[EMAIL SUBJECT]: **Stop Taxing My Therapy OR Remove HST from Psychotherapy**

Dear                                                <--[YOUR MP’s / MPPs NAME AND TITLE HERE]

I am writing to you as a concerned Registered Psychotherapist **[or citizen, or member of an organization, etc.]** regarding the HST currently levied on psychotherapy services provided by Registered Psychotherapists.

I am asking for your help and advocacy to remove a tax which makes this essential service inaccessible to many Canadians when they need it most.

Currently, the only professionals providing psychotherapy who must charge HST are psychotherapists.

Nurses, social workers, psychologists, doctors and occupational therapists are exempt when providing *the same service* – psychotherapy.

This discrepancy is unfair to both clients and psychotherapists.

In Ontario, clients pay 13% more for therapy with a Registered Psychotherapist, which, on average, amounts to $17.26 per session. Many who are coping with mental health challenges struggle to pay for the help they need, and this tax adds an additional financial burden, while putting therapy out of reach for many others.

As there are approximately 7000 RPs in Ontario alone, this tax affects many who want to work with an RP for their particular training, experience, specialization, location or availability.  This situation is particularly pressing when the mental health needs of Canadians are greater, and the ability to pay is lower, than pre-pandemic.

We know that mental health crises are on the rise today. One in four Canadians will suffer a mental health or addiction crisis - this situation has increased from one in five since the pandemic. **The Liberal Government says they want to provide resources. One simple way to do this would be to stop taxing therapy.**

The growing awareness of the many ways in which systemic racism, social injustice and economic inequality have blocked – and continue to block – access to meaningful mental health supports, signals that it’s time to gain momentum and remove this financial barrier!

Given the inequity of the situation, I would greatly appreciate your support in helping us to remove the HST on psychotherapy.

A group of concerned Registered Psychotherapists has started a petition to go to Finance Minister Freeland. This was created a short time ago and already there are hundreds of signatures, and growing:<https://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/remove-sales-tax-on-psychotherapy-1>

There is also a website at<https://stoptaxingmytherapy.com/> which provides a history of frustrated attempts of psychotherapists to exempt psychotherapy from the HST.

Attached is a poster highlighting the issues, and a hashtag: #stoptaxingmytherapy.

If you could show support for this issue and help end this unfair tax, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE, RP# IF APPLICABLE/ ADDRESS INCLUDING POSTAL CODE / AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER / EMAIL ADDRESS]