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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **A victory for the social work profession!**

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) is pleased to announce that on October 3, 2003 the Federal Government tabled in the House of Commons proposed legislative amendments to include a new GST exemption for health-related services provided by social workers.

In a news release, Finance Canada states, “This measure, developed in consultation with social worker representatives, will ensure that social workers in private practice will not be required to charge GST/HST in respect of the health-related services they render to individuals.”

The official background document explains the Federal Government’s decision by saying, “Social workers provide a broad spectrum of services in both institutional and private settings. A growing number of social workers are specializing in health-related services, such as the assessment and treatment of eating disorders and drug dependencies. In recognition of this, the practice of social work is currently regulated as a health care profession by the governments of five provinces, which satisfies the policy criteria for inclusion of a particular health care service on the list of those that are exempt from the GST/HST in all provinces. The proposed amendment exempts social workers’ services of counselling individuals for the prevention or treatment of physical or mental disorders or to assist afflicted individuals or their caregivers in coping with such conditions.

“The vast majority of social workers’ services are provided by government organizations or in institutional settings where there is no separate fee to the individual. However, for the increasing number of social workers who are working in private practice, the proposed exemption ensures that they are not required to charge GST/HST in respect of the health services they render to individuals.”

The exemption is proposed to apply to services provided after October 3.

For more information, visit [www.fin.gc.ca/news03/03-046e.html](http://www.fin.gc.ca/news03/03-046e.html).