DATE

Dear,

As a practicing member of the Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan (MTAS), I’m writing to encourage you to support the introduction and passage of legislation to regulate massage therapy in the province of Saskatchewan.

A significant threat to public health and safety currently exists in our province, as massage therapists in Saskatchewan are not regulated in the same manner as other health professionals, such as chiropractors. Because there is no regulatory body to oversee the industry, massage therapists who harm or assault clients do not face professional disciplinary action and, in fact, can continue to practice without retribution. As well, no training or practice standards are in place for the industry, so massage therapists are practicing with different levels of training, varying hours of practice and an uneven degree of skill.

I urge you to support legislation to regulate massage therapists. The Ministry of Health has already drafted The Massage Therapy Act, which would establish the Saskatchewan College of Massage Therapy to properly certify, accredit and oversee practitioners. There is broad support for legislation from the public (over 5000 signatures on our petition to date) and other professional medical practitioner associations.

Currently, five other Canadian provinces regulate the industry: British Columbia, Ontario, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. It is my hope that Saskatchewan will become the sixth.

More and more Canadians are experiencing the direct benefits of massage therapy services as part of their health and wellness plan. The needs and wants of patients are changing and massage therapists are helping to meet those demands. As more Canadians are seeking alternative and complementary ways to take control of their own health care needs, the profession of massage therapists, through our National Affiliate Canadian Massage Therapy Alliance (CMTA) , is committed to working with the federal government to remove existing barriers for patients, such as GST/HST applied to RMT services, and to support government in advancing it’s health policies for improving the health and wellbeing of Canadians across the country.

I respectfully ask that you encourage the Minister of Health to proceed with the introduction of The Massage Therapy Act without the delay. The industry continues to expand unregulated, putting the public at risk. The government has a responsibility to protect public safety and our industry wants to protect the public and our profession from those who abuse their professional-client relationship.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Member