

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

February 23 to 27, 2026

Industry coverage:

St. Joseph's Hospital eyes expanding 'fly in' palliative care program

The Hamilton Spectator, February 23, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/st-joes-pegasus-program/article_32163d0a-5fe6-5598-bd1a-438963638f27.html

Doctors worried amid rise in western Quebec patients being transferred elsewhere

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/worry-among-healthcare-practitioners-as-some-outaouais-patients-transferred-out-of-area-9.7099778>

Hamilton Health Sciences pays millions annually on interest payments for loans used to cover operating costs

The Hamilton Spectator, February 22, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/hospital-deficits-patient-care-bank-loans/article_254d4d49-3612-5852-ac98-424fce4fbb47.html

Colon cancer is affecting younger people at higher rates: Dr. Peter Lin explores why

CBC News, February 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/9.7099241>

TMU's two new health clinics in Brampton open up thousands of family doctor spaces. Here's how to register

Brampton Guardian, February 21, 2026

https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/tmu-opens-two-new-health-clinics-in-brampton/article_0770831b-2d67-51b4-b21f-5ddd5bcc273a4.html

Thunder Bay health unit receives \$1M injection from province

CBC News, February 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/tbdhu-funding-9.7098044>

Labour coverage:

Ontario has not purchased or leased new space for thousands of returning civil servants

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-return-to-office-plan-9.7099817>

Federal government says there may not be enough workstations for all workers' 4-day-a-week return

CBC News, February 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/federal-government-says-there-may-not-be-enough-workstations-for-all-workers-4-day-a-week-return-9.7100379>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Cuts targeting Indigenous rights staff at Justice Department 'reckless,' critics warn

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/cuts-targeting-indigenous-rights-staff-at-justice-department-reckless-critics-warn-9.7097164>

'DEI initiatives don't see unqualified people hired for jobs': Whitby's Camille Dundas works to eliminate ignorance

The Hamilton Spectator, February 23, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/whitby-resident-camille- Dundas-speaks-out-on-dei-principles/article_4e6db618-3dca-584e-a74d-f300a120df63.html#tncms-source=communities-news

With 32 more deaths, researchers behind Hamilton homeless mortality-data project make call for action

The Hamilton Spectator, February 23, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/homelessness-deaths-hamilton-housing/article_f26ad967-750e-59d4-8929-6bb46d1ef129.html

'A very real issue': Guelph sees highest human trafficking rates in Ontario

CBC News, February 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/human-trafficking-awareness-day-9.7097768>

Police called after alleged white supremacists rally at city hall

The Hamilton Spectator, February 22, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/supremacist-rally-police-city-hall/article_bc9a3f08-97e9-5a5c-add8-2c983d459afc.html

Six Nations community 'devastated' by sudden closure of only library

The Hamilton Spectator, February 21, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/six-nations-library-suddenly-closed/article_5dd63af1-1536-55ce-b2f7-70b256d8245a.html

Political coverage:

Why the Supreme Court challenge of Quebec's secularism law matters to the whole country

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/supreme-court-challenge-bill-21-canada-implications-9.7097747>

Fears Ontario's student aid program will bring huge debt, put higher education out of reach

CBC News, February 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ont-osap-student-debt-9.7096406>

Nursing coverage:

Family health teams urge Ontario to up pay for nurses, health workers to retain them

The Canadian Press, February 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/family-health-teams-ask-funding-increase-nurses-health-workers-9.7103597>

NDP's Stiles meets with health workers in Belleville, hears of system's flaws

The Belleville Intelligencer, February 23, 2026

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/ndp-stiles-belleville-health-care-workers>

Ontario launching pilot project for 'emotion-focused' long-term care

The Toronto Star, February 24, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/ontario-launching-pilot-project-for-emotion-focused-long-term-care/article_d3e9408f-fc3b-4def-9ff1-ba88149ebb7b.html

Industry coverage:

Planned Parenthood Ottawa reopens after 3-month hiatus

CBC News, February 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/planned-parenthood-ottawa-services-hours-reopens-closure-9.7102876>

Study adds twist to link between childhood abuse and depression

The Toronto Star, February 24, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/genetic-factors-in-depression/article_8f7d36fe-e430-4d45-83a7-a1743a568e2a.html

Canadians' ease of access to primary care depends on where you live: CMA survey

Global News, February 24, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11679494/canada-primary-care-access-family-doctor-provinces/>

Toronto man donates \$10 million to expand OCD treatment centre that changed his life

CBC Radio, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/toronto-man-donation-ocd-treatment-ten-million-dollars-9.7102534>

'We need to act' on men's health, minister says as government seeks feedback

Global News, February 23, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11679895/need-to-act-mens-health-minister-feedback/>

Former LHSC employee charged with sexual assault at London hospital

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/former-lhsc-employee-charged-with-sexual-assault-at-london-hospital-9.7103139>

Labour coverage:

North Bay-area school bus drivers now on strike

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/north-bay-school-bus-possible-strike-9.7102242>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Migrant farm workers' class-action suit against Canadian government certified

The Toronto Star, February 23, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/class-action-certification-hearing/article_eb5fbe01-90f5-45f3-bb6a-5a4828da845a.html

Political coverage:

Opposition calls on Ford to 'reverse course' on cuts to OSAP

CBC News, February 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/opposition-calling-for-reversal-of-osap-cuts-9.7102860>

Nursing coverage:

Ontario family health teams urge funding to retain nurses, health professionals

BayToday, February 24, 2026

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/ontario-family-health-teams-urge-funding-to-retain-nurses-health-professionals-11921350>

Dozens of Ontario nursing homes competed for a spot in culture-change pilot project

The Toronto Star, February 24, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/dozens-of-ontario-nursing-homes-competed-for-a-spot-in-culture-change-pilot-project/article_47a2f5ef-65f6-4379-a489-0b0300ac2340.html

Industry coverage:

Toronto General Hospital has been ranked second-best in the world

The Canadian Press, February 25, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-toronto-general-hospital-world-ranking/>

Vaping, opioids, poverty, mental health: Why Hamilton kids are a priority for public health

The Hamilton Spectator, February 25, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/kids-in-crisis-vaping-opioids-poverty-mental-health/article_9b60569a-2527-55c9-b316-44db088b1e31.html

Doctor faces 43 sex crime charges, including voyeurism, sexual assault, child pornography

CBC News, February 25, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/david-edward-ooi-poon-43-charges-9.7104181>

University Health Network CEO Kevin Smith has a plan to fix hospitals – even with a dangerous shortage of money

The Globe and Mail, February 25, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/rob-magazine/article-university-health-network-ceo-kevin-smith-has-a-plan-to-fix-hospitals/>

Canada lacking on cervical cancer prevention, health groups warn

CityNews, February 25, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2026/02/25/canada-lacking-on-cervical-cancer-prevention-health-groups-warn/>

Labour coverage:

North Bay-area parents scramble to find transportation as school bus strike enters third day

CBC News, February 25, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/northern-ontario-bus-strike-third-day-9.7104489>

Privatizations of Canadian public companies spiked for second year in a row in 2025

The Globe and Mail, February 25, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-privatizations-canadian-public-companies-spike-for-second-year-in-2025/>

‘I wish them all the best. Run it like a business,’ Ford says as Humber Polytechnic moves to trim workforce

CP24, February 25, 2026

<https://www.cp24.com/local/toronto/2026/02/25/i-wish-them-all-the-best-run-it-like-a-business-ford-says-as-humber-polytechnic-moves-to-trim-workforce/>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Ontario considers giving TTC special constables new powers to arrest drug users

CBC News, February 25, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ttc-drug-user-arrests-9.7104333>

Power back on after 5 cold days in remote First Nation in northwestern Ontario

CBC News, February 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/nibinamik-power-outages-9.7104455>

Ontario's school board takeovers are weakening anti-racism fight, Black trustees say

The Canadian Press, February 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/black-trustees-open-letter-doug-ford-9.7104153>

Nursing coverage:

1 in 4 patients in long-term care were given anti-psychotic drugs without diagnosis, report finds

The Globe and Mail, February 26, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-1-in-4-canadians-in-long-term-care-were-given-anti-psychotic-drugs/>

Western University mentorship program aims to reshape belonging for Black nursing students

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/black-student-nurses-western-program-9.7105297>

Former nurse struggles to tell emotional account of Valentine’s Day sex assault by Frank Stronach — ‘I became a social recluse’

The Toronto Star, February 26, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/former-nurse-struggles-to-tell-emotional-account-of-valentine-s-day-sex-assault-by-frank/article_02291eb2-aa85-486f-9a70-fa5b39f35dfa.html

‘You Aren’t Trapped’: Hundreds of US Nurses Choose Canada Over Trump’s America

KFF Health News, February 26, 2026

<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/us-nurses-move-to-canada-trump-policies-care-shortages/amp/>

Local health-care workers rally over funding concerns as MPP Clark disputes claims of cuts

Brockvilleist, February 25, 2026

<https://brockvilleist.com/2026/02/25/local-health-care-workers-rally-over-funding-concerns-as-mpp-clark-disputes-claims-of-cuts/>

More Than 31,000 Health Care Workers in California, Hawaii Continue To Strike

In These Times, February 25, 2026

<https://inthesetimes.com/article/california-hawaii-health-care-workers-strike-kaiser-permanente>

Industry coverage:

Study to examine whether Ozempic can reduce the risk of blood cancer

The Globe and Mail, February 26, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ozempic-blood-cancer-study-funding-glp-1/>

For Canadians taking care of aging parents from afar, distance compounds complexity

The Globe and Mail, February 26, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/retirement/article-aging-parents-long-distance-caregiving-sandwich-generation/>

We need to improve virtual health care for the disabled – especially in winter

The Globe and Mail, February 26, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-we-need-to-improve-virtual-health-care-for-the-disabled/>

Outreach team to offer 24/7 mental health and addictions services in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/outreach-wellness-response-cmha-algoma-9.7104295>

Paramedic calls for suspected drug overdoses nearly double in Sudbury

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/overdose-addiction-sudbury-northern-ontario-illegal-drug-supply-9.7105446>

'Variety store' model of dispensing addiction treatment drugs needs review, councillor says

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/dundas-pharmacy-9.7103862>

Labour coverage:

Nearly 60 part-time City of Windsor workers out of jobs this spring

CBC News, February 25, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-city-job-loss-memorandum-9.7105518>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

'The border doesn't exist to us': How one Mohawk community balances fears of ICE with its inherent rights

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/akwesasne-mohawk-territory-immigration-ice-fears-9.7105852>

Political coverage:

'We need to do better': Ontario politician wants more diversity in local politics

The Hamilton Spectator, February 26, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/clarington-councillor-wants-more-diversity-in-local-politics/article_c9e1309d-29a6-5d56-beab-df7e6b46e761.html#tncms-source=communities-news

Nursing coverage:

American nurses are flocking to B.C.

The Peak, February 27, 2026

<https://www.readthepeak.com/p/american-nurses-are-flocking-to-b-c>

Industry coverage:

'Thessalon is not alone' in facing emergency room closures, MPP says

SooToday, February 27, 2026

<https://www.sootoday.com/letters-to-the-editor/thessalon-is-not-alone-in-facing-emergency-room-closures-mpp-says-11926036>

Public health surplus irks city councillor

Quinte News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.quintenews.com/2026/02/27/377828/>

Ontario must do more for international students seeking health care

Policy Options, February 27, 2026

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2026/02/international-student-healthcare/>

Drug alert issued after 35 suspected overdoses, 1 suspected drug-related death this week

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/35-drug-overdoses-one-suspected-death-waterloo-region-alert-issued-9.7108009>

Pediatric society recommends cholesterol screening for kids between two and 10 years

The Canadian Press, February 27, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-children-cholesterol-screening-pediatric-society/>

Drug use and overdoses run rampant in Canada's public libraries

CP24, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cp24.com/news/canada/2026/02/27/drug-use-and-overdoses-run-rampant-in-canadas-public-libraries/>

Thunder Bay health-care workers aim to make services more accessible to Black community

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-black-health-care-9.7105578>

Labour coverage:

Replacement workers hired to get North Bay-area school buses back on the road during driver strike

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/replacement-workers-hired-to-get-north-bay-area-school-buses-back-on-the-road-during-driver-strike-9.7107161>

Former Diageo workers speak out on deal that keeps Crown Royal on shelves

CBC News, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/amherstburg-diageo-deal-workers-last-day-9.7107387>

Return-to-work mandates sparks 'renewed demand' for Canadian offices: report

Global News, February 26, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11707927/return-to-office-space-canada/>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

White supremacist groups using pedophilia conspiracies to grow support, warns Hamilton researcher

February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/nationalist-13-hamilton-9.7105982>

Political coverage:

One year on, Trump tariffs still shape Doug Ford's politics as Ontario economy faces strain

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-one-year-election-9.7107376>

Student union say OSAP cuts, tuition increases disproportionately affect Lakehead University

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/lusu-reacts-postsecondary-funding-changes-9.7107422>