

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

**April 13 to 17, 2026**

***ONA coverage:***

**Major healthcare shift as AI emergency care moves into Toronto homes**

Insauga, April 13, 2026

<https://www.insauga.com/major-healthcare-shift-as-ai-emergency-care-moves-into-toronto-homes/>

**Ontario Faces Backlash After Nursing Job Cuts Raise Concerns Over Staffing Shortfalls**

Weekly Voice, March 23, 2026

<https://weeklyvoice.com/ontario-faces-backlash-after-nursing-job-cuts-raise-concerns-over-staffing-shortfalls/>

***Nursing coverage:***

**Patients shouldn't pay nurse practitioners out-of-pocket — Ford**

The North Bay Nugget, April 11, 2026

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/patients-shouldnt-pay-nurse-practitioners-out-of-pocket-ford>

***Industry coverage:***

**Cancer remains top cause of death in Canada as new study shows multiple types rising**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/canadian-cancer-projections-9.7159535>

**People treated for cancer as youths twice as likely to develop new tumours years later, study finds**

The Globe and Mail, April 13, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-people-treated-for-cancer-as-youths-twice-as-likely-to-develop-new/>

**Heather Winterstein 'looked terrified' before collapsing in St. Catharines hospital, witness tells inquest**

CBC News, April 11, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/winterstein-inquest-patient-witness-9.7159641>

## **Opposition grows as workforce cuts loom at The Ottawa Hospital**

CBC News, April 10, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7159956>

## **Le poids financier des agences privées fragilise l'Hôpital Notre-Dame de Hearst**

CBC News, April 8, 2026

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/2244039/hopital-hearst-depenses-infirmiers-ambulants>

### ***Labour coverage:***

## **Ontario government broadens access to WSIB, raises age cut-off and benefits**

The Globe and Mail, April 13, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-ontario-government-broadens-access-to-wsib-raises-age-cut-off-and/>

## **Unions criticize merger of two Ontario colleges, blame low provincial funding**

The Hamilton Spectator, April 12, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/politics/unions-criticize-merger-of-two-ontario-colleges-blame-low-provincial-funding/article\\_164a719c-586e-5958-9f8e-bdb13dea414a.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region](https://www.thespec.com/politics/unions-criticize-merger-of-two-ontario-colleges-blame-low-provincial-funding/article_164a719c-586e-5958-9f8e-bdb13dea414a.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region)

## **Labour ministry, police investigating worker death at London Maple Leaf Foods plant**

CBC News, April 10, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/labour-ministry-police-investigating-worker-death-at-london-maple-leaf-foods-plant-9.7159414>

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

## **Increased pressure on Ford government to address rising cost of living weeks after budget**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-ford-cost-of-living-affordability-9.7157646>

## **Voters head to polls in 3 federal byelections that could deliver majority Liberal government**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/byelection-liberal-conservatives-carney-majority-government-9.7161054>

### ***Nursing coverage:***

## **Some rural Manitobans paying out of pocket for nurse practitioners**

CBC News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7162406>

## **P.E.I. hires more nurse practitioners as thousands of Islanders await family doctor**

CTV News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/article/pei-hires-more-nurse-practitioners-as-thousands-of-islanders-await-family-doctor/>

### ***Industry coverage:***

## **Ontario overhauls MAID oversight committee, critics say it's to remove dissenters**

The Globe and Mail, April 14, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-overhauls-maid-oversight-committee-critics-say-its-to-remove/>

## **Heather Winterstein's life possibly could have been saved if treated sooner in Ontario hospital, inquest told**

CBC News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/heather-winterstein-s-life-possibly-could-have-been-saved-if-treated-sooner-in-ontario-hospital-inquest-told-9.7162778>

## **Concerns about Hamilton doctor flagged to regulator before patient death**

The Hamilton Spectator, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/concerns-about-hamilton-doctor-flagged-before-patient-death/article\\_0e979116-d9e1-5076-b5ee-82196a7aeda6.html](https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/concerns-about-hamilton-doctor-flagged-before-patient-death/article_0e979116-d9e1-5076-b5ee-82196a7aeda6.html)

## **Support worker charged in death of resident at St. Marys group home**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/support-worker-charged-in-death-of-resident-at-st-marys-group-home-9.7162172>

## **Shoppers Drug Mart gave her the wrong medication. Months later, she landed in the ER**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/gopublic/pharmacists-prescriptions-medication-errors-near-miss-health-canada-9.7156873>

### ***Labour coverage:***

## **Ontario proposes ban on requiring workers to pay for uniforms**

The Hamilton Spectator, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/ontario-proposes-ban-on-requiring-workers-to-pay-for-uniforms/article\\_c21248fa-8c0a-5718-8f19-3b0df075c62f.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region](https://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/ontario-proposes-ban-on-requiring-workers-to-pay-for-uniforms/article_c21248fa-8c0a-5718-8f19-3b0df075c62f.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region)

## **George Brown college hit by second, larger wave of staffing cuts**

The Toronto Star, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/george-brown-college-hit-by-second-larger-wave-of-staffing-cuts/article\\_a799442a-6252-4bda-943f-8fcc569d4759.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/george-brown-college-hit-by-second-larger-wave-of-staffing-cuts/article_a799442a-6252-4bda-943f-8fcc569d4759.html)

## **Gap between richest and poorest Canadians widened again in 2025, StatsCan says**

The Canadian Press, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-wealth-gap-grew-2025-9.7162167>

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

## **Former pastor, 14 others accused of defrauding York Region homeless program**

The Toronto Star, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/former-pastor-14-others-accused-of-defrauding-york-region-homeless-program/article\\_80f3376d-fac1-4439-af49-9cdee598c6f3.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/former-pastor-14-others-accused-of-defrauding-york-region-homeless-program/article_80f3376d-fac1-4439-af49-9cdee598c6f3.html)

## **City of Windsor removes homeless encampment in west end of the city**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-west-end-homeless-encampment-9.7161849>

***Political coverage:***

**FOI documents reveal Ontario's 'unprecedented' jail expansion plans: experts**

The Canadian Press, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/foi-documents-jail-expansion-ontario-9.7162867>

**Canada is overhauling its signature skilled immigration system. Here's what is changing**

The Toronto Star, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/canada-is-overhauling-its-signature-skilled-immigration-system-heres-what-is-changing/article\\_a19c2606-fd74-4f76-bcb2-c5a5c2dabf5d.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/canada-is-overhauling-its-signature-skilled-immigration-system-heres-what-is-changing/article_a19c2606-fd74-4f76-bcb2-c5a5c2dabf5d.html)

**Attendance to be worth up to 15% of Ontario high school students' grades, exams required in most classes**

The Toronto Star, April 14, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/attendance-to-be-worth-up-to-15-of-ontario-high-school-students-grades-exams-required-in-most-classes/article\\_f81dc23a-d5d0-409b-85ed-e952417afa7a.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/attendance-to-be-worth-up-to-15-of-ontario-high-school-students-grades-exams-required-in-most-classes/article_f81dc23a-d5d0-409b-85ed-e952417afa7a.html)

**Mark Carney enters his majority era**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carney-majority-byelections-analysis-9.7162517>

***ONA coverage:***

**LHSC's nursing cuts and what they could mean for patient care**

The London Free Press, April 15, 2026

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/explainer-lhscs-nursing-cuts-and-what-they-could-mean-for-patient-care>

***Industry coverage:***

**Doctors join rallies against refugee health-care cuts**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7164169>

**Heather Winterstein at high risk of facing layers of 'biases' when seeking health care, Ontario inquest told**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/indigenous-heather-winterstein-inquest-9.7163850>

## **B.C. declared toxic drugs a public health emergency 10 years ago. Has it made a difference?**

CBC News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/10-year-anniversary-toxic-drug-overdose-deaths-public-health-emergency-9.7159394>

## **Alberta moves to allow private diagnostic tests without a doctor's referral**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-allow-private-diagnostic-tests-without-doctors-note-9.7162141>

### ***Labour coverage:***

## **Teacher unions welcome changes to Ontario classrooms, but say they don't address major concerns**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/teacher-unions-welcome-changes-to-ontario-classrooms-but-say-they-don-t-address-major-concerns-9.7163405>

## **Lockdowns at Ontario jails caused by staff shortages rising rapidly, data shows**

Global News, April 14, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11799464/ford-government-jail-capacity-issues-lockdowns/>

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

## **Citywide union for Toronto tenants formed to organize rent strikes and help with unlawful evictions**

The Toronto Star, April 15, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-renter-environmental-groups-team-up-to-launch-citywide-tenant-union/article\\_9f4875d8-a021-45cc-a38a-df30e818d044.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/toronto-renter-environmental-groups-team-up-to-launch-citywide-tenant-union/article_9f4875d8-a021-45cc-a38a-df30e818d044.html)

## **Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski using on-court success to help eliminate violence against women**

CBC News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/sports/tennis/gabriela-dabrowski-tennis-charity-donation-9.7163332>

***Political coverage:***

**Ontario plans to tie high school attendance to grades and mandate final exams. It's getting mixed reactions**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ont-edubill-exams-attendance-9.7163291>

**Ford government to allow alcohol almost anywhere in provincial parks**

CityNews, April 15, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/04/15/ford-government-to-allow-alcohol-almost-anywhere-in-provincial-parks-ontario/>

**Ontario's new Species Conservation Act raises concerns about oversight, habitat protection**

CBC News, April 13, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/ontario-species-conservation-act-9.7161589>

***Nursing coverage:***

**2 southwestern Ontario hospitals lay off dozens of PSWs citing changing patient needs**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/2-southwestern-ontario-hospitals-lay-off-dozens-of-psws-citing-changing-patient-needs-9.7164981>

**How a fake nurse kept getting hired: The lengths Lisa Driscoll took to land jobs in St. John's, Gander**

The Telegram, April 15, 2026

<https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/fake-nurse-lisa-driscoll>

***Industry coverage:***

**Hospitalization rates for COVID and other vaccine-preventable illnesses have soared — and researchers are worried**

The Toronto Star, April 16, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/hospitalization-rates-for-these-vaccine-preventable-illnesses-have-soared--and-researchers-are-worried/article\\_8fb6ddb0-bc92-478a-99a7-4808e9f27cb6.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/hospitalization-rates-for-these-vaccine-preventable-illnesses-have-soared--and-researchers-are-worried/article_8fb6ddb0-bc92-478a-99a7-4808e9f27cb6.html)

## **Stoney Creek urgent care launching virtual registration to cut wait times**

The Hamilton Spectator, April 16, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/stoney-creek-urgent-care-emergency/article\\_096e9714-58b8-53d4-b6fe-a73152b9418c.html](https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/stoney-creek-urgent-care-emergency/article_096e9714-58b8-53d4-b6fe-a73152b9418c.html)

## **Opinion: The guardrails of MAID need vigilant scrutiny**

The Globe and Mail, April 16, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-the-guardrails-of-maid-need-vigilant-scrutiny/>

## **New MAID oversight committee will be diverse and transparent, Ontario Solicitor-General contends**

The Globe and Mail, April 15, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-new-maid-oversight-committee-will-be-diverse-and-transparent-ontario/>

## **Hospital boss admits racism played role in death of young Indigenous woman | Hanomansing Tonight**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7165551>

## **Health Canada approves 1st needle-free epinephrine treatment for severe allergic reactions**

The Canadian Press, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/health-canada-approves-needle-free-neffy-9.7164973?cmp=rss>

## **7 people hospitalized after salmonella outbreak linked to Stoney Creek restaurant**

CBC News, April 14, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/piper-arms-salmonella-outbreak-9.7163787>

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

## **Ford promises no more inmates will be improperly released from jail**

The Hamilton Spectator, April 16, 2026

[https://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/ford-promises-no-more-inmates-will-be-improperly-released-from-jail/article\\_6b09269a-d91f-552d-b536-183aa9c5016e.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region](https://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/ford-promises-no-more-inmates-will-be-improperly-released-from-jail/article_6b09269a-d91f-552d-b536-183aa9c5016e.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region)

## **Ottawa 'very seriously' considering age restrictions for social media, AI chatbots**

CBC News, April 15, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/social-media-ai-minimum-age-9.7164902>

### ***Nursing coverage:***

## **How is nurse practitioner care working for you?**

CBC News, April 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/9.7166767>

### ***Industry coverage:***

## **Ontario's MAID advisers say they're being pushed out for dissenting views — but the chief coroner disagrees**

The Toronto Star, April 17, 2026

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/ontarios-maid-advisers-say-theyre-being-pushed-out-for-dissenting-views--but-the-chief-coroner-disagrees/article\\_998414ba-0978-4fc1-ac24-aafc6109b63e.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/ontarios-maid-advisers-say-theyre-being-pushed-out-for-dissenting-views--but-the-chief-coroner-disagrees/article_998414ba-0978-4fc1-ac24-aafc6109b63e.html)

## **Ontario pushes ahead with medical residency rule change for international students**

The Canadian Press, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-medical-residency-international-graduates-9.7167730>

### ***Labour coverage:***

## **Federal government might have to acquire new office space for public servants, analysis finds**

CBC News, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/federal-government-might-have-to-acquire-new-office-space-for-public-servants-analysis-finds-9.7167296>

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

## **Court weighs overturning rule blocking birth alert class action from suing 49 children's aid societies**

CBC News, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/court-weighs-overturning-rule-blocking-birth-alert-class-action-from-suing-49-childrens-aid-societies-9.7164436>

***Political coverage:***

**Ontario government buys \$28.9M private jet for Doug Ford's use**

CBC News, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-private-jet-9.7167824>

## Media Releases

### **Nurses Protest at Extendicare Shareholders Meeting, Demanding “Care, Not Profit” and Respectful New Contract**

**TORONTO, ON**, April 16, 2026 – Today, members of the Ontario Nurses’ Association (ONA) staged a protest at Extendicare’s Annual Shareholders Meeting in Toronto to demand the nursing homes chain put better resident care before increased profit. At this meeting, shareholders voted to elect new board members and appoint a new board chair who has a background in private equity and real estate, not front-line care. This makes nurses and health-care professionals question the priorities of Extendicare’s board – resident care or more profits.

ONA members at nursing homes across Ontario will begin bargaining a new collective agreement next week. As one of the largest nursing homes chains in the country, they want the new Extendicare board to show workers respect by negotiating an agreement with fair wages, benefits and working conditions.

“These nurses and health-care professionals provide round-the-clock care to some of the most vulnerable members of our society and yet they are paid more than 10 per cent less than hospital nurses who provide similar care,” explains ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. “It’s time these for-profit nursing homes showed their staff some respect for the high-quality care they provide patients.”

In 2025, Extendicare reported a record \$96 million in profits, up 28 per cent from the previous year. Their Chief Executive Officer Michael Guerriere’s total compensation for the same year was a whopping \$2.6 million dollars. Nurses and health-care professionals say the money and respect does not trickle down to them. Instead, they work hard to provide the best quality care to residents while being understaffed and under resourced. The wage disparity between long-term care and hospitals coupled with poor working conditions forces many workers to leave the jobs they love for better pay and benefits.

Ariss says, “These for-profit homes also receive public taxpayer money to operate. Our residents, families and all Ontarians deserve greater accountability for that money is going. Instead of lining the pockets of shareholders and hoping they make good decisions for residents and workers, we need accountability that ensures money is spent on better resident care over profit.”

Nursing homes like Extendicare can ensure residents get the high-quality care they need and deserve by negotiating a respectful new collective agreement with wages and benefits equal to hospital nurses, minimum staffing ratios and better 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.

## **Hundreds of Nurse Positions Slated to be Cut from The Ottawa Hospital**

**Ottawa, ON**, April 17, 2026 – The Ontario Nurses’ Association (ONA) says that The Ottawa Hospital is aiming to cut hundreds of front-line nursing positions, leaving patients with less care.

“It is absurd that in a province like Ontario, which already has the worst nurse-to-population ratio in all of Canada, a hospital is targeting nurses to make up for underfunding of the public health-care system by the Ford government,” says ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. “Nurses have borne the brunt of inadequate funding for decades, suffering round after round of cuts even as mounting evidence shows us that we should be increasing RN staffing.”

The more than 200 cuts at The Ottawa Hospital include registered nurses, clinical care leaders, nurse specialists and nurse educators in several areas across the hospital.

“The breadth of these cuts is incredibly worrisome. Eliminating front-line staff is not just trimming a budget, it’s dismantling the backbone of patient care,” says Ariss. “Our members are beyond angry about the cuts, which will lead to longer wait times, increased burnout and risks to patient safety.”

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.

## **Nurses at Markham Stouffville Hospital Vote to Join Ontario Nurses’ Association in Historic Union Drive**

**Friday, April 17, 2026**, Markham, ON – More than 900 nurses at Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) voted to join the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) this week, marking one of the largest unionization drives in health care in Ontario in years.

“We are thrilled to welcome the nurses at Markham Stouffville Hospital. This is a huge win for all nurses and health-care professionals,” explains Erin Ariss, registered nurse and ONA Provincial President. “This win strengthens our united movement across the province to fight back against a government and employers who are hellbent on privatizing our health care and cutting front-line care.”

Nurses at MSH work hard to provide high-quality, timely care to more than 480,000 patients a year, ranging from emergency care and diagnostics to clinical programs. This year, MSH announced layoffs to front-line staff in order to balance their budget. This is part of a larger trend across public hospitals in Ontario to prioritize budgets over high-quality, timely patient care. With more cuts on the way, ONA members across the province are telling Ontarians the truth about how devastating this will be to patient care.

Ariss says, “With an overwhelming majority of the nurses voting in favour, it is clear that they urgently want a strong union that will fight for safe staffing levels, reasonable workloads, fair wages and more. Together with these new ONA members, we will continue to fight for better working conditions and high-quality, timely public health care for all.”

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.

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