



Canadian Massage Association
Therapist Association

Association Canadienne
de Massothérapeutes

April 17, 2024

The Canadian Massage Therapist Association (CMTA) is advocating for the removal of the HST/GST from massage therapy services in Canada. In February 2024, a formal proposal was submitted to the Minister of Finance for consideration as part of the budget process. Unfortunately, this request was not incorporated into the April 16 budget announcements. While disappointed, the CMTA remains committed to continuing its efforts to communicate with government officials and departments, ensuring that HST/GST exemption on massage therapy services be given due consideration. Massage therapy is an integral part of individuals' health care choices; eliminating the tax will improve the affordability and accessibility for Canadians.

An e-petition calling for this exemption circulated from December 11, 2023, to April 9, 2024. The e-petition garnered 18,382 signatures from across Canada in support of the HST/GST exemption. The e-petition was authorized by Brad Vis, Member of Parliament (MP) for Mission–Matsqui–Fraser Canyon located in British Columbia. The CMTA anticipates that the petition will now be certified and presented to the House of Commons in an effort to increase awareness of this ongoing request.

CMTA Advocacy Calendar 2023-2024 (Timeline of Activities)

The CMTA HST/GST Exemption Working Group meets monthly to plan and evaluate its advocacy activities and includes representatives from across the country: Gordon MacDonald (RMTBC), Lori Green (MTAS), Wendy Thienes (CMTA), Tricia Weidenbacher (MTAM), Michael Feraday (RMTAO), Hannah Watkins (NLMTA), Greg MacDonald (MTANS), and Coralie Hopkins (ANBMT).

April 2023: The CMTA conducted a survey of its members; 98% of 6500 respondents from ten provincial associations were in favour of the HST/GST exemption for massage therapy services.

July 2023: Letters were sent to MPs explaining the rationale and specific steps required for exemption; face-to-face follow-up meetings were held in various constituencies across the country.

August 2023: A pre-budget consultation submission was forwarded to the Department of Finance for consideration.

December 2023: The e-petition was launched in the House of Commons.

February 2024: A Budget proposal was submitted to the Department of Finance to formally request the HST/GST exemption on massage therapy services.

April 2024: The e-petition closed on April 11 with 18,382 signatures.