



POSITION STATEMENT

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CANADIAN MASSAGE THERAPIST ASSOCIATION

Background

The Board of Directors of the Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario (RMTAO) recognizes the vital role our affiliation with the Canadian Massage Therapist Association plays in strengthening massage therapy across Canada. This partnership advances our mission while fostering collaboration with other provincial associations to create common goals. By aligning our efforts nationally, we ensure that our members benefit from both stronger advocacy and greater access to resources that support their professional practice.

Position

Our membership in the Canadian Massage Therapist Association amplifies our voice on issues of national significance, ensuring that the perspectives of Ontario massage therapists are included in broader conversations. Together with our colleagues across the provinces, we are able to:

- Advocate for consistent Standards of Practice and shared governance frameworks that support the profession's credibility.
- Develop bridges between provinces, reducing barriers for therapists who move or practice across jurisdictions.
- Create common ground on education and registration requirements, including alignment of entry-to-practice examinations and direct client hour requirements in massage therapy schools.
- Advance research and evidence-informed practice by supporting initiatives which strengthen credibility and promote innovation.
- Build recognition of massage therapy as a respected health profession through collaboration with other healthcare disciplines and national stakeholders, and coordinated public awareness initiatives such as *Massage Therapy Awareness Week*. By pooling resources across provinces, we maximize the visibility of massage therapy, highlight its health benefits, and engage the public through community events, media outreach, and educational campaigns.

Membership in the Canadian Massage Therapist Association also gives our association access to resources that directly benefit members, such as the Perlinger Group Benefits Plan. These programs improve the services we can offer provincially while also enabling collaboration across provinces. Networking through the Canadian Massage Therapist Association connects our members with peers, industry leaders, and experts, driving innovation and collective progress.

In addition, national collaboration strengthens our ability to advocate on specific policy issues that directly impact massage therapists. One example is the ongoing effort toward HST exemption, where a unified national voice significantly increases our ability to influence decision-makers. By addressing both broad professional standards and targeted policy priorities, the Canadian Massage Therapist Association ensures that our collective interests are represented at every level.

Summary

Affiliation with the Canadian Massage Therapist Association is more than a strategic partnership; it is an essential foundation for unifying the massage therapy profession across Canada. By aligning provincial associations under a shared vision, we create a stronger, more credible profession that is well-positioned to influence policy, support education and standards, and advocate for recognition at the national level. Through collective strength and collaboration, we can better support our members and ensure that massage therapy continues to grow as a respected health profession nationwide.