



MAMFT

Manitoba Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

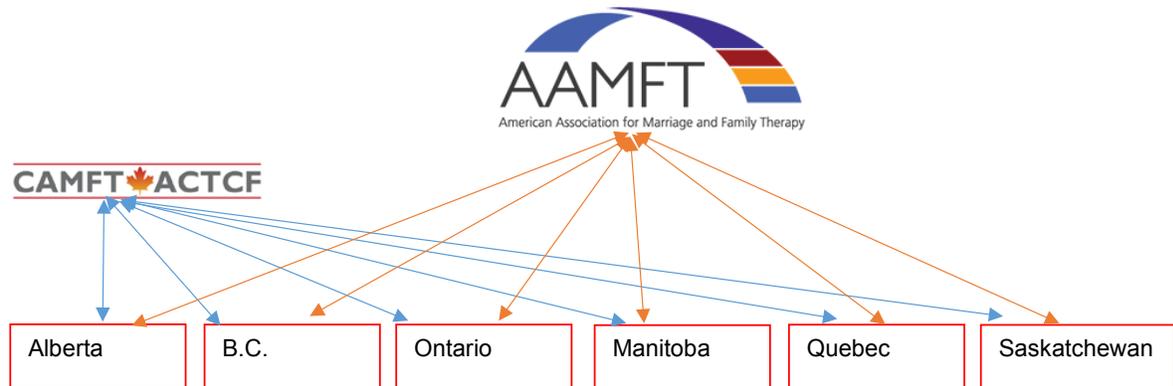
Frequently Asked Questions

We have received various questions and comments over the last couple of years and in particular as part of the response to the recent survey that was done of all MAMFT members. Five themes were identified as common in these various comments/ questions. There are some additional FAQs within each of these themes.

1. Confusion re: CAMFT

It is a common misunderstanding that CAMFT is part of AAMFT. In actuality, AAMFT and CAMFT (formerly the *Canadian Registry*) do not have any formal relationship (see “CAMFT History sheet”). AAMFT did agree to *rebate* a portion of dues already collected from Canadian members back to the CR (Canadian Registry as it was called back then) in recognition of gaps in benefits for Canadian members. Since the early 1990s this has been \$10/Clinical Member and \$5/other member categories. In 2016, AAMFT Board voted to discontinue this rebate.

In 2014, the CR changed its name to “Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy /L’ Association Canadienne pour la thérapie conjugale et familiale” (CAMFT).



Relationship includes: levy, grant, advocacy and Registrants



Relationship includes: all membership processing, ethics, divisional activities, benefits such as Leadership Development, Approved Supervisor, Emerging Professionals, annual conference, email lists.

Who are the members of CAMFT? Aren't all Canadian MFTs members of CAMFT?

The CAMFT is related to the AAMFT through its members and registrants. Members of the CAMFT are the Canadian **Divisions** (as a whole) of the AAMFT. Each Member (Division) is represented by the current President of that Division who serves on the CAMFT Board of Directors.

Registrants of the CAMFT are Canadian **Clinical Fellows** of AAMFT.

Currently, individuals from other member categories of AAMFT are not represented by a specific membership category however the CAMFT is committed to promoting the interests and communities served by all MFTs in Canada and receives funding to support Canadian AAMFT members in all categories.

In 2017 CAMFT is drafting changes to its by-laws to change the **members** from being divisions to being individual members. Then each MFT member will have a direct relationship with CAMFT. If the AAMFT vote for restructuring passes, then there will also be a need to consider how individual members will connect with CAMFT. Under the potential new AAMFT by-laws, individual members will not automatically be part of divisions or any Canadian entity related to AAMFT. Members will have a choice as to whether to also join other interest networks and CAMFT (in whatever way it is structured in the future).

CAMFT is currently considering various options and has been surveying Canadian MFTs to get their input for desired direction of CAMFT.

In May 2017, CAMFT met with leadership of AAMFT and spent two full days brainstorming, analyzing and exploring possible options for a different kind of relationship between a Canadian wide group of MFT with AAMFT. AAMFT is bringing these ideas back to their Board and we hope to hear soon what possibilities they see for partnering for continuing to promote the profession collaboratively. Any new structure between AAMFT and a potential CAMFT will likely unfold over several years.

The key concern is that we have a professional community that supports and promotes MFT as a distinct profession in a way that is relevant and supportive of our Canadian context.

CAMFT will continue to update Canadian MFTs as we learn more and promote MFT in Canada.

It will be up to Canadian MFTs to choose where to invest in a professional home.



MAMFT

Manitoba Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

2. Confusion re: RMFT designation. What is it? Who gets it?

Clinical Fellows are the highest level membership within AAMFT and are *Registrants* in CAMFT. Registrants (Clinical Fellows) are given the credential “Registered Marriage and Family Therapist” or “RMFT”, indicating standing as a Clinical Fellow with AAMFT. This is highly valued by many MFTS across Canada. In jurisdictions without regulation in particular, this is often a credential that is recognized by employers, clients and peers as indicating a particular level of education and training.

What is the relevance then of CAMFT for Student, Affiliate or Pre-Clinical members?

CAMFT works to support all Canadian MFTs in the following ways:

- The CAMFT provides benefits that the AAMFT has been unable to provide for Canadian members such as competitive rates for professional liability insurance through McFarlan Rowlands.
- The CAMFT has successfully lobbied for the inclusion of RMFTs as recognized providers for Canadian veterans through Medavie/Blue Cross and to be recognized by the Department of National Defence. The CAMFT continues to seek the increased recognition of RMFTs in 3rd party payments plans. Increasingly we see individual insurance companies across Canada recognizing MFTs in their coverage.
- Provide information to Canadian AAMFT Divisions such as giving Divisions timely information and analysis about the AAMFT restructuring proposals and the implications for Canadian members.
- Provide quality national conferences to bring our professionals together. In 2016 Connie Elliot was featured, presenting on using Solution Focused Couples Therapy.
- “Find a Canadian Registered Marriage and Family Therapist” section of the new CAMFT website – this is a free benefit for CAMFT registrants to connect members of the public seeking therapy services to an RMFT practicing in their region of Canada.
- Free listings for MFT job postings are free to post at any time.
- Networking and presenting at events nationally representing MFTs.



MAMFT

Manitoba Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

3. What is happening with the AAMFT restructuring vote in 2017? What will this mean for Canadian members if it passes?

The AAMFT Board is recommending the following structural change to the AAMFT membership for ratification (vote): (see Bylaws Proposal One-Pager handout)

- That a 2-tier membership will no longer be mandatory, AAMFT will no longer require members to join a Division in addition to AAMFT as part of their membership.
- AAMFT Divisions will be dissolved and optional Special Interest Groups (SIGs) could be created based on geography, topic or issue (eg. Florida SIG, adoption SIG, advocacy SIG).
- SIGs will be temporary structures created when a need or desire is identified through an application process with a defined minimum numbers of applicants.
- A SIG will cease to exist if membership drops below a specified level.

How will this affect what member pays for dues to the AAMFT?

Fees would be reduced in certain circumstances - presently the fee structure is comprised of the AAMFT due (\$201), plus the Division due. The new fee would be \$201 plus optional dues for each special interest group (SIG) one chooses to join. It is unknown if AAMFT due will remain the same. The dues for SIGs would be in the likely range of \$30 to \$50 each. If a person joins several interest groups, the fees would be comparable or potentially higher. If only one or two interest groups are joined the fees would be lower in most cases.

If the membership votes to ratify the motion for a one-tier AAMFT, what will replace State/Provincial Divisions?

If the resolution passes, AAMFT State and Provincial Divisions will be dissolved. There will be no State/Provincial entity that is officially connected, supported and funded through AAMFT.

- A special Interest Group (SIG) could form around the same geographic location as a former Division if there is sufficient numbers petitioning to form it among other requirements. Membership in a geographic SIG would be strictly optional. **MAMFT is leaning toward this.**
- A Division could become an independent association following a vote to ratify the motion. In this scenario, the Division would be entirely independent from AAMFT, would not receive

any portion of AAMFT dues, would not receive staff support from AAMFT and would have no charter affiliation with AAMFT.

What happens to membership certification eg. “Clinical Fellow”? Will maintaining certification require a member to maintain AAMFT membership and pay AAMFT dues?

Currently AAMFT provides the certification Clinical Fellow for those members who meet the criteria for the category and are members in good standing (ie. Dues are paid). Maintaining AAMFT certification will require continued membership with AAMFT following a restructuring.

How will advocacy be taken care of if the membership votes to dissolve Divisions given that most legislation impacting the MFT profession is based at the State/Provincial level?

Under the newly proposed structure, all members with an interest in advocacy would join together in a large advocacy special interest group. If a local geographic interest network is set up, it is possible local efforts could continue through this group. There may be some access to general support from AAMFT.

What are the risks of the restructuring proposal for Canadian members who reside in jurisdictions where MFTs are not regulated?

The risks of the restructuring are likely far greater for Canada members as a mostly unregulated environment for MFT’s (except for Quebec where MFTs have practice and title protection and Ontario where they are regulated if they join a College that regulates Psychotherapy but without title or practice protection).

Health services are provincial jurisdictions - to dissolve Divisions would potentially undermine the ability of MFTs in an unlicensed province to negotiate given that governments typically do not negotiate with groups that do not have provincial representation.

It is key to note that one division has regulation and title protection(Quebec), one division has access to regulation, but with no title protection(Ontario) and two divisions are quite close to achieving some kind of regulation in the relatively near future (Alberta and BC). The more regions with regulation, the more pressure this adds on governments in other regions as well.

What are Special Interest Groups, how are they created and governed?

Special Interest Groups (SIGs), are groups comprised of members of a larger association that are organized around specific interests. SIGs develop from shared interest among subject-matter areas, locality (city/province/state/regions), and issue-oriented work. Special interest groups can be created for several reasons: (1) to meet a permanent need or area of focus like advocacy; (2) to address a sub-segment/topic of interest within a profession over time; (3) to meet a temporary and emergent need. Interest groups are typically intended to exist on a temporary basis and have a developmental growth curve: originate and form, develop, cease.

So in theory, a person would join AAMFT and then would have choice to join as many different SIGS they choose. If there is a local geographic interest network or group, it will be up to each member to choose whether to join it or not.



MAMFT

Manitoba Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

4. Clear Support for Canadian Association for MFT

In our recent survey re: interest and value of RMFT and CAMFT, we heard from half of you! That is an excellent response rate on a survey in an organization like ours. Thank you for your participation.

Of those who responded, there is a clear desire for the continuation and expansion of a Canadian MFT presence. Approximately 85 % of you stated the RMFT designation, which is a credential granted specifically by CAMFT, is important to you, and also that you would be willing to support an association to be able to retain this credential.

In your comments it is clear that there is an appetite for a more articulated Canadian association. There are also questions that some of you have and some concerns by some that there is not enough value in the RMFT or the CAMFT as they stand now.

5. What will happen to MAMFT?

We have a robust division in MAMFT. We have a growing membership. We have a high number of student and Pre-Clinical members who do, for the most part, go on to become Clinical Members.

We have a steady turnout of 20 – 30 % of our membership at our events, small workshops and annual meetings. From these members we have heard clearly the call for ongoing connection, face-to-face meetings and community work to raise the profile of MFTs in our province. There is also a desire to continue the hard work seeking regulation of our profession. Although there is currently no political will in the government of the day, we are pursuing solidification of our presence, initiating research into the value and need for regulation of MFTs in Manitoba, and working to build relationships with other service providers and bodies seeking regulation.

MAMFT will continue to offer opportunities for learning, networking and connecting as an MFT community through our events, newsletter, website and social media as long as we are under our current structure.

If the vote passes and our division dissolves, we will likely pursue setting up a geographic interest network, possibly inviting our Saskatchewan neighbours to join us. It will remain to be seen if Manitoba MFTs will choose to belong to such a group, and what its future and focus will be.

Keep asking questions, keep informed and learn about the evolving landscape for MFT globally.