

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

**February 17 to 20, 2026**

***ONA coverage:***

**ONA Wins Vote to Represent Ontario Health atHome Health-Care Professionals**

Queen's Park Today, CISION, February 17, 2026

[ONA Wins Vote to Represent Ontario Health atHome Health-Care Professionals](#)

***Nursing coverage:***

**More than 700 nursing, PSW jobs could be cut in Ottawa, says union**

CBC News, February 14, 2026

[More than 700 nursing, PSW jobs could be cut in Ottawa, says union - Yahoo News Canada](#)

***Industry coverage:***

**Nova Scotians' paper health records being trucked to Ontario to be digitized**

CBC News, February 13, 2026

[Nova Scotians' paper health records being trucked to Ontario to be digitized | CBC News](#)

**Fax machines are Ontario's top cause of patient privacy breaches, new data reveals. Why is health care still stuck on them?**

Toronto Star, February 17, 2026

[Fax machines Ontario's top cause of patient privacy breaches](#)

***Labour coverage:***

**Here's why Windsor-Essex paramedics voted 100% in favour of strike action**

CBC News, February 13, 2026

[Here's why Windsor-Essex paramedics voted 100% in favour of strike action | CBC News](#)

**Ontario workers still waiting to return to offices nearly two years after renovations — 'if they ever finish'**

Toronto Star, February 17, 2026

[6,000 Ontario bureaucrats still waiting for a move-in date](#)

## **Advocate urges feds to update equity act, settle class action with Black employees**

Toronto Star, February 17, 2026

[Advocate urges feds to update equity act, settle class action with Black employees](#)

### ***Human rights & equity coverage:***

## **Anti-feminist ideology ‘increasingly relevant’ to national security: CSIS**

Global News, February 16, 2026

[Anti-feminist ideology ‘increasingly relevant’ to national security: CSIS - National | Globalnews.ca](#)

### ***Political coverage:***

## **Ontario is cutting back OSAP grants — and students have thoughts**

CBC News, February 13, 2026

[Ontario is cutting back OSAP grants — and students have thoughts | CBC Accessibility](#)

## **How Ontario Liberals hope to exit political wilderness when they elect new leader in November**

CBC News, February 16, 2026

[How Ontario Liberals hope to exit political wilderness when they elect new leader in November | CBC News](#)

## **Opinion | The war for Scarborough: Why the east-end is shaping up as a key battleground in Toronto’s mayoral election**

Toronto Star, February 17, 2026

[Why Scarborough is the key in Toronto’s mayoral election](#)

### ***ONA coverage:***

## **Premier Ford suggests some students taking advantage of OSAP as he defends cuts to government grants**

CityNews, February 18, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/02/17/premier-ford-suggests-some-students-taking-advantage-of-osap-as-he-defends-cuts-to-government-grants/>

## **Opinion | Making health-care worker safety a top priority**

The Hamilton Spectator, February 18, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/opinion-health-care-violence/article\\_f21d588c-1140-53f9-b4e8-7bf5db950e75.html](https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/opinion-health-care-violence/article_f21d588c-1140-53f9-b4e8-7bf5db950e75.html)

***Nursing coverage:***

**Canada should work to recruit bilingual health workers, Senate report says**

The Canadian Press, February 17, 2026

<https://www.stalbertgazette.com/national-news/canada-should-work-to-recruit-bilingual-health-workers-senate-report-says-11888430>

**New St. Joe's palliative care team working to reach more patients with life-threatening illness**

CBC News, February 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/palliative-care-pegasus-9.7094438>

**Ford tells students to not pick 'basket-weaving courses' in wake of OSAP cuts**

CBC News, February 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-osap-cuts-9.7094009>

***Industry coverage:***

**This refugee to Canada got free therapy to help recover from violence. Now, critics say new co-pay fees will cut that line for others**

The Toronto Star, February 18, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/co-pay-for-refugee-health-care/article\\_b4b29200-9670-49b3-8074-fb8af942d21a.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/co-pay-for-refugee-health-care/article_b4b29200-9670-49b3-8074-fb8af942d21a.html)

**\$300M St. Mike's fraud 'a big nothing,' defence argues as judge set to sentence Toronto construction CEO, hospital exec.**

The Toronto Star, February 18, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/300m-st-mike-s-fraud-a-big-nothing-defence-argues-as-judge-set-to-sentence/article\\_7c289653-eb39-411d-a95f-01d60a7b457c.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/300m-st-mike-s-fraud-a-big-nothing-defence-argues-as-judge-set-to-sentence/article_7c289653-eb39-411d-a95f-01d60a7b457c.html)

***Labour coverage:***

**During visit to Windsor, Canada's jobs and families minister announces actions to protect workers**

CBC News, February 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-patty-hajdu-workforce-alliances-9.7094160>

***Human Rights & Equity coverage:***

**‘What human trafficking actually looks like’**

The Hamilton Spectator, February 18, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/human-trafficking-survivors-guide/article\\_8c6c1b70-948e-5450-ae7f-73e896f8489d.html](https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/human-trafficking-survivors-guide/article_8c6c1b70-948e-5450-ae7f-73e896f8489d.html)

***Political coverage:***

**Poillievre disagrees with Conservative MP's 'anti-American hissy fit' comments**

CBC News, February 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/poillievre-jivani-hissy-fit-comments-9.7094459>

**MP Matt Jeneroux leaves Conservatives to join Liberal caucus**

The Hamilton Spectator, February 18, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/canada/mp-matt-jeneroux-leaves-conservatives-to-join-liberal-caucus/article\\_603e7e17-924c-5286-8194-93d967dd44f2.html](https://www.thespec.com/news/canada/mp-matt-jeneroux-leaves-conservatives-to-join-liberal-caucus/article_603e7e17-924c-5286-8194-93d967dd44f2.html)

***ONA coverage:***

**Pause approved for health unit strategy**

Quinte News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.quintenews.com/2026/02/19/pause-approved-for-health-unit-strategy/>

**Ontario Health atHome Staff Join ONA in Historic Vote**

CHKS FM, CFCO AM, CHOK FM; February 14, 2026

Note: *Thousands of health-care professionals at Ontario Health atHome have voted to be represented by the Ontario Nurses' Association.*

**Refonte de l'aide financière étudiante critiquée par l'ONA**

CJBC AM, February 17, 2026

Note: *L'Association des infirmières de l'Ontario et des défenseurs des étudiants affirment que les récents changements à l'aide financière étudiante, notamment la réduction des limites de subvention du Programme d'aide aux étudiants de l'Ontario, pénalisent les étudiants en sciences infirmières et ne tiennent pas compte de la hausse du coût de la vie, certains plafonds de subvention passant de 85 % à 25 %. La présidente de l'Ontario Nurses' Association*

*critique ces compressions, affirmant qu'elles risquent d'aggraver les obstacles pour les futurs infirmiers et infirmières.*

### **Hallway health care debate intensifies at Queen's Park**

CFTR AM, February 17, 2026

*Note: Ontario opposition leaders say hallway health care has worsened under the current government, pointing to overcrowded hospitals and ongoing staffing shortages. The Ontario Nurses' Association estimates the province is short about 25,000 registered nurses and warns that changes to student grants could further strain recruitment efforts.*

### **Nurse Shortage and OSAP Cap Spark Concern at Queen's Park**

CityNews Channel, February 17, 2026

*Note: The Ontario Nurses' Association says the province is short about 25,000 registered nurses, warning that a new cap on OSAP grants could further strain the pipeline of future health-care workers. With the legislature on break, opposition parties are raising concerns about ongoing hospital pressures, including hallway medicine across the province.*

### **Hospital Pressures Spark Renewed Debate at Queen's Park**

CFTR AM, February 17-18, 2026

*Note: With the legislature on break until late March, opposition parties are raising concerns about overcrowded hospitals and ongoing hallway health care across Ontario. The Ontario Nurses' Association says the province is short about 25,000 registered nurses and warns that changes to OSAP grants could further affect recruitment, while the premier maintains the government is increasing health-care funding.*

#### **Nursing coverage:**

### **Ford says OSAP recipients should study for 'in-demand jobs.' Some say that's harder with funding changes**

CBC News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/osap-changes-deterring-students-9.7096442>

### **'It's insane': Sudbury students worried about changes to OSAP, tuition increases this fall**

CTV News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/northern-ontario/article/its-insane-sudbury-students-worried-about-changes-to-osap-tuition-increases-this-fall/>

#### **Industry coverage:**

## **Pneumonia hospitalizations rose dramatically last year, new CIHI data shows'**

The Canadian Press, February 19, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/02/19/pneumonia-hospitalizations-canada-health/>

## **Independent review says dog testing at London, Ont. hospital done ethically, but flags communication gaps**

CBC News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/dog-testing-st-josephs-review-9.7095798>

## **New Brunswick doctor renews call for investigation into undiagnosed neurological illness**

The Globe and Mail, February 19, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-new-brunswick-doctor-undiagnosed-neurological-illness-investigation/>

## **Alberta health authority destroys remaining pediatric drugs imported during 2022 shortage**

The Globe and Mail, February 19, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-alberta-health-services-pediatric-drugs-shortage/>

### ***Human Rights & Equity coverage:***

## **Advocate calls on Ontario government to address 'crisis' of missing Black boys**

CBC News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/gta-advocate-shana-mccalla-solicitor-general-meeting-9.7096231>

## **Thunder Bay, Ont., has declared homelessness as a humanitarian crisis. What happens now?**

CBC News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-homelessness-crisis-declared-9.7096136>

## **Library and Archives Canada wraps up digitization of 6 million Indian day school records**

CBC News, February 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/library-archives-indian-day-schools-project-9.7089476>

**ONA coverage:**

**Staffing modifications at local health unit offices are suspended**

CJBQ AM, CJTN FM; February 19, 2026

Note: *In response to the Ontario Nurses' Association's remarks indicating that five Southeast Public Health offices might operate without personnel starting March 1, Nathan Townend, the Chair of Southeast Public Health, has disclosed that the changes in staffing at the local health unit offices are currently on hold.*

**Nursing coverage:**

**Aligning nursing education with evolving health-care needs**

The Globe and Mail, February 20, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/adv/article-aligning-nursing-education-with-evolving-health-care-needs/>

**Government of Canada is hiring nurses for jobs that pay up to \$136,000 a year and \$40 an hour**

Narcity, February 20, 2026

<https://www.narcity.com/government-of-canada-jobs-nurses-pay-136000-year-40-hour>

**New Spruce Health Hub opens in Kingston to improve access to care and connect more people to primary care**

The Napanee Beaver, February 19, 2026

<https://napaneebeaver.ca/new-spruce-health-hub-opens-in-kingston-to-improve-access-to-care-and-connect-more-people-to-primary-care/>

**Industry coverage:**

**Toronto lawyer donates 'transformational' \$10 million to Sunnybrook for OCD research and treatment**

The Toronto Star, February 20, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-lawyer-donates-transformational-10-million-to-sunnybrook-for-ocd-research-and-treatment/article\\_fdef145d-3f76-4ea3-8dae-c215140062c6.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-lawyer-donates-transformational-10-million-to-sunnybrook-for-ocd-research-and-treatment/article_fdef145d-3f76-4ea3-8dae-c215140062c6.html)

**More than 1 in 4 patients leaving Winnipeg ERs without being seen: study**

Global News, February 19, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11674169/winnipeg-wait-times-er/>

***Human Rights & Equity coverage:***

**WestJet sued by thousands of female flight attendants for failing to protect them from workplace harassment**

National Post, February 20, 2026

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/class-action-settlement-for-westjet-female-flight-attendants-temporarily-stalled-by-b-c-court>

**‘Record high’: Calls to human trafficking hotline in Canada surge**

Global News, February 19, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11674070/human-trafficking-hotline-calls-surge-record-high/>

***Political coverage:***

**This Ontario family said an unauthorized obit exploited their grief. Inside the rise of ‘obituary pirates’**

The Toronto Star, February 20, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/this-ontario-family-said-an-unauthorized-obit-exploited-their-grief-inside-the-rise-of-obituary/article\\_307af80b-e2b2-4986-849b-46052d5c00b1.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/this-ontario-family-said-an-unauthorized-obit-exploited-their-grief-inside-the-rise-of-obituary/article_307af80b-e2b2-4986-849b-46052d5c00b1.html)

**Dr. Joss Reimer named Canada’s new chief public health officer**

The Canadian Press, February 20, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-dr-joss-reimer-named-canadas-new-chief-public-health-officer/>

**Trump’s tariffs on Canada, world are unlawful, U.S. Supreme Court rules**

Global News, February 20, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11675702/donald-trump-tariffs-us-supreme-court-ruling/>