

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G5

RE: Tax Exemption for Registered Massage Therapists

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) in Ontario. As I'm sure you are aware, the Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario (RMTAO) has, with the support of RMTs and RMT associations across Canada, requested that the Ministry of Finance exempt our services from tax.

Our regulated health profession has met all the federal 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. I urge you to move this request forward as soon as possible.

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. Multiple studies have shown that massage therapy has multiple benefits in pain management without the use of drugs and has proven to be beneficial in helping with anxiety, stress, depression and other forms of mental illness. Massage therapy can reduce the burden on our healthcare system and provides patients a healthy alternative to expensive and potentially addictive pharmaceuticals.

Tax exemption will align us with other regulated health professions in Canada and ultimately reduce costs to our patients, many of whom do not have coverage under a health care plan. By moving this process forward, you are supporting both the RMTs in Canada and, more importantly, supporting improved access to necessary health care.

Through this letter we urge you to follow through in a timely manner and complete the exemption process. We appreciate your confirmation that RMTs meet the requirements for tax exemption and that you are reviewing the request, and we ask that you move this request forward as soon as possible.

I thank you for your attention and action on this matter of importance to the 23,000 practicing RMTs in Canada including 14,000 right here in Ontario.

I can be reached at the contact information listed in the signature line below.

Sincerely,