

## **Self Regulation Update**

On November 24th, Manitoba Health Minister Sharon Blady announced she has accepted a recommendation made by the Health Professions Advisory Council that Massage Therapy should be regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act. As a result, a self-regulating Manitoba College of Massage Therapists will be established.

The Massage Therapists Association of Manitoba (MTAM) made application for self-regulation soon after our application for designating paramedics as a health profession was submitted. Although there was some opposition to the MTAM submission, as the Health Professions Advisory Council (HPAC) review process unfolded it became clear to all stakeholders that public protection and professional accountability would be best served through self-regulation. Opposition to the MTAM application was withdrawn, and all stakeholders have since worked to achieve this outcome.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba congratulates MTAM and Manitoba's Massage Therapists on today's announcement. Undoubtedly Manitobans will be better served and protected by the designation of Massage Therapy as a regulated health profession and the establishment of a self-regulating College.

Earlier this year, HPAC also recommended that the profession of paramedicine proceed to self-regulation under the Regulated Health Professions Act, following additional dialogue and consensus building with those opposed to our application. At this point, only IAFF union locals remain in opposition to the self-regulation of paramedics. P.A.M. will continue to work with HPAC and government in an effort to work toward an outcome similar to the Massage Therapists that places public protection at the forefront.