



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

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**May 2025**

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# Strategic and Operational Priorities

## LHSC's Community Advisory Committee Survey Report and Action Plan

On April 24, 2025, LHSC's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) released its [survey report and action plan](#), shaped by valuable feedback from the community, patients, and LHSC team members. In late 2024, the CAC conducted two surveys – one to gather input from LHSC staff, professional staff, volunteers, patient partners, and learners, and another to engage the public. The surveys were designed to better understand experiences with care, perspectives on LHSC's current direction, and ideas for how LHSC can better meet the needs of the communities it serves. Approximately 4,000 people took the time to share thoughtful, honest feedback about what's working well and where change is needed. To review the key themes and recommendations from the report, please visit LHSC's [website](#).

## LHSC launches weapons detection system at entrance to Victoria Hospital and Children's Hospital EDs

On May 6, 2025, LHSC took another important step in enhancing safety across its hospitals with the launch of its new weapons detection system at the entrance of the Victoria Hospital (VH) and Children's Hospital Emergency Departments (EDs). This follows the successful implementation of the system at the University Hospital ED on April 15. The installation of this advanced weapons detection system at all LHSC ED entrances is already making a difference and helping to strengthen safety for patients, visitors, and team members. To learn more, please visit LHSC's [website](#).

## April Community Update Meeting

On April 24, 2025, LHSC hosted its Community Update Meeting, providing community members with updates on key initiatives and operational priorities. LHSC was pleased to welcome CAC member Mariam Hamou as a special guest, who shared an overview of the CAC survey report and action plan. Mariam also expressed heartfelt thanks to patients, families, and community members for their valuable insights and feedback. Additional topics covered during the meeting included the launch of LHSC's new weapons detection system at the entrances of the VH and

Children's Hospital EDs, LHSC's 150th anniversary, recruitment services, medical residents, inpatient medicine services, and more. A recording of the April meeting, as well as recordings of previous meetings, is available on LHSC's [website](#).

# Organizational Updates

## Celebrating 150 years of great care, teaching, and research

On April 16, 2025, LHSC officially launched its 150th anniversary celebrations — an incredible milestone marking 150 years of innovation, compassion, and excellence in health care. Throughout the year, LHSC will share the moments that defined its legacy on the [LHSC 150 website](#), highlighting the people, breakthroughs, and milestones that have shaped LHSC's remarkable journey. Patients, families, community members, and Team LHSC are invited to explore LHSC's history and [Share Your LHSC Story](#) by submitting memories, experiences, or reflections from your time at LHSC. More opportunities to get involved will be announced in the weeks and months ahead as we continue to celebrate this historic sesquicentennial.

# Media and Storytelling

## Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's April media exposure:

**Total news media mentions (media exposure): 184**

- Negative – 6 (3.26%)
- Neutral – 56 (30.4%)
- Positive – 121 (65.7%)

**Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news):**  
Approximately 336 million

**Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage):** Approximately \$3 million\*

*\*This figure has been estimated by comparing similar coverage in March 2025 and its earned media average.*

### Top Stories by Reach:

- 127 million reached:  
[Joint warnings: Doctors say cannabis users risk dementia, psychosis](#) – MSN.com
- 46 million reached:  
[Joint warnings: Doctors say cannabis users risk dementia, psychosis](#) - Yahoo!
- 11.9 million reached:  
[An unlikely friendship formed through a mutual passion to give back](#) – CTV London
- 11 million reached:  
[Hospital's new weapon detector seizes 23 knives](#) – CTV London
- 6 million reached:  
[Hospitals across Canada installing weapons detection systems amid apparent rise in ER violence](#) - The Globe and Mail

### Coverage analysis:

April proved to be a very active month for the Communications and Public Engagement team as it facilitated five proactive media stories. They included a [patient symposium in Stratford](#) hosted by the South West Regional Cancer Program, a [joint study on the impact of cannabis use on psychosis](#) published in JAMA, and the launch of [LHSC's new weapons detection system](#). The launch of the weapons detection system garnered not only attention from local media but also drew the interest of national outlets including The Canadian Press and The Globe and Mail. The cannabis study also received both national and international attention.

The team also facilitated LHSC's Community Update Meeting, including a media scrum which followed afterward. CTV London and The London Free Press each ran stories based on data shared during the meeting about the number of prohibited items confiscated thanks to the new scanners in the first week of its use. The Community Update Meetings continue to prove their usefulness in sharing information of interest with our media partners.

The Communications and Public Engagement team also responded to 17 reactive media requests in April. Inquiries predominantly focused on interview requests related to the ongoing regional surge in measles cases and LHSC's new weapons detection system. We also received an inquiry about available supports for those experiencing crisis during pregnancy, which was facilitated through an interview with Dr. Laura Lyons.

## Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 33 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in April (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X). The content highlighted the work of LHSC staff, patient stories, and hospital initiatives.

**Total social media followers (across all platforms):** 85,439 (+ 1,241 new followers, +1.5%)

*\*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:** 550,063

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

**Total social media engagements:** 37,978

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

**Top social media posts by engagement included:**

- Complete blood count (CBC) behind the scenes | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
- Announcing the weapons detection system | [Facebook](#)
- Green Shirt Day | [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#)

### Social media analysis:

Audiences continue to enjoy behind the scenes content and this month was no different as Michael Samuel, Senior Lab Technologist, walked through how a complete blood count (CBC) is processed. We saw an increase in comments from lab technologists around the country who were impressed with LHSC's advanced lab technology.

The announcement of the weapons detection system brought in a lot of engagement from the community as they were eager to understand the purpose of the system and how it worked.

Members of LHSC's Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) wore green on April 7 to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation. The post drew in positive engagement from many community members identifying themselves as transplant recipients, thanking the MOTP team for their care.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continues to actively engage audiences as we highlight researchers and their work that is making an impact around the world. We are currently sitting at 3,441 followers across all platforms and have generated over 16,900 impressions and 550+ engagements in April.

## Where it all began: The opening of London General Hospital

The story of LHSC began 150 years ago when a growing city recognized the need for a hospital to care for its people. On August 5, 1875, London General Hospital opened its doors on South Street and a legacy of great care, teaching, and research was born. It began with just a handful of beds and a small team of physicians and nurses, but that modest building laid the foundation for what would grow into one of Canada's leading health-care institutions. Early breakthroughs in genetics, along with our early adoption of medical technologies — including the introduction of radiology — helped LHSC become a global leader in research and innovation. Throughout the 1900s, it became a training ground for future medical professionals, working in close partnership with Western University and Fanshawe College. In 1899, London General Hospital was renamed Victoria Hospital, marking the beginning of a new era in health care for the city. Learn more on the [LHSC 150 website](#) and share your own memories and stories about LHSC through this [submission form](#).

## LHSC transplant patient inspires others to become organ donors

LHSC patient Kathleen Zavarise shared her remarkable transplant journey, which gave her a renewed outlook on life. In 2021, Kathleen learned she was in end-stage kidney and liver failure and was quickly connected with LHSC's Multi-Organ Transplant Program. Time, however, was running out and Kathleen feared she might not live long enough to receive a suitable donor match. About two years later, she received a life-saving kidney-liver transplant at University Hospital. Now, Kathleen sees each day as a gift — a chance to live with purpose and honour the unknown hero who saved her life. She's since become a passionate advocate for organ donation, serving as the Provincial Director for Ontario with the Canadian Transplant Association. To learn more, visit the LHSC [website](#) or listen to the coverage by [980 CFPL Global News Radio](#).

## LHSC volunteers form an intergenerational friendship

LHSC volunteers Don Blay and Jenna Ijam developed a unique friendship through Helping Hands — a mentorship program that pairs experienced volunteers with post-secondary students volunteering at LHSC. Don, a retired teacher and former court clerk, and Jenna, a fourth-year Medical Sciences student, were stationed together in the B1 lobby of Victoria Hospital and Children's Hospital where they greeted and assisted patients, families, and visitors. Their partnership quickly grew into a meaningful friendship. Don was struck by Jenna's dedication, efficiency, and deep empathy, while Jenna credits Don with teaching her patience, perspective, and the value of slowing down to appreciate the moment. Now, the pair are encouraging



others to step outside their comfort zones and consider volunteering — a path that can lead to connection, personal growth, and unexpected friendships. To learn more, visit the LHSC [website](#) or read the coverage by [CTV London](#).

## **LHSC's Bring-Your-Own Reusables to Surgery initiative reducing carbon emissions**

LHSC's Bring-Your-Own (BYO) Reusables to Surgery initiative is reducing single-use plastics at LHSC. Led by Dr. Julie Strychowsky, Paediatric Otolaryngologist at LHSC, the Operating Room Planetary Health Intervention Team (OR-PHIT), Healthcare Materials Management Services (HMMS), and LHSC's Green Team found that 30,600 bags were given to patients undergoing surgery at LHSC between June 2022 and May 2023. By encouraging patients to bring their own reusable bags to transport clothing and other personal items after surgery, as well as a reusable water bottle, the BYO Reusables to Surgery initiative helped reduce carbon emissions at LHSC by approximately 3,400 kilograms in one year. To learn more about this program, visit our [website](#).

## **LHSC's 'Second Chance Supplies' program reducing waste and helping countries in need**

LHSC's 'Second Chance Supplies' program is reducing hospital waste while providing essential medical supplies to health-care clinics in need around the world. Led by LHSC's Green Team and Facilities Management, the program collects unused medical supplies from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children's Hospital — such as transparent dressings, sterile syringes, and various plastic collection containers like urine specimen bottles — that must be discarded due to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures when a patient is discharged. These unused supplies are then provided to partners who distribute them to health-care clinics in critical need. As of March 2025, the program has already helped send several shipments of much-needed medical supplies to clinics and hospitals in Cuba. The program has also sent eight surgical lights, recently replaced during operating room renovations, to several hospitals in need in developing countries. To learn more about this innovative program, visit the LHSC [website](#).

## **Scientists at LHSCRI and Western University uncover link between cannabis use and psychosis**

In a groundbreaking study published in JAMA Psychiatry, scientists from LHSCRI and Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry have uncovered, for the first time, a connection between cannabis use disorder, dopamine, and psychosis. Researchers found that



brain scans of patients with cannabis use disorder — those who used cannabis frequently over an extended period — showed signs of higher dopamine levels in the same region of the brain associated with psychosis. The study involved 61 participants aged 18 to 35, both with and without cannabis use disorder. Some participants in each group were also diagnosed with first-episode schizophrenia and presented to LHSC's Prevention and Early Intervention Program for Psychosis (PEPP). These new findings highlight the need for increased awareness and further research to support safe and informed cannabis use. To learn more, visit the LHSCRI [website](#) or watch and listen to the national coverage by [CTV News](#) and [CBC Radio West](#). You can also read the coverage by [The London Free Press](#).

## New study shows weight-bearing computed tomography could help patients who require knee replacements

Scientists at LHSCRI and Western University have discovered that weight-bearing computed tomography (CT) may help patients who require knee replacements receive faster, less invasive diagnoses and better care. Published in the [Journal of Orthopaedic Research](#), the new study shows that weight-bearing CT scans are reliable for evaluating implant loosening in patients after knee replacement surgery and could provide the same accurate results as a more complex and expensive specialized X-ray technique called radiostereometric analysis (RSA).

# Awards, Recognitions & Publications

## Research funding announcements

The following researchers have been awarded funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC):

- Dr. Sam Afshar, "Role of the extracellular matrix in Wnt signaling" - \$44,000
- Dr. Derek Mitchell, "Performing under pressure: The impact of emotion on sensory, motor, and cognitive performance" - \$39,000
- Dr. Rajnikant Patel, "Design, modeling and control of advanced robotic systems and devices" - \$54,000

- Dr. Ana Luisa Trejos, “Accessible soft wearable robots for upper-body motion support” - \$54,000
- Dr. Aaron Ward, “Behavioural biometrics augmenting human-in-loop machine learning for biomedical image analysis” - \$36,000
- Dr. Eugene Wong, “Understanding cell survival and adaptation from electric field exposures in-vitro” - \$36,000
- Dr. Giovanni Pellegrino, “Bridging neuronal activity and excitability: A multiscale approach to brain cortex investigation” - \$150,000

Other grants:

- Dr. Barry Janssen was awarded a New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration grant for the study entitled “Effect of intra-dialyzer chilling on microvascular perfusion and the biocompatibility profile of hemodialysis” - \$249,732 (2 years)
- Dr. Saman Maleki was awarded a Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation and Ride for Dad grant for the study entitled “Enhancing microbiome-based biomarker discovery in prostate cancer through advanced sequencing and bioinformatics” - \$20,000 (1 year)
- Dr. Dervla Connaughton was awarded a Kidney Health Research grant for the study entitled “Genomics-first to transform healthcare in chronic kidney disease: The 40 in 1 Study” - \$180,000 (3 years)

## External Landscape

### Ontario government tables 2025 provincial budget

On May 15, 2025, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, tabled the [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), outlining the government’s strategy for economic growth and investments in the health sector. The plan includes \$1.1 billion in additional hospital funding for 2025-26, which includes up to 4 per cent in base and targeted funding, and one-time funding for the surgical system. Other key health investments include approximately \$56 billion over the next decade for health infrastructure, including more than \$43 billion in capital grants, as well as \$235 million in 2025-26 to establish and expand up to 80 additional primary care teams across the province. The government will collaborate with hospitals across the province to enhance accountability and drive operational improvements, while ensuring continued access to high-quality public hospital services.

## Construction underway for a new long-term care home in London

On April 10, 2025, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the official start of construction on Extendicare London, a new 192-bed long-term care (LTC) home located on the former McCormick property in London, Ontario. The project received support through the Construction Funding Subsidy top-up, part of the Ontario government's broader initiative to create 58,000 new and upgraded long-term care beds across the province. Scheduled to open in the summer of 2027, the new Extendicare home represents a significant step forward in reducing the backlog of patients awaiting long-term care placement from hospitals. This development is expected to improve patient flow and help relieve pressure on acute care facilities. To learn more, visit the Ontario Government's [website](#), watch the coverage by [CTV London](#), or read the article by [The London Free Press](#).

## CMHA TVAMHS receives \$5 million in new funding from Health and Homelessness Fund for Change

On May 5, the Health and Homelessness Fund for Change announced \$5 million in capital funding to Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA TVAMHS) to help create 115 new highly supportive housing apartments. The funding will support two projects: a four-storey apartment building with 33 one-bedroom units at The Hills (248–254 Hill Street), and a seven-storey building with 82 units on Huron Street (644–646 Huron Street). Highly supportive housing is a key element of [London's Health and Homelessness Whole of Community System Response](#). To date, a total of 406 highly supportive housing units are open, in development, or included in endorsed proposals that are seeking funding. This includes 49 units at the House of Hope —operated by London Cares in partnership with LHSC. To learn more, visit the CMHA TVAMHS [website](#).

## College of Nurses of Ontario supports new legislation aimed at improving labour mobility for nurses within Canada

On April 16, 2025, the Ontario government introduced the [Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act](#) to unlock free trade and labour mobility within Canada. This new legislation would allow nurses registered in other Canadian provinces, territories, or the United States to be automatically registered in Ontario. The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) supports this initiative, which is expected to strengthen the health-care system by allowing nurses to begin practicing in Ontario while they complete their registration process. This change aims to

improve access to health-care services across the province. The CNO has also recently modernized its registration processes. As of April 1, 2025, CNO now accepts nursing education recognized or approved in any jurisdiction, as long as it meets the credential requirements for the relevant category of registration. For more information, please visit the CNO [website](#).

## College of Nurses of Ontario updates medication administration standards to enhance patient care

The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) has updated its [Scope of Practice](#) and [medication](#) practice standards. Under the new guidelines, nurses are now permitted to administer oral and topical medications based on prescriptions from other regulated health-care professionals, such as pharmacists. This change supports a more integrated approach to patient care and enhances access to timely medication administration. These updates will benefit various care settings, including retirement homes, long-term care homes, and community settings. However, it's important to note that the changes are not applicable in all settings. For example, under the *Public Hospitals Act*, nurses in public hospitals are still required to have a medication order from specific care providers, such as physicians or nurse practitioners. To learn more, visit the CNO [website](#).

## Critical Care Services Ontario and Ontario Hospital Association introduce new Care Satisfaction in the Intensive Care Unit survey

Critical Care Services Ontario (CCSO) and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) have introduced a new Care Satisfaction in the Intensive Care Unit (CS-ICU) survey as part of OHA's [patient experience measurement](#) program. The CS-ICU survey is designed to collect feedback from patients and families about their experiences in intensive care units (ICUs), with the goal of enhancing the overall quality of critical care. As part of OHA's benchmarking initiative, the survey will also support hospitals in comparing data and identifying areas for improvement. LHSC will be participating in launching this survey to help enhance patient and family experiences in critical care settings.

## Ontario government renames Ministry of Colleges and Universities to Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Ontario's new provincial government has renamed the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to the [Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security](#). This change is a recognition that more than half of Ontario's health research spending and activity occurs in research hospitals — such as LHSC. The Honourable Nolan Quinn now serves as Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.