster presenters and their poster submission and honoured corporate presenting the newest innovative WOC products.
  - Sing, Stomp and Honky Tonk where participants and industry team up for a lip-syncing battle to some of your favorite country songs.
  - The NSWOCC National Conference Banquet and WOC Institute Graduation ceremony will honour our students and award winners.
- Returning to our conference this year is the accredited dermatology program for advanced health care practitioners and two workshops on biopsies, fungal scraping, and bacterial swabbing. Separate registration and qualifications apply to this program.

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NSWOCC 44th National Conference

**Hotel Bonaventure, Montreal, QC, May 20-25, 2024**

- Theme: To be announced.



## Building Wound, Ostomy and Continence Teams

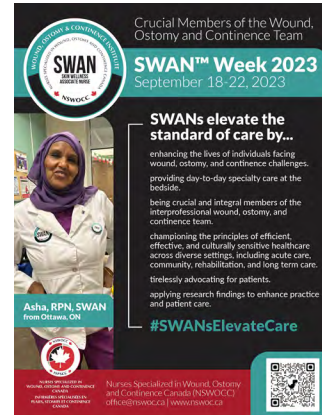
### SWAN Community of Practice

Core Program Leader: Sharon Hunter, RPN, IIWCC, SWAN



#### Key Highlights:

- The SWAN Community of Practice continues to grow in number.
- This year marked our first SWAN week from September 18th-22nd. SWANs were celebrated and recognized as crucial members of the wound, ostomy and continence team.
- We participated in a webinar in November to share the experience of taking the SWAN course and being a Skin Wellness Associate Nurse leader on an ongoing basis
- We proudly saw the first in-person graduation of SWANs at the 42nd National NSWOCC Conference. We met in person to share in education, exploration, and celebration. We have once again shared our ideas and areas of interest for the next conference. The SWAN community appreciated the opportunity for hands on workshops to build skills.
- The SWAN role description was distributed at the 2023 NSWOCC National Conference in Ottawa and continues to support our advocacy.
- Building on this resource the SWAN community worked together to create a proposal letter to support the SWAN role/position and continues to provide coaching peer to peer to help each other present to employers.
- There are more SWAN specific roles becoming available in varying health care environments, including long-term care, community care and acute care settings.
- The SWAN community is setting goals in the next year to support each other to share the roles we hold, the networking and advocacy that has been done to reach these roles and the work we are doing.
- We aim to develop our SWAN voices and leadership qualities, become confident and knowledgeable presenters to support education, initiatives, and research in our respective organizations.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Paediatric Community of Practice

Core Program Leader: Emily Woodgate, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



#### Key Highlights:

- The Paediatric Community of Practice completed the “Paediatric Incontinence-Associated Dermatitis: Canadian Best Practice Recommendations” This document can be found under best practice recommendations on the nswoc.ca website at <https://www.nswoc.ca/bpr>
- This has been shared with NSWOCs across Canada who are working with paediatric populations.
- A presentation was given on this best practice recommendation at the May 2023 NSWOCC National Conference in Ottawa, Ontario
- Thank you to everybody who participated in this project and thank you to Medline for their financial contribution towards the production of this project.
- Paediatric Community of Practice held a webinar on the topic of Incontinence Associated Dermatitis Canadian Best Practice Recommendations on October 18, 2023, in partnership with Jonathan Honsberger, President Elect of the Canadian Paediatric Nurses Association.
- The next step will be to publish the Paediatric Incontinence-Associated Dermatitis: Canadian Best Practice Recommendations in a peer reviewed journal.
- This Paediatric Community of Practice met March 20, 2024, in order to discuss the next project focus which will be announced soon.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



# Strengthening the French Language in Wound, Ostomy and Continence

## French Community of Practice | Communauté de pratique française

Core Program Leader | Chef du programme:  
Valérie Chaplain IA, BSc Inf, ISPSC, PSCC(C)



### Key Highlights:

- No meeting took place since the launch of the Feeding tube best practice recommendations in Sept 2023.
- In October 2023, was held an educational day offered by an AIISQ committee. This educational day was intended for RN and RPN in Québec. During this educational day the Feeding tube best practice recommendations was presented to the group by one of the working members, Isabelle Deshaies.
- The ostomy care pamphlets for patients were translated and edited by Audrey Lafortune and Valérie Chaplain.
- The best practice document for malignant cutaneous wounds is in the process of being translated, and Joanie Beaudoin, a member of the working group, has agreed to revise it.
- Aucune réunion n'a eu lieu depuis le lancement des recommandations sur les meilleures pratiques en matière de sondes d'alimentation en septembre 2023.
- En octobre 2023, s'est tenue une journée éducative offerte par un comité de l'AIISQ. Cette journée éducative était destinée aux inf. et inf. aux. du Québec. Au cours de cette journée éducative, les recommandations des meilleures pratiques en matière de sondes d'alimentation ont été présentées au groupe par l'un des membres de travail, Isabelle Deshaies.
- Les feuillets d'enseignement des soins de stomie aux patients ont été traduits et révisés par Audrey Lafortune et Valérie Chaplain.
- Le document de meilleure pratique pour les plaies cutanées malignes est en processus de traduction, Joanie Beaudoin un membre du groupe de travail a accepté d'en faire la révision.





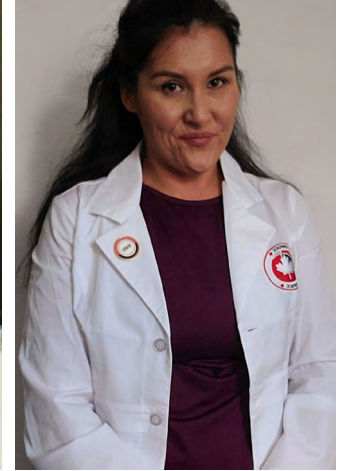
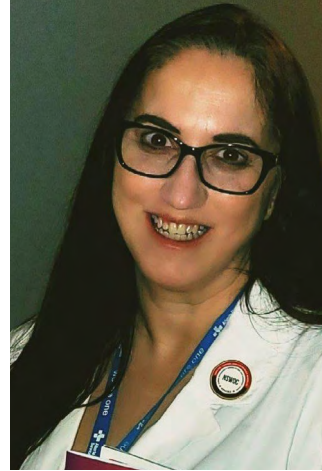
## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Supporting Truth and Reconciliation

## Indigenous Wound, Ostomy and Continence Core Program

Core Program Co-Leaders: Bev Smith, RN, BScN, NSWOC and Michelle Buffalo, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC(C)



#### Meetings in 2023-2024:

- Ten meetings - we meet monthly except for July and August

#### Key Highlights:

- Work continues on the University of Toronto KITE Research project. Currently working on the diabetic Foot smart sock research project.
- Continue work on our Indigenous wound, ostomy and continence website called the Sharing Circle- developed a small working group to keep website current with updated information.
- Providing input for the NSWOCC National Conference to include local Indigenous Elders and incorporating Indigenous culture into the planning.
- We will be giving a presentation at the NSWOCC National Conference on the topic of limb preservation in Indigenous communities.
- Our Core Program worked, for several years, with NIHB to have disposable NPWT coverage. NIHB developed a form to request disposable NPWT and will approve on a case-by-case basis.
- Planning an educational webinar on Indigenous wound, ostomy and continence for fall of 2024.
- This year we continue to have scholarships for Indigenous NSWOC/SWAN Students.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



### Bringing Clarity to Support Practice Change

#### Research & Practice Core Program

##### Core Program Leaders:

Karen Campbell, PhD, RN,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)

Kevin Woo, PhD, RN, FAPWCA,  
NSWOC, WOCC(C)



#### Title of Project: Urinary Catheter Decision Aid

- Project Lead: Karen Campbell RN, PhD, NSWOC, WOCC(C)
- Literature Review: Kevin Woo, RN, PhD, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

##### Status of Activities:

- Completed decision aids (four: intermittent catheter adult & paediatric; indwelling catheter adult & paediatric)
- All decision aids have been sent out for peer review. Deadline April 14.
- Supported the manuscript Development of a decision aid for nurses supporting urinary catheter selection published in March 2024 issue of the NSWOC Advance.
- This decision aid will be presented during the 2024 NSWOCC National Conference taking place May 1-5 at the Hyatt Regency Calgary as a part of the project implementation plan.
- We thank Coloplast for providing some support for this project.

#### Title of Project: Virtual Care Tool Kit

- Project Lead: Laureen Sommerey, RN, BScN, MN, NSWOC, WOCC (C)
- Literature Review: Kevin Woo, RN, PhD, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

##### Status of Activities:

- This toolkit was developed in order to assist Canadian NSWOCs to safely provide virtual care in their practices.
- The NSWOCC Virtual Care Toolkit is divided into five sections: Legal and Regulatory Considerations, Technology, Equity-Oriented Care, Delivery of



## NSWOCC Core Programs



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- Virtual Care, and Knowledge Transfer.
- Each section contains considerations for virtual care, and suggestions for addressing these concerns.
- Most of the available literature in the realm of virtual care relates to wound care.
- The advice offered here for ostomy and continence virtual care is largely expert opinion of the task force.
- The Virtual Care Tool Kit has been completed and will be launched during the 2024 NSWOCC National Conference in Calgary.

### Title of Project: Canadian Best Practices in Wound Care for people Who Use Drugs: A Harm Reduction Approach

#### Project Leads:

- Priyanka Jani, RN, BScN, NSWOC Student
- Lili Berescu, RN, BScN, NSWOC, WOCC (C)
- Literature Review: Dr Kevin Woo, RN, PhD, NSWOC, WOCC(C)

#### Status of Activities:

- This best practice recommendation is being developed in order to improve wound care for people who use drugs.
- NSWOCC, The Harm reduction Nurses Association and Canadian people Who Use Drugs have come together to work on this important project.
- The project scope has been defined.
- The literature review is being led by Dr Kevin Woo and this will be followed by a scoping review.
- Work will take place over the next 10 months and the final document will be presented at the May 25-28, 2024 NSWOCC National Conference in Montreal 2025.

### Title of Project: Mimosa/INOVAIT Pressure Injury Research Project

- Dr. Kevin Woo will be representing NSWOCC in a Canadian Pressure Injury research project looking at an innovative way to detect patients at risk of skin breakdown.
- This project will be launch in 2024.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



## Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility Task Force

### Task Force Members:

Lori Zozzolto, Lili Berescu, Troy Curtis, Cathy Harley  
Advisor: Mildred Ababio



EDI and A Task Force met in-person on February 26, 2024, with Lili Berescu joining via Zoom.

### Key Highlights:

- The Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility (EDI and A) Task Force met twice face to face over the past twelve months with a goal to develop an EDI and A policy for NSWOCC.
- Background research was done in order to draft a policy that would be relevant to NSWOCC as an organization and its members.
- After several revisions, the final draft was reviewed by the NSWOCC Board of Directors and approved January 9, 2024.
- The next step was to meet in order to develop an implementation plan for this policy in order to ensure that it would be adhered to throughout the NSWOCC and WOC Institute.
- As a result of the implementation plan meeting, there have been three new scholarships launched this Spring: an award for Black Nurses, an award for a nurse in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community both sponsored by Perfuse Medtec Inc. and an award for Nurses of Colour sponsored by NSWOCC.
- You will see EDI and A become a strong theme at the 2025 NSWOCC National Conference.
- Thank you to the task force for your support in getting this policy written to the NSWOCC Board for their support and to Perfuse Medtec Inc. for their support of the scholarship.

## Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility Policy

**Approved by the NSWOCC Board of Directors January 9, 2024.**

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to foster an equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible environment within Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Canada (NSWOCC®), a registered charity of over 1,000 Members, which includes the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute, promoting respect, understanding, and equitable representation opportunities for all members at all position level. It aims to ensure that diversity is valued, equity is upheld, and inclusion is actively pursued and visible throughout the organization's daily operations.





## NSWOCC Core Programs



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### Rationale

Including Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDI and A) in NSWOCC as a registered charity, membership-based Association, and who wholly owns and operates the Wound, ostomy and Continence Institute is imperative because it fosters an environment of fairness, representation, and equitable opportunities for all Members, enhancing the organization's overall integrity and credibility within diverse communities. Embracing EDI and A principles also enables the organization to tap into a wider range of perspectives, experiences, and talents, leading to innovative solutions & enhanced making decision-making, sustainable growth, fostering partnership with different racialized and marginalized organizations and a stronger sense of community among its members.

### Policy Statement

Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC) envisions "Every Person Deserves Specialized Wound, Ostomy and Continence Care." NSWOCC works toward this vision through its mission, which is to lead excellence to enhance lives through innovation.

As leaders in advancing health policy to promote wound, ostomy and continence health for all populations, NSWOCC is committed to integrating into its core values, the values of equity, diversity, and inclusivity in all aspects of our organization's performance.

These values form the foundation as we strive for an anti-racist agenda and continually work towards eliminating all forms of discrimination, bias, and stereotyping. To accomplish this effectively, NSWOCC must foster diversity and accessibility among the Board, Core Program Leaders, Members, Students, Staff, and Partners and promote inclusivity and accessibility in all efforts.

To NSWOCC, equity is assuring the right conditions for all people to thrive and achieve their full potential. NSWOCC defines diversity as affirming all the ways in which people differ. Inclusivity, as defined by NSWOCC, refers to the welcoming and active engagement of all voices within every aspect of the organization—both the NSWOCC association and the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute, with an intentional emphasis on acknowledging those who experience or have experienced marginalization or disenfranchisement. Accessibility is defined by NSWOCC as providing access to both the digital resources and physical locations required to fully participate within the organization providing reasonable accommodations.

NSWOCC is committed to working as allies and in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community, and people living with disabilities to truly achieve equity, diversity and inclusivity within our faculty community.



## NSWOCC Core Programs



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### To achieve equity, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility NSWOCC will provide:

- A Safe Environment: NSWOCC strives to create an open, inclusive, and equitable environment in which every person has the opportunity to flourish.
  - NSWOCC will support zero-tolerance for discrimination and harassment.
- Respectful Communication:
  - Enforce respectful communication and cooperation between all constituents.
  - Support accessible digital communications.
- Equitable Access:
  - Provide access and information to its Board, Core Program Leaders, Members, students, partners including Industry, staff, faculty, and potential applicants in order that they may support the organization's work.
  - Support architectural access to all for on-site events.
- Equitable Opportunity:
  - Provide equitable opportunity for inclusivity.
  - Have leaders, Members, students, volunteers, and staff who reflect the increasingly diverse population that we serve bringing a broad scope of contributions.
  - Offer opportunities that engage all Members and students in the work of NSWOCC.
- Supporting Policies: Develop and align policies and practices tailored to marginalized and racialized groups.
- Cultural Safety Practices: Explore, develop, and implement cultural safety practices.
- Cultural Humility and Safety: this is achieved by a genuine attempt to understand the individual as it relates to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education and or religion.
  - conducting self-reflection to become aware of one own bias whether conscious or unconscious in an attempt to take a non-judgmental stance.
  - understanding that a person's culture is a lived journey therefore providing active listening an interest from a learning perspective.
  - recognized one inherit the status of privileges and having the humility to be taught by its member that are non-privileged.

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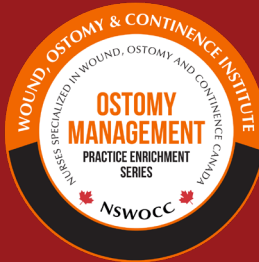
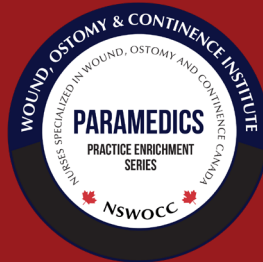
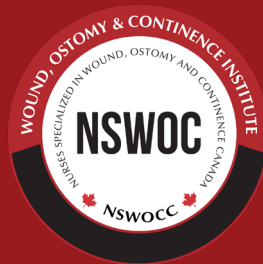
### References:

1. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/diversity-tool-kit>
2. <https://ccdi.ca/toolkits/>
3. <https://ccdi.ca/media/4005/20230509-glossary-of-idea-terms-en.pdf>
4. <https://rnao.ca/in-focus/black-nurses-and-rnao>
5. <https://rnao.ca/leading-change-toolkit>
6. <https://windspeaker.com/teachings/the-medicine-wheel>





# Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute Report





## Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute

Academic Chair: Kimberly LeBlanc  
PhD, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C), FCAN

I am pleased to present the WOC Institute's annual report detailing the WOC Institute's accomplishments over the past year. As we navigate the complex landscape of gender, racial, and social equity, the WOC Institute stands as a beacon of empowerment, advocacy, and progress.

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, we also look forward with renewed determination and optimism, recognizing the immense potential for continued growth and impact. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have supported and collaborated with us on this journey, and we invite you to join us as we embark on the next chapter of our collective pursuit of equity, justice, and empowerment.



### Truth and Reconciliation

In collaboration with the NSWOCC Indigenous Core Program, the WOC Institute establish foundational a Truth and Reconciliation statement that services as the foundation for the WOC Institute courses.

In embarking on this national course for nurses, we acknowledge that our educational journey takes place on Indigenous lands, territories, and waters, which have never been surrendered. We recognize the deep history, resilience, and cultural richness of the Indigenous peoples who have cared for and nurtured these lands since time immemorial.

#### Acknowledging Historical Injustices:

- We begin by acknowledging the historical injustices inflicted upon Indigenous peoples, including but not limited to forced displacement, cultural suppression, and systemic discrimination within the healthcare system. This course recognizes the ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous health and commits to understanding and addressing these disparities.





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### Commitment to Truth and Understanding:

- Our commitment extends to a truthful examination of the historical and contemporary issues faced by Indigenous communities in healthcare. We strive to understand the legacies of colonialism, cultural appropriation, and the barriers to health equity that persist. Through an open and respectful dialogue, we aim to build bridges of understanding and empathy.

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### Respecting Indigenous Ways of Knowing:

- We honour the diverse knowledge systems and ways of knowing that Indigenous communities bring to healthcare. This course commits to respecting and incorporating Indigenous perspectives, practices, and traditional healing methods. By recognizing the value of Indigenous knowledge, we seek to enhance the cultural competency of nurses and contribute to a more holistic and patient-centered approach to healthcare.

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### Promoting Reconciliation and Healing:

- Reconciliation requires intentional actions to address the historical and ongoing harm caused by colonization. We commit to creating an educational space that actively promotes reconciliation and healing. This involves dismantling stereotypes, challenging systemic biases, and fostering a climate of mutual respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners.

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### Empowering Nurses as Allies:

- Nurses have a unique role in advocating for the health and well-being of individuals and communities. This course aims to empower nurses as allies by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to challenge systemic injustices and contribute to the decolonization of healthcare. Through culturally safe practices and advocacy, nurses can be agents of positive change.

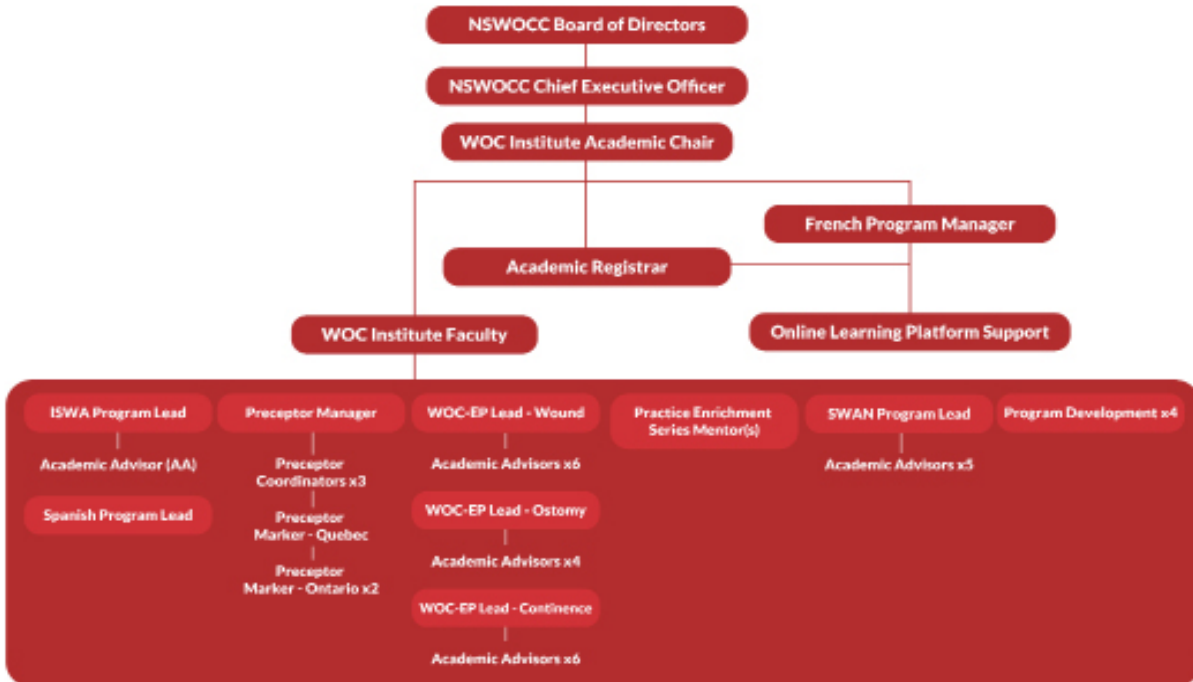
Through this Truth and Reconciliation Statement, we acknowledge our responsibility to work towards a healthcare system that respects and upholds the rights of Indigenous peoples. Together, we commit to building a national nursing community that is culturally competent, respectful, and actively contributes to the process of reconciliation on Indigenous unceded territory.



# WOC Institute Report



## WOC- Institute Structure



- Saying goodbye: Erin Rajhathy has decided to leave the WOC Institute after almost 2 years. We wish her the best in her next adventure.
- Welcome to the team:
  - Cheryl Harding has joined the team as the WOC Institute registrar.
  - Jacynthe Viau has joined the team as a French Academic Advisor.
  - Stephanie Bourget has joined the team as a French Academic Advisor.
  - Juliann VanderMeer has joined the program development team.

## Building capacity of the WOC Institute

### Program Development

- Cathy Downs, Kimberly Merritt, Juliann, Carly, and Nicholas are working collaboratively develop new WOC Institute programs and ensure our current programs are regularly updated and remain state of the art.
- The Practice Enrichment Series Continence management course, 2SLGBTQIA+ for Health Care Professionals course, and the Skin Health for Personal Support Workers and Caregivers course were all launched in the Spring of 2024.
- The WOC Institute is currently conducting several environmental scans to assess the development of other future projects.



## WOC Institute Report



Nurses Specialized in  
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Canada

- The program development team will collaborate with the NSWOC Indigenous Core Program to ensure as programs are either developed or updated, that Truth and Reconciliation is respected.

### Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence (NSWOC) Program



- With the addition of Nadia Houde as our French program manager, we are now ensuring that all of the WOC Institute website and material is translated into French.
- NSWOC enrolment has been steady, and we maintained enrollments numbers for the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Education Program (NSWOC Program) program to 105 English students per year and 15-20 French students per year (more than doubled since 2017).
- Starting in the fall of 2023 the WOC-EP Program re-branded to the NSWOC Program to better reflect the program outcomes and to align with the branding of our other programs.
- The WCET has accredited the NSWOC Program at the highest level, which is continuous accreditation without the need to re-apply unless our program structure changes. NSWOC Program is being used as the “gold” standard by the WCET for other programs.
- Academic chair is an active member of the WCET education committee.
- The NSWOC Program has achieved accreditation from the Canadian Nurses Association for 480 continuous education credits.
- Ongoing NSWOC Program updates are planned for 2024.
- The faculty now includes 30 academic advisors, preceptor manager/ coordinators and markers.
- We are continuing to develop the WOC Institute Preceptor program through the recruitment and maintain current preceptors under the leadership of Nicole Denis.
- We are working diligently at increasing the number of continence preceptors to meet student demand (work in progress).
- The preceptor placement team is working on developing resources for both preceptors and students related to clinical placements. The team is actively recruiting preceptors for all courses.
- We have established a peer mentor program where experienced NSWOCs volunteer to mentor NSWOC Program students. We are continuously recruiting peer mentors. If you are interested in becoming a peer mentor please contact [chair@wocinstitute.ca](mailto:chair@wocinstitute.ca).
- We are continuing to build membership capacity and increasing enrollment in the NSWOC Program through recognition of prior learning (RPL).
  - The WOC Institute recognizes that education at the level of the NSWOC graduate can occur outside of the NSWOC Program. Recognition of





prior learning is a prescribed process wherein a student accepted into the NSWOC Program, who has an extensive theoretical and clinical background prior to starting the program, can demonstrate that they have already achieved advanced beginner level consistent with completion of an NSWOC course (Ostomy, Continence or Wound). It is a rigorous assessment. If successful in demonstrating that this level of learning has been achieved outside of the NSWOC Program, the applicant will be given credit for this learning, in the theoretical and/or clinical portion of the course.

- To date we have had 74 students successfully challenge RPL for either the wound or continence management courses.
- University Recognition – launch of new wound, ostomy and continence advanced practice master’s program for NSWOCs
  - In response to the escalating demand for highly skilled nursing practitioners in wound, ostomy, and continence care, a collaboration between the Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Canada (NSWOC) and Curtin University (Perth Australia) has emerged. This unique pathway allows NSWOC graduates to receive credits towards a Master’s of Advanced Practice (MC-ADVPRC) in Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing. After completing the NSWOC program, students complete the required research and professional practice courses to satisfy the requirements for a Master’s degree. The Curtin Master’s program is 12 months of online study. Students will complete a research project under the supervision of the WOC Institute’s Academic Chair.
  - Through this collaboration, students can seamlessly transition from completing the NSWOC program to enrolling in the Curtin Master’s program, which consists of 12 months of online study. By leveraging the knowledge and skills acquired during their NSWOC training, students can delve deeper into advanced topics, research, and professional practice courses, ultimately earning a Master’s degree.
  - For healthcare professionals seeking to advance their careers and make a meaningful impact in patient care, this collaboration opens doors to new opportunities and possibilities. For more information on this exciting pathway, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.wocinstitute.ca/Master](http://www.wocinstitute.ca/Master) or email [chair@wocinstitute.ca](mailto:chair@wocinstitute.ca).
- Canadian Association of Nursing (CNA) WOCC(C) certification.
  - We raised the standard for and differentiate NSWOC’s by increasing the number of writers of the CNA certification exam to 100 per year. Since 2019 the final exam for the NSWOC Program has been the CNA certification exam.
  - The WOC Institute continues to support a prep course for NSWOCs interested in writing the Canadian Association of Nursing WOCC(C). NSWOC’s are provided a self-paced guide which includes the NSWOC competencies, focused readings, exam writing tips and sample exam







- questions.
- A dedicated TEAM has been established as a forum for NSWOCs to connect with other NSWOCs preparing for exam writing, develop study groups and ask questions. For more information visit [nswoc.ca](http://nswoc.ca) and log on to the “NSWOCC Members” area. Go to “View Available Downloads” and select “NSWOCC CNA Certification prep Course”.
  - NSWOCC members can contact [chair@wocinstitute.ca](mailto:chair@wocinstitute.ca) to be enrolled into the CNA prep study group TEAM.
  - The prep course is available in French. Thank you to Valerie Chaplain for facilitating the translation and supporting French NSWOCs in writing the certification exam.
  - A group of volunteers is currently working on updating the CNA prep materials.
  - The CNA certification exam is now the final exam for the NSWOC Program (English and French)
  - The number of people taking the WOCC(C) exam have been climbing steadily since we made the CNA exam mandatory starting in 2019. Numbers were down during the pandemic however this is in line with the National trend across all specialties due to COVID-19. CNA is pleased with our progress.
  - The WOC Institute collaborated with the NSWOCC conference planning committee to host workshops for our students and NSWOCs during the NSWOCC National Conference. Workshops include:
    - Wound Management Product Selection
    - Ostomy Management
    - Lower Leg Assessment
  - Universal NSWOC Program Recognition
    - NSWOC nurses interested in writing the WOCN certification exam in the United States:
      - While the final exam for the NSWOC Program remains the CNA certification exam, nurses who have graduated from the WOC Institute’s NSWOC Program (NSWOC Program) are eligible to sit the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Certification exam in the United States. \*\* This does not replace the requirement to write the CNA certification exam.
      - Visit <https://www.wocncb.org/> to learn more about certification in the United States.
      - When applying to write the exam Canadian graduates should use their NSWOC graduation documentation along with their Registered Nurse licence and proof of bachelor’s degree.
      - Within the exam application, nurses should choose the education program listing and the code #200 for “International WCET program/Traditional”. This is considered it an equivalent to the WOC education programs.
      - Below is a link to our exam handbook with eligibility information, as well as a link to the list of test site locations. Exam Handbook: [http://www.wocncb.org/UserFiles/file/exam\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.wocncb.org/UserFiles/file/exam_handbook.pdf)
      - There is also a remote option for testing at home through a live proctor, as a





scheduling option.

- Test Site Locations: <https://www.assessments.measurelearning.com/test-site-cities/>

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## Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) Program

- SWAN enrolment has been steadily increasing with 210 graduates since the programs launch in 2020.
- The SWAN Program has achieved accreditation from the Canadian Nurses Association for 240 continuous education credits.
- The SWAN Program ongoing updates are planned for 2024.
- The faculty now includes 8 academic advisors.
- Will continue to monitor the graduation numbers and communicate with the CNA to determine if CNA certification for the SWAN students is feasible.



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## Industry Skin Wellness Associate (ISWA) Program

- WOC Institute developed the Industry Skin Wellness Associate (ISWA) Program in response to the growing desire for industry partners to enhance their knowledge build confidence and to be better able to communicate with health care professionals working in the areas of wound, ostomy, and continence, specifically created for industry partners (launched September 3, 2020, with 22 graduates to date).
- The NSWOCC and WOC Institute developed the paced online ISWA education program as a means to empower industry partners to become a better resource in supporting clinicians, ultimately improving clinical outcomes. The ISWA Program prepares industry partners to have an enriched understanding of wound, ostomy, and continence issues.
- We redesigned into level 1 and 2 to better meet industry needs.
- A team of graduates from the ISWA Program have collaborated and will present a poster related to the value of the ISWA Program during the NSWOCC National Conference.



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## Advanced Wound Debridement Course

- The competency-based, advanced debridement course is designed by nurses for nurses and follows the Canadian best practice recommendations for nurses; however, the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute recognizes the course may be of interest to





- other disciplines. As such, non-nurses meeting the prerequisite education requirements will be accepted into the program. Healthcare professionals without a nursing background are responsible for recognizing their own scope of practice and jurisdictional policies related to their profession.
- Foundational knowledge of wound management is essential prior to enrollment in a competency-based debridement educational program. Prerequisite education is identified by the successful completion of a curriculum-based wound management program.
  - The primary objective of this course is to provide learners with advanced theoretical knowledge pertaining to all aspects of debridement. Learners are encouraged to seek out mentorship opportunities within their work environment and to work within their scope of practice. At the end of this program learners will have advanced debridement knowledge beyond the NSWOC / SWAN Programs.
  - The program is self-paced online with access to virtual mentorship and knowledge consolidation opportunities with our team of CNA certified NSWOCs.
  - An annual workshop will be held during the NSWOC National conference.
  - AWD enrolment has been steadily increasing with 123 nurses completing the program since its launch in 2022.
  - The Pumpkin Spice campaign was successful with many nurses taking advantage of the fall discount to take the course. Given its success, we will be planning on repeating the campaign in the fall of 2024.

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### Paramedic Wound Associate (PWA) Program

- Education Program for Paramedics: A fully developed wound and skin care education program designed for Advanced Community Care Paramedics which can be delivered to an unlimited number of Paramedics.
- Paced on-line education program.
- Six weeks in duration. Students should expect to spend approximately 10 hours per week on course work.
- Educational material is delivered by an Academic Advisor who is an advanced practice nurse who is a Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) certified-WOCC(C) Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence.
- PWA enrolment has been steadily increasing with 102 graduates since the programs launch in 2022.



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### Spanish NSWOC Program

- After completing a needs assessment and environmental scan of the Latin American WOC landscape, and in collaboration with the NSWOC CEO, the decision was made to put the Spanish NSWOC course on hold.



### Scholarships

- Multiple scholarships/financial awards have been secured to reward the achievements of NSWOC and SWAN students and to support academic excellence. We are actively seeking the creation of more scholarships for our NSWOC and SWAN students.
  1. 7 Generations Medical Ltd Award
  2. Clement LeBlanc Memorial Scholarship
  3. Coloplast Clinical Achievement Award in Continence Care
  4. Pefuse Medtec Inc. Emerging Leaders Awards: 2SLGBTQIA+ Nurses Award (NSWOC or SWAN)
  5. Pefuse Medtec Inc. Emerging Leaders Awards: Black Nurses Award (NSWOC or SWAN)
  6. NSWOC Emerging Leaders Awards: Nurses of Colour Award (NSWOC or SWAN)
  7. Hollister Clinical Achievement Award for the SWAN Program
  8. Hollister Clinical Achievement Award in Ostomy Care
  9. McKin Health NSWOC Trailblazer Award
  10. Mölnlycke Health Care Highest Achievement Award for the NSWOC/NSWOC Program
  11. Mölnlycke Health Care Highest Achievement Award for the SWAN Program
  12. Mölnlycke Health Care Indigenous Award
  13. Ostomy Canada Society's Wound, Ostomy and Continence Education Program (NSWOC Program) Award
  14. Smith+Nephew Clinical Achievement Award in Wound Care
  15. Sterasure Academic Achievement Award for the NSWOC Program
  16. Urgo Medical North America Academic Achievement Award for the NSWOC Program
  17. Urgo Medical North America Academic Achievement Award for the SWAN Program
  18. Vancouver United Ostomy Association Award

### Support excellence in the WOC Institute Faculty

- Future aims to develop an annual faculty development program.
- Faculty to participate in the NSWOC National Conference.
- Awards (voted on by students) given to faculty during the annual NSWOC National Conference banquet.

### Support and encourage NSWOC research and publication through mentorship and support.

- Currently planning the research study "Impact of Living with an Ostomy in Canada"





## WOC Institute Report



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- Encourage NSWOC student publications.
- Encourage and support NSWOC research through partnerships with NSWOC researchers (Dr. Kevin Woo, Dr. Karen Campbell, etc.)
- Explore research grants and opportunities.
- Explore research collaborations with other organizations.

### Promotion of the WOC Institute Programs

- The WOC Institute Academic Chair, in consultation with the Director of Operations and the support team, developed a targeting marketing plan to promote all WOC Institute programs.
- Utilizing social media for program promotion.
- The WOC Institute team attended the Wounds Canada conference to promote the WOC Institute programs.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the WOC Institute is undergoing a period of transition and growth, marked by both farewells and new beginnings. The capacity-building efforts at the WOC Institute have been extensive and multifaceted, touching various aspects of program development and enhancement. From the collaborative efforts to develop new programs and update existing ones, to achieving accreditation milestones and fostering partnerships for advanced education pathways, the dedication to excellence is evident. The commitment to inclusivity, as seen in initiatives like the Indigenous Core Program collaboration and the recognition of prior learning, underscores our ethos of accessibility and diversity.

The collaboration between the NSWOC and Curtin University in Perth, Australia, represents an innovative response to the increasing demand for highly skilled nursing practitioners in wound, ostomy, and continence care. Through this collaboration, students can seamlessly transition from completing the NSWOC program to enrolling in the Curtin Master's program. By leveraging the knowledge and skills acquired during their NSWOC training, students can delve deeper into advanced topics, research, and professional practice courses, ultimately earning a Master's degree. The partnership not only provides a pathway for continuous professional development but also emphasizes the importance of ongoing education and specialization in the field of wound, ostomy, and continence care. By offering students the opportunity to work on a research project, the collaboration fosters Canadian WOC research. For healthcare professionals seeking to advance their careers and make a meaningful impact in patient care, this collaboration opens doors to new opportunities and possibilities. For more information on this exciting pathway, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.wocinstitute.ca/Master](http://www.wocinstitute.ca/Master) or email [chair@wocinstitute.ca](mailto:chair@wocinstitute.ca).



## NSWOCC Official Interest Groups

Please visit our Official Interest Groups' websites to access current information on skin tears and pressure injuries.

### International Skin Tear Advisory Panel

President: Samantha Holloway, MSc,  
FHEA, CertEd, RN (UK)  
[www.skintears.org](http://www.skintears.org)

### Canadian Pressure Injury Advisory Panel

President: Kaylem Boileau, MHSc, RD  
[www.cpiap.com](http://www.cpiap.com)





### International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP)

ISTAP President Samantha Holloway, MSc, RN on behalf of the ISTAP Board of Directors

ISTAP continues to grow from strength to strength and our position as a truly international organization is reflected in our projects and activities in 2023. ISTAP continues to support its own fundraising, budgeting and management of revenue and expenses and that ISTAP is in a positive cash balance. ISTAP have had a very successful 2023 with a range of key activities.



### 2023 Summary

#### World Without Skin Tears Day (27 April 2023)

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> WWST Day attracted over 1000 registrants with 500 participants taking part on the day. The day was supported by a panel of international experts from Australia, Malaysia, UK, Canada and the USA. The event was supported by our two key corporate partners (Molnlycke & Essity). For our WWST on 18 April 2024 we have developed an innovative program to include a range of different experts from across the globe. We have also made provisional plans to upgrade our Zoom account subscription so we can accommodate more participants on the day.

#### European Wound Management Association Conference (3-5 May 2023, Milan)

ISTAP ran a Focus Session at the EWMA Conference, the theme was: Skin Integrity, Skin Frailty and Skin Tears: embedding best practice recommendations in clinical practice. Our Regional Director for the UK, Dr Ray Samuriwo spoke on *Skin integrity, skin frailty and principles of skin care* and our Regional Director for Europe, Steven Smet spoke about *Applying Best Practice Recommendations for skin tears*. ISTAP will be contributing to three sessions at the EWMA conference in London in May 2024. These will include a key session on 'Skin tears across life' which Dr Anika Fourie will represent at. Steven Smet and Samantha Holloway are facilitating a workshop on 'Reapproximating a skin tear flap and using the ISTAP skin tear classification system'. Additionally Samantha Holloway and Dr Ray Samuriwo will represent ISTAP in a Focus Session *Skin Tones: what are the considerations for skin tears and skin integrity?*



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### Annual General Meeting (18 May 2023)

Following our AGM we welcomed a new Treasurer (Steven Smet). Steven had held the position of Regional Director (Europe) for the previous two years. The Regional Director position for Europe was filled by Dr Anika Fourie who brings with her expertise in protecting vulnerable skin, particularly in the intensive care environment. We also welcomed a new Regional Director for Latin America, Cinthia Viana Bandeira Da Silva. Cinthia recently completed her Masters which examined nurses knowledge of skin tear prevention, assessment and management based on the OASES knowledge tool (Van Tiggelen et al 2021). Cinthia will be presenting her research at the EWMA conference in May 2024 and as part of a planned Wounds International Event in June 2024.

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### Wounds International Digital Event (June 26-28, 2023)

This global event ran over three days across three different time zones. ISTAP provided three sessions on the topic of [Skin Health: Clinical and Cultural Perspectives](#). Our Regional Directors for Australia - Jenny Prentice, USA - Dr Jayesh Shah and, UK / Europe - Dr Ray Samuriwo and Steven Smet presented. We have been invited to contribute to the same event this year (24-26 June) and are currently planning the Core Program for skin tear topics.

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### Wounds Week (July 4, 2023)

This annual event is hosted in conjunction with colleagues from the University of Huddersfield and MA Healthcare Events. Samantha Holloway presented on the 'Assessment and Prevention of Skin Tears' and the session was moderated by Professor Karen Ousey (President-Elect) and Professor Barbara Conway. The session attracted 430 attendees live with more than 6000 individuals registered across the 5-day event.

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### ISTAP Publications (2023)

We were commissioned by the Nursing Standard to write an article on skin tears: Holloway S, Prentice J, Samuriwo R. *Preventing, assessing and treating skin tears*. Nurs Stand. 2023 Sep 4. doi: 10.7748/ns.2023.e12127. The publication for the Nursing Standard was followed up by a Podcast: *Not just a skin tear: why they matter and how to treat them* as well as an item in their newsletter in January 2024.

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### ISTAP Members Survey (November-December 2023)

Our members are important to us therefore to understand their needs better we conducted a survey in November 2023, receiving 76 responses. Most responses were from North America and were from the nursing profession. The feedback provided useful information regarding the primary reasons for becoming members of our organization:

- Attending ISTAP-led events on skin tear education, like the Global "A





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- World Without Skin Tears Day”
- Receiving quarterly news about skin tear news, publications, and events through the ISTAP Communiqué
  - Access to ISTAP Member-Only articles and publications
  - Downloading translated versions of an ISTAP document, tool, or publication

It was encouraging to see that within the last year, members downloaded documents or resources to enhance their own knowledge (62%), disseminate information in their workplace (64%), or inform organizational policy (36%). Our members mentioned that they would like more online and in person seminars (35%), new research / learning material (56%) and practice recommendations (9%). These are areas for development that we have included in our 5-year strategic plan.

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### Wounds UK Conference, Harrogate (6-8 November 2023)

Samantha Holloway, Julia Bresnai-Harris, Ray Samuriwo and Cathy Harley represented ISTAP at the Wounds UK Conference. Samantha, Julia and Ray ran two ‘Skin Tears Made Easy’ sessions which were attended by 100 participants. Supported by Cathy Harley we also had a booth at the exhibition which provided an opportunity to network with our UK ISTAP members as well as speak to several potential industry partners.

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## New International Official Partners (2023)

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### Accelerate CIC and ISTAP Webinar Series (January – March 2024)

To celebrate our collaboration with Accelerate CIC in July 2023 we ran a series of free educational webinars. These included ‘Basic to Basic Skin Care’ (January 17), ‘Skin Tears: Cleansing, classification and management’ (February 21) and ‘The role of mild compression in lower limb skin tears’ (March 13). These were run jointly with colleagues from both organizations. We had approximately 1200 registrations for each webinar and achieved a 33% attendance rate for each to date. This activity has increased the profile of each organization and generated some significant discussions regarding the prevention, assessment, and management of skin tears.

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### Association for the Advancement of Wound Care (AAWC)

In August 2023 ISTAP became an official partner of the AAWC via a MOA. In October the associations ran a joint webinar, ‘Skin Tears: The Undervalued Wound’. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Ruth Bryant and included a range of expert panelists: Karen Ousey, Cathy Milne, Diane Krasner, Kim LeBlanc, Kara Couch and Samantha Holloway. Over 100 participants registered for the event and the feedback was very positive.



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### Wounds Ostomy Continence Nurses

We were delighted to sign a MOU with the WOCN group in 2023. Along with NSWOCC the three associations will be collaborating on an update to the 2018 Best Practice Recommendations for skin tears with a view these being implemented across North America. We are in discussion with Wounds International to support the project in terms of securing funding and administration of the project. The project is due to commence in September 2024.

### ISTAP Publications (Commissioned):

- Fourie A and Nokaneng E. Part 1: *The prevention of skin tears - a focus on vulnerable populations from the elderly to critically ill patients*. In review with *Advances in Skin and Wound Care*
- Fourie A and Nokaneng E. Part 2: *Management of skin tears in the vulnerable populations from the elderly to critically ill patients*. In process, will be submitted to *Advances in Skin and Wound Care*
- WCET Journal Editorial (Professor Karen Ousey) and Essentials of skin care feature (Julia Harris, Salvacion Cruz)

### Other measures of impact

A number of Universities now include a specific Skin Tear session on their postgraduate programs of study, for example the University of Geneva and the University of Galway.

ISTAP have also approved the use of a number of their assets, for example, the ISTAP Skin Tear classification system to a number of clinicians as well as publishing houses, including Pearson Canada.

### Forthcoming events / conferences (2024)

- 15th Abu Dhabi Wound Care Conference | 9-10 March 2024 | ADNEC-UAE –Regional Director Salvacion Cruz is representing ISTAP at this event.
- 1-3 May 34th Conference of the European Wound Management Association, London UK –ISTAP have an exhibition booth and are also speaking in 3 conference sessions.
- NSWOCC 43rd National Conference, Calgary, Alberta. ISTAP is represented by Julia Harris
- Wounds International Digital Event – 24-26 June. ISTAP will be represented by three of our Regional Directors at this event.

### Projects in progress

Joint project with EWMA 'Living with Skin Frailty and Skin Tears' – a digital



## NSWOCC Official Interest Groups



storytelling project to develop a series of digital and audio resources for educational purposes. An MOA with EWMA has been drafted and discussions regarding budget setting and sponsorship are in progress.

WOCN, NSWOCC, ISTAP Best Practice Recommendations for Skin Tears (Update of 2018 document) project

### ISTAP Workstreams

- Collaboration and Partnerships workstream, Chaired by Professor Karen Ousey has facilitated partnerships with three new associations in 2023 – AAWC, Accelerate CIC and WOCN.
- Education Workstream, Chaired by Mary Hill, and supported by our Board of Directors, have facilitated the program for the World Without Skin Tears Day and have supported our Webinars with Accelerate CIC
- Global Community Engagement Workstream, Chaired by Samantha Holloway, led on the members survey and are responsible for our quarterly communiques: <http://www.skintears.org> . We continue to have a successful presence on the major social media platforms.
- Research and Implementation workstream, Chaired by Dr Ray Samuriwo have been working on a search strategy and bibliographic list of references for skin tears for our members. The workstream are also exploring the topic of health economics related to skin tears.

### Conclusion

ISTAP continues to be successful, we are growing our membership year on year and we maintain our due diligence with regards to working ethically as a not for profit group. The organizational structure supports the work of ISTAP and the development of our 5-year strategic plan is helping us to realize our vision, mission and values. I am very proud to been the President for the last 2 years. I will move to Past-President after our AGM in May 2024 and have confidence that the Executive Team and Board of Directors will ensure the continued success of ISTAP.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Holloway, President of the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel  
Reader, Centre for Medical Education, School of Medicine, Cardiff University





### Canadian Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (CPIAP)

CPIAP President Kaylem Boileau, RD  
MHS Sc IIWCC-CAN on behalf of the  
CPIAP Board of Directors



#### Canada united in pressure injury prevention, management and policy.

CPIAP is an inter-professional collaboration dedicated to improving lives of persons affected by pressure injuries across the continuum of care through research, knowledge translation, policy, and advocacy.

Pressure injuries are a growing concern in Canada with little accurate data to describe the scope of this problem. To address the national issue of pressure injury in Canada, the Canadian Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (CPIAP) brought together an interprofessional, nationwide panel of experts in pressure injury prevention and management. This pan-Canadian panel is serving in a national advisory role and be represented by a cross section of healthcare professionals, dietitians, and researchers from different healthcare sectors from acute care to the community.

CPIAP will:

- Collaborate to form a unified voice in Canada
- Promote standardization through the adaptation of International Pressure Injury Guidelines for Canada, methods of assessment and data collection
- Increase public awareness about pressure injury prevention and management
- Advocate for practice change locally, provincially, and federally through policy change in order to improve patient care
- Prioritize goals and enhance the scientific evidence that will support stronger evidence-based practice

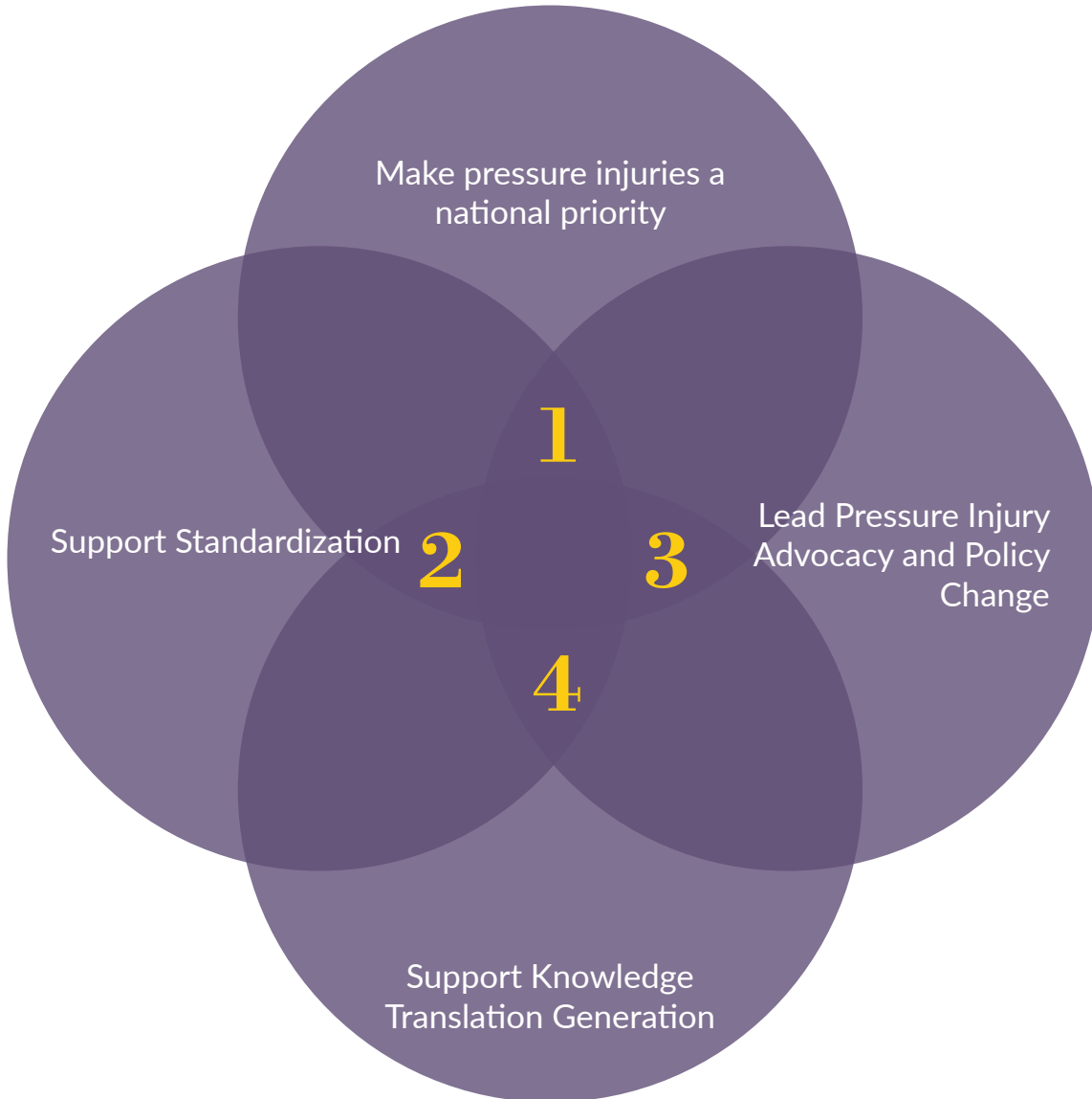


# NSWOCC Official Interest Groups



## Key Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities have been developed in order to make pressure injury awareness, prevention and management a national priority and to make an impact with CPIAP being recognized as the “source of truth” in the field of pressure injuries.



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### CPIAP Strategic Plan Implementation Results 2023-2024

#### Strategic Plan Launched Spring 2023

A strategic planning process resulted in the launch of a formal strategic plan in April 2023. The first year of the strategic plan implementation and here are the results to date:

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#### Pressure Injury Prioritization Workstream

This group met in order to discuss a plan on raising awareness around pressure injury prevention and management across Canada. A national pressure injury summit is being planned. There are two representatives from CPIAP on the International Pressure Injury Guideline Initiative being led by Professor Dr. Emily Haesler, Methodologist and Editor-in-Chief of the NPIAP/EPUAP/PPPIA International Pressure Injury/Ulcer Guideline, Canberra Australia

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#### Pressure Injury Standardization Workstream

The members of this workstream have been diligently collecting the existing pressure injury policies and protocols in all provinces and territories and identifying gaps. A library of current policies and protocols will be available on the CPIAP.com website by Fall 2024.

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#### Pressure Injury Policy and Advocacy

This group identified outdated verbiage that is being used by Accreditation Canada. Work is being done to raise the standard of accreditation in relation to pressure injury prevention and management. They have also reached out to collaborate with CANPIIRA, and they have agreed to send a letter out to their members in order to set an information night to present the CPIAP strategic priorities.

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#### Pressure Injury Knowledge Translation

This group is assessing the knowledge translation needs of patients and their families. Patient and family centred care is the focus as a big gap is finding resources. Pressure injury resources will be put on CPIAP website once resources found and organized. A task force will be starting work on a foundational white paper to look at the current status of pressure injury prevention and management across Canada. This will involve understanding the gaps found by the workstreams and conducting a survey to obtain input from healthcare professionals nationally.

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#### CPIAP Governance Update

Dr. Kevin Woo completed his role as the CPIAP President in May 2023. Thank you to Kevin for his work in getting CPIAP launched. Kaylem Boileau, RD



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MHSc IIWCC-CAN who is the Corporate Wound Care Lead & Clinical Dietitian, Professional Practice & Clinical Nutrition Services at Toronto Grace Hospital, Toronto, Ontario. Britney Butt, MCISc-WH, BScN, RN, NSWOC, WOCC(C) Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence at North York General Hospital was successful candidate to become the CPIAP President-Elect and Joshua Moreljo RN, BScN, MScCH: WPC, IIWCC, NSWOC, WOCC(C) Clinical Nurse Specialist – Wound & Ostomy Care University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, is now the Ontario Director. Teresa McKenzie, RN, NSWOC is now representing the Yukon, Tanya Girouard, RN, BN, NSWOC, of Indigenous Services Canada is representing Manitoba and Bukkie Akinwuntan, RN, NSWOC is representing Saskatchewan. Welcome to all new members of CPIAP.

CPIAP will continue to meet monthly in order to make an impact in Canadian pressure injury prevention and management. If you are interested in participating on one of our workstreams or if you have any information that you would like to contribute, please email [office@nswoc.ca](mailto:office@nswoc.ca).



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## NSWOCC Industry Advisory Council (NIAC)

Core Program Co-Leaders:

Marianne McMillan and Rodney Blair



Key Highlights:

- NIAC brings together companies who provide products and services to support wound, ostomy and continence care to patients across Canada. They work to support the work of our NSWOCs and SWANs from hospital to community. NIAC provides a forum for industry representatives to stay updated on NSWOCC initiatives while providing them the opportunity to weigh in and provide feedback.
- NIAC met seven times over the past twelve months with one face to face meeting and 6 virtual meetings. Up to 45 individuals representing companies from the wound, ostomy and continence industry participated.
- There was a face-to-face meeting which took place during the 2023 NSWOCC National Conference at the Westin Ottawa to de-brief on the 2023 national NSWOCC Conference and to get input for the NSWOCC 43rd National Conference that was being planned for Calgary May 1-5, 2024.
- Discussions continued as the 2024 NSWOCC National Conference planning developed, and input was taken for the exhibit hall, badge scanners, and the networking event. NIAC members were informed of advertising opportunities in the NSWOC Advance which contains peer reviewed articles and is the official publication of NSWOCC.
- The NSWOCC Webinar Program that supports continuing education was also discussed during the NIAC meetings and companies were given the opportunity to sponsor a continuing education webinar with marketing support from NSWOCC.
- A status report on all NSWOCC initiatives was provided at each meeting including best practice recommendation projects, tool kits and advocacy summits on wound, ostomy and continence.
- NSWOCC would like to thank Rodney Blair for his contribution to being the co-chair of NIAC since its launch three years ago. We wish Rodney the very best in his retirement.







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# Thank you!

## **Thank you to NSWOCC Volunteers**

### **NSWOCC is built by Members and is for the Members...**

Thank you so much for the immeasurably valuable work you have done for Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada over the past six months! We cannot thank you enough and want to let you know that your dedication is essential to the work that we do. We cannot do it without you! We would not want to do it without you! You bring ideas, positive energy and a beautiful intensity to the profession. We hope you will come back and join us soon on an exciting initiative, and maybe even bring a colleague with you!

## **Thank you to our Industry Partners and NIAC Members**

### **Our Industry Partners & NIAC Members are a part of our team...**

Without the steadfast support of our Industry Partners, NSWOCC cannot do what needs to be done to advance the profession of specialized wound, ostomy and continence nursing and to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care. We appreciate everything that you have done for us and look forward to a continued partnership between NSWOCC and Industry. We are in this together!

