

Canadian Injury Prevention Professionals Association

Survey and Consultation Results

June 2023

Background

In September 2022, a national survey was sent out to existing Canadian networks working in the injury prevention field and asked them to share with their networks. In addition, the survey was promoted through LinkedIn and Twitter. The goal was to assess and collect feedback from a broad group of stakeholders on the idea of forming a national association of professionals working in injury prevention.

In November 2022, at the Canadian Injury Prevention Conference, delegates were surveyed on this concept. And in March 2023, Parachute conducted strategic planning consultations where the idea of a national injury prevention association was discussed with focus group participants.

Below are the results from the surveys and consultations.

Survey Respondents

The survey respondents came from hospital/health care, government, academia, board of health/public health/health authorities, and non-governmental organizations. No responses were received from education or enforcement organizations.

Respondents worked in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and the Yukon.

Respondents identified professionally as academics, researchers, policymakers, health promoters, educators, project managers, consultants, epidemiologist, and administrators.

Survey Results

Is there a need to form an association of Injury Prevention professionals in Canada?

60% of respondents from the national survey answered **yes** to this question.

95% of respondents from the conference survey answered **yes** to this question.

Ranked 3 out of 5 on Parachute's strategic consultations

Would you support the formation of an association of Injury Prevention professionals that would provide a collective space for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, academics at all levels of experience?

96% of respondents from the national survey answered **yes** to this question.

100% of respondents from the conference survey answered **yes** to this question.

When asked to explain why respondents supported an association, respondents said that it:

- is beneficial to have a space to meet and collaborate, break down silos
- could provide a place to set an agenda and help to build a collective action plan
- could help bring more awareness to injury prevention and give a stronger voice to injury prevention
- would provide collaborative space that brings together multiple disciplines would help connect people
- would lend legitimacy to the field, similar to professional bodies
- could be a place where knowledge can be updated
- would bridge gaps that exist

For those who didn't support this concept, they cited concerns about duplication and connections with existing associations, and having defined objectives an association would address.

What are the key benefits you would be looking for from membership in an association of Injury Prevention professionals?

When responses were averaged from the national survey and the survey of the conference delegates, respondents ranked benefits as follows:

Build your networking/reconnect with colleagues	87%
Stay up to date on current information	87%
Collaborate on projects, research, publications, and training	84%
Educational materials (e.g., webinars, reports)	76%

Conference(s) to attend/present	55%
Access to funding	54%
Mentorship	52%
Leadership opportunities (e.g., serving on committees)	52%
Access to journal articles	46%
Ability to network, identify opportunities for cross border research applications (e.g., access to NIH funding)	43%

In the Other category, respondents listed standardized and define practices, improved safety metrics, and innovation. Focus groups from Parachute's strategic planning consultations supported this list of benefits as meeting the needs of the injury prevention field.

Would an association of Injury Prevention professionals in Canada ("SAVIR" Canada) with an affiliation with SAVIR US be attractive?

84% of respondents from the national survey said **yes**
63% of respondents from the conference survey said **yes**

Quite a few respondents were not aware of SAVIR. Of those who were, comments included support for a connection/affiliation but with concerns about being overshadowed by the US, that the Canadian association is not too research focused but more broadly focused on the activities and membership, and a recognition that there is much overlap and shared issues between the two countries. There were several recommendations to also explore connections with other associations such as in Europe and Australia.

Conclusion

The results from the surveys and strategic planning consultations revealed strong support for the creation of a Canadian injury prevention association as a place where those working in injury prevention can connect with colleagues, build their networks, stay up to date on current information, collaborate with others, and access education. This association will need to avoid duplication and ensure links to other groups already established, in Canada and internationally.