

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

March 16 to 20, 2026

Nursing coverage:

N.L. working to end fees for patients seeing nurse practitioners

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-publicly-funded-nurse-practitioners-9.7127137>

LETTER: North Bay's endoscopy nurses and associates praised for compassion and professionalism

BayToday, March 15, 2026

<https://www.baytoday.ca/letters-to-the-editor/letter-north-bays-endoscopy-nurses-and-associates-praised-for-compassion-and-professionalism-11991466>

Sudbury nurse dies unexpectedly while travelling in the Dominican Republic

Sudbury.com, March 15, 2026

https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/sudbury-nurse-dies-unexpectedly-while-travelling-in-the-dominican-republic-12007775#google_vignette

Former nurse says infant in her care died during discharge because of a misdiagnosis

CTV News, March 13, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/winnipeg/article/former-nurse-says-infant-in-her-care-died-during-discharge-because-of-a-misdiagnosis/>

COVID-19 coverage:

Canadian Covid Society raising awareness of the effects of long COVID

CBC News, March 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7129852>

Industry coverage:

Physician shortage to close Thessalon emergency room for 24 hours

Elliot Lake Today, March 16, 2026

<https://www.elliottlaketoday.com/local-news/physician-shortage-to-close-thessalon-emergency-room-for-24-hours-12009953>

Ford government says public safety concerns behind decision to drop funding for supervised consumption sites

The Toronto Star, March 16, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/ford-government-says-public-safety-concerns-behind-decision-to-drop-funding-for-supervised-consumption-sites/article_8845bc5f-2c53-46b5-8559-15b0bb980c5b.html

Life-threatening complications overlooked in weeks after childbirth, researchers say

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/camj-childbirth-pregnancy-study-9.7128151>

Cambridge woman launches petition after endometriosis 'destroyed' her life

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/cambridge-woman-launches-petition-after-endometriosis-destroyed-her-life-9.7127947>

Back to the fax? Doctors say Ottawa's plans to axe prescription software leaves them in limbo

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/prescribe-it-9.7127925>

Closure of London's Carepoint consumption site will drive up overdoses, advocates say

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/closure-of-london-s-carepoint-consumption-site-will-drive-up-overdoses-advocates-say-9.7129724>

Red tape a hurdle for families fundraising to build a hospice in Strathroy

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/hospice-strathroy-9.7124773>

Police ask for public's help in finding whoever set fire to Nancy Grewal's front porch

CBC News, March 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/grewal-porch-arson-9.7129567>

GLP-1's may curb more than just appetites: Dr. Peter Lin

CBC Radio, March 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/9.7127429>

Vaccine record enforcement overwhelms Hamilton phone lines

The Hamilton Spectator, March 15, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/hamilton-students-vaccinations/article_19a56ebc-011d-5806-89dc-dd393ac0e23c.html

Meed Ward says Finlay's Law would set legal pediatric ER wait times in Ontario

BurlingtonToday, March 14, 2026

https://www.burlingtontoday.com/local-news/meed-ward-says-finlays-law-would-set-legal-pediatric-er-wait-times-in-ontario-12001704#google_vignette

Ontario to end funding to multiple drug consumption sites, forcing them to close

CBC News, March 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-drug-consumption-sites-toronto-9.7128193>

Labour coverage:

Toronto police union says officers rights were violated in 'offensive overreaction' fuelled by Project South scandal

The Toronto Star, March 16, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-police-union-says-officers-rights-were-violated-in-offensive-overreaction-fuelled-by-project-south/article_78489937-2949-49dd-b139-d10ec90cce7b.html

Windsor cuts some bylaw officer jobs under council-approved restructuring, union says

CBC News, March 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/by-law-officers-windsor-cupe-543-budget-council-9.7127799>

Sudbury city council calls for more protection for public works employees

CBC News, March 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/sudbury-public-works-professionals-workers-safety-harassment-threats-obstruction-violence-1.6885303>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

RFDA unveils its major expansion to fight food insecurity in northwestern Ontario

CBC News, March 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7127294>

Political coverage:

Ontario's attorney general calls on federal government to look at legalizing pepper spray

CBC News, March 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-attorney-general-legalizing-pepper-spray-9.7129775>

Nursing coverage:

Having a Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner is important.

GuelphToday, March 16, 2026

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/classifieds/buy-sell-and-services/browse-local-sales-offers-more/2100369>

B.C. hires more than 400 U.S. health-care workers in 1-year recruitment blitz

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/how-many-u-s-health-care-workers-are-in-b-c-9.7129903>

Industry coverage:

Ontario to end funding for 7 supervised drug consumption sites, province confirms

The Canadian Press, March 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-ending-supervised-drug-consumption-funding-9.7130534>

Public drug use will spike when consumption sites close, advocates warn

CBC News, March 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/supervised-consumption-closed-ontario-hart-hub-9.7130869>

When generic versions of weight-loss drugs arrive, public plans should cover them, experts say

The Globe and Mail, March 17, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-generic-ozempic-wegovy-weight-loss-drugs-public-plans-should-cover/>

How this Toronto ER looks to keep 'cold from killing people'

The Canadian Press, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/homeless-deaths-take-toll-on-hospital-staff-9.7130805>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Canadian Medical Association applies to intervene in Supreme Court appeal of Saskatchewan's pronoun law

The Globe and Mail, March 17, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-canadian-medical-association-supreme-court-saskatchewan-pronoun-law/>

Social assistance rates often too low to keep people housed, new research finds

The Globe and Mail, March 17, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-social-assistance-rates-homelessness-unhoused-new-research/>

Food bank demand has nearly doubled since pandemic, Mississauga organization says

CBC News, March 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/food-banks-mississauga-demand-double-pandemic-9.7131283>

Toronto Catholic teachers fired after anti-Black comment, meme posted in Instagram chat

The Toronto Star, March 16, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-catholic-teachers-fired-after-anti-black-comment-meme-posted-in-instagram-chat/article_49d00376-39a4-4b52-a626-17b9a530cde3.html

Political coverage:

Ford government to allow ‘bring-your-own’ alcoholic beverages at outdoor public events

CityNews, March 17, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/03/17/ford-government-to-allow-bring-your-own-alcoholic-beverages-at-outdoor-public-events/>

Doug Ford defends FOI changes, warns of enemies seeking government secrets

The Toronto Star, March 16, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/doug-ford-defends-foi-changes-warns-of-enemies-seeking-government-secrets/article_b45ce1e9-d256-449b-ae0b-27b8fc449aa9.html

Ford accused of limiting transparency law because of cellphone defeat in court

Global News, March 16, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11733205/doug-ford-cellphone-new-foi-law/>

Mark Carney joins call for Israel not to invade Lebanon

The Toronto Star, March 16, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/mark-carney-joins-call-for-israel-not-to-invade-lebanon/article_baeccc09-e023-4640-b687-520566397129.html

Nursing coverage:

Another closure coming to Thessalon emergency room, this time for 48 hours

ElliotLakeToday, March 18, 2026

https://www.elliottlaketoday.com/local-news/another-closure-coming-to-thessalon-emergency-room-this-time-for-48-hours-12021963#google_vignette

From sweet treats to high-pressure simulations, here’s how Carleton’s new nursing program is shaping up

The Charlatan, March 18, 2026

<https://charlatan.ca/heres-how-carletons-new-nursing-program-is-shaping-up/>

Industry coverage:

Thunder Bay, Ont., long-term care home, staff member face criminal charges in resident's 2025 death

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/pioneer-ridge-criminal-charges-9.7131987>

Postpartum blind spot: Why Ontario is missing half of all severe pregnancy complications

The Hamilton Spectator, March 18, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/pregnancy-sepsis-postpartum/article_c719e5e2-09fc-5afa-97ed-5fa96e08718b.html

As Niagara Region's only safe drug consumption site faces closure, advocates fear more people will die

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/overdoses-safe-drug-consumption-funding-cuts-9.7132358>

Child vaccination rate drops sharply in Michigan as RFK Jr. influences policy

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/child-vaccination-rate-drops-sharply-michigan-rfk-junior-influences-policy-9.7132873>

Self-harm among young Canadians is on the rise, specifically in girls, new research finds

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/self-harm-injury-canada-9.7130367>

Burlington clinic faces \$5M lawsuit after patient diagnosed with Hepatitis C linked to allegedly unsterile needles

CityNews, March 18, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/03/18/burlington-health-clinic-lawsuit-5-million-hepatitis-c-man-suing-halton/>

Functional health drops for Canadians, especially those under 35: StatCan

Global News, March 17, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11734772/functional-health-declining-canadians-under-35/>

Labour coverage:

How local groups are making skilled trades safer for women

The Hamilton Spectator, March 18, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/women-skilled-trades/article_90c4c414-d91b-5f90-8085-c4663cd1117c.html

As Ontario commits to building more jails, data shows violence inside them is rising

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/violence-in-ontario-jails-rising-9.7132135>

‘Both are flawed’: Car capital's Unifor leader on Liberal, Conservative auto strategies

CBC News, March 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/unifor-liberal-conservative-auto-strategies-pacts-cusma-9.7131811>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Guelph Black parent group demanding better anti-racism strategy from school board

CBC News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/guelph-black-parent-group-demanding-better-anti-racism-strategy-from-school-board-9.7132257>

Political coverage:

Federal government appeals Emergencies Act use during convoy protest to Supreme Court

CBC News, March 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/government-appealing-emergencies-act-use-supreme-court-9.7132438>

ONA coverage:

Employers Cutting Nurse Positions Across Ontario Health-Care System

Kingsville Times, March 18, 2026

<https://kingsvilletimes.ca/2026/03/employers-cutting-nurse-positions-across-ontario-health-care-system/>

UHN cuts 28 staff, including nurses specializing in diabetes care: union

TorontoToday, March 17, 2026

<https://www.torontotoday.ca/local/health/uhn-cuts-28-staff-including-nurses-specializing-diabetes-care-union-12025196>

Health-care Job Vacancy Crisis

OMNI TV News, March 18, 2026

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNo2KQiu9kY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQFVEPorlQU>

Ontario Nurses Association urging government to safeguard access to care

CKTG News, CJRL News, CKDR News; March 19, 2026

Note: Union leaders are raising concerns, urging health care employers to halt reductions in nursing positions as patient wait times keep increasing. The Ontario Nurses Association is appealing to the government to protect access to care, warning that the situation may deteriorate further.

Nursing coverage:

Toronto's donor-funded consumption sites bracing for fallout of Ontario funding cuts

The Canadian Press, March 19, 2026

<https://www.cp24.com/local/toronto/2026/03/19/torontos-donor-funded-consumption-sites-bracing-for-fallout-of-ontario-funding-cuts/>

Industry coverage:

'We need justice': Sister of slain Windsor woman questions why it took police so long to release video

CBC News, March 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/fatal-stabbing-of-windsor-woman-linked-to-unsolved-november-arson-9.7133660>

Alberta to ban doctors from offering euthanasia before a patient asks — unlike rest of Canada

The National Post, March 19, 2026

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/alberta-to-ban-doctors-from-bringing-up-maid-before-patients-do>

Investigation: Who is Sam Mraiche? Inside Alberta's health care controversy

The Globe and Mail, March 19, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-alberta-health-care-procurement-controversy-sam-mraiche-mhcare/>

Labour coverage:

Departmental plans fuel concern over federal job, program cuts

CBC News, March 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/union-budget-carney-public-service-department-plans-9.7133612>

Canada is letting rural employers hire more temporary foreign workers.

Economists say it's a misstep

The Toronto Star, March 19, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/canada-is-letting-rural-employers-hire-more-temporary-foreign-workers-economists-say-its-a-misstep/article_615cb5a7-2053-4e3e-ab07-1e10844c98ba.html

ONA coverage:

ONA urging government to protect access to care

CKTG News, CKDR News, CKDO News; March 19, 2026

Note: Health care employers are being called upon by union leaders to stop reducing nursing positions, especially as patient wait times continue to increase. The Ontario Nurses Association is urging the government to ensure continued access to health care, cautioning that the current situation could deteriorate further.

Nursing coverage:

Ontario to blow past federal deadline to publicly fund nurse practitioners

The Canadian Press, March 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-nurse-practitioners-9.7135820>

Industry coverage:

Ontario plans to create connected primary care medical record system, minister says

The Canadian Press, March 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ont-ehealth-9.7135156>

A human rights group is calling on the province to reintroduce safe consumption sites in Ontario

CBC News, March 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7135507>

Canadian researcher Gerry Wright is searching for the next generation of life-saving antibiotics

The Globe and Mail, March 19, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-canadian-researcher-gerry-wright-is-searching-for-the-next-generation/>

Florida hospital sues to evict a patient who won't leave room 5 months after discharge

The Associated Press, March 18, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/world/united-states/florida-hospital-sues-to-evict-a-patient-who-wont-leave-room-5-months-after-discharge/article_571a9a63-085f-52ad-846d-0f6f980d8c7a.html

Political coverage:

Ontario proposing cap on ticket resale prices at original value

CBC News, March 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-ticket-resale-price-cap-ontario-9.7135950>

Media Releases

Employers are Cutting Nurse Positions Across Ontario Health-Care System *More than 700 positions cut since January 2025, leaving patients with less care*

Toronto, ON, March 18, 2026 – A tidal wave of employer cutbacks has wiped out more than 700 front-line nurse and health-care worker positions since January 2025, leaving patients, residents and clients with less care and longer waits for treatment.

Hospitals and health-care workplaces have eliminated positions in surgery, endocrinology, acute oncology, internal medicine, hemodialysis, post-anesthesia care units (PACU), endoscopy, dialysis, mother and baby units, mental health and more. The cuts span hospitals, long-term care homes, public health and primary care clinics.

“Ontario already has the worst nurse staffing levels per capita in Canada, making it a dangerous move for health-care CEOs to cut even more front-line staff simply to save a few dollars,” says ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. “The Ford government is deliberately underfunding public health care to pave the way for more privatization. The result is predictable: longer waits for patients, unsafe workloads for nurses and health-care professionals and a system pushed even closer to the brink. These cuts must stop.”

After a 14-week break, the Ontario legislature returns to Queen’s Park on March 23. The government is expected to release its provincial budget on March 26. There have been clear warning signs coming from the Financial Accountability Office whose budget outlook projected a \$10.7 billion health funding shortfall by 2027-28 under the Ford government’s current spending plan.

“Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy recently called Ontario’s health-care spending ‘unsustainable.’ We agree,” says Ariss. “It’s unsustainable for workers who are cut when budgets tighten. It’s unsustainable for patients who pay the price when front-line nurses and health-care professionals are eliminated, instead of finding savings elsewhere. And it’s unsustainable for a health-care system already stretched beyond its limits. We demand Premier Ford immediately issue a moratorium on further cuts, and work with us to implement safe and mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios.”

“Safe nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, have been proven in other jurisdictions to improve care, save money over time and help recruit and retain nurses,” Ariss adds. “More nurses, not fewer, will also help address the alarming levels of workplace violence we face every day.”

ONA is the union representing 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.