



May 8 2020

To Our Valued Membership

Hopefully by now everyone has had a chance to read through the newly released Return to Work Plan from the CMTNL. This is another step in the right direction – a plan to get everyone back where they want to be, in their workplace helping their clients! The NLMTA will continue working to help support the membership as we all prepare to get back to what we do best.

Thank you to the CMTNL for the hard work put into these guidelines. This comprehensive document shows the level of care and attention to not only protect the public, but the RMT's of NL. To continue to review the plan - <http://www.cmtnl.ca/covid-19/return-to-work-plan-for-covid-19/>

As stated in the last letter, Registered Massage Therapy clinics/services are included in the Provincial Alert Level 3, and if all keeps moving forward positively we can expect Level 3 to be in place June 8, 2020. To review all things COVID-19 and NL related see here <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>.

Liability Insurance Questions & Concerns around Back to Work and CERB

Pat has received a flood of emails today with the release of the guidelines, wanted to address the main themes to try and ease the email load on our MVP, most valuable Pat!

To date, the only clarification made by Lackner and McLennan Insurance Ltd on our policy came in March, was sent out to all members and as a reminder included the following:

Please note we follow the rules and regulations set by CMTNL under NLMTA RMT liability policy. So far the CMTNL has not announced that the suspension of all Non-Essential RMT Treatments / services.

For those who choose to continue to practice, **unfortunately please be advised that their Professional & Commercial General Liability insurance will not cover you should someone become ill with COVID-19 contracted as a result of attending a RMT appointment. Having their patient / client sign a wavier is not guaranteed to protect the members if a lawsuit were to occur.**

When the above was sent out, it was making clear that our policy would not cover an RMT who found themselves faced with a lawsuit by a client who links contracting COVID-19 to an appointment with the RMT. The core policy remained unchanged.

The newly released guidelines are shared with Lackner and McLennan Ltd to ensure they are aware, and while we do not anticipate any changes to our liability insurance policy, the membership will be made aware of any clarifications/changes that are sent as soon as they are received!

The other concerns are around the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit. The question of whether an RMT would still be eligible once the mandated shut down is lifted, the back to

work guidelines in place and the RMT **does not** return to work due to COVID-19 safety concerns. Below is hopefully some helpful information:

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html#eligibility>

Am I eligible for the CERB even if my job is still there but I don't feel comfortable going to work as a result of risk associated with COVID-19? For example, what if I have someone at home who has a compromised immune system and I cannot risk infecting them.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is available to those who stop working for reasons related to COVID-19, for example:

- You have lost your job;*
- You are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19;*
- You are taking care of others because they are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19; and/or*
- You are taking care of children or other dependents because their care facility is closed due to COVID-19.*

There may be other reasons related to COVID-19 beyond these examples why you may have stopped working. However, you cannot voluntarily quit your job.

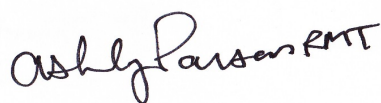
If you are concerned about the safety of your working conditions, you should discuss the situation with your employer.

- If you work in a federally-regulated workplace, you may wish to consult your workplace health and safety committee or health and safety representative as well as the document "Right to refuse dangerous work" at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/health-safety/reports/right-refuse.html>*
- Otherwise, you may wish to consult the website for the department of labour in your province or territory for further information on your rights and the process you should follow. (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/lrb/board/contact.html>)*
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (<https://www.ccohs.ca/>) is another possible resource.*

It is the responsibility of the individual RMT to reach out to the federal government to get 100% clarification on this matter, as it is related to their individual circumstances/concerns.

- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) at 1-833-966-2099 or*
- Service Canada at 1-833-699-0299*

The NLMTA will continue do what it can to gather pertinent information to share with the membership. More to come - please keep informed, stay safe and healthy!



Ashley Parsons RMT

President - NLMTA