



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

April 2026

Table of Contents

Strategic and Operational Priorities	3
March Community Update Meeting.....	3
Embedding traditional healing in mental health care	3
Organizational Updates	3
LHSC teams take part in International Pressure Injury Prevalence study	3
Updated hemodialysis waste process in the Renal Program for environmental sustainability	4
Expanding treatment options in LHSC’s Outpatient Child & Adolescent Mental Health program.....	4
Media and Storytelling	4
Media coverage and metrics	4
Social media	6
Through research, Dr. David Palma is improving radiation therapy for cancer patients.....	7
Novel use of portable MRI during neurosurgical procedure is a world first for LHSC.....	9
External Landscape	9
Ontario government releases 2026 Budget	9
OHA study shows how community health is changing	9
Ontario’s new Province-wide Primary Care Medical Record System.....	10
Ontario Health expands initiative to improve colon cancer screening in First Nations communities.....	10
Ontario Health supporting new cancer care innovations	10
Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) releases 2024-2025 acute care hospitalization data	11

Strategic and Operational Priorities

March Community Update Meeting

On March 18, 2026, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) hosted its monthly Community Update Meeting. The meeting provided updates on various topics including Patient Experience surveys, Colon Cancer Awareness Month, surgery wait times, and information on how to access medical information on MyCarePortal. A recording of the March meeting, along with previous Community Update Meetings, is available on the LHSC [website](#).

Embedding traditional healing in mental health care

At the heart of LHSC's Mental Health program at Victoria Hospital, a new Indigenous Healing Space is bringing traditional healing and cultural practices directly to the mental health unit. Grounded by a medicine wheel and anchored by vibrant Indigenous art, the room has been designed to support patients' emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. It is peaceful, purposeful, and represents a shift in how care is being delivered to Indigenous patients at LHSC. [Learn more about the Mental Health Indigenous Healing Space](#).

Organizational Updates

LHSC teams take part in International Pressure Injury Prevalence study

Teams across the organization recently collaborated on an International Pressure Injury Prevalence (IPIP) study, which helps assess patient skin health and identify opportunities to improve care. Nurses, clinical educators, consultants, clinical externs, and quality teams worked together to safely and respectfully assess patients, demonstrating the strength of interdisciplinary teamwork. A key contributor was the Clinical Extern Program, which refined its approach by integrating study support into regular work hours rather than adding extra shifts. Through this model, 36 externs provided 344 hours of support, reducing costs and simplifying

scheduling while maintaining patient care. The experience also highlighted opportunities to strengthen communication and coordination for future initiatives.

Updated hemodialysis waste process in the Renal Program for environmental sustainability

The Regional Renal Program at LHSC has [updated their waste disposal process for hemodialysis treatments](#) to become more environmentally friendly and sustainable. The program looked at their current waste disposal process and the costs involved for disposing items such as bloodlines and dialyzers into biohazard waste bags after a team member noted that home hemodialysis patients can put their tubing and packaging in their garbage at home. This collaboration across the Facilities, Environmental Services, and Renal Program teams has resulted in cost savings and a reduction in LHSC's carbon footprint.

Expanding treatment options in LHSC's Outpatient Child & Adolescent Mental Health program

LHSC's Outpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program has been advancing clinically integrated research through three key initiatives. These include evaluating virtual reality-supported mindfulness and exposure interventions to improve symptom regulation; developing a specialized outpatient assessment pathway for neurodevelopmental disabilities; and adapting Deep Brain Reprocessing for trauma treatment in children and youth. Together, these efforts expand evidence-based treatment options and strengthen clinical innovation. Complementing this work, the Transitions in Care Program is moving beyond its pilot phase and introducing a Shared Decision Maker role to further support youth- and family-centred care. A phased implementation is underway, beginning with training for the Transitions team and expanding to frontline staff soon. Full organizational integration is expected to take place in 2027–2028, with the goal of enhancing continuity of care and patient engagement.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

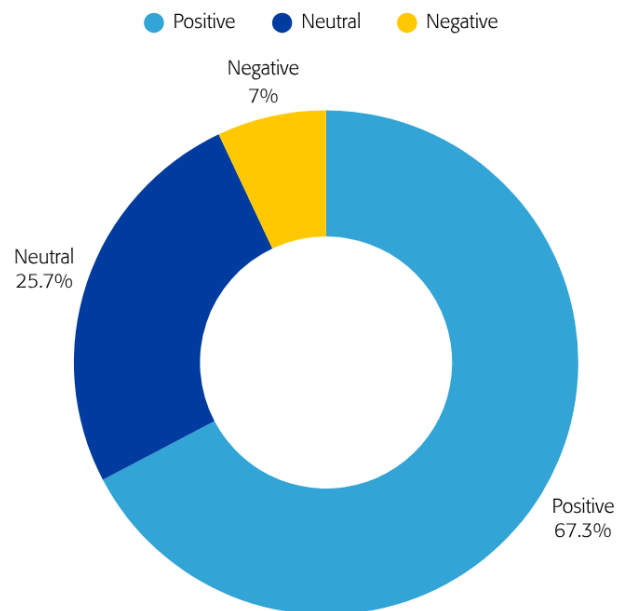
The following highlight metrics from LHSC's February media exposure.

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 401

- Positive – 67.3%
- Neutral – 25.7%
- Negative – 7%

Total Audience Reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 415 million

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$4.4 million



Top Stories by Reach:

- 85.7 million reached:
CBC London/MSN: [Wave of overdoses in London after police say driver may be giving out toxic drugs for free](#)
- 27.3 million reached:
CBC London: [New Indigenous healing space brings traditional practices into mental health care at LHSC | CBC News](#)
- 27.3 million reached:
CBC London: [The 2025 Sunshine List is out, here are the highest paid public servants in London | CBC News](#)
- 27.3 million reached:
CBC National: [Mobile brain scans sound like science fiction. But they're now helping more Canadian patients | CBC News](#)

Coverage Analysis:

In March, the Communications and Public Engagement team facilitated four proactive stories, including a world-first procedure utilizing a portable MRI during brain surgery, St. Patrick's Day safety messaging, and the introduction of a new Mental Health Indigenous Healing Space. The team also facilitated the March Community Update Meeting, which led to the coverage of several positive stories locally, including a [reduction in LHSC's surgical waitlist](#) and [colorectal cancer awareness](#).

The team responded to 30 reactive inquiries during the month of March including requests for comment relating to a Code Orange Alert, Ontario's Public Sector Salary Disclosure, a Code Black, and model of care changes.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 17 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in March. The content featured staff and patient stories, hospital initiatives, and community safety messages related to St. Patrick's Day and Canadian geese nesting at LHSC locations.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 96,091 (+1,020 new followers, +1.07%)

**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: 743,405

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

Total social media engagements: 41,759

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

Top social media posts by engagement included:

1. Photos highlighting a world-first neurosurgery using a new portable MRI at LHSC | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
2. A feature story highlighting Dr. Danielle Kelton's experience at the 2026 Winter Paralympic Games | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
3. A video of Dr. Christie MacDonald sharing safety tips ahead of St. Patrick's Day | [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
4. A feature story highlighting the new Mental Health Indigenous Healing Space at LHSC | [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Social media analysis

In March, social media audiences showed strong interest in surgical technology and innovation and its impact on patient care, along with staff stories, hospital initiatives, and St. Patrick's Day safety messages.

Our most popular post highlighted a neurosurgery team led by neurosurgeon Dr. Neil Duggal, who were the first in the world to use the new Hyperfine Swoop Brain Portable MRI system

during surgery to remove a pituitary tumour from a highly complex area of LHSC patient Dave Evans' brain. The story reached more than 170,000 people across our social platforms, with many congratulating the team and Dave Evans on the successful surgery.

Another popular story featured LHSC emergency physician, Dr. Danielle Kelton, and her experience supporting Canada's National Para Ice Hockey Team at the 2026 Winter Paralympic Games. This story reached more than 75,000 people, with many offering congratulations to Dr. Kelton in the comments. Social media audiences also responded positively to safety tips shared by Dr. Christie MacDonald, Department Head of Emergency Medicine at LHSC, ahead of St. Patrick's Day. The video was viewed more than 35,000 times on Facebook and Instagram, with many followers wishing the community a safe and happy celebration.

Near the end of March, the opening of the new Mental Health Indigenous Healing Space at LHSC was widely shared and celebrated on social media. The space is designed to support emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. It provides patients with access to traditional healing and cultural practices through a Visiting Elder and Indigenous Patient Navigator.

Content from London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute also continued to see positive engagement and growth. As of the end of March, there were 4,761 followers across all platforms, with more than 12,500 impressions generated during the month.

Through research, Dr. David Palma is improving radiation therapy for cancer patients

Research led by Dr. David Palma is [advancing the role of precision radiation therapy in cancer care](#), particularly for patients with metastatic disease. Traditionally focused on symptom management, treatment is now shifting toward the potential for long-term control and even cure through highly targeted, high-dose radiation techniques. Enabled by advances in imaging and treatment planning, clinicians can precisely target tumours while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue. Clinical trials have demonstrated improved survival outcomes, with some patients remaining cancer-free for extended periods. Ongoing research continues to explore expanding these approaches to patients with more widespread disease and in combination with other therapies, signaling a significant evolution in cancer treatment.

Dr. Danielle Kelton supports Team Canada's Para Ice Hockey Team at the 2026 Paralympic Games

This winter, Dr. Danielle Kelton, an emergency physician at LHSC, served on the international stage as the lead team physician for Canada's National Para Ice Hockey Team at the Paralympic Games in Milano-Cortina. She spent several weeks travelling with the team as they prepared for

the 2026 Games, supporting athletes through training, competition, and recovery. [Read more about Dr. Kelton's experience at the 2026 Paralympic Games.](#)

Youth Indigenous Career Fair continues to inspire future health-care professionals

On March 12, 2026, approximately 110 First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Urban Indigenous students from local high schools and N'Amerind Friendship Centre's Wiingashk Alternative Secondary School gathered at Children's Hospital at LHSC for the Youth Indigenous Career Fair. Supported by the Children's Health Foundation, this was the hospital's second time hosting the event, which gives students an opportunity to learn about the wide range of careers available at LHSC before they begin making decisions about post-secondary education. [Learn more about the Youth Indigenous Career Fair.](#)

Living fully with epilepsy: An LHSC patient shares his story

For Epilepsy Awareness Month in March, LHSC [shared the journey of patient Kevin Beaulieu](#), whose life changed after experiencing unexpected seizures in 2022. Initially linked to alcohol withdrawal, further episodes led to a diagnosis of nocturnal temporal lobe epilepsy. While medication helped control his seizures, severe side effects caused significant physical and mental challenges. With adjustments to his treatment and support from his care team, he regained stability and quality of life. Today, his condition is well managed, and he emphasizes the importance of mental health, community support, and challenging misconceptions about epilepsy.

Helping train the next generation of pharmacists

Since 1967, LHSC has helped train pharmacists by providing on-site opportunities for them to learn and grow in an acute care setting. LHSC's Pharmacy Residency Program is a 13-month long residency program that prepares pharmacists for a position in the hospital setting. Recently, the program received a six-year accreditation by the Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board, part of the Canadian Society of Healthcare-Systems Pharmacy. [Learn more about LHSC's Pharmacy Residency Program.](#)

Novel use of portable MRI during neurosurgical procedure is a world first for LHSC

A neurosurgery team at LHSC led by neurosurgeon Dr. Neil Duggal was the first in the world to use the Hyperfine Swoop Brain Portable MRI system during a surgery to remove a complex pituitary tumour this past October. During the patient's surgery, an MRI was completed within the operating room to validate whether the tumour had been sufficiently removed or if there was remaining residual mass that could be further removed before completing the procedure. The use of a portable MRI machine provided the neurosurgical team with immediate visibility within a highly complex area of the brain and afforded the patient greater confidence in the success of their surgical outcome. [Read more on the LHSC website.](#)

External Landscape

Ontario government releases 2026 Budget

In March, Ontario's Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, delivered the Province's [2026 Ontario Budget, titled A Plan to Protect Ontario](#). The budget outlines the government's priorities to protect Ontario's economy, strengthen public services, and invest in critical infrastructure, while responding to ongoing global economic uncertainty and continued pressure on public systems. Key takeaways for the health-care sector include an investment of \$1.1 billion in additional funding for Ontario hospitals for 2026-2027 and approximately \$64 billion in funding over the next decade for provincial health infrastructure. This investment includes an up to four per cent increase in base and targeted hospital funding, which promotes high quality care, increased accountability, system efficiency and improved access to life-saving treatments. The budget also outlines an additional \$1.1 billion funding over three years to support patients with home and community care services, and \$124.2 million towards clinical training and education funding for the next three years to expand nurse and registered practical nurse seats at publicly assisted colleges and universities.

OHA study shows how community health is changing

Recently, the Ontario Hospital Association and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto released [a study on the Projected Patterns of Illness in Ontario](#). The study projects the future burden of illness in Ontario and highlights the impact on the provincial health care system. Across the province, people are living longer but increasingly managing multiple chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, and cancer, which often

start earlier in life and shift health care delivery from episodic treatment to long-term management. This trend is expected to intensify over the next two decades, with more patients experiencing complex needs that require ongoing support rather than short hospital stays. In response, hospitals are focusing more on prevention, early intervention, and helping people remain at home, while strengthening partnerships with primary care and community services to deliver more coordinated, patient-centred care.

Ontario's new Province-wide Primary Care Medical Record System

The Ontario Government has [announced the creation of a new province-wide primary care medical record system](#) to ensure patient health information can be shared more easily and safely between care providers. This means doctors, nurses, and other health professionals will be able to see important health details in one place with patient consent and provide better connected care. Patients will not need to repeat their story as often when moving between family doctors, hospitals, labs, or other services. This can lead to faster care, fewer repeat tests, and safer decisions during emergencies or hospital visits. Over time, a shared record will help improve care quality and support a smoother experience for patients and families across Ontario.

Ontario Health expands initiative to improve colon cancer screening in First Nations communities

Ontario Health is working with First Nations partners [to improve access to colon cancer screening in communities](#) where screening has typically been harder to access. To help address this, screening kits are now available directly at nursing stations and community health centres, making it easier for people to take part close to home. Earlier screening means cancer can be found sooner, and treatment can be more successful. This approach also respects community needs by bringing care to where people live and strengthening partnerships with Indigenous health organizations. By improving access and trust, this work aims to help reduce health-care gaps and support healthier communities across the province.

Ontario Health supporting new cancer care innovations

Ontario Health is [supporting new cancer care innovations](#) that focus on the full patient journey, including prevention and early screening to treatment and life after cancer. These efforts include improving access to screening, using new tools and programs, and supporting people as they recover and live well after treatment. The focus is on patient-centred care that meets people's needs at every stage of their care journey. Hospitals will be able to deliver more coordinated and compassionate cancer care, while patients will benefit from earlier detection,

smoother care transitions, and better support after treatment ends. These innovations help hospitals work more closely with community partners to improve outcomes and quality of life for people affected by cancer across Ontario.

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) releases 2024-2025 acute care hospitalization data

Recently, CIHI published [Hospital Stays in Canada, 2024-2025](#), a comprehensive national snapshot of acute inpatient utilization. The data reveals significant patterns in hospitalization volumes, lengths of stay, clinical drivers of admissions, and surgical activity. This release provides actionable intelligence for Ontario hospitals and system planners as they continue to experience sustained capacity challenges. For LHSC, national alternate levels of care (ALC) pressures underscore the importance of continuing to build community partnerships to improve patient access and flow.