



## Talking Points for Advocating for Massage Therapy Regulation in Alberta

**For Massage Therapy to become a regulated health profession in Alberta, the *Health Professions Act* must be amended to include Massage Therapy as a profession – we are asking that all Members of the Legislative Assembly actively support opening and amending the *Health Professions Act* in the Fall 2018 sitting of the Legislature.**

- In the last year, nearly 1.55 million Albertans went for a massage to treat back or neck problems and pain, maintain wellness, or both (**Fraser Report, 2017**).
- Nearly 92% of Albertans are in favour of Massage Therapy becoming regulated under the Health Professions Act (**Massage Therapy in Alberta: Albertans' Use, Evaluations and Funding Sources of Massage Therapy Services, Lethbridge College, 2016**).
- Each year Canadians spend \$1,424,381,566 on Massage Therapy (**Fraser Report, 2017**).
- Without a regulating body, there is no standard complaint, resolution or disciplinary process for the public to access in relation to Massage Therapy care they receive.
- In 2009, the then Minister of Health and Health Professions Advisory Board identified and acknowledged that there is physical and psychological risk of harm associated with Massage Therapy and recommended that it become a regulated health profession in Alberta (**Alberta Health Correspondence, 2009**).
- By 2014 the majority of third party payers that provide extended health benefit coverage for Massage Therapy required that Massage Therapists possess a minimum level of education for treatments to be eligible for reimbursement (**TC-CMTA Update Winter 2018**).
- Currently, there is no standard of education, competence, care, practice, professionalism or ethics for people practicing Massage Therapy in Alberta and therefore no guarantee as to what members of the public will receive for care from a Massage Therapist (**TC-CMTA Winter Update 2018**).
- The vast majority of licensed private vocational schools in Alberta continue to offer Massage Therapy training programs that are below the national standard of 2,200 hours of competency based training (**Alberta Learning Information Services website: <https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/educational-programs-in-alberta/?offset=0&letter=m&s=message&sort=title>**).
- The Transitional Council for the College of Massage Therapists of Alberta (TC-CMTA) has emphasized to Alberta Advanced Education educational standards are necessary. To protect the public standardized education must be pursued via a regulatory College's standardized competencies. (**TC-CMTA Fall/Winter 2017 Update and Winter 2018 Update**).
- With no regulating body to ensure protection of the title "Registered Massage Therapist or RMT", its use is widespread. The unsuspecting public is left with the impression that this designation actually MEANS something and that care provided by an "RMT" is being provided by duly qualified and competent practitioners.