

GST/HST TAX-FREE THERAPY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Dear CCPA Member,

On March 6, 2023, our petition to remove GST/HST from counselling and psychotherapy services was tabled in the House of Commons by MP Lindsay Mathysen.

On April 19, 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance formally responded to our public petition. The complete response can be read on the House of Commons website.

A major highlight from the government's response is the following:

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It is the government's understanding that psychotherapy and counselling therapy are not covered by the public health insurance program of any province or territory. It is also the government's understanding that psychotherapy and counselling therapy involve different services, and neither is regulated in at least five provinces or territories. For example, while Quebec permits members of certain professions to provide psychotherapy services, Ontario is the only province that regulates the practice of psychotherapy as a distinct health profession.

This means that the government continues to view counselling and psychotherapy services as separate professions, despite the numerous attempts the CCPA has made to explain the parallel practices of the two services. We at the National Office are disappointed to learn this, yet our commitment to the campaign and removing this tax from both counselling and psychotherapy services is unwavering.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CAMPAIGN? WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?

CCPA, with the support of Impact Public Affairs, is in the process of arranging meetings with the Ministry of Finance and Finance Canada. The purpose of these meetings is to understand the government's response to our petition, communicate with the government to reaffirm the difference between counselling and psychotherapy, and determine the roadblocks which continue to block our progress and what we can do to remove them.

In addition, over the summer, we will be updating our digital campaign strategy, creating a grassroots advocacy kit, and holding a training session to enlist support from CCPA members.

The quest for tax-free therapy continues with strength and passion. Now more than ever, we need your support, so stay tuned for how to get involved.
