

Message from the NSWOCC President • Message de la présidente de l'ISPSCC



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Dear NSWOCC Members,

As I begin my term as President of Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada (NSWOCC), I feel tremendous pride, gratitude, and renewed energy. This year marks an important milestone for our association—one shaped by transition, strategic renewal, and a shared commitment to advancing specialized nursing across Canada.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to our outgoing President, Corey Heerschap. Corey has been a pillar of our NSWOC community for many years, contributing his expertise, leadership, and passion through key roles on the Board of Directors and within the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Institute. His exceptional two-year term as President strengthened our association and championed innovation in clinical practice. I am deeply grateful for his mentorship and support as I step into this role.

This year also marks a significant moment in our executive leadership. After 22 years of dedicated service, Catherine Harley retired as Chief Executive Officer in May 2026. Cathy's visionary leadership, strong advocacy, and operational excellence helped shape NSWOCC's evolution—from major organizational milestones to the strengthening of our national profile. Her impact on our profession is profound, and we wish her a joyful and well-deserved retirement. With this transition complete, I look forward to working collaboratively with our new CEO as we continue advancing the next phase of NSWOCC's growth.

Our Board of Directors brings remarkable expertise and dedication to their roles. Their leadership will support our rapidly expanding membership, which now exceeds 1,600 members—including more than six hundred Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence and a vibrant, growing network of Skin Wellness Associate Nurses. Together, we remain committed to strengthening our trispecialty, supporting your clinical practice, and fostering an inclusive and collaborative community.

Education continues to be a cornerstone of our mission. This year, members can look forward to a dynamic and interactive educational calendar, including a diverse series of webinars designed to deliver innovative clinical knowledge, emerging research, and practical troubleshooting. These sessions are developed in close partnership with our industry colleagues, whose support enables us to provide accessible, high-quality learning opportunities.

Looking ahead, planning is underway for the NSWOCC 46th National Conference, taking place in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 12–16, 2027. As my home province, Nova Scotia holds a special place in my heart, and I am thrilled to welcome our national community to this world-class coastal city.

To our Board, faculty, operational staff, and most importantly, to you—our members—thank you. Your dedication to improving the lives of individuals living with complex wound, ostomy, and continence needs is the driving force behind NSWOCC's impact. I'm honoured to serve as your President and look forward to all we will achieve together. •