



Supervisor, Corporate Nursing Executive (CNE) and Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Report

January 2026

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

December Community Update Meeting

On December 17, 2025, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) hosted its monthly Community Update Meeting. The meeting included updates on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) ranking in the Top 40 Research Hospitals, new masking policies at LHSC, LHSC to Home, advancements in sickle cell care, and more. A recording of the December meeting, along with previous Community Update Meetings, is available on the LHSC [website](#).

Organizational Updates

LHSCRI ranks 13th among Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals

In the [2025 edition of Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals](#) list by Research Infosource, London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) ranked 13th nationally. The annual ranking evaluates hospital-based research institutes across Canada using multiple metrics, including total research funding. In 2025, LHSCRI received \$108 million in research income from all sources, representing a 3.1 per cent increase over the previous fiscal year. LHSCRI also ranked first for research intensity among large-tier institutions with \$856,900 in research spending per researcher. LHSCRI supports more than 2,300 active clinical research studies across LHSC, providing patients with access to innovative diagnostics, therapies, and clinical trials. To read more, visit the LHSCRI [website](#).

LHSC partners with Oneida Nation of the Thames for first Indigenous renal screening event

On November 15, 2025, LHSC's Renal Program held its first Southwest Ontario community renal screening event with Oneida Nation of the Thames. Sponsored by the Ontario Renal Network and delivered in partnership with Oneida Health Centre, the clinic provided community-based

screening and education focused on diabetes and kidney health. The initiative helped reduce barriers to care by bringing screening directly into the community, supporting earlier detection and timely connection to follow-up services. The event was delivered through collaboration between LHSC, Oneida Health Centre, Windsor Regional Hospital's Renal Program, and The Kidney Foundation of Canada. To read more, visit the LHSC [website](#).

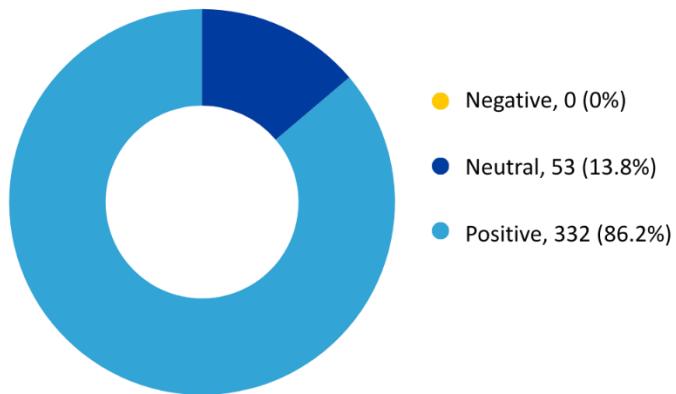
Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's December media exposure.

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 385

- Negative – 0 (0%)
- Neutral – 53 (13.8%)
- Positive – 332 (86.2%)



Total audience reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 1.02 billion

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$9.07 million

Top stories by reach:

- 379.4 million reached:

- [Shriners Hospitals and LHSC announce childhood bone disorders programme](#) - Yahoo! News
- 89.4 million reached:
 - [Shriners Hospitals for Children Canada and Children's Hospital at LHSC launch landmark research program to advance care in rare childhood bone disorders](#) - MSN News Canada
- 17.3 million reached:
 - [New LHSC program sends hospital patients home with care specialists](#) - CBC London
- 17.3 million reached:
 - [LHSC ending unlimited mental health benefits saying popularity made it too expensive](#) - CBC London
- 17.3 million reached:
 - [London hospitals seeing sharp rise in respiratory illness](#) - CBC London

Coverage analysis:

LHSC's Communications and Public Engagement facilitated five proactive stories in December 2025, including the launch of the [LHSC to Home program](#) which was covered by four local news outlets. A story about an innovative new way of treating an [abnormal heart rhythm with radiation](#) was also very successful, securing coverage from three outlets. LHSC's annual Clinic Notes holiday concert was covered by both The London Free Press and CTV London. The December Community Update Meeting was also well attended by local reporters and provided LHSC with an opportunity to share important messaging related to respiratory illness season. This messaging was further highlighted during an interview related to where to access health care over the holiday season that Dr. Christie MacDonald, Department Head, Emergency Medicine, took part in on London Live with Mike Stubbs on 980 CFPL Global News Radio.

The Communications and Public Engagement team also responded to 19 reactive media requests. Main topics of interest included the ongoing regional surge in respiratory illness and changes to LHSC's unlimited mental health benefits. Supervisor David Musyj also sat down with The London Free Press for a one-on-one year-end interview.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 28 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in December. The content highlighted staff and patient stories, hospital initiatives, and holiday messages.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 93,146 (+125 new followers, +.13%)

**number of stakeholders/members of the public that see and have the potential to engage with LHSC's stories on a regular basis.*

Total social media impressions: 781,405

**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*

Total social media engagements: 30,038

**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

1. Ethos Linear Accelerator radiation therapy | [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)
2. First patient at LHSC to receive radiation therapy for a heart condition | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
3. Top video post of 2025, highlighting the record number of babies born | [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
4. Holiday concert video at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

Social media analysis:

Throughout December, social media content reflected on the closing month of LHSC's 150th anniversary, highlighted heartwarming holiday initiatives, and showcased the community's deep appreciation for cancer care.

The top-performing post highlighted the Ethos Linear Accelerator at LHSC's Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre and showcased how it's transforming cancer care for patients across southwestern Ontario. Many patients and their families expressed heartfelt gratitude to the physicians, nurses, and staff supporting cancer care and were delighted by the annual holiday concert performed by team members at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre.

Audiences also connected with the story of George Westerik, the first patient at LHSC to receive an innovative radiation treatment typically used for cancer to treat a racing heart condition called ventricular tachycardia. Another popular post featured parents who welcomed babies at LHSC, who proudly engaged with a video celebrating the record number of births in 2024, which was re-posted as part of LHSC's year-end countdown of top-performing posts.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's social media channels continues to see positive engagement and growth. We are currently sitting at 4,419 followers across all platforms and generated over 10,000 impressions in December.

LHSC one of few hospitals in Canada treating a racing heart condition with radiation

In October, George Westerik became the first patient at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre to receive radiation to target a cardiac issue called ventricular tachycardia. This procedure is the first milestone for the new joint cardiac treatment and research program at London Health

Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) and Western University. Only one radiation session is needed to treat the condition and for George, the procedure took only six minutes. Since undergoing treatment, his arrhythmia has stopped and he has not experienced any negative side effects. Now he is looking forward to helping his wife around the house and playing with his grandkids. To read more, visit the LHSC [website](#).

London Health Sciences Centre welcomes first baby of 2026

LHSC welcomed the first baby of 2026 on January 1 at 1:28 a.m. Baby Bryson weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. and was born to parents Brooklyn Lemieux and Michael Carlsen. To mark the occasion, local Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacist-owners donated a gift basket through London Health Sciences Foundation, with additional items provided by Children's Health Foundation. Each year, LHSC welcomes more than 6,000 newborns. To read more, visit the LHSC [website](#).

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

Research funding announcement

Dr. Chai Phua, researcher at LHSCRI, was awarded \$20,000 in funding by Octapharma Canada Inc. for the study entitled “Development of a Surgical Planning Protocol Web Form and Adaptive Pharmacokinetic (PK) Dosing Framework with Machine Learning for Patients with Von Willebrand Disease (VWD) Undergoing Surgery” by Octapharma Canada Inc.

External Landscape

Opening doors for more nurses in Ontario

The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) has reported strong outcomes from its [Supervised Practice Experience Partnership](#) (SPEP), launched in 2022 in collaboration with Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health. The program supports nursing applicants who need to demonstrate language proficiency or recent clinical experience. To date, more than 4,000 applicants have

become registered nurses through SPEP, with nearly all participants renewing their registration and 72 per cent hired by their placement employers. LHSC proudly participates in this program, supporting pathways for internationally educated nurses and others facing barriers to registration while contributing to provincial workforce capacity.

A new era for nurse practitioners in Ontario

Beginning July 1, 2026, Ontario will transition to a [single nurse practitioner \(NP\) classification](#), replacing the current Primary Health Care, Adult, and Pediatric certificates. Led by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators, this change is intended to make it easier for NPs to work across patient populations and regions, improving access to care. A new national Canadian Nurse Practitioner Licensure Examination will also launch in 2026, aligning NP entry to practice with updated competencies and a broader scope of care.

Leading the way in digital referrals

Ontario Health continues to advance its [Digital First for Health strategy through the expansion of eReferral Ontario and Central Intake](#). Following a limited launch in August 2025, onboarding is now open to all clinicians and providers. These tools create a single entry point for referrals across multiple services, improve wait-time visibility, and reduce administrative burden. As a lead organization for Central Intake in the West region, LHSC plays a key role in implementing this initiative. Our leadership ensures that patients experience smoother transitions and providers benefit from streamlined processes. LHSC's involvement reflects our commitment to innovation and collaboration in building a more connected health system.

Building tomorrow's health-care teams through the Enhanced Extern Program

Ontario Health's [Enhanced Extern Program](#) provides paid, supervised clinical experience for nursing and allied health students in hospital settings. The program now delivers more than 4.5 million hours of coverage annually and supports staffing in high-need areas such as emergency departments and medical-surgical units. Many externs are hired into permanent roles. LHSC participates in the program and continues to support workforce development initiatives with further provincial expansion planned, including a long-term care pilot in 2026/2027.