



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wounds Canada and RNAO launch the latest innovation in skin health education:
*Skin Health Program for Personal Care Providers***

(Toronto, ON) – Feb. 21, 2024 – Wounds Canada and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) are pleased to launch the Skin Health Program for Personal Care Providers.

This new program, offered through the Wounds Canada Institute, is an innovation in skin health education specifically designed for personal care providers to enhance their knowledge in skin health and the prevention of common forms of skin damage, within their role as unregulated care providers supervised by nurses.

Research conducted in Ontario shows that [approximately 30-50 per cent of all health care involves managing wounds](#). And, Canadians spend [more than \\$11 billion on wound care each year](#). It's time to invest more in skin health and wound prevention in Canada – this program is a step in the right direction.

Personal care providers are valuable and integral members of the health-care team who support and help individuals in need of care. Known also by various other titles – personal support workers, health care or home aides, assistants or attendants – they work in home, community and primary care settings.

The Skin Health Program for Personal Care Providers was built on the success of a previous collaboration between Wounds Canada and RNAO, launched in 2022 – the Wound Care Champion Program was aimed at regulated health professionals. The new skin health program was developed specifically to support and equip unregulated care providers with the knowledge needed for healthy skin.

“These program collaborations between Wounds Canada and RNAO signify a joint understanding of the necessity of educational offerings in these areas – the prevention and management of wounds – covering the full spectrum of the health-care profession, both regulated and unregulated professionals,” says Mariam Botros CEO, Wounds Canada.

“Personal support workers and other personal care providers are valued members of the interdisciplinary team. This collaboration between RNAO and Wounds Canada gives these colleagues the access to education about skin health and wound prevention tailored to their sector, with content adjusted to their role and under the supervision of nurses,” adds Dr. Doris Grinspun, CEO, RNAO.

Wounds Canada and RNAO gratefully acknowledge the support and funding for the development of the Skin Health Program for Personal Care Providers by the Ontario Ministry of Health. Personal care providers who work in Ontario in the home and community care sector may be eligible for **free** registration through the ministry.

To learn more and to register for the program visit: woundscanada.ca/programs/skin-health

Wounds Canada, a health charity founded in 1995, leads the way in advocating for best practices in wound prevention and management. We address the silent crisis of wounds, which affects countless Canadians and costs our health-care systems billions each year. We specialize in providing essential wound-related information, aiming to reduce the occurrence of life-altering wounds and ensure those affected by wounds receive adequate care.

Our mission extends beyond individual health. We strive to mitigate wounds' wider impact on families, communities and our health systems. By offering resources, advocacy, education and events, we support diverse networks of patients, families, health-care professionals, researchers, policy makers and sector leaders across the country.

Visit woundscanada.ca to learn more about Wounds Canada and our commitment to enhancing Canadians' quality of life.

The Wounds Canada Institute (WCI), a department of Wounds Canada, builds on our decades of excellence in educational programs for health-care professionals in the areas of skin health and wound management. Through the *WCI*, health-care professionals at all levels and in all disciplines can access flexible, interprofessional education that supports their learning needs and professional career growth.

For more information we invite you to visit woundscanada.ca/wci-home

RNAO's Best Practice Guideline (BPG) Program is funded by Ontario's Ministry of Health. It was envisioned by CEO Dr. Doris Grinspun in 1998 and launched in 1999 to provide the best available evidence for patient care across all health sectors and settings, with more than 50 guidelines developed to date. The Best Practice Spotlight Organization® (BPSO®) program supports service and academic institutions that have formally agreed to implement multiple RNAO BPGs over a three-year period, and evaluate their impact on patients, organizations and health systems. Launched in 2003, the BPSO program now has more than 1,500 BPSOs in Ontario, Canada and internationally. For more information about the program, visit RNAO.ca/BPG

The **Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)** is the professional association representing registered nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has advocated for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, increased nurses' contribution to shaping the health system, and influenced decisions that affect nurses and the public we serve. For more information about RNAO, visit RNAO.ca or follow us on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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