



GST/HST Exemption for Counselling Therapy/Psychotherapy Services

The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (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.

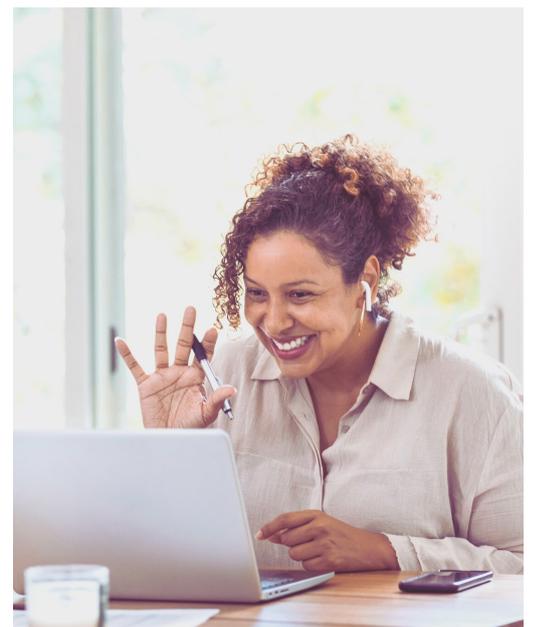
At present, a number of health providers (physicians, psychiatrists, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers) are exempt from charging GST/HST on psychotherapy services, except for counselling therapists and psychotherapists themselves, 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.

We call on the Federal Government to legislatively amend the Excise Tax Act through a finance bill that adds the profession of counselling therapy and psychotherapy on the list of GST/HST exempt health care practitioners.

Bill C-218 An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act

"This bill works to ensure that psychotherapists are treated the same as their fellow practitioners in other health care fields are, who do the same kind of work and who are exempt from the excise tax. I urge the government to get behind this very simple but very necessary bill to rectify this blatant tax inequality. The government says that Canadians' mental health is a priority, and this is an opportunity to do something good for Canadians' mental health and for tax fairness in Canada as well.. We all know the impact COVID-19 has had on people's mental health. It was a crisis before the pandemic, and we are certainly seeing the consequences on people now. This is a small but good first step to help people."

Tabled December 2021 by MP Lindsay Mathysen



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Counselling and Psychotherapy Month
www.ccpa-accp.ca / 1-877-765-5565 / mgreen@ccpa-accp.ca

