



Dear

Registered Massage Therapists' were not included in the recent Primary Low Back Pain Pilot Program, initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. As regulated health professionals in the province of Ontario we feel it is our duty to bring this exclusion to the attention of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Massage therapy has been a regulated health profession since 1991 and has always been among the most sought after complimentary form of healthcare in the province of Ontario. Massage therapy is an evidence-based treatment for low back pain and is an effective modality for the treatment and symptom management of a broad range of musculoskeletal injuries. Further, research indicates that massage therapy can decrease pain and improve function when treating low back injuries and other musculoskeletal injuries. The symptom management and improvement in function provided by massage therapy can allow for increased speed of recovery and return to regular activity.

We are health care professionals and full partners in the delivery of health care to Ontarians and should be involved when this type of initiative arises.

As a profession we would ask that, when considering physical therapy options for the conditions that affect Ontarians, you include Massage Therapy. Allow us to assist in the research that will lead to the optimization of Ontarians' health and well-being.

Respectfully,

Member of the Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario