

Ontario Nurses' Association
Weekly Media Scan & Media Release Summary

June 15 to 26, 2026

ONA coverage:

Ontario long-term care nurses head to arbitration after bargaining breakdown, criticism over process

CBC News, June 15, 2026

[Ontario long-term care nurses head to arbitration after bargaining breakdown, criticism over process | CBC News](#)

Ontario nurses picket outside nursing homes for fair wages, working conditions in new deal

InSauga, June 15, 2026

<https://www.insauga.com/ontario-nurses-picket-outside-nursing-homes-for-fair-wages-working-conditions-in-new-deal/>

Ontario's Care Crisis: Profits Soar as Nurses' Pay and a System Teeter

Brief Glance, June 15, 2026

<https://briefglance.com/articles/ontarios-care-crisis-profits-soar-as-nurses-pay-and-a-system-teeter?>

Ontario long-term care nurses heading to arbitration

CBC Radio 1, June 15, 2026

Note: ONA says LTC nurses are heading into arbitration process. Negotiations with for-profit nursing homes employers broke down, prompting a neutral third party to create a final, binding collective agreement.

Thunder Bay Hospital Seeks to Fill 54 Jobs as Need Grows

Boring News, June 18, 2026

[Thunder Bay Hospital Seeks to Fill 54 Jobs as Need Grows - boringnews.ca - Local Canadian News](#)

Ontario nurses rally at St. Joe's Hamilton over hospital budget cuts

CHCH TV News, June 25, 2026

[Ontario nurses rally at St. Joe's Hamilton over hospital budget cuts](#)

Nursing coverage:

High-risk accused status revoked for Manitoba man who killed parents, attacked nurse

CTV News, June 16, 2026

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/winnipeg/article/high-risk-accused-status-revoked-for-manitoba-man-who-killed-parents-attacked-nurse/>

Labrador's 1st Innu nurse receives honorary doctor of laws

CBC News, June 16, 2026

[Labrador's 1st Innu nurse receives honorary doctor of laws | CBC News](#)

Sault College, health unit launch public health nursing elective

SooToday, June 18, 2026

[Sault College, health unit launch public health nursing elective - Sault Ste. Marie News](#)

Cambrian College nursing professors win national award for exam prep method

Sudbury.com, June 23, 2026

[Cambrian College nursing professors win national award for exam prep method - Sudbury News](#)

Ontario's nursing supply continues to grow, and the data shows why

Yahoo Finance, June 24, 2026

[Ontario's nursing supply continues to grow, and the data shows why](#)

Industry coverage:

Patient injured after fire breaks out at Pembroke hospital

CBC News, June 14, 2026

[Patient injured after fire breaks out at Pembroke hospital | CBC News](#)

Supervised drug sites have closed, so this group is teaching Ottawans to use naloxone

CBC News, June 14, 2026

[Supervised drug sites have closed, so this group is teaching Ottawans to use naloxone | CBC News](#)

Women with traumatic brain injury 26 per cent less likely to receive trauma care than men, Ontario study finds

CBC News, June 15, 2026

[Women with traumatic brain injury 26 per cent less likely to receive trauma care than men, Ontario study finds | CBC News](#)

Ontario ER doctors raise alarm on hospital overcrowding

The Globe and Mail, June 15, 2026

[Ontario ER doctors raise alarm on hospital overcrowding - The Globe and Mail](#)

His colon cancer was originally misdiagnosed. Now he's encouraging screening as Ontario boosts capacity

CBC News, June 15, 2026

[His colon cancer was originally misdiagnosed. Now he's encouraging screening as Ontario boosts capacity | CBC News](#)

This mobile walk-in clinic in Thunder Bay, Ont., aims to make health-care less intimidating

CBC News, June 13, 2026

[This mobile walk-in clinic in Thunder Bay, Ont., aims to make health-care less intimidating | CBC News](#)

How Quebec has influenced medical assistance in dying across Canada

Toronto Star, June 15, 2026

[How Quebec has influenced medical assistance in dying across Canada](#)

After 10 years of MAID, key report on mental illness expansion nears

Global News, June 16, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11904766/medical-assistance-in-dying-mental-illness/>

Survey suggests elevated concerns among Ontario doctors about ER overcrowding

Global News, June 15, 2026

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11905090/ontario-er-overcrowding-oma-survey/>

World-first burn treatment helps Western student recover from injuries suffered in frat house fire

CBC News, June 17, 2026

[World-first burn treatment helps Western student recover from injuries suffered in frat house fire | CBC News](#)

Scathing London hospital report outlines plan to fix 'shocking' failures, hiring new board of directors

CBC News, June 17, 2026

[Scathing London hospital report outlines plan to fix 'shocking' failures, hiring new board of directors | CBC News](#)

An estimated 20,000 Alberta kids face waiting years to get therapy for disabilities

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[An estimated 20,000 Alberta kids face waiting years to get therapy for disabilities | CBC News](#)

Niagara councillor says public health should help oversee redevelopment of contaminated former GM site

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[Niagara councillor says public health should help oversee redevelopment of contaminated former GM site | CBC News](#)

Opinion | If you care at all about limits on assisted suicide, do yourself a favour and read this short report

Toronto Star, June 19, 2026

[Why we need to draw a line on assisted suicide](#)

HSN balanced budget despite ER pressure, aging facilities

Sudbury.com, June 18, 2026

[HSN balanced budget despite ER pressure, aging facilities - Sudbury News](#)

Peel Public Health warns of possible measles exposure at Pearson

Toronto Star, June 21, 2026

[Peel region investigating measles exposure after confirmed case](#)

Kenora, Ont., hospital refers patients to Manitoba, regional sites due to building flood

CBC News, June 22, 2026

[Kenora, Ont., hospital refers patients to Manitoba, regional sites due to building flood | CBC News](#)

An urgent prescription for our ailing Canadian health care system

Globe and Mail, June 22, 2026

[An urgent prescription for our ailing Canadian health care system - The Globe and Mail](#)

Some patients impacted by Stoney Creek pink eye outbreak were notified seven weeks after infection

Toronto Star, June 21, 2026

[Hospital patients notified 7 weeks after Pink eye infection](#)

Geraldton, Ont., hospital hires Indigenous care co-ordinator to help bridge health-care gaps

CBC News, June 21, 2026

[Geraldton, Ont., hospital hires Indigenous care co-ordinator to help bridge health-care gaps | CBC News](#)

Ignored by doctors, these young Ontario cancer patients had to fight for a diagnosis. Here is what it took to finally be heard

Toronto Star, June 21, 2026

[Young Ontario cancer patients had to fight for a diagnosis](#)

AI-for-health care startup Signal 1 takes off as it borrows page from Shopify and Slack

Globe and Mail, June 22, 2026

[AI-for-health care startup Signal 1 takes off as it borrows page from Shopify and Slack - The Globe and Mail](#)

Why the debate about MAID for mental illness still rages and where the conversation is at today

CBC News, June 22, 2026

[Why the debate about MAID for mental illness still rages and where the conversation is at today | CBC News](#)

The deaths of two plasma donors need scrutiny – from Parliament

Globe and Mail, June 23, 2026

[The deaths of two plasma donors need scrutiny – from Parliament - The Globe and Mail](#)

Lakeridge Health closing diabetes clinics in Ajax, Bowmanville

CBC News, June 24, 2026

[Lakeridge Health closing diabetes clinics in Ajax, Bowmanville | CBC News](#)

French health ministry confirms Ebola virus in patient who worked in Congo

Toronto Star, June 24, 2026

[French health ministry confirms Ebola virus in patient who worked in Congo](#)

Canada's AI strategy aims to make health data more accessible. How will it protect privacy?

CBC News, June 24, 2026

[Canada's AI strategy aims to make health data more accessible. How will it protect privacy? | CBC News](#)

Does it seem easier to book a dermatologist for Botox than a mole check? You're not alone

CBC News, June 24, 2026

[Does it seem easier to book a dermatologist for Botox than a mole check? You're not alone | CBC News](#)

How body scans could help prevent workplace injuries

London Free Press, June 23, 2026

[How body scans could help prevent workplace injuries | London Free Press](#)

Is our health care spending out of control?

Globe and Mail, June 23, 2026

[Is our health care spending out of control? - The Globe and Mail](#)

Canada's emergency departments are in worse shape than before the pandemic. This is how bad it's gotten

Toronto Star, June 25, 2026

[Canada's ERs in worse shape than before COVID, data shows](#)

Headed to the ER? Here's why you could now wait more than 48 hours to be admitted

CBC News, June 25, 2026

[Headed to the ER? Here's why you could now wait more than 48 hours to be admitted | CBC News](#)

Backlogs in long-term care, home care services driving ER wait times up: report

Toronto Star, June 24, 2026

[Backlogs in long-term care, home care services driving ER wait times up: report](#)

Canada's public dental-care plan is rotten at the roots

Globe and Mail, June 25, 2026

[Canada's public dental-care plan is rotten at the roots - The Globe and Mail](#)

Study on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness that CDC director blocked is published in outside journal

Globe and Mail, June 24, 2026

[Study on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness that CDC director blocked is published in outside journal - The Globe and Mail](#)

Patients with ovarian cancer fight to fund a life-saving treatment

CityNews, June 24, 2026

[Patients with ovarian cancer fight to fund a life-saving treatment](#)

‘We’re running blind’: Ontario pharmacist sounds alarm on drug shortages

CP24, June 25, 2026

[Ontario drug shortage: pharmacist sounds alarm](#)

Labour coverage:

Ontario’s repealed wage restraint law Bill 124 still rippling through public sector

Toronto Star, June 17, 2026

[Ontario's repealed wage restraint law Bill 124 still rippling through public sector](#)

Detroit automakers, union set to open bargaining against backdrop of tariffs, CUSMA review

The Canadian Press, June 18, 2026

[Detroit automakers, union set to open bargaining against backdrop of tariffs, CUSMA review | CBC News](#)

Tensions rising among Quebec paramedics as contract negotiations remain stalled

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[Tensions rising among Quebec paramedics as contract negotiations remain stalled | CBC News](#)

Growing pains with Quebec’s new digital health system cause ‘anxiety,’ ‘distress

The Gazette, June 18, 2026

[Quebec digital health records system still facing challenges](#)

Her nine-year-old autistic son is frozen out by the Ontario social services strike. ‘He probably will go quiet again’

Toronto Star, June 19, 2026

[OPSEU strike leaves families without critical care](#)

Over 1 million university grads needed to fill labour market needs, Ontario universities report projects

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[Over 1 million university grads needed to fill labour market needs, Ontario universities report projects | CBC News](#)

B.C. nurses reject tentative deal with province

CBC News, June 19, 2026

[B.C. nurses reject tentative deal with province](#)

Annual Workers' Memorial Day continues the fight for worker safety

Sudbury.com, June 21, 2026

[Annual Workers' Memorial Day continues the fight for worker safety - Sudbury News](#)

Union kicks off tough contract talks with Ford as Trump's tariffs and threats loom

Toronto Star, June 23, 2026

[Amid Trump threats, autoworkers start negotiations with Ford](#)

Nearly 50 former employees suing Bell over 'swipe-and-go' terminations

Toronto Star, June 22, 2026

[46 former employees suing Bell over 'swipe-and-go' firings](#)

Fifteen months into his tenure as Prime Minister, Carney is drawing the ire of union heads

Globe and Mail, June 24, 2026

[Fifteen months into his tenure as Prime Minister, Carney is drawing the ire of union heads - The Globe and Mail](#)

Ford government rejects Ottawa's offer to allow rural employers to hire more temporary foreign workers

Toronto Star, June 25, 2026

[Ontario refuses to raise cap for temporary foreign workers in rural areas](#)

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

Caldwell First Nation calls on Ottawa to pass legislation addressing Indian Act inequities

CBC News, June 13, 2026

[Caldwell First Nation calls on Ottawa to pass legislation addressing Indian Act inequities | CBC News](#)

Norwich business vandalized days after owners speak out against Pride flag thefts

CBC News, June 14, 2026

[Norwich business vandalized days after owners speak out against Pride flag thefts | CBC News](#)

Keewaytinook Okimakanak eHealth launches specialized retinal screening program for remote First Nations

CBC News, June 16, 2026

[Keewaytinook Okimakanak eHealth launches specialized retinal screening program for remote First Nations | CBC News](#)

New clean water bill a step forward, but stronger protections needed, says First Nations leader

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[New clean water bill a step forward, but stronger protections needed, says First Nations leader | CBC News](#)

Neskantaga First Nation questions Bill C-37 as Ottawa promises action on decades-long drinking water crisis

CBC News, June 19, 2026

[Neskantaga First Nation questions Bill C-37 as Ottawa promises action on decades-long drinking water crisis | CBC News](#)

Six Nations calls out Brantford, Ont., councillor who sees land acknowledgments as 'virtue signalling'

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[Six Nations calls out Brantford, Ont., councillor who sees land acknowledgments as 'virtue signalling' | CBC News](#)

How to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day in Waterloo region, Guelph and area

CBC News, June 19, 2026

[How to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day in Waterloo region, Guelph and area | CBC News](#)

A white nationalist group visiting Canadian locations is trying to normalize extremism, says a former neo-Nazi

CBC News, June 22, 2026

[A white nationalist group visiting Canadian locations is trying to normalize extremism, says a former neo-Nazi | CBC News](#)

'No plan, no services, no support': How an Innu teen died after aging out of system

CBC News, June 22, 2026

['No plan, no services, no support': How an Innu teen died after aging out of system | CBC News](#)

Public Health Sudbury reaffirms commitment to French-language services

Sudbury.com, June 21, 2026

[Public Health Sudbury reaffirms commitment to French-language services - Sudbury News](#)

'It's in my blood, it's in my bones': Meet 3 young people, helping to keep Anishinaabemowin alive

CBC News, June 19, 2026

['It's in my blood, it's in my bones': Meet 3 young people, helping to keep Anishinaabemowin alive | CBC News](#)

300 years after treaty signing, Mi'kmaw leaders say the fight for rights recognition continues

CBC News, June 22, 2026

[300 years after treaty signing, Mi'kmaw leaders say the fight for rights recognition continues | CBC News](#)

Opinion | This shameful episode from over 100 years ago carries a lesson for Canada today

Toronto Star, June 23, 2026

[This shameful episode from over 100 years ago carries a lesson for Canada today](#)

Indigenous-focused healthcare delivery theme of Thunder Bay health gathering

APTN News, June 23, 2026

[Indigenous-focused healthcare delivery theme of Thunder Bay health gathering - APTN News](#)

Opinion | When will these horrible attacks like the one in Montreal end? When we admit that misogyny is an ideology

Toronto Star, June 24, 2026

[Montreal shootings need firm response against misogyny](#)

‘This is wrong’: Solidarity rally pushes back against white nationalist message

Sudbury.com, June 24, 2026

[‘This is wrong’: Solidarity rally pushes back against white nationalist message - Sudbury News](#)

Toronto’s Pride celebrations are almost here, but next year’s may have to be scaled back

CBC News, June 24, 2026

[Toronto’s Pride celebrations are almost here, but next year’s may have to be scaled back | CBC News](#)

The Indian Act’s ‘extinction clause’ must be removed

Globe and Mail, June 24, 2026

[The Indian Act’s ‘extinction clause’ must be removed - The Globe and Mail](#)

Opinion | I’ve studied the ‘incel’ culture that fuelled the Montreal shooting and solutions are hard to find

Toronto Star, June 23, 2026

[How do we get toxic incels to rejoin society?](#)

Sacred fire ceremony held at future Fancsy Family Hospital site ahead of groundbreaking later this summer

CBC News, June 23, 2026

[Sacred fire ceremony held at future Fancsy Family Hospital site ahead of groundbreaking later this summer | CBC News](#)

Why an ex-national chief wants to sue Canada over its secret Indigenous spying program

CBC News, June 25, 2026

[Why an ex-national chief wants to sue Canada over its secret Indigenous spying program | CBC News](#)

Multimedia exhibit in Thunder Bay, Ont., honours Indigenous Sixties Scoop survivors

CBC News, June 25, 2026

[Multimedia exhibit in Thunder Bay, Ont., honours Indigenous Sixties Scoop survivors | CBC News](#)

Generation Pride

Globe and Mail, June 25, 2026

[How queer elders and youth are learning from each other - The Globe and Mail](#)

Weekend need-to-know: Celebrate Pride all weekend long

CityNews, June 25, 2026

[Weekend need-to-know: Celebrate Pride all weekend long](#)

Political coverage:

Just how many days do provincial politicians spend legislating? We did the math

CBC News, June 14, 2016

[Just how many days do provincial politicians spend legislating? We did the math | CBC News](#)

As a Ford government staffer, he helped get through permits for a controversial gold mine. Now he works for the company as a lobbyist

Toronto Star, June 14, 2026

[Ford government staffer's move to mining lobbyist questioned](#)

Opinion | Poilievre's Conservatives' latest ad featured 'Canadians' who weren't even real. It takes us to a dark place

Toronto Star, June 15, 2026

[Conservatives AI ad takes politics to a dark place](#)

Liberal government tables First Nations clean drinking water legislation

The Canadian Press, June 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/first-nations-water-bill-9.7237099>

Youth, advocacy groups sue Carney government over climate rollbacks

CBC News, June 16, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/climate-lawsuit-federal-government-carney-9.7237269>

Opinion | While Ontarians struggle, Doug Ford's government is paying attention to its own pensions

Toronto Star, June 17, 2026

[While Ontarians struggle, Doug Ford's government is paying attention to its own pensions](#)

MPs and senators poised to recommend halting MAID expansion for mental illness alone

Toronto Star, June 17, 2026

[MPs and senators want to stop plans to expand MAID to anyone with a mental illness](#)

The new global scourge to crack the G7 agenda: cancer

Toronto Star, June 17, 2026

[G7 leaders unite against cancer](#)

Ford government scolded agency over cyber attack. Docs show it knew a month earlier

Global News, June 16, 2026

[Ford government scolded agency over cyber attack. Docs show it knew a month earlier | Globalnews.ca](#)

Ford slams 'fake poll' suggesting his popularity has plummeted. The polling firm is clapping back

CBC News, June 16, 2026

[Ford slams 'fake poll' suggesting his popularity has plummeted. The polling firm is clapping back | CBC News](#)

Alberta Health Services ordered to hand over documents to authorities, senior executive confirms

Globe and Mail, June 17, 2026

[Alberta Health Services ordered to hand over documents to authorities, senior executive confirms - The Globe and Mail](#)

Ontario's legislature is set for its shortest sitting in decades. Here's what it means for the Ford government

CBC News, June 18, 2026

[Ontario's legislature is set for its shortest sitting in decades. Here's what it means for the Ford government | CBC News](#)

Ford government nominees will face opposition throughout summer break, Speaker rules

Toronto Star, June 18, 2026

[Ford nominees will face opposition through break: Speaker](#)

Veteran Ontario prosecutor brought in on Alberta health procurement probe

Globe and Mail, June 18, 2026

[Veteran Ontario prosecutor brought in on Alberta health procurement probe - The Globe and Mail](#)

Polling firm sends Doug Ford legal letter demanding retraction over 'fake' poll comment

Global News, June 19, 2026

[Polling firm sends Doug Ford legal letter demanding retraction over 'fake' poll comment | Globalnews.ca](#)

PC government officials post photo of Ford Fest crowd that appears to have been edited to make protesters look like supporters

Toronto Star, June 21, 2026

[Doug Ford government officials edited Ford Fest picture](#)

Doug Ford's daily calendar kept secret after changes to Ontario's FOI law

CBC News, June 22, 2026

[Doug Ford's daily calendar kept secret after changes to Ontario's FOI law | CBC News](#)

NDP and Ontario Health Coalition challenge LifeLabs' cross-border testing

Sudbury.com, June 22, 2026

[NDP and Ontario Health Coalition challenge LifeLabs' cross-border testing - Sudbury News](#)

Doug Ford's office offers explanation about edited Ford Fest photo. Experts say they are skeptical

Toronto Star, June 22, 2026

[Doug Ford's office responds to Ford Fest photo story](#)

Ontario's freedom of information changes are law. Why experts say they could hurt the government

CBC News, June 23, 2026

[Ontario's freedom of information changes are law. Why experts say they could hurt the government | CBC News](#)

Is this the beginning of the end of the Doug Ford era in Ontario?

Globe and Mail, June 23, 2026

[Is this the beginning of the end of the Doug Ford era in Ontario? - The Globe and Mail](#)

Doug Ford names PC candidate for York—Simcoe byelection

Toronto Star, June 22, 2026

[Doug Ford names PC candidate for York—Simcoe byelection](#)

Byelection clock ticking as MPs officially resign. How does it impact Liberals' majority?

CBC News, June 23, 2026

[Bylelection clock ticking as MPs officially resign. How does it impact Liberals' majority? | CBC News](#)

Do you perform marriages? Ontario MPPs can now say, 'I do'

Toronto Star, June 24, 2026

[Do you perform marriages? Ontario MPPs can now say, 'I do'](#)

Doug Ford says he isn't going anywhere

Toronto Star, June 23, 2026

[Doug Ford says he isn't going anywhere](#)

'All you've done is attack me': Ford clashes with media over poll numbers, Ford Fest protests

CityNews, June 23, 2026

['All you've done is attack me': Ford clashes with media over poll numbers, Ford Fest protests](#)

Opinion | Doug Ford's 'Protect Ontario' ads are a scam trying to hide the damage he's doing

Toronto Star, June 25, 2026

[Here's what Doug Ford's ads actually say](#)

Conservative MPs launch fundraiser for LGBTQ+ refugees

Toronto Star, June 24, 2026

[Conservative MPs launch fundraiser for LGBTQ+ refugees](#)

Toronto saw significant increase in speeders after camera removals: city report

CBC News, June 24, 2026

[Toronto saw significant increase in speeders after camera removals: city report | CBC News](#)

Internal Ford government notes admit it will 'not reach' 1.5M homes target

Global News, June 25, 2026

[Internal Ford government notes admit it will 'not reach' 1.5M homes target | Globalnews.ca](#)

70% of Ontarians think it's time for a change at Queen's Park, poll suggests

Toronto Star, June 25, 2026

[70% of Ontarians think it's time for government change: Poll](#)

Opinion | We were supposed to be resisting America. Why are we mimicking them instead?

Toronto Star, June 26, 2026

[We were meant to resist America. Now we're mimicking them](#)

Nate Erskine-Smith rules out bid for provincial Liberal leadership, still considering run for city office

Toronto Star, June 25, 2026

[Nate Erskine-Smith rules out bid for provincial Liberal leadership, still considering run for city office](#)

Regional chair appointments 'undemocratic' say civic leaders, calling on Ford to reverse course

CBC News, June 26, 2026

[Regional chair appointments 'undemocratic' say civic leaders, calling on Ford to reverse course | CBC News](#)

Ontario unfairly denied pandemic payouts to some parents, guardians: ombudsman's report

CBC News, June 25, 2026

[Ontario unfairly denied pandemic payouts to some parents, guardians: ombudsman's report | CBC News](#)

Registered Nurses at Fairview Mennonite Home Vote to Join the Ontario Nurses' Association

CAMBRIDGE, ON, June 17, 2026 – Registered nurses working to provide high-quality care to residents at Fairview Mennonite Home have recently voted overwhelmingly to join the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA).

“These registered nurses care deeply about their residents and have voted to strengthen the power of their advocacy by joining Canada’s largest nurses’ union. We welcome them to ONA and look forward to working with them to fight for the respect they deserve,” notes ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN.

Ariss says that along with so many other nurses and health-care professionals, the new Fairview Mennonite Home ONA members are deeply concerned about having a say in working conditions, improved training and job security.

“By joining with ONA’s more than 68,000 members, Fairview nurses will have the support to raise their collective voices to improve their working conditions and especially their ability to provide the best care possible. We welcome them and look forward to supporting them in their fight,” Ariss says.

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.

Media Release

Lowest-Paid Nurses in Ontario Fight for Fair New Contract as they Head to Conciliation with Victorian Order of Nurses

TORONTO, ON, June 26, 2026 – Ontario's home-care system is being pushed to the brink, as the province's lowest-paid nurses head into conciliation demanding fair wages, safer working conditions and respect for the essential care they provide.

"Nurses working for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) provide essential care, yet they remain the lowest-paid nurses in the province while working under some of the most challenging and dangerous conditions," says Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. "The home-care system is at a breaking point. Chronic understaffing and low wages are driving experienced nurses out of the sector. At the same time, these predominantly female workers face shocking levels of workplace violence – five times higher than nurses in other areas of health care."

Contract negotiations between VON and ONA continue June 26 in conciliation. In addition to low wages, many are not fully reimbursed for mileage expenses and, in some cases, are not compensated for the significant time spent travelling between clients.

"This round of bargaining is a defining moment for home-care nurses," said Ariss. "VON must recognize the value of the care they provide and compensate them fairly. Nurses should not have to work second jobs or rely on food banks to make ends meet. This is fueling a staffing crisis and making it increasingly difficult to retain nurses. We are demanding wage equity, respect and the fair compensation their work deserves."

Not-for-profit home care is a cornerstone of a sustainable health-care system. It reduces pressure on hospitals, helps prevent unnecessary admissions to long-term care and delivers significant cost savings for the province.

"With Ontario's population set to grow rapidly in the years ahead, the province cannot afford to continue neglecting the nurses who make home care possible," said Ariss. "The Ford government and VON must act now to improve wages and working conditions. Fair pay for home-care nurses is not only a matter of justice, it is essential to protecting access to care for all Ontarians." Home care received more than \$1 billion in funding

ONA is the union representing over 68,000 nurses and health-care professionals, as well as 18,000 nursing student affiliates, providing care in hospitals, long-term care, public health, the community, clinics, and industry.

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To arrange an interview: media@ona.org