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Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

April 27, 2022

Dear friends,

We are writing you today to share new news of the NDP's ongoing commitment to expand access to mental health and addictions services here in Ontario.

On April 3, 2022, our leader Andrea Horwath announced our plan to incorporate mental health services into Ontario's publicly-funded health insurance program; we look forward to having Ontario's Registered Psychotherapists become a part of that plan. We believe this plan will help people access mental health and addictions supports, and also believe it will help us attract new Registered Psychotherapists to Ontario.

One immediate step we can make while we implement this plan to expand access to mental health services is removing the HST from services provided by Registered Psychotherapists (RPs). Together, we have tabled a bill that does just that. With the cooperation of the other parties, it could be passed immediately.

The pressures of pandemic measures, closures and isolation have increased demand for mental health services that were already scarce. Creating capacity takes time, but in the interim it's imperative we take any action we can to reduce barriers to mental health services in our province. Removing HST from RP services is an immediate change we can make to get more Ontarians the services they need to stay healthy.

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