RE: Tax Exemption for Massage Therapists in Canada

Dear

I am a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) in your riding and am writing to ask for your commitment to support the removal of HST/GST from massage therapy services, if you are elected as my MP.

Our regulated health profession has met all the federal and provincial criteria for tax exemption, and the government is aware that the vast majority of RMTs are supportive and eager to have the exemption process completed. There are more than 24,000 Registered Massage Therapists in Canada. Massage therapists are highly qualified and educated health care professionals whose expertise provides significant benefits for patients.

Massage therapy provides relief from stress, anxiety, musculoskeletal pain and other ailments, assisting Canadians recovering from injury or illness to return to work and enjoy the activities of daily life. Numerous studies have shown that massage therapy has multiple benefits in pain management without relying on pharmaceuticals. As such, massage therapy can reduce the burden on our healthcare system and provide patients with access to care that reduces hospital and clinic visits.

The federal government has a policy in place to exempt HST/GST on services provided by health care professionals that are regulated in at least five provinces. Other regulated health professional services, such as chiropractors, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists are already tax exempt. In fact, massage therapists are the only health professionals that meet all necessary requirements that are not exempt from HST/GST.

Massage therapists are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of their patients in a way that is accessible and affordable. I am asking you to similarly show your commitment to this goal by supporting the removal of HST/GST from massage therapy services if you are elected.

Thank you for your attention and action on this matter of importance. I can be reached at the contact information listed in the signature below.

Sincerely,