



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister of Finance Announces Tax Exemption for Psychotherapy and Counselling Services

[OTTAWA, November 22nd 2023] – Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland tabled the 2023 Fall Economic Statement yesterday, announcing the government’s plans to make psychotherapy and counselling services exempt from GST/HST. As the national association for professional counsellors and psychotherapists and the leading advocate for this exemption, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is eager to see this become reality.

As noted in the Minister’s statement to the House of Commons, psychotherapy and counselling therapy play a vital role in the lives and mental health care of millions of people in Canada. Exempting providers from charging GST will address one of many barriers faced by those seeking care including but not limited to shortages of mental health providers, long wait times, and financial inaccessibility due to a lack of coverage for services in private insurance plans.

“This is a significant step in the right direction,” said Carrie Foster, President of CCPA. “We have been advocating for this change for many years and through this recommendation the government recognizes the barriers faced by so many people, both in receiving accessible mental health care and for counselling therapists and psychotherapists who provide these services. We look forward to seeing this legislative change come to fruition in the 2024 Budget.”

This is a pivotal and historic moment for all people in Canada who access and provide mental health services. This recommendation has the potential to transform the landscape of mental health care in Canada by removing a financial barrier that may prevent many individuals from accessing vital therapy services. CCPA, along with its partners who have advocated for this change, look forward to the removal of GST and hope the provincial and territorial governments will take the lead from the federal government in removing HST/PST from therapy services.

CCPA would like to thank the fourteen thousand Canadians who signed the petition that helped to drive this change and invites all those impacted by this recommendation to learn more and send a letter of support to their Member 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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