

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

March 2 to 6, 2026

Nursing coverage:

Ottawa says provinces should pay for nurse practitioners, gives one-year grace before penalties

The Globe and Mail, March 1, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/economy/article-ottawa-says-provinces-should-pay-for-nurse-practitioners-gives-one/>

RNAO releases guidelines to address anti-black racism in nursing

Your Kenora, February 28, 2026

<https://yourkenora.ca/rnao-releases-guidelines-to-addressing-anti-black-racism-in-nursing/>

Antipsychotic use in long-term care homes still 'stubbornly high' despite a national target, doctor says

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/long-term-care-cihi-antipsychotic-drugs-9.7108636>

Industry coverage:

Ontario's Family Health Teams sound alarm over staffing crisis fuelled by wage freeze

CTV News, March 1, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/northern-ontario/article/ontarios-family-health-teams-sound-alarm-over-staffing-crisis-fuelled-by-wage-freeze/>

College of Family Physicians of Canada calls on Ottawa to increase support for family doctors

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/family-doctors-access-9.7108620>

Labour coverage:

Union urges federal government to halt early retirement program for public servants

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/union-urges-federal-government-to-halt-early-retirement-program-for-public-servants-9.7106167>

Ontario teachers want to start contract talks with the province months early. Here's why

The Toronto Star, March 2, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/ontario-teachers-want-to-start-contract-talks-with-the-province-months-early-heres-why/article_31d6fc12-9989-4c6e-9ace-f9b3766d4a67.html

Windsorites will be impacted as Canada Border Services Agency cuts 348 jobs, union says

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsorites-will-be-impacted-as-canada-border-services-agency-cuts-348-jobs-union-says-9.7108930>

Laurentian University staff union president wants a new vote on executive pay hikes

CBC News, February 27, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/laurentian-university-executive-pay-9.7108789>

Political coverage:

Majority of harassment cases in federal government involve superiors, official numbers show

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/federal-government-harassment-numbers-9.7109000>

Will it save dogs or impede key health research? Two views of Ontario's Bill 75

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/dog-testing-legislation-bill-75-9.7108699>

The number of Ontarians over 80 is about to surge. Advocates say the Ford government needs a strategy

The Hamilton Spectator, March 1, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/thestar/politics/provincial/the-number-of-ontarians-over-80-is-about-to-surge-advocates-say-the-ford-government/article_c86646d2-d19d-5bda-b7ff-cfe754a707ae.html

‘We take energy for granted’: MPP calls for feds, Ontario to help Nibinamik

SN News Watch, February 27, 2026

<https://www.snnewswatch.com/local-news/we-take-energy-for-granted-mpp-calls-for-feds-ontario-to-help-nibinamik-11938169>

Nursing coverage:

Resignation of new nursing manager won't delay opening of vacant beds at St. Joseph's at Fleming: CEO

The Peterborough Examiner, March 3, 2026

https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/nursing-manager-resigns/article_a529c092-19c2-5de7-a3d9-0cc944268cb6.html

Industry coverage:

Durham Region students are missing more school since the pandemic.

Experts say mental health could play a role

CBC News, March 3, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/durham-district-school-board-student-absenteeism-9.7111618>

19 opioid overdoses recorded in a week in Windsor-Essex, public health warns

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/opioid-overdoses-windsor-essex-february-9.7111948>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

White nationalist fight clubs pose risk for 'extreme violence,' warns government report

CBC News, March 3, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/active-clubs-report-public-safety-canada-9.7109011>

As Iran conflict spirals, there are 85K Canadians in Middle East, GAC says

Global News, March 2, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11712592/iran-war-canadians-middle-east-gac/>

Windsor man says wife is stuck in Lebanon amid widening Iran conflict

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-man-says-wife-is-stuck-in-lebanon-amid-widening-iran-conflict-9.7112181>

Iranian Canadians gather, proclaiming 'happiest day ever' amid U.S. and Israel strikes

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/iranian-canadians-happy-after-u-s-israel-strikes-9.7110118>

Political coverage:

Opinion | Lloyd Axworthy: Canadians deserve to know if our military is helping the U.S. attack on Iran

The Toronto Star, March 3, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/lloyd-axworthy-canadians-deserve-to-know-if-our-military-is-helping-the-u-s-attack/article_5213594b-ab4e-49de-9dbb-ffab6bb84b87.html

Analysis: Did Carney go too far in offering 'support' for U.S. strikes against Iran?

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/iran-united-states-canada-carney-9.7111856>

Ontario investigated 900 allegations of OSAP fraud last year, government says

The Globe and Mail, March 2, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-investigated-900-allegations-of-osap-fraud-last-year/>

Poilievre lands in London for first foreign trip as Opposition leader

CBC News, March 2, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/poilievre-international-trip-united-kingdom-9.7112047>

Nursing coverage:

Measles exposure reported at York Region hospital, transit routes also affected

CP24, March 4, 2026

<https://www.cp24.com/local/york/2026/03/04/measles-exposure-reported-at-york-region-hospital-transit-routes-also-affected/>

Opinion: Hundreds of US nurses choose Canada over America

Gulf Today, March 3, 2026

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/opinion/2026/03/03/hundreds-of-us-nurses-choose-canada-over-america>

COVID coverage:

'Incredible accomplishment': Hamilton doctor solves mystery of rare vaccine blood clots

The Hamilton Spectator, March 4, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/blood-clots-covid-vaccine-vitt-mcmaster-university/article_60831908-8be6-5ca6-850f-5f34cca6db06.html

Industry coverage:

Health unit strategy targets substance use in Haldimand-Norfolk

The Hamilton Spectator, March 4, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/substance-abuse-strategy/article_72afa922-ca22-5e33-b173-6a2629fc0fc2.html

Tumbler Ridge shooting highlights rural northern B.C.'s mental health deserts

The Globe and Mail, March 4, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-tumbler-ridge-shooting-rural-northern-bcs-mental-health-deserts/>

Sharp rise in young men contacting Ontario gambling helpline, researchers find

CBC News, March 3, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/online-gambling-ontario-9.7112838>

Labour coverage:

Class action lawsuit over migrant farm workers' EI benefits, restrictions to proceed

CBC News, March 4, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-migrant-farm-workers-lawsuit-certified-9.7111559>

Union previously pushed to make it harder to look up jail staff's addresses

The Globe and Mail, March 3, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-union-pushed-to-make-it-harder-to-look-up-jail-staffs-addresses/>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Officer's Jeep seen with symbol 'appropriated by' neo-Nazis, group says, after Hamilton police OK him to work

CBC News, March 4, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/renato-greco-new-sticker-9.7112855>

Political coverage:

Doug Ford's interest in Exhibition Place for new conference centre blindsides Toronto officials

The Toronto Star, March 4, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/doug-fords-interest-in-exhibition-place-for-new-conference-centre-blindsides-toronto-officials/article_0b132d6d-499d-4e3e-ba73-159f51ddf80b.html

Doug Ford government tasks think-tank experts with reviewing EQAO

The Toronto Star, March 4, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/doug-ford-government-tasks-think-tank-experts-with-reviewing-eqao/article_9eef910c-92a9-4898-ae79-d835cd4ac3f5.html

Ontario students plan demonstration over Ford government's OSAP changes

Global News, March 4, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11714708/osap-changes-protest-queens-park/>

Nursing coverage:

New long-term care home in Amherstburg now about 25% complete

CBC News, March 4, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/amherstburg-ltc-home-9.7115197>

Opinion: Want to understand Ontario's ER crisis? Watch 'The Pitt'

Guelph Mercury Tribune, March 4, 2026

https://www.guelphmercury.com/things-to-do/books/want-to-understand-ontarios-er-crisis-watch-the-pitt/article_8d05cd38-a86d-5708-bf2f-99fbd2e2beda.html

Industry coverage:

McMaster study links rising cannabis use to depression, anxiety

The Hamilton Spectator, March 5, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/cannabis-depression-anxiety-suicide/article_77658b4c-560d-5353-a6fe-85f647f17339.html

Potential measles exposure reported at Toronto Pearson airport

CityNews, March 5, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2026/03/05/potential-measles-exposure-reported-at-toronto-pearson-airport/>

Animal tranquilizers are being mixed with fentanyl in Canada

Global News, March 4, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11716571/canada-bc-toronto-animal-tranquilizers-opioids/>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

'We are standing with them:' Event in Stoney Creek to show solidarity with Iranian and Afghan women

CBC News, March 5, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/womens-day-event-iran-afghanistan-9.7114465>

Political coverage:

'No cuts, no fees, no corporate universities': Students stage mass protest over Ford government's OSAP cuts

CBC News, March 4, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/osap-protest-ontario-toronto-9.7114458>

Mark Carney refuses to 'categorically' rule out military involvement in Middle East conflict

The Toronto Star, March 4, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/mark-carney-refuses-to-categorically-rule-out-military-involvement-in-middle-east-conflict/article_4f00024c-675c-49a7-9f1a-5f160ed290f7.html

ONA coverage:

Ford's increase in funding presents new barriers to higher education

Queens Journal, March 6, 2026

<https://www.queensjournal.ca/fords-increase-in-funding-presents-new-barriers-to-higher-education/>

Nursing coverage:

Questions remain about billing for primary care ahead of April 1 deadline

CBC News, March 6, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/questions-remain-about-billing-for-primary-care-9.7115682>

Personal support worker murdered in LaSalle was working alone; union wants more protections

The Windsor Star, March 6, 2026

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/in-wake-of-lasalle-murder-union-calls-for-better-support-worker-protections>

Union president 'shocked' Bruyère Health cutting 55 front-line health workers

The Ottawa Citizen, March 5, 2026

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/bruyere-health-cuts>

Industry coverage:

Coun. Stevenson asks to stop city-funded agencies from handing out drug supplies

CBC News, March 6, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/drug-supply-motion-9.7116326>

Google tipped off authorities to illicit images in Canadian doctor's account, search warrants say

CBC News, March 6, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/david-edward-ooi-poon-search-warrants-charges-9.7115031>

Windsor-Essex saw 77 suspected overdoses in February — a record for EMS

CBC News, March 5, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-essex-overdose-cases-february-month-9.7115949>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Hamilton's 1st Black Mental Health Week about raising alarm, confronting stigma, says community leader

CBC News, March 6, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/black-mental-health-week-9.7116403>

Supreme Court rules Quebec's exclusion of asylum seekers in subsidized daycare is discriminatory

CBC News, March 6, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/supreme-court-asylum-seekers-subsidized-daycare-ruling-9.7117175>

Political coverage:

Canada launches new program to grant 33,000 foreign workers permanent residence, immigration minister reveals

The Toronto Star, March 6, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/ottawa-has-launched-program-to-grant-33000-foreign-workers-pr/article_3f788d97-9446-4377-ae78-54f42ee686ca.html

Media Releases

ONA Wins Vote to Represent Northeastern Public Health Nurses by a Large Majority

TORONTO, ON, March 5, 2026 – Nurses at the Northeastern Public Health (NEPH) have overwhelmingly voted to be represented by the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA), joining Ontario's largest union dedicated to health care and North America's largest nurses' union.

"As Ontario's largest health-care specific-union, we are proud that nurses at Northeastern Public Health felt best represented by ONA," says Erin Ariss, Registered Nurse and ONA Provincial President. "Now that the decision has been made, we can continue our fight for better funding, fair wages and respect in public health."

In January 2025, the Ford government approved the merger of nine public health units into four entities. At the time, workers at these public health units across the province were represented by several different unions.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board later determined that the workers at NEPH would be divided into two bargaining units: a "nurses" bargaining unit and an "all employees" bargaining unit. ONA earned overwhelming support from members of the nurses' bargaining unit.

Throughout the campaign, ONA connected with nurses about the importance of a union that knows health care, knows how to win and can fight back against funding cuts on a local, municipal and provincial level.

Notes Ariss, "With a super majority of nurses voting in favour of ONA, we're strengthening our grassroots movement in every sector across the province. I'm excited to work alongside all ONA members to fight for high-quality public health care and fair working conditions."

ONA is the union representing 68,000 health-care professionals, along with 18,000 nursing student affiliates, who provide care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health, community settings, clinics, and industry.