

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Healthcare Freedoms and 10,000 Holistic Practitioners Eliminated!

Residents losing control over personal health care choices; natural practitioners relocating.

OTTAWA, January 1, 2016 – Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne proclaimed the *Psychotherapy Act* on April 1st, 2015, without notice and public consultation, setting the stage for the elimination of medical autonomy of Ontarians.

The Wynne government and the current Minister of Health, Dr. Hoskins, want to allow psychologists to appropriate all manner of natural, traditional and holistic approaches as ‘psychotherapeutic approaches’ and to restrict who is now authorized to provide these services.

As a result of also secretly passing the companion *RHPA 14th Controlled Act of Psychotherapy*, it is now unlawful in Ontario to assist another with any human issue - emotional, thinking, reasoning, cognition, perception, memory, judgment, insight, behaviour, communication, social functioning or mental – unless you’re a registered psychotherapist, psychiatrist, psychologist, MD, nurse, occupational therapist or social worker.

Ontario’s *14th Controlled Act of Psychotherapy*, under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, could be proclaimed and thus become enforceable at any time. It is vaguely and confusingly worded as:

“14. Treating, by means of psychotherapy technique, delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual’s serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual’s judgement, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning.” **(RHPA), 1991, 27(2)14*

Psychologists and psychotherapists are free to interpret the terms ‘psychotherapeutic technique’ and ‘serious disorder’ as they wish.

The College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario was established to regulate the field of psychotherapy. Once this act is proclaimed, then it will be enforceable, and will make treatment of human disturbances a ‘controlled act’ that only registered psychotherapists and select other licensed workers (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, MDs and nurses) can do.

Together the *Psychotherapy Act* and the *Controlled Act of Psychotherapy* will affect many essential, credible services that are currently performed by over 10,000 Ontario wellness practitioners. They include hypnotherapy, energy work, spiritual care, nutrition, weight management, holistic education, family therapy, coping skills training, chiropractic care, meditation, Reiki, Polarity, Reflexology and more.

Trueman Tuck, legal advisor and healthcare reform advocate commented in his 2015 Legal Opinion on this legislation: *“No legislation that so profoundly violates personal liberties of so many millions of Citizens can be viable constitutionally if challenged effectively with enough financial and grassroots support.”*

Despite the Supreme Court of Canada repeatedly upholding a citizen’s right to medical autonomy, the Wynne government, to date, has not acknowledged that studies show natural treatments to be safe and that the public is increasingly using them as their preferred healthcare treatments (Fraser Institute: \$5 billion annually by 2006 in Ontario alone, doubling every 10 years).

If they continue to practice, valued holistic service providers could face up to one year of imprisonment and to \$25,000 in fines! Fearing retribution, practitioners are moving their businesses to other provinces in Canada.

To date, 8,205 individuals have signed an online petition and some 400 letters have been sent to MPPs to save natural treatments. Action is underway to force the government to repeal these undemocratic and harmful legislative amendments (Stop Psychotherapy Takeover) and to install ‘safe harbour’ legislation to prevent future attacks on natural treatment providers.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For additional information visit [www. stoppsychotherapytakeover.ca](http://www.stoppsychotherapytakeover.ca)

Contact Info:

Grace Joubarne
Practitioner and Co-founder, Stop Psychotherapy Takeover

admin@stoppsychotherapytakeover.ca

613-422-7027