



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Minister of Finance Unveils Groundbreaking Tax Exemption for Psychotherapy and Counselling Services**

**[OTTAWA, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023]** – The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) was on Parliament Hill this morning to recognize the government’s plans to exempt psychotherapy and counselling services from GST/HST, a pivotal announcement made by Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement. This announcement, once codified in legislation, will impact hundreds of thousands of people across the country who require therapy services. CCPA applauds the government in taking this important step on the road to mental health parity.

As the national association representing counsellors, psychotherapists, and counselling therapists across Canada and as a leading advocate for this change for over a decade, CCPA is eager to see the exemption of GST on psychotherapy and counselling therapy included in the 2024 Budget Implementation Act.

This past August, CCPA launched a Countdown to 2025 which is displayed on the main page of [taxfreetherapy.ca](https://taxfreetherapy.ca) to track the urgency of removing GST/HST from counselling and psychotherapy services before the next federal election is called.

“The announcement from the government is a monumental step toward more inclusive mental health care in Canada. This change is ultimately a benefit to the people in Canada who need the services provided by professionals CCPA represents,” said Lindsey Thomson, Registered Psychotherapist and Director of Public Affairs for the CCPA. “A significant barrier to therapy services is the cost, and reducing the burden of cost on those who need therapy is essential. By exempting psychotherapy and counselling services from GST/HST the government takes a pivotal step in recognizing the role of mental health services, especially professional counsellors and psychotherapists, in overall health care.”

CCPA would like to thank the fourteen thousand Canadians who signed the petition that helped to drive this change as well as all stakeholders involved in this decade-long advocacy process. CCPA invites all those impacted by this recommendation to send a letter of support to their Member of Parliament by visiting [taxfreetherapy.ca](https://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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