

## Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC)

Via email: [nparmenter@cba.ca](mailto:nparmenter@cba.ca)

April 7, 2020

Neil Parmenter  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Bankers Association  
Box 348  
Commerce Court West  
199 Bay Street, 30th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5L 1G2

Dear Mr. Parmenter,

### **RE: Health Professional Associations Calling for Banking Supports for Post-Secondary Students During COVID-19**

On behalf of the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC), we would like to bring to the attention of the major Canadian banks some serious concerns raised by the student communities among our health professions. Our member associations represent regulated health care professionals who deliver health care services to Canadians, including dental hygienists, dentists, psychologists, optometrists, social workers, chiropractors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, speech-language pathologists and audiologists. More information about our coalition is provided on the last page of this letter.

Some of the mounting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are uniquely felt by post-secondary students, particularly those studying to become the next generation of Canada's health care professionals.

We are pleased to see the federal government's consideration for students in their COVID-19 Economic Response Plan with a moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans. However, as a national coalition representing many of Canada's health professions, we recognize that student loans represent only one of the financial impacts for students as the result of COVID-19. Many students are expressing concerns about their ability to support themselves through work during these unsettling times, whether they qualify for government COVID-19 supports available to workers, and if they will be able to secure employment when immediate challenges pass or after graduating. These represent only a sample of the common concerns raised.

**We know that many major Canadian banks are offering financial relief programs for their customers through mortgages, personal loans, credit cards and other products. EHPC is requesting that Canadian banks further consider specific relief measures for students in health care professional programs to help bridge them to better times.**

Through COVID-19, all of Canada understands the critical importance of our health care resource. It is essential that we support our next generation of health care providers.

EHPC welcomes the opportunity to discuss these concerns and be consulted on the identification of sensible and effective banking supports for students across our respective health professions during this unprecedented global public health crisis. We encourage you to share this letter with your members and we would be happy to invite you to join us at an upcoming EHPC teleconference to engage with senior leadership in the health sector. Knowing that we are all in this together, we hope that Canadian banks are committed to supporting students during these times.

Ondina Love will be following up with your respective offices within the next week on the matters proposed in this letter. She can also be reached at 613-797-9462 or by email at [olove@cdha.ca](mailto:olove@cdha.ca).

Sincerely,



Ondina Love, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association



François Couillard  
Chief Executive Officer/Chef de la direction  
Canadian Association of Optometrists

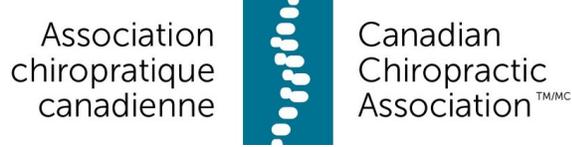


Hélène Sabourin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists



*Alison Dantas*

Alison Dantas, MA, CEC, C. Dir.  
 CEO, CCA  
 Canadian Chiropractic Association



*Fred Phelps*

Fred Phelps  
 Executive Director  
 Canadian Association of Social Workers



*Dr. Alexander Mutchmor*

Dr. Alexander Mutchmor  
 President  
 Canadian Dental Association



*Karen Cohen*

K.R. Cohen Ph.D., C. Psych.  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Canadian Psychological Association





JP Cody-Cox  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Physiotherapy Association



Canadian Association  
Physiotherapy canadienne de  
Association physiothérapie



Joanne Charlebois  
Chief Executive Officer  
Speech-Language & Audiology Canada



SAC  
OAC

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada  
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada  
Communicating care | La communication à coeur



Nathalie Savoie, MBA, RD/Dt.P.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dietitians of Canada



**Dietitians of Canada**  
*Les diététistes du Canada*

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### **About the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC)**

EHPC aims to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in health research and practice and promote the advancement, development, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances health, social services and well-being for Canadians.

Our membership includes:

- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Optometrists
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Dietitians of Canada
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada