

Dear Stakeholders:

The Ministry of Health is pleased to invite you to participate in the ongoing consultation regarding potential new legislation, *The Massage Therapists Act*, to regulate the profession of massage therapy in Saskatchewan. Results of the consultation will help inform decisions with regard to proceeding with the proposal.

The Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan, the Natural Health Practitioners of Canada, the Remedial Massage Therapist Association and the London and Counties Society of Physiologists are proposing to regulate massage therapists in Saskatchewan. Over the last several years the four associations have worked together to address key issues for the regulation of massage therapists, in particular, the transition of current practitioners into a regulatory college once it is established.

Recently, the massage therapy associations confirmed they have come to a consensus regarding a proposed recommendation for the transitioning of current practitioners. This new proposed model eliminates the requirement included in the previous proposal for many current practitioners to successfully challenge an entrance exam to be eligible for licensure. Rather, all existing practitioners would be assessed against the profession's National Competency Profile to ensure consistent standards with other regulated jurisdictions.

The proposal being put forward to regulate massage therapy in Saskatchewan is similar to what has been adopted in the five provinces where massage therapy is already regulated. That means members of the regulatory college would have title protection (i.e. "Massage Therapist", "Registered Massage Therapist"). Unregulated individuals would not be able to use "Massage Therapist", "Registered Massage Therapist" or any variant of those protected titles under the proposed legislation. However, this proposal would have no effect on current business names so long as they do not refer to the protected titles. The proposal will not prevent the delivery of a relaxation massage or exotic massage, provided the practitioner does not call themselves a massage therapist or registered massage therapist.

Please find attached the following documents included in the consultation package:

- A draft side-by-side document explaining provisions of the proposed legislation;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to provide additional information regarding the proposed legislation; and
- Stakeholder consultation questions to help you provide feedback regarding the proposed legislation.

I would appreciate if you would provide your written feedback on the proposal to regulate massage therapists to me at rbayliss@health.gov.sk.ca on or before **June 30, 2019**. You may also respond by mail or fax to:

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If you require additional time to respond or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (306) 787-0039.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bayliss
Team Lead, Senior Policy Analyst

Attachments