

My insurance will cover me no matter where I work in the world?

False. Any Canadian insurance policy will only cover you in Canada. If you work on a cruise ship or in another country you would need to obtain insurance coverage there.

Can I be a member of the NHPCA or CMMOTA and MTAS?

Yes.

What is the truth about SGI and WCB?

MTAS has exclusive agreements with both WCB and SGI. Contact information is listed below. You are free to choose whether or not to treat SGI and WCB clients.

Chris Drobot (WCB) - cdrobot@wcbsask.com

Jamie Rissling (SGI) – jrissling@sgi.sk.ca

Do you have an opinion of whether massage therapy should be a regulated profession in Saskatchewan?

MTAS believes strongly in self-governing regulation so that the public is protected when seeking treatment in massage therapy.

MTAS believes that through regulation, the public can be assured that their therapist will be competent, educated and adhere to the standards of practice in the province.

Regulation would move massage therapy under the provincial health legislation and therefore therapists would be considered primary health care providers.

If massage therapy in Saskatchewan were to become legislated, would MTAS be recognized to my benefit?

We are hopeful that the membership qualifying exam that you take to become a member of MTAS will enable you to be an automatic member of the College of Massage Therapy of Saskatchewan (not yet formed).

All MTAS members have the minimum competency (2,200 hours) that is the standard for regulated provinces throughout Canada.

Legislation will mean that only MTAS members will be regulated?

False. Regulation will entitle any massage therapist who meets the minimum competency standard as deemed appropriate by the Government of Saskatchewan to become a registered massage therapist. The MTAS position is that a minimum of 2,200 hours of core education should be required, as per the national standard.

Will legislation dictate my hours of work and what I charge clients?

No, legislation is enacted to protect the public from risk of harm. Neither the Government nor MTAS wants to be involved in your day-to-day business. One of the prime points of legislation is title protection of the term RMT. This means that once legislation is in place, there will be an Act of Parliament to protect this professional designation, the College of Massage Therapists of Saskatchewan will be the licensing body, and legal action will be upheld against those using the designation fraudulently.

What are your membership requirements?

Candidates must have graduated from a massage therapy school with a curriculum of at least 2,200 hours and are required to submit their school transcripts prior to receiving the results of the MTAS exam. We also require a clean criminal record check, including vulnerable sector search and a copy of current CPR (C)/Standard First Aid certificate.

Do you have an entrance exam?

Yes, we have a membership qualifying exam (MQE) to test for competency of prospective members. Exams are held in January, June and August annually.

Do you offer help or suggestions to get me started in a business?

We are of the understanding that graduates from Saskatchewan massage therapy schools receive business training as part of their curriculum. MTAS offers continuing education for our members through the website, forums, and also magazine publications from Ontario.

MTAS offers all members the opportunity to speak and interact with members on any topic that they are interested in.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in spring and alternates between Saskatoon and Regina. (3 business credits) and we also offer a variety of continuing education workshops throughout the year.

Do you have requirements to continue further education in massage related courses?

We believe that to be excellent in your career choice, lifelong learning is essential.

As a 2021 graduate, you will be required to earn only 7 business credits during the Con-Ed window November 1st, 2021 to October 31st, 2024 as you are still considered to be in your 2-year grace period. New graduates who do earn additional primary credits during this current window will be allowed to carry over a maximum of 40 credits into the next window.

Do you offer online courses, and when and where are different courses being offered?

Currently MTAS has over 1000 approved on-line or home-study courses. Once you are a member you are provided with a username and password to access the MTAS members-only section of our website, where you can view the complete listing of over 1000 approved continuing education courses. (This is a searchable database of all courses/workshops that have ever been approved).

There are also always many current approved workshops listed in the Coming Events section of the MTAS website. This is accessible by anyone, and the events are listed in chronological order. Please visit us at www.saskmassagetherapy.com.



Membership Benefits and Frequently Asked Questions

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“MTAS is dedicated to the profession of massage therapy and the protection of the public.”

Benefits of Membership:

- We are the largest professional massage therapy Association in Saskatchewan.
- MTAS holds full membership with the Canadian Massage Therapy Alliance (CMTA). This is the national voice for massage therapy in Canada.
- Advocacy with all levels of government for the legislation of the massage therapy profession in Saskatchewan.
- MTAS is recognized provincially and nationally as the voice of massage therapists in the province. For example, Saskatchewan Statistics considers only MTAS members as massage therapists.
- Opens all your careers doors for opportunities in medical clinics, physio/chiro/rehab clinics, fitness facilities, spas etc. You will never be limited in your choices.
- Recognition and approval from all the third party group medical insurance providers. Your receipts are accepted without additional qualification.
- Reciprocity agreements to transfer to non-regulated provinces (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta.)
- Qualified to work worldwide, subject to compliance with immigration and work visa laws.
- Special reduced rates for liability and malpractice insurance.
- Optional flexible health and dental benefits plans tailored to your requirements, plus disability insurance – from Penncorp/La Capitale or Sun Life Financial.
- Exclusive contracts with government agencies SGI and WCB to treat their clients.
- Provincial advertising campaign to increase public awareness of the value of treatment by MTAS members.
- Association advertisement in the Yellow Pages province-wide.
- Promotional brochures and posters.
- Low-cost e-mail and website advertising service.
- Annual members-only continuing education opportunities.
- Free subscription to the massage therapy association member magazine from Ontario.

- Exclusive “members-only” section of the MTAS website. Includes a searchable continuing education database of approved courses, links to other Associations, useful business forms, Bylaws, Standards of Practice, etc.
- Free clinic ad listing in the publicly-accessible “Find a Therapist” section of our website.
- Facebook page for social networking with your peers:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Massage-Therapist-Association-of-Saskatchewan/145260445598968>
- Free access to the Saskatchewan Health Information Resource Program (S.H.I.R.P.) online library that provides Saskatchewan healthcare practitioners with access to reliable, evidence-based health information resources for the practice and continuing professional education.
- Membership affinity program for product and services discounts at a variety of vendors.
- Small lending library.
- Logo apparel.
- Volunteer opportunities with MTAS - Board of Directors and committees, and with community groups.
- Easy, free, knowledgeable and friendly communication with your Association office staff, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 4pm. Lori and Jayne are available and happy to assist you by phone, e-mail or fax. You are also always welcome to come in and visit us - the office is pet-friendly!

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I become a student member?

A student membership will give you access to all areas of the MTAS website and you will receive all of the Association e-mail notices throughout the year, so will be up to date on Association news. Student membership is free.

Can I work while I am a student?

MTAS does not endorse students working as massage therapists outside of the supervised student clinic.

I live on the Alberta and Saskatchewan Border. Do I have to take out two memberships in order to practice?

No, you can use your MTAS or MTAA (Alberta) registration number for all insurance providers. (On occasion, Blue Cross will need to cross-reference your receipts as they are a provincial, not a national, company).

As an MTAS member can I work anywhere in Canada?

Of course, all Canadians can work in Canada. **BUT** in regulated provinces you will need to re-qualify to achieve your RMT status. (Ontario, British Columbia, Newfoundland/Labrador, PEI, and New Brunswick). MTAS has reciprocity agreements in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Alberta so you will not have to challenge their entry to practice exams in order to become a member.

If I were to move to another province, are you recognized as an asset to me?

MTAS membership is considered an asset to join CMTA-recognized associations. For example, MTAS has reciprocity agreements with MTAA in Alberta, MTAM in Manitoba, also with MTANS in Nova Scotia. Where there is regulation in a province (Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, PEI, and Newfoundland/ Labrador), you would need to go through a prior learning assessment and write their exam. An MTAS membership in good standing will not prevent you from challenging an entrance exam in any jurisdiction.

**It is possible to work throughout Canada without a College or Association membership; however in regulated provinces you may not call yourself a massage therapist - you would go under a title of body worker or spa specialist.*

As an MTAS member can I work anywhere in the world?

Of course! You would still need to obtain a work visa, obey all immigration regulations and purchase liability insurance in that country.

If you are planning to work overseas or in the United States, we recommend that you check the legal

requirements and communicate with an Association from that country.

I have heard that I cannot do acupuncture or provide any services out of MTAS scope. Is this true?

No, this statement is false. We have many members who treat with out of scope modalities. If you are providing out of scope services, such as acupuncture, reflexology, Reiki or low intensity laser, those treatments must be billed separately and not as massage therapy and you must keep separate client files. ***Failure to provide accurate information for insurance purposes is fraud and therefore you would be subject to legal action from insurance providers.***

I have to buy my liability insurance through MTAS.

False. It is your decision where you purchase this. MTAS offers insurance through Dusyk & Barlow Insurance Brokerage in Regina at a specially negotiated member rate of \$100.00/year for \$5 million liability and malpractice. You must obtain extra insurance if you are providing acupuncture, laser therapy etc.