



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bill C-323 Advances to the Finance Committee of the House of Commons:
A Crucial Step Toward Tax-Free Therapy**

[OTTAWA, September 27th 2023] — Today, we are pleased to announce that Bill C-323, sponsored by MP Stephen Ellis with the goal of eliminating taxes on counselling therapy and psychotherapy services, has successfully advanced to the Finance Committee of the House of Commons. This represents a significant milestone in the ongoing effort to make mental health care more accessible to Canadians.

Bill C-323 seeks to remove excise tax on counselling and psychotherapy services provided by Counselling Therapists and Psychotherapists across Canada. The bill addresses the growing concern that the cost of therapy services is a significant barrier for Canadians seeking help for mental health issues.

Over 14,000 Canadians signed a petition earlier this year in support of removing GST/HST from counselling therapy and psychotherapy services, underscoring the pressing need for tax-free therapy services. Last month, CCPA relaunched their campaign calling for the removal of GST/HST on counselling therapy and psychotherapy services. For more information on this relaunch, and to view the GST Countdown which signifies the urgency to resolve this concern by 2025, please visit taxfreetherapy.ca.

Carrie Foster, President of CCPA, expressed her optimism about this development: "We are thrilled that Bill C-323 has moved forward to the Finance Committee. This bill has the potential to transform the landscape of mental health care in Canada by removing financial barriers that prevent many individuals from providing and accessing vital therapy services. As President of CCPA, I am grateful for the support of Canadians and policymakers who recognize the urgency of this issue."

The Finance Committee's further examination of the bill is a crucial step toward its potential implementation. If passed, this legislation could make therapy services more affordable and accessible for Canadians, thereby improving overall mental health and well-being.

CCPA urges all stakeholders and policymakers to support Bill C-323 as it progresses through the legislative process, ultimately working toward a future where mental health care is both comprehensive and affordable for all Canadians. CCPA looks forward to contributing to this process and urges those who also support Bill C-323 to reach out to their local Members of Parliament by visiting taxfreetherapy.ca.

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The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national bilingual association providing professional counsellors and psychotherapists with access to exclusive educational programs, certification, professional development and direct contact with professional peers and specialty groups. CCPA promotes the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians.

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