

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship
Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA February 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.

PROVINCIAL UPDATE

ALBERTA Prescription drugs found in Alberta river water

The Alberta environmental department found a dizzying array of prescription drugs and personal care products in samples of river water taken in heavily populated areas in 2002 and 2003. Some drugs enter the rivers through urine or when people dump expired drugs down the drain or toilet. The drugs found in five rivers were: 15 pharmaceuticals, 10 antibiotics, 24 endocrine disruptors, 15 phthalates and 19 chemicals widely used in products like laundry detergent and shampoo.

MANITOBA Manitoba stewardship regulations delayed

Green Manitoba is an agency established by the province to lead and coordinate an expanded and enhanced system for product stewardship. This includes packaging, printed paper and household hazardous waste such as pharmaceuticals and self-care health products. During stakeholder discussions last year, PCPSA and many other stakeholders expressed serious concerns regarding the projected timelines (a draft regulation was to have been released before the end of 2005). Stakeholders felt that an industry funding organization (IFO) should have the lead responsibility for developing and implementing a program plan, program financing, achieving agreed upon performance targets and reporting, and that successful regulatory models from other jurisdictions should be considered when formulating the regulations. Green Manitoba has concluded that a further review of a proposed regulatory framework is needed, including a more detailed definition of the procedures and guidelines for the development of an IFO and product stewardship plans. Harmonization of proposed Manitoba programs with similar stewardship plans in other provinces will also be pursued. The full report can be viewed on our web site at http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/manitoba_en.php.

QUEBEC Collecte sélective Québec - final year of operation

Most of the Collecte sélective Québec's work, staff, and office leases and equipment have been transferred to Éco Enterprises Québec, the industry funding organization for packaging and printed paper in the province. CSQ will remain in operation through 2006 as the organization has advanced approximately \$1.3 million to help ÉEQ begin their operations. Under Bill 102, brand-owners and first importers of packaging and printed paper will have levies applied to compensate municipalities for 50% of their curbside recycling costs. However, all brand-owners and first importers will be responsible for costs beginning March 1, 2005.

BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

The following is an update on the program in British Columbia for the October-December 2005 period.

- Volumes for the quarter are up 18.7% and 16.2% for the year. This is attributed to an increased awareness of the program over the past year.
- In mid December a shipment of full containers were shipped to Beiseker Envirotech Inc. for incineration.
- The program completed the year slightly under budget due to a modification of charges with transport services in our favor.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q4 - 2005	YTD 2005	Q4-2004	YTD 2004
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	375	1,524	315	1,413
Containers Received from Pharmacies	358	1,430	333	1,204
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	4,357	18,012	3,672	15,503

VARIA

- **Special Note to Designated Primary Contacts**
If a change has been made in your company's 'Primary Contact,' please inform the office of who, within your organization, is now taking on this responsibility.
- Stewards must now supply a billing contact. The billing contact is the individual who PCPSA will contact about payments and outstanding balances. All accounting related mailings will be sent to the billing contact's address. The billing contact may also be the primary contact.
- In 2005, Schering Canada was chosen for the ICI awards by Recyc-Québec. This award honors enterprises in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors that put forward, on a voluntary basis, measurements allowing the reduction and elimination of residual waste through ecological management. In 2003, Aventis Pharma, Johnson & Johnson and

Merck Frost Canada were also chosen. If you wish to learn more please follow this link:
http://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/client/fr/programmes-services/prog-reconnaissance/ici_tab_attestes.asp.

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- Draft Medications Return Program Plan and circulation to membership.
 - Circulate draft of Vision and Mandate to members for their comments and input
 - 2006 invoices will be issued this quarter. An e-mail will be sent to both the primary contact and the billing contact.
 - AGM and Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for May 31st in Toronto. Additional information will be forthcoming.
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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. Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.
