



Registered Massage Therapists'
Association of Ontario

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May 14, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

The Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario (RMTAO) is appreciative of the many initiatives of the Government of Ontario to mitigate the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on small businesses and self-employed individuals. The RMTAO represents Registered Massage Therapists (RMTs) across Ontario, the overwhelming majority of whom are self-employed.

The access to and cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a primary concern for our members. Access to PPE continues to be a concern for healthcare providers across Ontario. The introduction of the Ontario PPE Supply Directory as announced today is a helpful step, but many of our members will have financial difficulties accessing the necessary supplies.

We appreciate the hard work your government has been doing to release a thoughtful and gradual plan to reopen Ontario businesses. As businesses begin to gradually and safely reopen, including health care services like massage therapy, a major area of concern for our members is the cost of the PPE required to keep themselves and their patients safe. To assist in a safe transition once massage therapists are able to reopen their businesses, the RMTAO is requesting financial assistance to mitigate the cost of purchasing the required PPE for our members and other self-employed healthcare providers. This assistance would help to ensure our important services are provided in a safe environment without passing the cost on to our patients.

There are over 14,000 RMTs in Ontario and they play a vital role in providing health services to Ontarians. They assist with rehabilitation, improve the quality of life of the elderly and alleviate the physical symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety. RMTs help people relieve their musculoskeletal pain so they can remain at work longer and continue to enjoy the activities that they love. Massage therapy has also been recognized as a potential non-drug alternative to opioids in the treatment of chronic pain. While massage therapy treatments have been suspended during this pandemic, any financial support you can offer RMTs will ensure that they can access adequate PPE to safely resume these services as quickly and effectively as possible once public health officials deem it appropriate to do so.

The RMTAO would appreciate receiving information from the Premier that we can share with our members that will assist in helping them cope financially with this unprecedented crisis, particularly the increased financial burden of procuring the PPE required to be able to reopen safely. We are also interested in providing further input or otherwise assisting in the Government's efforts in responding to the crisis, especially measures that affect RMTs and their patients.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Feraday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

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

CC: Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
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