



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

AND LEAD PARTNER  
ET PARTENAIRE PRINCIPAL



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PRESENT / PRÉSENTENT  
COUNSELLING &  
PSYCHOTHERAPY MONTH  
LE MOIS DU COUNSELING  
ET DE LA PSYCHOTHÉRAPIE  
APRIL / AVRIL

# Virtual Parliament Hill Campaign

[#accessmentalhealthcare](https://twitter.com/accessmentalhealthcare)

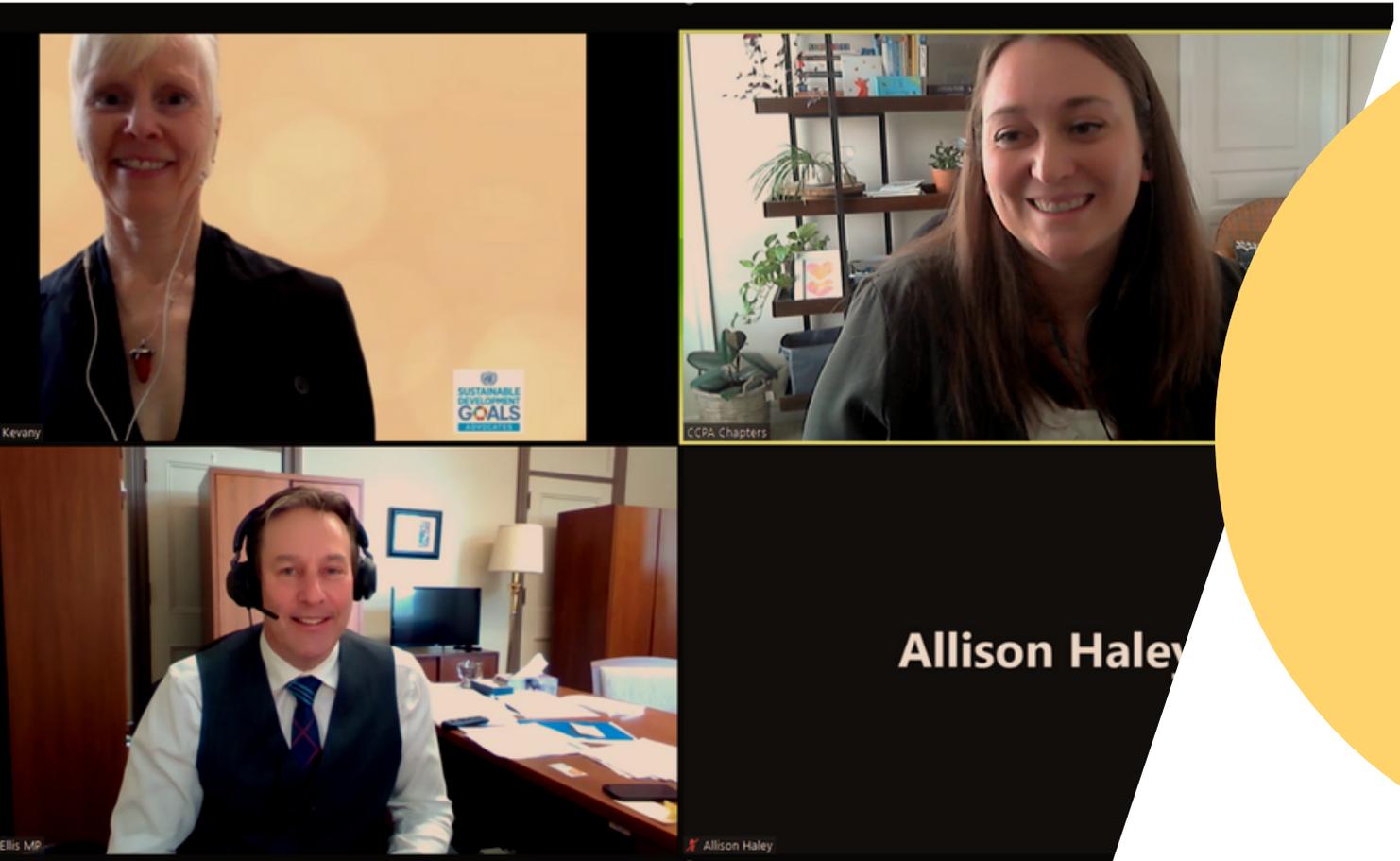


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As part of the inaugural *Counselling and Psychotherapy Month*, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) held a virtual Parliament Hill campaign from April 25-27 2022 to raise awareness about our recommendations to improve access to counselling/counselling therapy/psychotherapy services.

With the help of Impact Public Affairs, CCPA spokespersons from the Board of Directors, staff, and Chapter executives met with Members of Parliament to raise the profile of the profession and advocate on our recommendations:

- 1- GST/HST exemption for counselling therapy/psychotherapy and
- 2- Re-instatement of Canadian Certified Counsellors (CCCs) in the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.

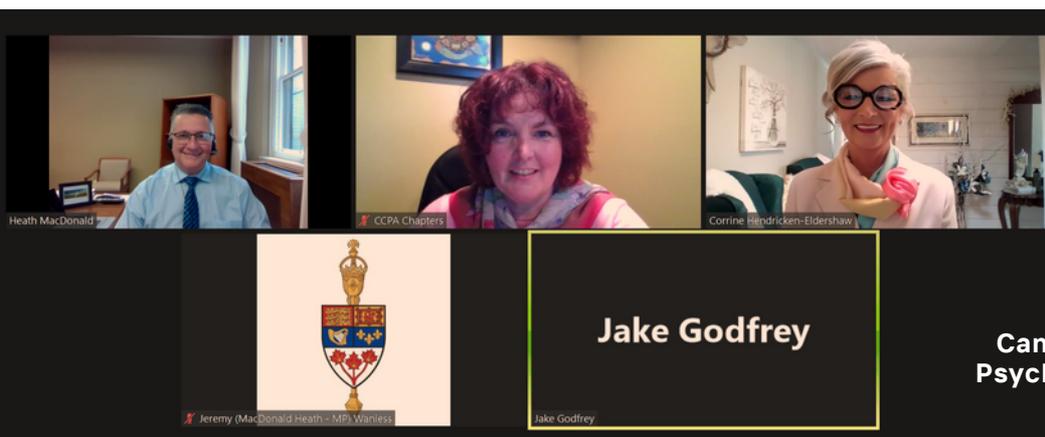
# GST/HST Exemption for Counseling Therapy / Psychotherapy



**CCPA recommends exempting the profession of counselling therapy/ psychotherapy from GST/HST, thus providing Canadians with better access to one of the most cost-effective mental health care options available.**

The profession of counselling therapy/ psychotherapy meets the threshold for tax exemption in the Excise Tax Act because it is regulated in five provinces. However, because the profession does not regulate the same title in all five provinces (similar to other tax exempt professions), the Department of Finance does not accept that counselling therapists and psychotherapists are the same profession and meet the minimum threshold of regulation in five provinces.

At present, a number of health providers (physicians, psychiatrists, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers) are exempt from charging GST/HST on psychotherapy services, except for counselling therapists and psychotherapists themselves, who are specialists in this practice. In the interest of universal accessibility to mental health practitioners, the services of counselling therapists and psychotherapists should also be tax exempt.



## Re-instatement of CCCs in the NIHB Program

There is a significant need for improved access to qualified professional mental health support for the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Attempts at assimilation have contributed to mental health challenges for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, which, in turn, have led to harm in Indigenous communities. The loss of their culture, identity and self-determination has had profound and lasting impacts on their mental well-being.

CCPA's Canadian Certified Counsellors (CCCs) were eligible service providers under NIHB and IRS RHS programming until May 2015 when the designation was delisted in all provinces and territories where the profession of counselling/psychotherapy is not regulated. This decision has significantly reduced appropriate, universal access to mental health counselling services for Indigenous Peoples and communities across the country, and disadvantages those requiring care in unregulated provinces and territories.

**CCPA recommends that Indigenous Services Canada implement the call to action from the AFNF-NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee and immediately reinstate CCCs in unregulated provinces as eligible providers under the NIHB program, adding over 1,500 eligible providers in the unregulated provinces.**

Visit the Federal Advocacy page of CCPA's website to see the full one-pager briefing notes provided to MPS!



# Meetings



CCPA Spokespersons met virtually and in-person with the following officials:

- Lena Metledge Diab, MP for Halifax West
- Larry Maguire, MP for Brandon—Souris, Manitoba
- Peter Fonseca, MP for Mississauga East—Cooksville  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance
- Peter Fragiskatos, MP for London North Centre  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue
- Heath MacDonald, MP for Malpeque  
Member of the Standing Committee on Finance
- Dr. Stephen Ellis, MP for Cumberland—Colchester  
Member of the Standing Committee on Health
- Blake Richards, MP for Banff—Airdrie
- Wayne Long, MP for Saint John—Rothesay
- Andy Fillmore, MP for Halifax  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
- John Williamson, MP for New Brunswick Southwest
- Jenica Atwin, MP for Fredericton  
Member of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs



# Witnessing at House of Commons Committee

As a direct result of this year's virtual Parliament Hill campaign, CCPA was called as a witness at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN).



CCPA's spokesperson was Angela Grier, Indigenous Initiatives Lead. She spoke to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on May 10, 2022, regarding CCPA's recommendation to re-instate CCCs in the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB).

# Questions? Contact us.

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