

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship  
Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



**PCPSA August 2006**

The *Medications Return Program* is an e-bulletin by PCPSA published on a quarterly basis with information on recent developments. All members can subscribe or unsubscribe by following the instructions at the end of this document.

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**PROVINCIAL UPDATE**

**BC Public consultation for Medications Return Program**

Last month information on public consultation initiatives were sent to all members, community pharmacies as well as industry stakeholders and some member of the public. We have heard from numerous community pharmacists on their participation and views on how to improve the current program. However we would like to hear comments from brand-owners funding the program. This is a reminder to visit our website before September 15<sup>th</sup> and complete the consultation questionnaire. Your input is needed.

**MANITOBA Manitoba Stewardship Regulations set for fall consultation**

Green Manitoba is an agency established by the province to lead and coordinate an expanded and enhanced system for product stewardship. They now have a website at <http://www.greenmanitoba.ca/cim/1001.dhtm>

**QUÉBEC RECYC-QUÉBEC awarded Certificates of Performance**

M. Robert Lemieux, CEO at RECYC-QUÉBEC awarded the Certificates of Performance at an annual public ceremony. This program, offered through RECYC-QUÉBEC, offers industrial, commercial and institutional establishments flexible and innovative mechanisms to promote responsible management of residual materials in a greater framework of sustainable development. The ICI ON RECYCLE program is derived from the plan of action described in the *Politique Québécoise de gestion de matières résiduelles 1998-2008*, and seeks to recognize those establishments that reach the targets specified in the evaluation criteria of the program. In 2006 the following brand-owners were recognized:

**Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.**

Already recipient of an ICI ON RECYCLE! Certificate in 2003, Merck Frosst Canada Ltd is a role model for pharmaceutical companies with respect to responsible environmental management. Since its first Certificate, Merck Frosst spared nothing to improve on its performances. To this end, the company, now mostly focused on biopharmaceutical research, chose to enhance its diversion program by implementing an ambitious standard and integrated color-coded system for residual material. Employee

accountability, through and awareness and continuing education strategy, is also a priority. All these efforts proved successful, since the company now boasts of a 73 % enhancement rate.

**Johnson & Johnson Products Inc.** Based in Montreal and specialized in the manufacturing of personal hygiene products for women, the Johnson & Johnson plant employs a staff approximately 700 who are well-aware of the 3RD principles (waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and development of residual material). Recipient of a first Certificate in 2003, the company pursued its development efforts and has now implemented a new environmental management program: the Healthy Planet 2010 Goals. The Healthy Planet 2010 Goals are high standards which will lead Johnson & Johnson to innovate in order to improve and truly reduce its environmental imprint. The plant is also focusing on raw material waste reduction as well as on opportunities for material with lower development potential. These initiatives are proving successful because the company is now enjoying an 81 % global enhancement rate for which it is once again recognized with a new ICI On Recycle! Certificate.

**Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc** Based in Laval, Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc. is a world leader in the field of pharmaceuticals. Presented with a Certificate in 2003, the company has every right to be proud to receive another ICI On Recycle! Certificate, with an 89 % global enhancement rate. In the early 2000s, the company established an excellent residual material management program based on the 3RD principles which was endorsed by a staff of more than 600. The program's efficiency may be measured by reduction of residual product wrapping and paper in office space areas, reuse and recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and wood as well as recycling of organic residues for composting. Mindful of environmental protection, the company sees well beyond the objectives of the program and, for the coming months, it will be aiming at enhancement of its residual material management program.

For more information please visit the ICI ON RECYCLE website at: [www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/client/fr/programmes-services/prog-reconnaissance/ici\\_tab\\_attestes.asp](http://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/client/fr/programmes-services/prog-reconnaissance/ici_tab_attestes.asp)

### **ONTARIO Municipal Waste and Special Waste proposition on the table**

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has taken the first steps in requiring the development of a medications return program in Ontario. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the ministry posted a [draft regulation](#) to designate materials that could be the subject of a waste diversion program (i.e., a program to reduce, reuse or recycle waste) under the Waste Diversion Act for a 30-day public comment period. The Minister may choose to include one or all of the designated materials in the program; however, the intention initially is for a focused program. Pharmaceuticals are included in the "municipal special waste" category, which also includes batteries, pressurized containers, chemically-based fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides or pesticides, paints and coatings, oil filters, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, and sharps, including syringes. The Board of Directors of the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association will consider the proposals and will step forward as the industry funding organization if the pharmaceutical category is designated by the Minister for the development of a waste diversion program.

## VARIA

Curbside recycling, obligations and fee schedule development. Full documentation on fee schedule methodology and consultations with the companies is now available on the ÉEQ website at [www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/anglais/accueil.html](http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca/anglais/accueil.html)

**Generic prescription drug purchases grew by 13.8 per cent in 2005, three times faster than brand-name purchases.** IMS Health reports that prescription drug purchases by Canadian hospitals and retail pharmacies were \$16.57 billion in 2005, up 7.3 per cent from 2004.

Purchases of generic prescription drugs by retail pharmacies alone grew by about 13.8 per cent in 2005, almost three times faster than the growth of brand-name purchases, which was 4.9 per cent. Brand products accounted for \$12 billion of purchases by retail pharmacies in 2005, while generic drugs accounted for \$2.64 billion, representing 18 per cent of purchases. Generic drugs represented 43 per cent of all prescriptions filled by Canadians and were responsible for all of the growth in the number of dispensed prescriptions in 2005. Prescriptions for brand-name products as a group were down in 2005.

Pfizer remained Canada's leading pharmaceutical company with almost \$2.25 billion in sales to retail pharmacies and hospitals. AstraZeneca was second with \$1.12 billion. Fifth-ranked generic manufacturer Apotex was Canada's top-ranking generic company with sales of \$948 million, an increase of 21 per cent over 2004. *For the complete article* [http://www.imshealthcanada.com/htmen/1\\_0\\_26.htm](http://www.imshealthcanada.com/htmen/1_0_26.htm)

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## BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

The following is an update on the program in British Columbia for the April-July 2006 period.

- Weight for the quarter is down by 13.7% from 2005. The number of containers received has declined by 4% during the quarter.
- Two shipments were made to Cristallo Engineering Technologies for incineration in this quarter.
- The program is above budget for the quarter as we purchased containers and printed additional brochures.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q2 - 2006	YTD 2006	Q2 - 2005	YTD-2005
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	425	997	427	800
Containers Received from Pharmacies	388	861	404	735
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	4,581	10,310	5,255	9,507

## ***FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE***

- Summary of Public Consultation meetings in BC
  - Follow-up with Manitoba and Ontario on proposed regulation for pharmaceuticals
  - New promotional poster for *Medications Return Program*
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### **\*\*\*Info & Feedback:**

Post-consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) is a non-for-profit organization mandated with developing harmonized approaches to medications return programs in Canada. Questions or comments about this newsletter can be sent to [info@medicationsreturn.ca](mailto:info@medicationsreturn.ca). Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.

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