

**Ontario Nurses' Association**  
**Weekly Media Scan & Media Release Summary**

**January 13 to 17, 2025**

***ONA coverage:***

**Nurse practitioners cry foul over funding**

Brantford Expositor, January 16, 2025

[Protesters say community nurses underpaid | Brantford Expositor](#)

***Nursing coverage:***

**Ottawa opens up health plans to pay for necessary care by nurse practitioners, pharmacists and midwives**

Toronto Star, January 10, 2025

[Health plans opened up to nurse practitioners, pharmacists](#)

**Federal health policy changes could expand primary care in Canada**

Ottawa Citizen, January 10, 2025

[Federal health policy changes could expand primary care in Canada | Ottawa Citizen](#)

***Industry coverage:***

**Provinces are relying on virtual doctors to keep smaller ERs open. Here's how it works**

CBC News, January 11, 2025

[Provinces are relying on virtual doctors to keep smaller ERs open. Here's how it works | CBC Radio](#)

**It's sick season. Here's how to protect yourself from norovirus, COVID-19, flu and RSV**

Toronto Star, January 11, 2025

[It's sick season. Here's how to protect yourself from norovirus, COVID-19, flu and RSV](#)

**'Significant' increase in gastrointestinal illness in Windsor-Essex long-term care, retirement homes**

CBC News, January 11, 2025

['Significant' increase in gastrointestinal illness in Windsor-Essex long-term care, retirement homes | CBC News](#)

**Americans dying too young - health policy needs shake-up**

Ottawa Sun, January 13, 2025

[Ottawa Sun \(Print Edition\)](#)

**Stakeholders describe health system in distress; Administrators, patients warn committee about debt, lotteries to get family doctors**

Ottawa Citizen, January 11, 2025

[Ottawa Citizen \(Print Edition\)](#)

**Self-reported stomach flu cases climb to 234 at University of Guelph**

Canadian Press, January 13, 2025

[Stomach flu cases climb to 234 at University of Guelph](#)

**B.C. doctor reflects on treating teen with H5N1 for 2 months**

Canadian Press, January 13, 2025

[B.C. doctor reflects on treating teen with H5N1 for 2 months | CBC News](#)

**Children's Aid to shut down medical clinic that serves 290 kids, citing budget deficit**

CBC News, January 14, 2025

[Children's Aid to shut down medical clinic that serves 290 kids, citing budget deficit | CBC News](#)

**Quebec measles outbreak grows to 11 cases; officials warn of thousands of exposures**

Canadian Press, January 13, 2025

[Quebec measles outbreak grows to 11 cases; officials warn of thousands of exposures - The Globe and Mail](#)

**'We can live our lives again without worrying': Ontario man relieved after insurance company agrees to pay US\$620,000 hospital bill**

CP24, January 13, 2025

[Ontario man originally denied US\\$620,000 hospital bill gets it paid](#)

**Auditor General reveals new Mississauga Hospital project \$4 billion over budget**

Canadian Press, January 13, 2025

[Canadian Press - Broadcast News \(Print Edition\)](#)

**Huron County calls on province to address health unit shortfalls**

Stratford Beacon-Herald, January 14, 2025

[Stratford Beacon-Herald \(Print Edition\)](#)

### **Public health confirms measles case; Three locations listed as possible exposure sites**

Simcoe Reformer, January 14, 2025

[Simcoe Reformer](#)

### **Ontario's health care needs courageous leadership, not political appeasement**

Healthy Debate, January 13, 2025

[Ontario's health care needs courageous leadership, not political appeasement - Healthy Debate](#)

### **Canada's health-care system falls behind most peer countries: Report**

Canadian Press, January 14, 2025

[Canada's health-care system falls behind most peer countries: Report](#)

### **Macassa Lodge ordered to train workers to manage violent patients**

Hamilton Spectator, January 13, 2025

[Macassa Lodge ordered to train workers on violent patients](#)

### **Algoma Public Health has new program to track young children's development**

CBC News, January 14, 2025

[Algoma Public Health has new program to track young children's development | CBC News](#)

### **911 dispatchers can now connect Londoners to mental health and addiction crisis workers**

CBC News, January 14, 2025

[911 dispatchers can now connect Londoners to mental health and addiction crisis workers | CBC News](#)

### **Hamilton hospitals, drop-in centre partner to offer warm space for patients with nowhere to go**

CBC News, January 15, 2025

[Hamilton hospitals, drop-in centre partner to offer warm space for patients with nowhere to go | CBC News](#)

## **CMHA and North Bay Regional Health Centre to expand to offer new addiction treatment beds**

CBC News, January 15, 2025

[CMHA and North Bay Regional Health Centre to expand to offer new addiction treatment beds | CBC News](#)

## **Does the Canada Health Act require reinterpretation, or a more fundamental rethink?**

Globe and Mail, January 14, 2025

[Opinion: Does the Canada Health Act require reinterpretation, or a more fundamental rethink? - The Globe and Mail](#)

## **René Lapierre resigning as chair of Sudbury board of health**

Sudbury.com, January 14, 2025

[René Lapierre resigning as chair of Sudbury board of health - Sudbury News](#)

## **Bird flu flying north?; Canada heightens risk as outbreaks spread**

Ottawa Sun, January 15, 2025

[Ottawa Sun \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Ottawa board of health seeks new top doctor**

Ottawa Citizen, January 15, 2025

[Ottawa Citizen \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Vulnerable kids will be hurt as Children's Aid medical clinic closes: Advocates**

London Free Press, January 14, 2025

[The London Free Press](#)

## **Woodstock Hospital recognized for high-quality, people centred care**

London Free Press, January 14, 2025

[London Free Press \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **More than 74,000 Canadians have died on health-care wait lists since 2018: report**

National Post, January 15, 2025

[National Post](#)

## **New research says mental health program in high schools reduces drug disorders**

Canadian Press, January 15, 2025

[School mental health programs reduce drug risk: study](#)

## **Health professionals issue urgent call for climate action and for their pension plan to step up**

Healthy Debate, January 15, 2025

[Health professionals issue urgent call for climate action and for their pension plan to step up - Healthy Debate](#)

## **London police ID 18-year-old from Brampton as suspect in Victoria Hospital shooting**

CBC News, January 15, 2025

[London police ID 18-year-old from Brampton as suspect in Victoria Hospital shooting | CBC News](#)

## **‘Sad state of affairs’: Family doctor’s arrival in Walkerton leads hundreds to line up in snow to sign up**

Toronto Star, January 15, 2025

[Walkerton, Ontario residents line up to get a family doctor](#)

## **Influenza cases surging as respiratory illness season strains Canada’s emergency rooms, children’s hospitals**

Globe and Mail, January 15, 2025

[Influenza cases surging as respiratory illness season strains Canada’s emergency rooms, children’s hospitals - The Globe and Mail](#)

## **Sudbury's first hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment is now available**

Sudbury.com, January 15, 2025

[Sudbury's first hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment is now available - Sudbury News](#)

## **London patients turn to regional hospitals for faster ER service**

West Elgin Chronicle, January 16, 2025

[West Elgin Chronicle \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Huron County's draft budget floats 6.75 per cent tax increase**

Goderich Focus, January 16, 2025

[Goderich Focus \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Ottawa Hospital preparing 'unconventional spaces' to handle influx of patients**

CTV News, January 16, 2025

[Ottawa Hospital housing patients in gym as demand spikes](#)

## **Police handcuff and fine son for visiting mom in LTC home, after breaking 'unlawful' ban**

CBC News, January 17, 2025

[Police handcuff and fine son for visiting mom in LTC home, after breaking 'unlawful' ban | CBC News](#)

## **Ontario teen with brain cancer heading to Florida to access treatment unavailable in Canada**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[Ontario teen with brain cancer heading to Florida to access treatment unavailable in Canada | CBC News](#)

## **Quebec cuts 1,000 health-care jobs in a month as it tackles deficit**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[Quebec cuts 1,000 health-care jobs in a month as it tackles deficit | CBC News](#)

## **Sudbury health unit on the lookout for avian flu cases in local birds**

CBC News, January 17, 2025

[Sudbury health unit on the lookout for avian flu cases in local birds | CBC News](#)

## **Off-site surgical centre to triple in size**

London Free Press, January 17, 2025

[London Free Press \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Immunization keeps Children Safe**

Kingston Whig-Standard, January 17, 2025

[Kingston Whig-Standard \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **Officials 'strongly advise' parents against freebirths; 'Unexpected cluster' of stillbirths and deaths identified in 2022**

Ottawa Citizen, January 17, 2025

[Ottawa Citizen \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **PATRICIA BAKER: Safe consumption site opponents kill addicts' 'last chance at life'**

The Sault Star, January 16, 2025

[The Sault Star](#)

## **What led to double resignations at Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team and what does it mean for local health care?**

Canadian Press, January 16, 2025

[Canadian Press \(Print Edition\)](#)

## **New money for Erie Shores MRI suite will double the number of scans it can do, CEO says**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[New money for Erie Shores MRI suite will double the number of scans it can do, CEO says | CBC News](#)

## **Province eyes expanding non-urgent surgery centre in London**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[Province eyes expanding non-urgent surgery centre in London | CBC News](#)

## **Ontario regulator eyes motion to punish pharmacies that strike exclusive deals**

Globe and Mail, January 17, 2025

[Ontario regulator eyes motion to punish pharmacies that strike exclusive deals - The Globe and Mail](#)

### ***Labour coverage:***

## **Niagara Health to disburse \$20M in pay equity deal for thousands of current, former hospital workers**

CBC News, January 11, 2025

[Niagara Health to disburse \\$20M in pay equity deal for thousands of current, former hospital workers | CBC News](#)

## **Secondary teachers' union slams funding with 'Ford High' ad campaign**

Toronto Star, January 16, 2025

[Ontario secondary teachers slam funding with 'Ford High' ad](#)

## **New union agreements could cost Toronto up to \$300M in 2025**

CBC News, January 17, 2025

[New union agreements could cost Toronto up to \\$300M in 2025 | CBC News](#)

***Human Rights and Equity coverage:***

**Summit aims to improve employment opportunities for Ontario workers with disabilities**

CBC News, January 12, 2025

[Summit aims to improve employment opportunities for Ontario workers with disabilities | CBC News](#)

**Hamilton non-profit creates spaces for Black girls in STEM and beyond**

Globe and Mail, January 12, 2025

[Hamilton non-profit creates spaces for Black girls in STEM and beyond - The Globe and Mail](#)

**Transgender Albertan says tribunal ruling will lead to justice for LGBTQ+ community**

Canadian Press, January 15, 2025

[Transgender Albertan says tribunal ruling will lead to justice for LGBTQ+ community](#)

**Smudging space, Indigenous identity built in to new hospital in northern B.C.**

CBC News, January 15, 2025

[Smudging space, Indigenous identity built in to new hospital in northern B.C. | CBC News](#)

**Victoria police use-of-force data shows Indigenous 'overrepresentation'**

Canadian Press, January 15, 2025

[Victoria police use-of-force data shows Indigenous 'overrepresentation'](#)

**How an Ontario town's refusal to declare Pride month led to a years-long legal battle**

Canadian Press, January 17, 2025

[How an Ontario town's refusal to declare Pride month led to a years-long legal battle](#)

**Search detects 114 'unmarked burial features' on former McIntosh Indian Residential School property**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[Search detects 114 'unmarked burial features' on former McIntosh Indian Residential School property | CBC News](#)



**'Continue to Fight': North Bay, Ont. non-profit battles to stay afloat amid funding challenges**

CBC News, January 17, 2025

['Continue to Fight': North Bay, Ont. non-profit battles to stay afloat amid funding challenges | CBC News](#)

**Waterloo Indigenous-led transitional housing program being put on pause**

CBC News, January 17, 2025

[Waterloo Indigenous-led transitional housing program being put on pause | CBC News](#)

***COVID-19 coverage:***

**Provinces now responsible for buying COVID-19 vaccines as feds issue new guidance**

Toronto Star, January 10, 2025

[Provinces now responsible for buying COVID-19 vaccines as feds issue new guidance](#)

***Political coverage:***

**Doug Ford has gone on an unprecedented American media blitz. Here's what is behind it**

Toronto Star, January 12, 2025

[Donald Trump's threats create an opening for Doug Ford](#)

**Mark Carney expected to launch Liberal leadership bid next week, backed by 30 MPs: source**

CBC News, January 10, 2025

[Mark Carney expected to launch Liberal leadership bid next week, backed by 30 MPs: source | CBC News](#)

**MPP Sarah Jama says she's 'hopeful' to return to Ontario NDP after submitting vetting package**

CBC News, January 10, 2025

[MPP Sarah Jama says she's 'hopeful' to return to Ontario NDP after submitting vetting package | CBC News](#)

**Doug Ford loses transparency fight to block release of personal cell phone records**

Global News, January 13, 2025

[Doug Ford loses transparency fight to block release of personal cell phone records | Globalnews.ca](#)

## **Ontario government files appeal against order for Ford to release cellphone records**

Global News, January 14, 2025

[Ontario government files appeal against order for Ford to release cellphone records | Globalnews.ca](#)

## **New poll shows Ontario PCs leading Liberals by 10 points**

CP24, January 14, 2025

[Ontario PCs leading Liberals by 10 points: poll](#)

## **PC Party begins election ‘fundamentals’ training for staff in Ontario**

Global News, January 14, 2025

[PC Party begins election ‘fundamentals’ training for staff in Ontario | Globalnews.ca](#)

## **Liberals race to lock down pharmacare deals before Pierre Poilievre has a chance to unwind them**

Toronto Star, January 13, 2025

[Liberal health minister says pharmacare deals coming ‘soon’](#)

## **Closure of supervised consumption sites could become Ontario election issue, former mayor says**

CBC News, January 13, 2025

[Closure of supervised consumption sites could become Ontario election issue, former mayor says | CBC News](#)

## **Ontario group urges people to donate \$200 rebate cheques to local charities**

CBC News, January 14, 2025

[Ontario group urges people to donate \\$200 rebate cheques to local charities | CBC News](#)

## **Field of candidates narrows in the race to replace Justin Trudeau**

Toronto Star, January 14, 2025

[Liberal leadership race: Field of candidates narrows](#)

## **Liberals trail Tories in nominations ahead of expected early election**

Canadian Press, January 15, 2025

[Liberals trail Tories in nominations ahead of expected early election](#)

### **Jaime Battiste first Indigenous candidate to join Liberal leadership race**

Canadian Press, January 14, 2025

[Liberal leadership race: Indigenous MP Jaime Battiste joins](#)

### **With clock ticking, future of Liberals' dental and pharmacare programs uncertain**

CBC News, January 14, 2025

[With clock ticking, future of Liberals' dental and pharmacare programs uncertain | CBC News](#)

### **Businesses and unions to form trade council to confer with Ottawa on Trump's potential tariffs**

Globe and Mail, January 14, 2025

[Businesses and unions to form trade council to confer with Ottawa on Trump's potential tariffs - The Globe and Mail](#)

### **ANALYSIS: Do we need an election to respond to Donald Trump?**

TVO.org, January 14, 2025

[ANALYSIS: Do we need an election to respond to Donald Trump? | TVO Today](#)

### **Ford government's ServiceOntario move to Staples will cost more than estimated, financial watchdog says**

Toronto Star, January 15, 2025

[ServiceOntario move to Staples will cost more than estimated](#)

### **NDP MPPs criticize Ford amid Niagara Region pre-budget consultations**

Niagara-on-the-Lake Local, January 15, 2025

[NDP MPPs criticize Ford amid Niagara Region pre-budget consultations - Niagara-on-the-Lake Local](#)

### **Mark Carney expected to announce Liberal leadership bid Thursday**

Toronto Star, January 16, 2025

[Mark Carney expected to announce Liberal leadership bid](#)

### **Doug Ford signals he may need a new 'mandate' from voters as Donald Trump tariffs loom**

Toronto Star, January 16, 2025

[Doug Ford signals he may need new Ontario voter 'mandate'](#)

## **Mark Carney officially joins race to succeed Justin Trudeau as Liberal leader and prime minister**

Toronto Star, January 16, 2025

[Liberal leadership race: Mark Carney launches campaign](#)

## **Integrity commissioner won't take up Ontario Place complaint**

Toronto Star, January 16, 2025

[Integrity commissioner won't take up Ontario Place complaint](#)

## **Ontario political parties scramble to prepare ahead of possible early election**

CBC News, January 16, 2025

[Ontario political parties scramble to prepare ahead of possible early election | CBC News](#)

## Media Release

### Nurses Hold Picket at MPP Will Bouma's Office, Calling for Better Primary Care Funding

**BRANTFORD, ON**, January 15, 2025 – Dozens of nurse practitioners (NPs) and registered nurses (RNs) – members of the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) – from Grand River Community Health Centre rallied outside Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Will Bouma's office today. The RNs and NPs are demanding the Ford government increase primary care funding to promote retention and close the wage gap so that more of their community members can access the primary care they need.

“More than two million Ontarians desperately need primary care, including thousands of residents in the County of Brant,” says ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. “NPs and RNs are already providing high-quality primary care. They can help fill the primary care gap, but the Ford Conservatives are deliberately underfunding the sector so that their corporate buddies can turn a profit at the expense of taxpayers.”

NPs are highly skilled, autonomous practitioners who can diagnose and treat patients, prescribe medications, provide referrals and order tests, and more. The significant lack of primary care funding is impacting the retention and recruitment of these nurses in community care. Ford's underfunding keeps community care staff wages low, even with the dramatic rise in the cost of living. This forces many NPs and RNs out of their jobs in community health centres and into hospitals, where wages are higher.

Ariss says, “MPP Bouma and the Ford government must start 2025 with new and sustained funding specifically earmarked for existing primary care teams and nurses' and health-care professionals' wages to promote retention. With fair and equal wages that recognize the skill and expertise of NPs and RNs in community health centres, this government can demonstrate that it cares about our communities, and people can access the timely care they need and deserve.”

ONA is the union representing 68,000 registered nurses and health-care professionals, as well as 18,000 nursing students, providing care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health, the community, clinics and industry.

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To arrange a media interview: [media@ona.org](mailto:media@ona.org)

## **Media Release**

### **Ontario Nurses' Association expresses grave concerns amidst contract talks with hospital CEOs**

**TORONTO, ON**, January 17, 2025 – Five days of talks between the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) have yet to result in a negotiated new contract for the province's 60,000+ hospital-sector nurses and health-care professionals.

"ONA entered into these talks determined to negotiate a new contract," says ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. "The last time a deal was negotiated was a full 14 years ago. Unfortunately, what the OHA has tabled would have unimaginable consequences for the nursing and health-care professional workforce and devastating outcomes for patients."

The top bargaining priority for ONA's front-line members is the implementation of registered nurse (RN) staffing ratios. Staffing ratios make timely, quality care easier to access for patients, and help keep nurses and health-care professionals from leaving their jobs in severely understaffed hospitals that take a heavy toll on them and the care they are able to provide.

"Hospital CEOs and the Ford government have been intentionally understaffing our public hospitals to justify selling off public services to private, for-profit clinics," Ariss notes. "Staffing ratios are the real solution to the crisis in our hospitals, not for-profit health care."

Ariss adds that for too long, nurses and health-care professionals have been expected to stay silent and work under increasingly impossible conditions. "Hospital CEOs are pushing for changes that would decimate the health workforce, and their proposal has the fingerprints of the Ford government all over it.

"We are no longer staying silent. We are fighting back. Hospital CEOs and this government are on notice: if they pursue this agenda, they had better be prepared for the fight of their lives," she says.

The two sides head to mediation on January 29 and 30. ONA members will be holding a series of escalating actions in the coming weeks.

ONA is the union representing more than 68,000 registered nurses and health-care professionals, as well as 18,000 nursing student affiliates, providing care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health, the community, clinics and industry.