

Message from Corinne Flitton, Registrar & CEO

What's the Role of the College?

Finding safe and qualified healthcare professionals for ourselves and our loved ones is an extremely important and worthwhile task given the variety of healthcare providers available today. Healthcare providers can be regulated or unregulated. Regulated providers are held accountable for the care they provide. Because Massage Therapy is one of 29 regulated health professions in Ontario, it's the job of the College to oversee and govern Registered Massage Therapists to ensure the public receives ethical, safe and high-quality care.

Our College was established by the Government of Ontario to protect the public interest. One of the ways that we meet this mandate is by setting the minimum requirements to become an RMT in the province. As registrants will know, before becoming an RMT in Ontario, CMTO requires that candidates with approved Massage Therapy education take a certification examination, comprised of two components. One called the "MCQ" is a multiple-choice science and theory examination, and the other, called the "Objectively Structured Clinical Evaluation" is a practical examination. The exam is designed to evaluate candidates' practice knowledge and skill application.

As the College is tasked with overseeing the Massage Therapy profession, we also set and enforce the Standards of Practice to ensure clients receive safe, confidential and ethical Massage Therapy treatment.

As a registrant of the College, the public can be assured that you are a regulated health professional who is governed by applicable legislation, standards and rules and are accountable for these. As part of CMTO's role as a regulator, we provide guidance and education to you to help you understand your responsibilities. In accordance with the model of self-regulation in the province, which applies to all regulated health professions, the profession funds regulatory activities. CMTO's sole source of funding is revenue from registration fees. In addition to supporting the College's activities such as registration, renewal, and managing investigations, these fees also fund:

- Quality Assurance programming; and
- Discipline hearings.

Other non-statutory activities which fees fund are:

- Practice advice;
- Updated guidance to registrants;
- Learning development opportunities;
- Research into Massage Therapy;

- Massage Therapy Education accreditation program; and
- CMTO's website and public register.

One of the goals of all these activities is to ensure that Massage Therapists continue to be regulated health professionals that the public can trust. From the public's perspective, the College's public register is a tool to assist in making informed choices about their care. On the public register, clients can verify whether the practitioner they intend to book an appointment with is a Registered Massage Therapist. They can also check if an RMT speaks their language, find out where they practise, and confirm if they have a history of complaints made against them. CMTO also uses public service announcements online, on the radio, and in print format to make the public aware that Massage Therapists are regulated healthcare professionals and that more information about each one can be found on the public register. These announcements also encourage clients to contact our College for assistance if they have a question or concern about a Massage Therapy treatment.

If you have questions about the activities of the College, or how we are working to maintain public trust in the profession, I urge you to review our 2017 Annual Report or Council Meeting agenda packages which are posted on our website. Questions about Practice Advice should be forwarded to practicespecialist@cmto.com at any time and general questions about the College can be sent to CMTO@cmto.com.