



CANADIAN COUNSELLING AND
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE
COUNSELING ET DE PSYCHOTHÉRAPIE

Counsellors and Psychotherapists Applaud Bill Aimed at Establishing Tax Fairness for Mental Health Services

OTTAWA (November 2, 2017) Today, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) applauds the introduction of legislation designed to bring about tax fairness in regards to mental health services in Canada. The bill was introduced by Sherbrooke MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault, and is entitled *An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (psychotherapeutic services)*.

“For some time, CCPA has been advocating that mental health counselling services be classed as zero-rated for the HST and GST,” said CCPA National President, John Driscoll. “This recommendation would provide Canadians greater access to affordable professional counselling. Mr. Dusseault’s Private Member’s Bill is an important step in bringing greater awareness to this issue.”

For years, CCPA has spoken to government decision makers from all parties on how accessing the right mental health services at the right time is essential. An estimated 1 in 5 Canadians will struggle with their mental health at some point in their lives, and it is essential that a variety of mental health services be available to the Canadians who are most in need of assistance. Cost is often a deciding factor when those who are in need of help are looking at resources available to them. Mr. Dusseault’s Private Member’s Bill seeks to include psychotherapy and psychotherapists as tax-exempt services. This bill addresses the fact that the tax that is currently applied to mental health services when they are delivered by counsellors and psychotherapists may cause Canadians to reduce the frequency with which they seek these services.

“When we reduce the costs paid by Canadians for counselling, we reduce one of the barriers to accessing mental health services,” explained Mr. Pierre-Luc Dusseault. “Currently, a significant number of mental health providers are exempt from HST and GST. In the interest of universal accessibility and fairness, the services of counsellors and psychotherapists should also be tax exempt, and this bill was created with that goal in mind.”

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The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national bilingual association providing professional counsellors and psychotherapists with access to exclusive educational programs, certification, professional development and direct contact with professional peers and specialty groups. CCPA promotes the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians.

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