

From: **Mathyssen, Lindsay - M.P.** <Lindsay.Mathyssen@parl.gc.ca>
Date: Thu, May 11, 2023 at 10:16 AM
Subject: RE: #TaxFreeTherapy Update Video
To: farbdaniel@gmail.com <farbdaniel@gmail.com>

Dear Daniel,

Thanks so much for taking the time to create this video and send it to me. I really appreciate this information and your support. You've included some terrific arguments! In fact, I want to further get some answers from the many questions you raise in the video. Please find the letter to the Minister of Finance attached.

I was very pleased to bring this bill forward. I was approached by a local psychotherapist in London, Ontario and worked to advance this issue.

As you know, my Bill - [Private Member's Bill C-218 \(44-1\) - First Reading - An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act \(psychotherapy services\) - Parliament of Canada](#); completed first reading on December 16, 2021.

Currently, this bill is outside the Order of Precedence. I'm not sure if you know, and I apologize if this information is already known, but for Private Members' Bills, which are the only pieces of legislation opposition MPs can introduce, there is a lottery or a draw and MPs are given an order by which they can put forward their legislative initiatives. My number is in the middle of the pack, so it could take several years to come forward.

However, often MPs will put forward legislative ideas with the hope that they can work with the government to have them adopt the legislation immediately. This is something the government can do at any time - they can introduce any piece of legislation at any time. I am reaching out to my colleagues in the House from all parties to support this legislation.

This is also why it is so important for me to work with organizations across Canada like the Ontario Society of Registered Psychotherapists and the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. I have started to work with these organizations so that they can reach out to their memberships and help put pressure on the government to adopt my bill immediately.

The response we received from the petition I brought forth on March 6, was inadequate, and with the help of my colleagues, we won't stop pushing for this.

I am also prepared to provide consultation and support on Bill C-323, [C-323 \(44-1\) - LEGISinfo - Parliament of Canada](#), which mirrors my bill, and as a Private Member's Bill from the official opposition, it may pass more quickly through the House of Commons.

Rest assured, the bill to amend the Excise Tax Act in order to exempt psychotherapy services from the goods and services tax, is very important to me. I welcome any and all support to bring attention to this bill to help it being adopted by the government, because it is a much-needed law to make access to mental health supports more fair and more affordable.

Thank you again for reaching out and please don't hesitate to contact me again at any time.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Mathyssen

Member of Parliament

London-Fanshawe