



Dear

I am writing to you today as a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) and as a member of your constituency. RMTs in Ontario have been recognized as health professionals under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) since 1991 and have been a vital part of the health care landscape since 1919. As regulated health professionals we are part of the teams of health care workers that keep Ontarians healthy, allowing them to participate as members of society through their work and play.

Since the 2013 federal budget, massage therapy remains one of the only members of the RHPA that is required to charge HST for their services to the public and remit that tax to the government. This puts us at a distinct disadvantage with regard to business and erects a barrier to care for Ontarians. If a member of the public has a choice of therapeutic service but one of those services requires an out of pocket expense, the likelihood of them choosing that service decreases.

As a member of your constituency, I ask that you contact the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Please have them request an exemption from the HST for the profession of massage therapy from the Federal Minister of Finance, effective immediately. This action would help to maintain the ability of over 11,000 professionals in the province of Ontario to earn a living and continue to provide access to this valuable form of health care.

Please assist us in correcting this inequality. As regulated health professionals, we help keep Ontarians healthy and would be happy to provide you with any necessary documentation should you require.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Member of the Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario