

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Attn: Michael Feraday, Executive Director, RMTAO

And Ian Kamm, RMT, RMTAO Board Chair

Dear Mr. Feraday, and Mr. Kamm.

I am writing today with concern of the CBC report of June 17<sup>th</sup>, “Some registered massage therapists in unregulated provinces offering sex for sale and insurance receipts” by Geoff Leo and Leah Hendry. [Some registered massage therapists in unregulated provinces offering sex for sale and insurance receipts | CBC News](#)

Of course, I am concerned with the negative attention and association such stories portray to the public. We expect this type of press to be countered by our salaried representatives, who de facto should be trained and skilled in public and media relations. I hope you are mounting a response if you haven't already.

However I'm most concerned that this report most painfully illuminates the fragmentation, disorganization and ultimate vulnerability in our profession. For example, despite the RMTAO and CMTA reporting regular interactions with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) re: preventing fraud, the article states SunLife and SSQ honour illegitimate claims by sex trade workers.

I'm wondering how, if our representative is diligent in educating the insurance industry via the CLHIA, some of the major insurance companies are still processing illegitimate claims.

I feel disappointed that organizations such as the Massologists and Practitioners in Massage Association of Canada (MPMAC) can continue to exploit insurance claims and damage the reputation of our profession, when we have the might of massage therapist associations in every province, and a national alliance through the Canadian Massage Therapist Alliance (CMTA).

I also expect the Federation of Massage Therapy Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FOMTRAC), established in 2003 and of which our regulator in Ontario a founding member, to play a part in educating governments to be more diligent in pulling the plug on nefarious, deceitful organizations such as MPMAC.

Please explain, Mr. Feraday, in your capacity as RMTAO ED, and an active participant in talks with salaried representatives from the CMTA and CMTO, what is being done to protect the public from clandestine organizations seeking to profit from the popularity of massage therapy.

You might argue that Ontario was not implicated in the article, and the focus was on practitioners in unregulated provinces (note “registered massage therapists” remains in the title of the CBC article). I argue such coverage in the press casts a shadow of complacency, duplicitous behaviour and disingenuous intent across the whole profession, and threatens the confidence of our patients.

Please take steps now to ensure negative media coverage can be handily responded to, and that the gaps in our relations with insurers, with government, within the CMTA and with the very members of

the RMTAO are addressed directly and effectively. I look forward to hearing your action plan for the matter.

Most kind regards,

Don Dillon, RMT