



Creation of National Pain Task Force

Announcement from Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Federal Minister of Health

April 3, 2019 – Toronto, ON. On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at the Canadian Pain Society's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting, Federal Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor, announced the creation of a national pain task force.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) commends Minister Petitpas-Taylor and the federal government for taking this step to address the needs of those living with chronic pain across Canada. The task force demonstrates the government's understanding that more can be done for chronic pain sufferers and that the current methods of treating chronic pain need to catch up with the latest research and best practices.

"The Canadian Physiotherapy Association congratulates the government on its commitment to a chronic pain management task force to helping Canadians living with chronic pain", said Canadian Physiotherapy Association CEO JP Cody-Cox. "Physiotherapists have extensive expertise in chronic pain management, and we are excited to be able to contribute our knowledge and recommendations to this new initiative."

The task force recognizes the role that physiotherapists play in supporting Canadians who struggle with chronic pain through its appointment of Melissa Anderson, a physiotherapist working in Ottawa. Ms. Anderson will provide insight and expertise to the taskforce developed over her extensive career in clinical and management roles throughout New Brunswick's health care system, along with a master's degree in Public Administration.

The CPA will be developing recommendations for the task force for an approach to chronic pain management that relies on evidence-based solutions and the work of physiotherapists across the country to keep health care costs down while giving pain sufferers the best quality-of-life outcomes.

A recent article from [The Globe and Mail](#) emphasizes the need for more publicly funded treatments, such as physiotherapy, where there is currently "little to no publicly funded physiotherapy or massage."

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Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor announces the establishment of the Canadian Pain Task Force:

[Canadian Pain Task Force](#)

[Canadian Pain Task Force Terms of Reference](#)

[Summary of affiliations and Interests: Canadian Pain Task Force](#)