

Attn: Chair of Law Amendments Committee

Bill No. 193

Title Protection Legislation for Massage Therapists in Nova Scotia

My name is Mr. Kelly Carrington and I have been a RMT in Nova Scotia for the past 18 years. I have been a member of MTANS in good standing since I started my career. I have been involved at the board level of MTANS for many years in different positions and held the position of President of MTANS from 2011-2015. I currently sit on the board as Vice President.

Throughout my time working with the public and my involvement with MTANS, there has always been a consistent goal, which is to bring massage therapy to the forefront of the public's mind as well as bring massage therapy in line with other professions that we work along side on a daily basis. Currently, MTANS, a volunteer organization run by massage therapist for massage therapists, has no real and tangible way of protecting the public from those who wish to call themselves a "massage therapist." MTANS does its best to make sure that the public is educated about their rights to protect themselves. MTANS members do their best every day by doing their job consistently and safely. Every time a news article comes out about a massage therapist being charged with something inappropriate, all we can do as massage therapists is hope that the government takes notice and recognizes that RMT associations need to be able to have some tangible ability to protect the public before the public gets victimized. This bill is a step in the right direction. I am not saying that this bill will protect everyone from being victimized, but if it saves one person from the general public from becoming a victim, is that not enough? For 18 years I have been watching and waiting for the government to take notice and recognize that the hard working people who call themselves RMTs have earned the right to do so by maintaining our education, following our standards of practice, and practicing safely, yet any member of the general public without training in massage therapy can call themselves a RMT. The public NEEDS to be protected from these people. Period. There has been an increase in the number of complaints that MTANS has received from the public and we are doing our very best to ensure that the public is being protected. But we need more. This bill leads us in the right direction. It is time for RMTs in this province to have the protection of our title so that when we, as registered Massage Therapists in the province, place RMT at the end of our names, it means something.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to share my opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Kelly Carrington RMT in black ink.