



Mr. Michael Feraday
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario
704-1243 Islington Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 1Y9

Dear Mr. Feraday:

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns regarding access to personal protective equipment (PPE) in the massage therapy profession. Your email was forwarded to us from the Ministry of Health for a response and your patience in the interim has been appreciated.

The Ontario government is working to safely and gradually reopen the province – with a focus on jobs, opportunities for growth, and protecting our province from future outbreaks. To support business-owners, workers and the economic recovery of the province, the government has launched a website to provide businesses with information on personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers. The [Workplace PPE Supplier Directory](#) has an up-to-date list of Ontario companies and business associations that are ready to supply personal protective equipment.

All of the companies listed on the website are Ontario companies who have consented to be listed and attested that they are compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. Please note that the Province is not acting as an agent or partner of the businesses listed on the website, nor as a promoter of those business or their products. The Province makes no guarantee or assurance regarding the sale of the products to prospective purchasers found on the website.

In addition to the Workplace PPE Supplier Directory, our government has launched [Ontario Together](#), a website that allows businesses and individuals to submit ideas to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak and redirect resources towards the production of essential equipment including ventilators, masks, swabs and eye protection.

We appreciate your concerns regarding the financial difficulties some of your members are currently facing and recognize the devastating impact COVID-19 is having on the business community. We are continuing to speak with business owners and associations to hear about the impacts they are experiencing and how the government can support them as more businesses reopen and in the longer-term recovery.

Since first learning of COVID-19, our government has taken significant steps to help businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. To support the provincial effort to deal with this crisis, our government launched [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#). This is a \$17 billion package with funding targeted to help families and businesses.

This plan includes the following:

- \$3.7 billion to support people and jobs;
- \$6 billion in relief by temporarily deferring taxes for 100,000 Ontario businesses;
- \$1.9 billion to allow employers to defer Workplace Safety and Insurance Board payments; and
- \$1.8 billion to defer municipal education property tax payments.

We continue to work with our counterparts through our [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain.

To support small businesses, the Ontario government has worked with the federal government to develop the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending, supported through [Export Development Canada](#) (EDC) and the [Business Development Bank](#) (BDC). This program will help businesses meet cash flow requirements through guaranteed loans. Ontario has also committed \$241 million in partnership with the federal government to deliver more than \$900 million in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program \(CECRA\)](#).

We have also recently partnered with the federal government to help small businesses reach more customers through the [Digital Main Street](#) platform. This \$57-million program will help up to 22,900 Ontario businesses create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than 1,400 students.

For more information on how we are helping businesses navigate the economy during this time, please visit the government of Ontario's COVID-19: [Support for businesses](#). You may also wish to consult [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) for more information on federal government supports for businesses.

Once again, thank you for writing. We greatly appreciate the observations and recommendations that you have highlighted for our consideration.

Sincerely,



Victor Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

- c: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills
Development
Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
David Corbett, Deputy Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario