

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

January 26 to 30, 2026

Nursing coverage:

Nurses Union Calls ICE Agents “Public Health Threat” After Alex Pretti Killing

Mother Jones, January 25, 2026

[Nurses Union Calls ICE Agents “Public Health Threat” After Alex Pretti Killing – Mother Jones](#)

Alex Pretti was an ICU nurse dedicated to helping others, friends and family said

CNN, January 24, 2026

[Alex Pretti was an ICU nurse dedicated to helping others, friends and family said | CNN](#)

Manitoba nurse punished for repeatedly denying criminal record despite convictions

CBC News, January 26, 2026

[Manitoba nurse punished for repeatedly denying criminal record despite convictions | CBC News](#)

Industry coverage:

Canada’s doctors are wasting millions of hours on unnecessary paperwork. Here’s how bad it’s gotten

Toronto Star, January 26, 2026

[Canada’s doctors are wasting millions of hours on unnecessary paperwork. Here’s how bad it’s gotten](#)

Radon gas may be giving more Canadians lung cancer. Scientists are racing to save lives

CBC News, January 26, 2026

[Radon gas may be giving more Canadians lung cancer. Scientists are racing to save lives | CBC News](#)

This homeless man was put in a taxi to London. Here's who paid the \$241 fare

CBC News, January 26, 2026

[This homeless man was put in a taxi to London. Here's who paid the \\$241 fare | CBC News](#)

N.S. doctors welcome AI note-taking tool, expert says public transparency important

CBC News, January 24, 2026

[N.S. doctors welcome AI note-taking tool, expert says public transparency important | CBC News](#)

Kashechewan First Nation opens mobile clinic to help evacuees

CBC News, January 23, 2026

[Kashechewan First Nation opens mobile clinic to help evacuees | CBC News](#)

Labour coverage:

As St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton moves to cut 62 jobs, workers warn of more burnout

CBC News, January 23, 2026

[As St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton moves to cut 62 jobs, workers warn of more burnout | CBC News](#)

'It's alarming': Ontario's child-care system turning to underqualified staff as workforce crisis deepens

CP24, January 22, 2026

[Why Ontario daycares are relying on underqualified staff](#)

Human rights & equity coverage:

When my son cried, I listened. My father never had that when he was in residential school

CBC News, January 25, 2026

[When my son cried, I listened. My father never had that when he was in residential school | CBC News](#)

Political coverage:

Carney insists Canada has ‘no intention’ of seeking free trade deal with China

CP24, January 25, 2026

[Canada is not seeking free trade deal with China: Carney](#)

Ontario’s new privatized recycler’s move to stop picking up extra bags outside blue bins under review

CP24, January 21, 2026

[Ontario recycling: New private recycler facing review](#)

Pierre Poilievre is believed to have most Conservatives’ support. Holding his party together could be another matter

Toronto Star, January 25, 2026

[Unity may be tougher than leadership review for Poilievre](#)

Mark Carney to announce top-ups to GST credit as part of efforts to reset domestic agenda

Toronto Star, January 25, 2026

[Carney to announce top-ups to GST credit](#)

ONA coverage:

Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations Head to Thunder Bay

Program: CKTG News	Air Time: 17:00 PM - 18:00 PM	Date: 2026-Jan-27 17:03 PM
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Station: CKTG FM (105.3 The New Giant FM)	Network: Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Thunder Bay
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Reporter: Announcer copy	Length: 00:30	Province: Ontario
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Interview: None

Note: The Ontario government is bringing its pre-budget consultations to Thunder Bay tomorrow, with a full slate of presenters set to share their priorities for the next provincial budget. Representatives from the Ontario Nurses’ Association, among other groups, are scheduled to take part.

Log ID: 20260127R-0063

Southeast Public Health office closure put on hold

CBC News Radio, January 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-112-ontario-morning/clip/16194404-southeast-public-health-office-closure-put-hold>

Industry coverage:

Ontario teens see sharp rise in depression and anxiety, worst among frequent cannabis users

McMaster University News, January 28, 2026

<https://healthsci.mcmaster.ca/ontario-teens-see-sharp-rise-in-depression-and-anxiety-worst-among-frequent-cannabis-users/>

Report warns of longer wait times, overcrowded Ontario hospitals amid government budget constraints

CTV News, January 27, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/report-warns-of-longer-wait-times-rushed-care-and-overcrowded-ontario-hospitals-amid-government-budget-constraints/>

Canada will require refugees and asylum seekers to co-pay for health care starting in May

The Toronto Star, January 27, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/refugees-health-care/article_eec5044d-f310-48f8-84fe-d6095d13b4d0.html

Canadian doctors say they're losing 20 million hours a year to unnecessary paperwork

CBC News Radio, January 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/cma-doctor-paperwork-report-9.7063539>

Labour coverage:

Union questions why Global Affairs issuing layoff warnings before policy review

The Toronto Star, January 28, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/canada-global-affairs-layoffs/article_f6846e75-7e4c-59c9-91a5-1109291cdb17.html

Amazon lays off 16,000 corporate workers in latest round of job losses

CBC News, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/amazon-prematurely-alerts-layoffs-canada-us-9.7064378>

Worker dies after falling into Hamilton Harbour

The Hamilton Spectator, January 27, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/hamilton-harbour-fatal-fall/article_3326a763-7290-5534-bf05-f10f7219cfc9.html

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Torontonians gather to honour ICE victims as NDP calls for end to contracts with agency

CBC News, January 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-ice-victims-vigil-ndp-roshel-9.7063981>

The largest youth jail in Ontario is routinely strip searching children: ‘A systemic violation’

The Toronto Star, January 28, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/the-largest-youth-jail-in-ontario-is-routinely-strip-searching-children-a-systemic-violation/article_0f42d10c-afb6-4f3e-9da5-c4929c4b2876.html

St. Thomas parents furious as kids with autism left without enough in-school support

CBC News, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/st-thomas-parents-eas-school-9.7062951>

Hamilton library asks for 5.25% budget increase as it faces 'social crises' at downtown branches

CBC News, January 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/central-barton-libraries-budget-9.7063040>

Political coverage:

Doug Ford's party bars media from Progressive Conservative convention this weekend

The Toronto Star, January 28, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/doug-fords-party-bars-media-from-progressive-conservative-convention-this-weekend/article_6b071c96-24ef-427a-a0dd-9c2807f92a63.html

Ontario proceeding with electricity transmission line to Ring of Fire

The Toronto Star, January 28, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/ontario-proceeding-with-electricity-transmission-line-to-ring-of-fire/article_89c4f96f-6d91-4941-ab3f-4e014d4ce795.html

ONA coverage:

‘Down to the bare bones’: From scrapped NICU beds to job cuts at Hamilton hospitals

The Hamilton Spectator, January 29, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/nicu--nurse-shortages---hospital-cuts/article_b7abd1ec-5362-56b5-89ab-64ba6705bc7f.html

Industry coverage:

Ontario hospitals operating in the red are taking out private bank loans

The National Post, January 29, 2026

<https://nationalpost.com/news/ontario-hospitals-taking-out-bank-loans>

Haven’t found a family doctor in Parry Sound? Here is how to get connected to a primary care provider in the area

Parry Sound North Star, January 28, 2025

https://www.parrysound.com/news/parry-sound-doctor-help/article_c8e48f35-0fc0-55e4-8e12-f04f0a042d3f.html

Why do 3 major diseases disproportionately impact Black Canadians? New genome project aims to find out

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/gen-care-black-genome-9.7063779>

New Windsor hospital seeking company to build 'the heart' of new facility

CBC News, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/new-windsor-hospital-seeking-company-to-build-the-heart-of-new-facility-9.7065739>

International students in Canada face vastly different health-care access depending on where they live. Here's what researchers found

The Toronto Star, January 29, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/international-student-health-care/article_bd1af8eb-b4ac-4c5e-9d62-3f811f8983c8.html

Labour coverage:

GM Canada layoffs hit Oshawa plant, putting up to 1,200 autoworkers out of work Friday

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/gm-oshawa-to-lay-off-1-200-workers-friday-9.7065457>

Canada's public sector unions call on government to halt job cuts

CBC News, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7065715>

Laurentian University faculty members continue to picket in freezing temperatures with no resolution in sight

CBC News, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/laurentian-strike-one-week-9.7064747>

Social services advocates calling for provincial Justice Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/justice-centre-sault-social-services-9.7065021>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Advocates criticize decision to keep aging Thunder Bay, Ont., correctional facilities open

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-jails-reaction-9.7065569>

Downtown Hamilton library struggling to handle social, health problems

The Hamilton Spectator, January 29, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/overdose-homelessness-health-libraries-hamilton/article_c61d6d35-c01f-5d77-8b81-b0d571937e81.html

Political coverage:

Ontario education minister putting Peel school board under provincial control

The Canadian Press, January 28, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-school-boards-provincial-control-peel-york-9.7065362>

Poilievre courts delegates as he faces a must-win leadership review vote

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/poilievre-leadership-review-vote-9.7065628>

Doug Ford urges Danielle Smith to denounce Alberta separation: 'Either you're with Canada or you're not'

The Toronto Star, January 29, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/doug-ford-urges-danielle-smith-to-denounce-alberta-separation-either-youre-with-canada-or-youre/article_15ba39a5-e05a-4050-9098-2580447eda9c.html

ONA coverage:

Hospital staffing could get worse

CJRL 89.5 The Lake, CKDR 92.7 FM, CKTG Country 105 FM; January 30, 2026

Note: The Ontario Nurses Association is warning that hospital staffing could get worse. The association says nearly 8000 nurses left the profession last year. President Erin Ariss suggests the money provided is not going to where it is needed most.

Ontario nurses continue lobbying efforts for nurse-to-patient ratios

Your Thunder Bay, January 29, 2026

<https://yourthunderbay.ca/ontario-nurses-continue-lobbying-efforts-for-nurses-to-patient-ratios/>

Nursing coverage:

Nurse who gave patient drugs that stopped his heart stripped of licence for 'egregious' misconduct: college

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/nurse-stripped-licence-international-nurse-certification-9.7066333>

Nursing tuition funded at Sault College: The Ontario Learn and Stay Grant

Soo Today, January 30, 2026

<https://www.sootoday.com/spotlight/nursing-tuition-funded-at-sault-college-the-ontario-learn-and-stay-grant-11795048>

Industry coverage:

St. Joseph's pitches \$1.2-billion hospital tower to tackle hallway medicine

The Hamilton Spectator, January 30, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/st-josephs-pitches-billion-dollar-hospital-tower/article_01317e84-c784-536f-8f1c-7e0042121392.html

Breast cancer screening gets a \$300K boost in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/new-breast-cancer-screening-group-health-centre-9.7066534>

Residents urged to register for primary care through Health Care Connect

Innisfil Today, January 30, 2026

<https://www.innisfilday.ca/local-news/residents-urged-to-register-for-primary-care-through-health-care-connect-11809497>

Man charged in assault of Goderich Hospital staff

CKNX News Today, January 28, 2026

<https://cknxnewstoday.ca/news/2026/01/28/man-charged-in-assault-of-goderich-hospital-staff>

What is Nipah virus? Here's what you need to know

Global News, January 30, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/article/what-is-nipah-virus-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>

Opioid deaths are declining. Five factors help explain why

The Globe and Mail, January 30, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-opioid-deaths-have-declined-sharply-in-canada-these-five-factors-help/>

Ontario woman calls for reform after her son 'shopped' for MAID approval in B.C.

The Globe and Mail, January 30, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-maid-medical-assistance-in-dying/>

How will cheaper versions of Ozempic tip the scales?

The Globe and Mail, January 30, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-how-will-cheaper-versions-of-ozempic-tip-the-scales/>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

She was past retirement age and sleeping in her car — and it's unclear how many other Ontario seniors are like her

The Toronto Star, January 29, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/she-was-past-retirement-age-and-sleeping-in-her-car-and-it-s-unclear-how/article_5eb42f59-31b4-43fc-8479-f608ac4195dc.html

Cryptosporidium confirmed in Kashechewan First Nation water treatment plant, 63 test positive for parasite

CBC News, January 29, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/kashechewan-water-treatment-cryptosporidium-9.7066488>

Accessible cabs in Toronto are dwindling. One company says the city is failing to support drivers

CBC News, January 30, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/accessible-cabs-dwindling-toronto-9.7065512>

Political coverage:

Ontario PCs gather this weekend as some question the Ford government's direction

CBC News, January 30, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-pc-convention-project-ontario-9.7067023>

With Alberta separatism in the spotlight, Pierre Poilievre will be tested by more than his party

The Toronto Star, January 30, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/with-alberta-separatism-in-the-spotlight-pierre-poilievre-will-be-tested-by-more-than-his/article_f3715dbf-a9e5-4b70-8f7a-065067b66e7e.html

More than a dozen Canadian companies – including Thomson Reuters – have done business with ICE, Star analysis reveals

The Toronto Star, January 30, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/business/more-than-a-dozen-canadian-companies-including-thomson-reuters-have-done-business-with-ice-star/article_32dff434-f4ff-4a55-a3dc-452c1b7a86e5.html

Media Releases

Underfunding and Understaffing are Bleeding Ontario’s Health Care Dry, says Ontario Nurses’ Association

TORONTO, January 28, 2026 – The Ontario Nurses’ Association (ONA) warns in its [pre-budget submission](#) that unless the Ford government delivers a significant and stable funding infusion to the province’s public health-care system, Ontarians will pay the price through longer wait times, overcrowded facilities, and diminished quality of care.

Today, ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN, will present ONA’s [submission](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs for pre-budget consultations virtually in Thunder Bay.

“All of our public health-care sectors – hospitals, long-term care, public health, community services and clinics – are underfunded and need stable, predictable funding to plan and deliver safe quality care,” says Ariss. “With funding must also come transparency. Too many health-care employers are not upfront about how public dollars are being spent, or whether funding is actually going toward front-line clinical hours.”

Ariss adds, “We are seeing an alarming rise in cuts to health-care positions, including by many hospitals who are cutting nurses to balance their budgets, when this should be the absolute last resort. Just a few months ago, the Financial Accountability Office projected that Ontario will lose more than 7,000 nurses by 2028 because of underfunding. This bleeding must stop.”

ONA is calling on the Ford government to improve staffing and access to health care by introducing mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios. Ratios are a proven solution that reduce burnout and strengthen recruitment and retention. Other jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, are already moving forward with staffing ratios.

The implementation of staffing ratios is key to reducing workplace violence, notes Ariss. “Health care is one of the most dangerous sectors in which to work. In 2024, nine out of 10 nurses experienced some form of abuse in the previous year. Ratios will improve safety that benefits patients, residents and clients and staff.”

During her presentation, Ariss will also emphasize the need for wage harmonization across all health-care sectors. “Workers in primary care, home care and community care earn significantly less than their hospital counterparts. Wages must be equal if we want to keep our skilled health-care professionals where we need them. Without wage harmonization, these sectors will continue to face great instability and staffing shortages, hurting access for Ontarians.”

ONA is the union representing more than 68,000 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, industry and clinics.