



NMOS
NATIONAL MANUAL OSTEOPATHIC
SOCIETY



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February 3, 2021

Dr. David Williams
Chief Medical Officer of Health
21st Flr, 393 University Ave
Toronto, ON
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Dear Dr. Williams,

I am the Executive Director for the National Manual Osteopathic Society (NMOS) and I am writing to request an exemption to the Ontario Regulation 82/20 that would allow manual osteopaths to return to practice.

The NMOS was established in 2011 as a non-profit organization committed to the furtherment of manual osteopathy across Canada. To date we represent over 500 manual osteopaths in 10 provinces and 1 territory including 331 manual osteopaths in Ontario.

Enclosed you will find hundreds of letters of support from manual osteopathic clients expressing how their lives are being negatively affected by not being able to seek treatment. These letters are heartbreaking to read as people with long term pain who have found relief, are no longer able to access care. The treatments these people receive allow them to continue with their daily lives, something that medication does not always offer. It has been shown that people who are not suffering from physical pain are less likely to have a compromised immune system and therefore able to better fight off any illness that they are afflicted with. People who are not suffering physical pain are also able to better deal with the added mental strain that this pandemic has added to all of us.

NMOS implemented a Canada wide Back to Work protocol in June 2020 which allowed practitioners to return to work after the last lockdown. These protocols are in alignment with other health professionals and were reviewed by the Ontario Minister of Health's office in July 2020. Since then, the protocols have been revised and rebranded to COVID-19 Workplace Protocols. The complete details of these protocols can be found at <https://nmos.ca/covid-19-information/>. These protocols simply enhanced the already high sanitizing practices that therapists were exercising, ensuring the utmost of safety for both client and therapist. Since the reopening in the summer of 2020, manual osteopaths have implemented these standards into their clinics and have been practicing safely.

The attached letters from the colleagues of these manual osteopaths speak to this stating that the standards put in place are no different than that of those who are regulated health professionals.

Many of our members are not only manual osteopaths, but also members of a regulated health professional colleges including the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario, College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturist of Ontario, the College of Nurses of Ontario, and the College of Chiropractors of Ontario.

I understand that Ontario is in an emergency situation where the goal of the restrictions is to limit the spread of the virus and help an already overwhelmed healthcare system. However, deciding that manual osteopaths can not practice simply because they are not regulated does not make them any less safe, effective, or essential to their clients.

These manual osteopaths are providing an essential service to their clients and community. We respectfully request that you issue an exemption for manual osteopaths and allow these therapists to return to their practice and to their clients to help fight this pandemic by improving their physical and mental health.

Sincerely,

Pamela Bernard
Executive Director
National Manual Osteopathic Society

Attachment 1: Letters of Support from Clients- 169 pages

Attachment 2: Letters of Support from NMOS Members- 25 pages

Attachment 3: Letters of Support from Colleagues- 23 pages