

May 2, 2012

The Honourable Theresa Oswald
Minister of Health
Legislative Building of Manitoba
Room 302 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

Re: Application for designation as a regulated health profession under Section 156 of 'The Regulated Health Professions Act' (RHPA)

On behalf of the membership of the Massage Therapy Association of Manitoba Inc. who represents 85% of the professional Massage Therapists practicing in the province, I am pleased to provide you with our official application for designation of Massage Therapy as a regulated health profession in Manitoba.

As you know, the MTAM has been seeking this designation since 1973. It also has been supportive of the recent review, consultation and subsequent establishment of the RHPA in Manitoba and is prepared to assist with transition of the profession of Massage Therapy into a new regulatory environment.

The leadership of the MTAM and its members are confident that the profession in Manitoba is capable of assuming the related responsibilities to 'Protect the Public from Harm' as required by the RHPA in a similar manner to the over 62% of Canadian Massage Therapists who are currently registered in other regulated provinces.

The MTAM application is also consistent with the goals of Canada and its Provinces to obtain full 'Labour Mobility' for our profession similar to other professions across the country.

This designation will also assist the advocate associations across the country to then pursue removal of the GST from Massage Therapy services provided to client/patients, and to have Manitobans able to claim Massage Therapy treatments as medical expenses under the Income Tax Act similar to other Canadians who are able to do so. It will also enable the MTAM to open negotiations with WCB Manitoba and the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation who currently do not recognize Massage Therapy for client/patient treatments as the profession is not recognized by the Province of Manitoba as a 'Regulated Health Profession' under the RHPA.

The MTAM looks forward, with optimism, to the completion of the application process and the transition toward the establishment of a new 'Regulatory College' for Massage Therapists' in Manitoba.

Yours truly,

Susan Kos-Whicher, B.A., RMT
President