

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

April 20 to 24, 2026

ONA coverage:

Nurses vote to unionize at Markham Stouffville Hospital following recent spate of layoffs

YorkRegion.com, April 17, 2026

https://www.yorkregion.com/news/nurses-vote-to-unionize-at-markham-stouffville-hospital/article_16511d9e-b971-5af2-bf86-d19eecd08b0a.html

Cuts at Ottawa Hospital will hurt patients, nurses' union warns

The Ottawa Citizen, April 17, 2026

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/cuts-at-toh>

Nursing coverage:

'Beefing up' — Ontario gives \$2.1M to connect downtown Windsorites to primary health care

The Windsor Star, April 20, 2026

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/beefing-up-ontario-gives-2-1m-to-connect-downtown-windsorites-to-primary-health-care>

2 nursing regulators combine as 'one-stop-shop' in NL College of Nurses

CBC News, April 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-college-of-nurses-9.7165736>

Wasauksing to create mobile nursing unit with support from Ontario

ParrySound.com, April 17, 2026

https://www.parrysound.com/news/wasauksing-mobile-health-care/article_c7f673fa-3ffe-539e-9617-9c681d31bb87.html

Industry coverage:

First Nation seeks federal funding to support first on-reserve birthing lodge in Sask.

CBC News, April 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/saskatchewan-first-nation-seeks-federal-funding-for-birthing-lodge-9.7169023>

Documents show Horizon staff raised alarm about ambulance bay unit long before public backlash

CBC News, April 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/horizon-staff-ambulance-bay-unit-9.7165043>

Health Canada warned against buying peptides online. CBC News easily bought some

CBC News, April 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/peptides-injectable-9.7167241>

Windsor's paramedic union is asking you to advocate for more ambulances on the roads

CBC News, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7168938>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Toronto renters gather this weekend to launch first citywide tenants union

CBC News, April 18, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-tenants-union-9.7166868>

Political coverage:

Ford, province to sell \$28.9M private jet 'as quickly as possible' after public backlash

CBC News, April 19, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-jet-sell-9.7169704>

Ontario's omnibus budget bill includes retroactive clampdown on premier's cellphone records

The Canadian Press, April 17, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-government-foi-rule-change-9.7168713>

ONA coverage:

Nurses Demand Improvements in Long-Term Care

Global TV, April 20, 2026

Note: *More than 4,400 nurses and health-care professionals working in long-term care homes – members of the Ontario Nurses’ Association – are calling for urgent investments in resident care, rather than allowing public funds to flow to shareholder profits.*

Nursing coverage:

Her clinic fills urgent rural health needs; now this nurse practitioner fears she is being shut out

The Ottawa Citizen, April 21, 2026

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/nurse-practitioner-clinic-funding>

Quinte Health replacing about 50 PSWs with nurses in some units

The Belleville Intelligencer, April 20, 2026

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/quinte-health-psw-jobs>

Industry coverage:

Most doctors say they’ve had to intervene after patients accessed misinformation, survey finds

The Globe and Mail, April 21, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-most-doctors-had-to-intervene-after-patients-accessed-misinformation/>

Opinion: The long and costly shadow of COVID-19

The Globe and Mail, April 21, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-long-covid-19-pandemic/>

Family of Indigenous woman who died in Ontario hospital after 2 ER visits seeks homicide ruling at inquest

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/heather-winterstein-inquest-st-catharines-asking-homicide-ruling-9.7170931>

Omissions, delayed hospital treatment ‘amounted to homicide’: Winterstein family lawyer

The Hamilton Spectator, April 21, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/winterstein-inquest-day-14/article_ee633635-2d4e-54bf-81d4-359d2187903e.html#tncms-source=hamilton-region

Are safe supply pharmacies a problem in London?

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/pharmacy-safe-supply-9.7170718>

NDP calls for the closure of for-profit plasma clinics

Sudbury.com, April 20, 2026

<https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/ndp-calls-for-the-closure-of-for-profit-plasma-clinics-12168059>

How Windsor Regional Hospital's new CEO plans to tackle financial pressures

CBC News, April 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/q-and-a-windsor-regional-hospital-new-ceo-kristin-kennedy-9.7168898>

Labour coverage:

Some Grand River Transit workers will be in strike position as of May 1

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/grand-river-transit-region-waterloo-strike-position-may-1-9.7171438>

Political coverage:

Yes, Doug Ford, Quebec bought private jets — but not for the premier's travels

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-private-jets-9.7170866>

A network of YouTube accounts is promoting U.S. annexation to Albertans, researchers say. It has 40M views

The Toronto Star, April 21, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/a-network-of-youtube-accounts-is-promoting-us-annexation-to-albertans-researchers-say-it-has-40m-views/article_b26d9311-f3f1-4304-a443-360f51f6a558.html

Ford says no one in Canada is scrutinized like he is after backtracking on \$28.9M private jet purchase

CBC News, April 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-private-jet-9.7170321>

Nursing coverage:

Union representing 55,000 B.C. nurses prepares for strike vote after talks fail

CBC News, April 21, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/british-columbia/union-representing-55000-bc-nurses-prepares-for-strike-vote-after-talks-fail/article_f8f34635-085c-5d62-a1d1-f16dea65f063.html

Meet a nurse practitioner and an Indigenous elder who are offering different kinds of help to people on the street in downtown Sudbury

CBC Radio, April 20, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/9.7170384>

Industry coverage:

Council endorses pushing province for help on 'problem' pharmacy model

CBC News, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/pharmacy-endorsement-9.7172380>

Inquest jury deliberating how Heather Winterstein died in Ontario hospital after collapsing on 2nd ER visit

CBC News, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/heather-winterstein-coroner-s-inquest-sepsis-indigenous-9.7172039>

AI slop videos aimed at babies are 'garbage,' says pediatrician

CBC News, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ai-baby-slop-9.7166873>

Calgary researchers call for national database tracking physician sexual assault, misconduct

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-researchers-call-for-national-database-tracking-physician-sexual-assault-misconduct-9.7170711>

Doctors say patients are seeking false health information online: CMA survey

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7172721>

Labour coverage:

The union leader, the numbered company and the \$4-million house

The Globe and Mail, April 22, 2026

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-carpenters-regional-council-union-house-purchase-jason-rowe/>

CUPE Ontario president placed on leave after complaint

The Toronto Star, April 21, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/cupe-ontario-president-placed-on-leave-after-complaint/article_d4a36626-3199-4929-980c-08450974f30e.html

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Indigenous charity receives parcel of land in Guelph in effort to create meaningful reconciliation

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/thresholds-homes-and-supports-gives-land-crow-shield-lodge-9.7170811>

Pride organizations call on Ontario to create fund to support festivals as costs climb

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/pride-organizations-support-fund-request-ontario-government-9.7172587>

Political coverage:

Ontario government sold private jet back to Bombardier, Ford says

CBC News, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-doug-ford-private-jet-9.7173060>

\$28.9M private jet province bought, plans to sell, could have used only 10% of Ontario airports

CBC News, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-jet-airport-runways-9.7172500>

Ontario Liberals have 1st official leadership contender

The Canadian Press, April 21, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/04/22/ontario-liberals-candidates-dylan-marando-politics/>

6 inmates released mistakenly still at large, Ontario Premier Doug Ford says

CBC News, April 21, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ont-jails-9.7172342>

ONA coverage:

Does Extendicare's (TSX:EXE) Dividend And Debt Plan Align With Rising Care-Investment Demands?

Simply Wall St, April 23, 2026

<https://simplywall.st/stocks/ca/healthcare/tsx-exe/extendicare-shares/news/does-extendicares-tsxexe-dividend-and-debt-plan-align-with-r/amp>

Nursing coverage:

Opinion | The solution to Canada's care crisis is already here. Why is Ottawa pushing it out?

The Hamilton Spectator, April 23, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/solution-to-canadas-care-crisis-is-already-here/article_f196dee7-76f6-5465-bccc-58e40f72a350.html

Advocates rally for new climate change strategy from Ontario government

Your Sunset Country, April 22, 2026

<https://yoursunsetcountry.ca/advocates-rally-for-new-climate-change-strategy-from-ontario-government/>

Industry coverage:

Amid year-long state of emergency, Neskantaga First Nation calls for health-care intervention

CBC News, April 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/neskantaga-first-nation-health-care-crisis-9.7173688>

Upcoming federal health care cuts could put refugee claimants at risk

CBC News, April 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/canada-co-pay-system-refugee-care-devastating-9.7173297>

Canada risks 'suicide contagion' if euthanasia is approved for mental illness, psychiatrist warns

The National Post, April 22, 2026

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canada-suicide-contagion-maid-mental-illness>

Political coverage:

Ford government's controversial budget bill passes final vote at Queen's Park

CityNews, April 23, 2026

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2026/04/23/ford-governments-controversial-budget-bill-passes-final-vote-at-queens-park/>

Ontario high school students will soon need to pass financial literacy test to graduate

The Canadian Press, April 22, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-high-school-students-financial-literacy-test-9.7173344>

ONA coverage:

April 3 stabbing at Royal Alex Hospital reminds us of the hazards faced daily by Alberta nurses

United Nurses of Alberta, April 24, 2026

<https://www.una.ca/1773/royal-alex-alberta-nurses>

Nursing coverage:

Innocence Under Fire: How One Nurse Saved the Newborns of Khatam-al-Anbiya Hospital

WANA News, April 24, 2026

<https://wanaen.com/innocence-under-fire-how-one-nurse-saved-the-newborns-of-khatam-al-anbiya-hospital/>

'Treat us with some respect': What over 55,000 B.C. nurses are fighting for as potential strike looms

Daily Hive News, April 23, 2026

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/bc-nurses-benefits-strike-action-2026>

Industry coverage:

Family says mom of baby who died was 'begging for help' at remote Ontario hospital, waiting for doctor's call

CBC News, April 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/attawapiskat-weeneebayko-hospital-health-child-death-remote-9.7174880>

Why this Ontario psychiatric hospital's use of long-term isolation is being called 'abusive' — 'The likes of which I have never seen'

The Toronto Star, April 24, 2026

https://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/why-this-ontario-psychiatric-hospitals-use-of-long-term-isolation-is-being-called-abusive--the-likes-of-which-i-have-never-seen/article_bf653dc4-891e-4c4c-acb0-1b4a4ae5df5a.html

Ex-neurologist found not guilty on 48 counts of sexual assault, Ontario judge rules

CBC News, April 24, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/livestory/jeffrey-sloka-sexual-assault-trial-ruling-decision-9.7175767>

Hamilton public health says 'cross-contamination' likely cause of salmonella outbreak at the Piper Arms

The Hamilton Spectator, April 23, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/business/hamilton-region/salmonella-outbreak-hamilton/article_f7293f7c-96e7-5520-a219-dcf2b83ffba9.html

Health unit issues warning about latest batch of street drugs in county

CTV News, April 23, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/barrie/article/health-unit-issues-warning-about-latest-batch-of-street-drugs-in-county/>

Health care workers want more support at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa

Durham Radio News, April 23, 2026

<https://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/211410>

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Ontario housing minister announces millions to address homelessness in Thunder Bay, Ont.

CBC News, April 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-homelessness-funding-9.7175011>

Political coverage:

Ford urged to apologize after saying MPP only in legislature because 'CP24 didn't want her'

The Canadian Press, April 23, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ford-queens-park-insult-9.7175244>

Media Releases

Profits Rise While Staffing Struggles: Nurses Demand Improvements in Long-Term Care

TORONTO, ON, April 20, 2026 – More than 4,400 nurses and health-care professionals working in long-term care homes – members of the Ontario Nurses’ Association (ONA) – are calling for urgent investments in resident care, rather than allowing public funds to flow to shareholder profits.

“For far too long, for-profit long-term care operators have generated tens of millions in profits with little accountability to residents, their families, or Ontarians,” said ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. “Nurses and health-care professionals deliver round-the-clock care to some of the most vulnerable people in our society, yet they earn more than 10 per cent less than hospital nurses providing comparable care. It’s time these employers show respect for the essential work nurses perform every day.”

The concerns come amid rising profits in the sector. In 2025, Extencicare reported \$96 million in profits – an increase of 28 per cent over the previous year – while CEO Michael Guerriere received total compensation of \$2.6 million. Front-line staff say these gains are not reflected in their wages or working conditions. Instead, they continue to face chronic understaffing and limited resources while striving to provide high-quality care.

The widening wage gap between long-term care and hospital nurses, combined with difficult working conditions, is driving many skilled professionals out of the sector in search of better pay and support.

“Under the Ford government, we’ve seen non-profit long-term care homes close while for-profit operators receive funding and contracts to expand,” Ariss added. “Residents deserve consistent, high-quality care, and the best way to achieve that is through legislated staffing ratios and fair compensation.”

ONA members say the provincial government must take decisive action to hold corporations accountable. By mandating safe staffing levels, improving wages, and ensuring public funding is directed to care – not profits – Ontario can strengthen its long-term care system and deliver the quality of care residents deserve.

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.