

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

August 31 to September 4, 2026

ONA coverage:

Labour contract negotiation between Hastings County and ONA came to an end			
News	Air Time: 10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Date: 2026-Aug-28 10:04 AM	
CJBQ AM (CJBQ 800 AM)	Network: Quinte Broadcasting Co. Ltd.	City: Belleville	
Alana Cameron	Length: 00:30	Province: Ontario	
None			
A long-running labour contract negotiation between Hastings County and the Ontario Nurses Association has come to an end. Yesterday, County council signed off on a two-year agreement running from 2023 to 2025 that sees registered nurses working at Hastings Manor and Centennial Manor receive pay increases of 3.5% in 2023 and 3% in 2025. A top wage after eight years of service has been set at \$54.37 an hour. The contract was arrived at through arbitration.			

ONA files Charter challenge over Ontario nurses' bargaining rights

HR News Canada, September 2026

[ONA files Charter challenge over Ontario nurses' bargaining rights | HR Law Canada](#)

Stand against 2-tiered health care: rally

Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, September 2, 2026

[Stand against 2-tiered health care: rally | Local News | chroniclejournal.com](#)

Ontario Nurses' Association filed Charter challenge over nurses' bargaining rights			
Program: News	Air Time: 17:00 PM - 18:00 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-02 17:08 PM	
Station: CKDR FM	Network: Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Dryden	

Reporter:	Tim Davidson	Length:	00:30	Province:	Ontario
Interview:	None				
Note:	The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) has launched a Charter challenge against the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act. Established in 1965, this act limits the striking rights of nurses.				
Log ID:	20260902R-0059				

ONA is fighting for nurses' bargaining rights					
Program:	News	Air Time:	16:00 PM - 17:00 PM	Date:	2026-Sep-02 16:07 PM
Station:	CKDR FM	Network:	Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City:	Dryden
Reporter:	Tim Davidson	Length:	00:30	Province:	Ontario
Interview:	None				
Note:	The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) has initiated a Charter challenge against the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act. This act, which was put in place in 1965, restricts nurses' ability to strike. Erin Ariss, the president of ONA, asserts that employers have used this act to evade substantial collective bargaining, resulting in nurses lacking the power to react.				
Log ID:	20260902R-0060				

ONA files Charter challenge over Ontario nurses' bargaining rights			
Program:	CKTG News	Air Time: 16:00 PM - 17:00 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-02 16:04 PM
Station:	CKTG FM (105.3 The New Giant FM)	Network: Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Sam Goldstein	Length: 00:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	None		
Note:	The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) has filed a Charter challenge against the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act. The act which was established in 1965 limits nurses' capacity to go on strike.		
Log ID:	20260902R-0058		

Ontario Nurses Challenge Ban on Strikes			
Program:	News	Air Time: 12:00 PM - 13:00 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-02 12:02 PM
Station:	CKDR FM	Network: Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Dryden
Reporter:	Announcer Copy	Length: 00:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	None		
Note:	The Ontario Nurses' Association is taking its fight for the right to strike to court, challenging the 1965 Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act, which restricts nurses from taking strike action.		
Log ID:	20260902R-0035		

Ontario nurses challenge strike restrictions			
Program:	CKTG News	Air Time: 12:00 PM - 13:00 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-02 12:01 PM
Station:	CKTG FM (105.3 The New Giant FM)	Network: Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Announcer copy	Length: 0:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	None		
Note:	The Ontario Nurses' Association is taking the province to court, challenging a law that restricts nurses' right to strike. Erin Ariss says the legislation allows employers to avoid meaningful collective bargaining and leaves nurses without leverage.		
Log ID:	20260902R-0017		

Health Care Privatization Sparks Nationwide Protests			
Program:	TBT News: AM Edition	Air Time: 09:00 AM - 09:30 AM	Date: 2026-Sep-02 09:03 AM
Station:	CHFD TV (Global) (TBTv)	Network: Dougall Media	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Ryan Graham	Length: 02:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	Jules Tupker, Thunder Bay Health Coalition Co-Chair; Cheryl McSweeney, Vice-President of Political Action, ONA Local 73;		
Note:	Health coalitions across Canada, including Thunder Bay, protested health care privatization. The Ontario Nurses' Association warns a two-tier system could let those who can pay move ahead of others waiting for care.		
Log ID:	20260902T-0019		

Nationwide Protests Raise Alarm Over Health Care Privatization			
Program:	Tb News Late Edition	Air Time: 23:30 PM - 00:05 AM	Date: 2026-Sep-01 23:33 PM
Station:	CKPR TV (CTV) (TBTv)	Network: Dougall Media	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Ryan Graham	Length: 02:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	Jules Tupker, Thunder Bay Health Coalition Co-Chair; Cheryl McSweeney, Vice-President of Political Action, ONA Local 73;		
Note:	Health coalitions staged protests across Canada, including Thunder Bay, over concerns about privatization. The Ontario Nurses' Association says a two-tier system could allow those who can pay to move ahead of others waiting for care.		
Log ID:	20260902T-0012		

Protests Across Canada Target Health Care Privatization			
Program:	TB News: Late Edition	Air Time: 23:00 PM - 23:30 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-01 23:03 PM
Station:	CHFD TV (Global) (TBTv)	Network: Dougall Media	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Ryan Graham	Length: 02:30	Province: Ontario
Interview:	Jules Tupker, Thunder Bay Health Coalition Co-Chair; Cheryl McSweeney, Vice-President of Political Action, ONA Local 73;		
Note:	Health coalitions held protests across Canada, including Thunder Bay, against growing health care privatization concerns. The Ontario Nurses' Association warns a two-tier system could let wealthier Canadians skip the line, hurting those who cannot afford to pay.		
Log ID:	20260902T-0011		

Ontario nurses are fighting 60 year old legislation					
Program:	News	Air Time:	12:00 PM - 13:00 PM	Date:	2026-Sep-03 12:09 PM
Station:	CKDR FM	Network:	Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City:	Dryden
Reporter:	Announcer	Length:	1:00	Province:	Ontario
Copy					
Interview:	None				
Note:	Ontario nurses are fighting 60 year old legislation. Ontario Nurses' Association has officially filed a Notice of Application in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to challenge the constitutionality of the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act (HLDAA).				
Log ID:	20260903R-0087				

Local nurses are fighting for their rights to strike				
Program:	CKTG News	Air Time:	12:00 PM - 13:00 PM	Date: 2026-Sep-03 12:08 PM
Station:	CKTG FM (105.3 The New Giant FM)	Network:	Acadia Broadcasting Company Ltd.	City: Thunder Bay
Reporter:	Announcer	Length:	1:00	Province: Ontario
Copy				
Interview:	None			
Note:	Local nurses are fighting for their rights to strike. Ontario Nurses' Association has officially filed a Notice of Application in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to challenge the constitutionality of the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act (HLDAA).			

Nursing coverage:

Ontario investing over \$11.1 million in local land ambulance care

MyKemptville Now, August 31, 2026

[Ontario investing over \\$11.1 million in local land ambulance care : My Kemptville Now](#)

U of T nurse practitioner student looks to break barriers in new Scarborough program

Global News, August 31, 2026

[U of T nurse practitioner student looks to break barriers in new Scarborough program | Globalnews.ca](#)

Industry coverage:

He warned Doug Ford's government this hospital locks people in 'horrific' isolation. The province called one hospital exec — then did nothing

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Ford government was warned of 'horrific' hospital isolation](#)

Stressed out about politics? It could be impacting your health

CBC News, August 30, 2026

[Stressed out about politics? It could be impacting your health | CBC News](#)

Windsor Regional Hospital, Erie Shores Healthcare experiencing 'computer systems malfunction'

CBC News, August 29, 2026

[Windsor Regional Hospital, Erie Shores Healthcare experiencing 'computer systems malfunction' | CBC News](#)

Emergency physicians say this summer's patient levels are unprecedented

Globe and Mail, August 31, 2026

[Emergency physicians say this summer's patient levels are unprecedented - The Globe and Mail](#)

From patient to teacher: Former St. Joe's psychiatric patient is bringing healing through art

Hamilton Spectator, August 31, 2026

[Former St. Joe's patient brings healing through art classes](#)

Father walks 200 kilometres to raise awareness for daughter's rare medical condition

Hamilton Spectator, August 31, 2026

[Sydney Gesualdi's road to recovery: father walks 200 km](#)

Major vaccine gains but Hamilton schools still miss the mark on measles

Hamilton Spectator, August 29, 2026

[Vaccination gains fall short for measles in Hamilton](#)

Ontario woman questions \$500 fee to transfer family's medical records to new doctor

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Ontario woman questions \\$500 fee to transfer family's medical records to new doctor | CBC News](#)

Remembering loved ones lost for Overdose Awareness Day in Waterloo region, Guelph-Wellington

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Remembering loved ones lost for Overdose Awareness Day in Waterloo region, Guelph-Wellington | CBC News](#)

Opinion | How Dolly Parton's 5 prescriptions could fix public health

Toronto Star, September 1, 2026

[Dolly Parton's five prescriptions could fix public health](#)

As more teens turn to AI for emotional support, experts say it's no substitute for human connection

CBC News, September 1, 2026

[As more teens turn to AI for emotional support, experts say it's no substitute for human connection | CBC News](#)

Volunteer program aims to comfort patients without loved ones in their final moments

Globe and Mail, September 1, 2026

[Volunteer program aims to comfort patients without loved ones in their final moments - The Globe and Mail](#)

A dose of empathy

Globe and Mail, September 1, 2026

[For Hamiltonians battling addiction, peer support is a dose of empathy - The Globe and Mail](#)

McMaster Children's Hospital sees 'dramatic' spike in e-scooter injuries

Hamilton Spectator, September 1, 2026

[E-scooter injuries skyrocket at McMaster Children's Hospital](#)

Check vaccinations before heading back to school: chief public health officer

Toronto Star, September 1, 2026

[Check vaccinations before heading back to school: chief public health officer](#)

New centre will take pressure off of Hamilton's congested hospitals

Hamilton Spectator, September 2, 2026

[New centre will take pressure off of congested hospitals](#)

Vaccine-preventable illnesses on the horizon again as Canadian kids head back to school

CBC News, September 3, 2026

[Vaccine-preventable illnesses on the horizon again as Canadian kids head back to school | CBC News](#)

West Nile virus confirmed in horse, two crows in northeastern Ontario

CBC News, September 3, 2026

[West Nile virus confirmed in horse, two crows in northeastern Ontario | CBC News](#)

Public Health monitoring, but no spike in cyclosporiasis cases locally

Sudbury.com, September 2, 2026

[Public Health monitoring, but no spike in cyclosporiasis cases locally - Sudbury News](#)

McMaster study shows more people living with mood and substance use disorders at the same time

Hamilton Spectator, September 3, 2026

[McMaster study unpacks co-occurring disorders](#)

This Ontario ER doctor's shifts ended in anger and tears. Here's what led her to quit and why she worries about the future

Toronto Star, September 3, 2026

[Ontario ER doctor's shifts ended in anger, tears. Why she quit](#)

Health-care hiring has propped up Canada's job market. Will patients see a difference?

CBC News, September 4, 2026

[Health-care hiring has propped up Canada's job market. Will patients see a difference? | CBC News](#)

Ontario court denies Toronto woman with bipolar disorder emergency access to MAID

Globe and Mail, September 3, 2026

[Ontario court denies Toronto woman with bipolar disorder emergency access to MAID - The Globe and Mail](#)

Opinion | The mental load of motherhood is a health crisis hiding in plain sight

Hamilton Spectator, September 4, 2026

[Mothers' mental load a health crisis hiding in plain sight](#)

Labour coverage:

Ontario teacher contracts have expired, with no deal in sight. Here's what parents and students need to know

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Ontario teacher contracts expire, with no deal in sight](#)

Employees, union raise concerns about AI tools amid WSIB layoffs

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Employees, union raise concerns about AI tools amid WSIB layoffs | CBC News](#)

Oshawa plant adds truck as unionized Canadian GM members ratify new deals

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Oshawa plant adds truck as unionized Canadian GM members ratify new deals | CBC News](#)

Stellantis, Unifor begin contract negotiations in final round of auto sector talks

Toronto Star, September 1, 2026

[Stellantis, Unifor begin contract negotiations in final round of auto sector talks](#)

Conestoga College sees 32 more layoffs and 'no guarantees' about the future, says union

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Conestoga College sees 32 more layoffs and 'no guarantees' about the future, says union | CBC News](#)

Ontario teachers have to order school supplies from a Staples portal. They found cheaper prices on Staples' regular website

Toronto Star, September 2, 2026

[Ontario teachers have to order school supplies from a Staples portal. They found cheaper prices on Staples' regular website](#)

Extendicare York staff lament 'unnecessary delays' in contract bargaining

Sudbury.com, September 3, 2026

[Extendicare York staff lament 'unnecessary delays' in contract bargaining - Sudbury News](#)

'Wrap this up': Strike drags on for workers at Salvation Army Broadview Village

Toronto Today, September 3, 2026

[Strike drags on for Salvation Army Broadview Village workers - TorontoToday.ca](#)

Human Rights & Equity coverage:

‘We are not a community of hate and racism’: Anti-hate rally draws broad community support

Toronto Star, August 30, 2026

[Anti-hate rally draws broad community support](#)

No rain, but plenty of rainbows at Ottawa's 2026 pride parade

CBC News, August 30, 2026

[No rain, but plenty of rainbows at Ottawa's 2026 pride parade | CBC News](#)

Mel Gibson mocking sign language at Toronto Fan Expo shows lack of respect for the deaf, advocate says

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Mel Gibson mocking sign language at Toronto Fan Expo shows lack of respect for the deaf, advocate says](#)

Family of Indigenous woman killed in hate-fuelled attack angry they weren't notified of killer's parole

Globe and Mail, August 31, 2026

[Family of Indigenous woman killed in hate-fuelled attack angry they weren't notified of killer's parole - The Globe and Mail](#)

Neskantaga First Nation's lack of health-care infrastructure forces evacuation of dozens to Toronto

CBC News, September 2, 2026

[Neskantaga First Nation's lack of health-care infrastructure forces evacuation of dozens to Toronto | CBC News](#)

Strengthening Indigenous food sovereignty in northwestern Ontario

CBC News, September 2, 2026

[Strengthening Indigenous food sovereignty in northwestern Ontario | CBC.ca](#)

Hamilton Pagan Pride Day celebrates 25 years

Hamilton Spectator, September 3, 2026

[Hamilton Pagan Pride Day celebrates 25 years](#)

Political coverage:

Three federal byelections Monday include one in Beaches—East York

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Three federal byelections include one in Beaches—East York](#)

Doug Ford calls Donald Trump a ‘loser’ now, but he was a fan not so long ago

Toronto Star, August 30, 2026

[Ford calls Trump a ‘loser,’ but he was a fan not so long ago](#)

Could Ford's fight with Trump swing key byelections to the PCs? Experts weigh in

CBC News, August 31, 2026

[Could Ford's fight with Trump swing key byelections to the PCs? Experts weigh in | CBC News](#)

Affordability, health care and soot: Candidates in Hamilton East—Stoney Creek byelection share top priorities

CBC News, August 30, 2026

[Affordability, health care and soot: Candidates in Hamilton East—Stoney Creek byelection share top priorities | CBC News](#)

Teachers, parents, supporters rally across Ontario against province's education policy

CBC News, August 30, 2026

[Teachers, parents, supporters rally across Ontario against province's education policy | CBC News](#)

Liberals sweep byelections in Ontario, Quebec and B.C.

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Liberals sweep byelections in Ontario, Quebec and B.C.](#)

Judge grants injunction halting Doug Ford’s cash bail system. Legal groups argue law is unconstitutional

Toronto Star, August 31, 2026

[Judge grants injunction halting Doug Ford’s cash bail system](#)

Opinion | In light of Donald Trump, Ontario desperately needs a strategy. All Doug Ford has is a shtick

Toronto Star, September 2, 2026

[Doug Ford needs to give up his war with Trump](#)

Opinion | After 8 years of improvising, Doug Ford only offers more of the same

Toronto Star, September 1, 2026

[After 8 years of improvising, Doug Ford only offers more of the same](#)

Progressive Conservative MPPs say they have repaid thousands in hotel room expenses

Global News, September 2, 2026

[Progressive Conservative MPPs say they have repaid thousands in hotel room expenses | Globalnews.ca](#)

Voters head to polls in three byelections as Doug Ford's feud with Donald Trump rages

Toronto Star, September 3, 2026

[Voters head to the polls today in three Ontario byelections](#)

Ontario Tories and New Democrats hold ridings as Liberals shut out in three byelections

Toronto Star, September 3, 2026

[Tories and New Democrats hold seats in three byelections](#)

Opinion | Yes, the U.S. is an economic Goliath, but Canada is David

Toronto Star, September 4, 2026

[Canada is David to the U.S. economic Goliath](#)

Olivia Chow opts out of antisemitism debate

Toronto Star, September 4, 2026

[Olivia Chow opts out of antisemitism debate](#)

'Thank god we don't have the media': Ford faces backlash after comments about Queen's Park reporters

CP24, September 4, 2026

['Thank god we don't have the media': Ford faces backlash after comments about Queen's Park reporters – CP24](#)

ONA serves province, advancing Charter fight for nurses' bargaining rights

TORONTO, ON, September 1, 2026 — The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) is taking a major step to challenge legislation that denies nurses and health-care professionals working in hospitals and long-term care meaningful collective bargaining rights and the ability to take job action.

ONA moved its Charter challenge forward by filing a [Notice of Application](#) to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice challenging the *Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act (HLDA)*, a 1965 law that imposes one of the most restrictive labour relations regimes in the world. Enacted before the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* existed, HLDA imposes a ban on job action for more than 90 per cent of Ontario's health-care workers, the vast majority of whom are women.

The Notice of Application names the Attorney General of Ontario, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long-Term Care as respondents.

"HLDA has created a system where employers can sidestep meaningful collective bargaining, leaving nurses and health-care professionals without the power to negotiate improvements to the working conditions they face every day. That hurts our members, hurts patients and hurts our public health-care system," said Erin Ariss, RN, ONA Provincial President.

The failures of HLDA were on full display during provincial bargaining between ONA and 210 for-profit nursing homes corporations earlier this year. Rather than meaningfully negotiate a settlement, nursing homes CEOs relied on an arbitrator to decide the outcome.

"When employers rely on arbitrators to impose contracts, that is not meaningful collective bargaining. It is exactly why this system needs to change," says Ariss. An arbitration decision released earlier this month largely maintained the status quo for more than 4,000 nurses and health-care professionals who care for vulnerable residents in for-profit nursing homes.

Nurses and health-care professionals in most of Canada have some ability to take job action, including strike action, while maintaining essential patient care. "As Ontario faces unprecedented challenges, nurses and health-care professionals are fighting to restore our constitutional rights and our collective bargaining power," notes Ariss.

The Charter challenge will proceed to a court hearing, which will soon be scheduled, where ONA will present evidence supporting its application. Affidavits from Ariss, front-line ONA members and expert witnesses will be filed as evidence.

ONA is the union representing more than 68,000 nurses and 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.

Ontario Hospitals Cut 215 RN Positions, Raising Safety Concerns

Toronto, ON, September 3, 2026 — The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) is raising serious safety concerns about more than 215 registered nurse (RN) positions cut across Ontario hospitals in the past two months alone. This is part of an escalating trend of hospitals cutting RN positions, often replacing them with other health-care professionals amid provincial underfunding. This can put patients at risk, as different roles do not have the same education, training and skill to respond to unstable patients.

"When a patient takes a sudden turn, you need a registered nurse there. RNs are specifically trained to have the clinical skills to see warning signs before a health crisis gets worse, and to rescue patients when their lives are on the line," says ONA Provincial President Erin Ariss, RN. "Cutting or replacing RNs is not a harmless staffing shuffle. It removes the professionals who have the expertise to save lives when seconds matter."

Across the province, RN positions are being cut in areas where patients can deteriorate rapidly and require advanced clinical judgment to prevent harm or loss of life. In some hospitals, operating-room RNs, dialysis RNs and post-partum unit RNs are being replaced by other professionals, according to employer notifications sent to ONA.

"Life-and-death decisions about care should not be made to cut costs or be decided by politicians and hospital CEOs who have no medical training at all, and who want to privatize health care," says Ariss. "No wonder the Ford government won't release their three-year hospital cost-cutting plans. Expert, front-line care is the last place we should ever cut."

ONA is tracking [cuts](#) across health-care facilities. Among the facilities where cuts have been announced in the past two months include: North York General Hospital, Halton Healthcare, London Health Sciences Centre, West Park Healthcare Centre, Bluewater Health, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Royal Victoria Health Centre, Quinte Hospital, Queensway Carleton Hospital, Lakeridge Health, Mount Sinai Hospital, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Niagara Health System.

"Ontario cannot afford to move backwards on health care," says Ariss. "Cutting and replacing RN positions means fewer people who can save lives in critical situations. Patients are people – sisters, sons, parents, loved ones. We call on Ontarians to stand with us and demand the government establish an immediate moratorium on position cuts."

ONA is the union representing 68,000 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.