

RE: Equal access for RMTs to OCF-18 Treatment and Assessment Plans

Dear

I am a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) in your riding and am writing to ask that you support RMTs independently signing the OCF-18 Treatment and Assessment Plan forms in relation to care they provide for individuals who have been in a motor vehicle accident (MVA).

Only those professions explicitly listed in the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule (SABS) can sign the OCF-18 form, which is required for approval of benefits following an MVA. As a result, RMTs, despite being regulated health professionals with training in the assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal injuries, must obtain the signature of another listed practitioner, who may not have knowledge of their scope of practice or treatment approach, before submitting an OCF-18. This additional step adds administrative burden and delays essential treatment.

RMTs are highly trained, regulated health professionals who assess and treat physical dysfunction and pain of the soft tissues and joints, contributing significantly to patient recovery and rehabilitation. RMTs work independently, without requiring supervision or approval from any other health professional. Their inclusion as health practitioners listed on the OCF-18 form would improve efficiency, remove barriers to care, and ensure that patients receive the right care, at the right time, from the right provider.

An RMTAO survey (2025) found that half of RMTs do not treat MVA patients under HCAI, with 88% citing the OCF-18 signature requirement as the main barrier. RMTs have identified that this requirement contributes to the perception that RMTs are less qualified, delays important care for patients, and is a burden on the time of other healthcare professionals.

This signature requirement also creates a financial burden, as 61% of RMTs are charged for this signature, with an average fee of \$114. Eighty-five percent of RMTs report that it also delays patient progress.

I respectfully request that you contact the Minister of Finance to amend the SABS, recognizing RMTs as authorized to sign the OCF-18. This simple change will accelerate access to care and support patient-centered health services in Ontario.

With budget decisions being finalized now, timely action is critical to ensure this amendment is included. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,