



Registered Massage Therapists'
Association of Ontario

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May 4, 2020

Hon. Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Minister Elliot:

Over the last few days, our Association has received additional concerns from many of our members about their safety and the safety of their patients and clients should a return to work be implemented by the Ontario Government in the near future. In particular, there were concerns about lack of time to make needed preparations to ensure the safety of their patients.

The experience of long-term care where many staff have been infected and a number have died, emphasizes the risk of exposing staff too early and especially without proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) readily available. A phase one return may not be appropriate because of the need to prepare for safe working conditions for RMTs and patients. I remain confident that the Government will prioritize a return to work strategy that ensures the safety of both workers and the people they come in contact with, in the case of RMTs – their patients.

RMTs are an important part of the health care of Canadians, providing critical treatments including but not limited to post-surgical rehabilitation, manual lymph drainage that can keep people out of hospital emergency rooms, and relief of the physical symptoms of stress, which is of particular concern to Ontarians and especially frontline workers to help get through this difficult time.

Despite the important role that RMTs play in Ontario healthcare, we want to ensure that a robust strategy is in place to protect the safety for all involved before RMTs return to providing that healthcare. A key element of the strategy must be an appropriate supply of PPE made available to all workers. We look forward to working with you to ensure that RMTs have what they need to be able to safely return to work. We will continue to share the concerns of our members to aid in your plans to reopen Ontario as safely as possible.

Sincerely,

Michael Feraday
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario

CC: The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
Helen Angus Deputy Minister Ministry of Health
Dr. David Williams Chief Medical Officer of Health Ministry of Health
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
David Corbett, Deputy Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development