

For Immediate Release
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Sexual Assault Charges Highlight Need for Professional Regulation of Massage Therapy in Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, SK: An appearance today in a Saskatoon court by a massage therapist charged with multiple counts of alleged sexual assault involving patients demonstrates the urgent need for provincial legislation to better protect the public according to the Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan (MTAS).

Currently, anyone, even those with little or no training, can call themselves a massage therapist. There is no professional authority that regulates massage therapy in Saskatchewan, as is the case with most other health care providers including chiropractors and physiotherapists.

MTAS is again calling on the provincial government for action to protect the public.

“For the past two years, the provincial government has had draft legislation ready to introduce that would regulate massage therapists in Saskatchewan just as they are in many other provinces,” said Lori Green, MTAS Executive Director.

“We urge the Minister of Health to introduce legislation this fall,” said Green.

After the most recent series of consultations MTAS expected that legislation would be introduced by the Wall government this fall but were disappointed to hear recently that would not be the case.

“It’s unacceptable that the public has no way to check the professional credentials of their massage therapist or to determine if they have had any past incidents of malpractice,” commented Green. “At the moment, MTAS has no legal authority to suspend or stop a massage therapist from practicing now or in the future.”

“The public must be confident that only massage therapists who are highly trained, professionally certified and in good standing with a regulated authority can call themselves a Registered Massage Therapist and use the protected title ‘RMT’,” said Green.

MTAS is comprised of over 800 registered massage therapists in Saskatchewan and is dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the profession of massage therapy and to the health and protection of the public.

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Note to media: Lori Green will be available to comment after the scheduled court appearance.