

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship
Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA May 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

BC BC Pharmacists Association

In February, PCPSA board member, Jim Favaro and *Medication Return Program* administrator, Paul Iverson met with the BCPhA senior management team to discuss Medications Return Program and discuss opportunities to work together.

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 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.

QUÉBEC 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 Entreprises 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. Éco Entreprises Québec is calling on companies targeted by the compensation regime to pre-register by filling out the form on their website: www.ecoentreprises.com. Consultative meetings to discuss the fee schedule, steps involved in its implementation, as well as companies' rights and obligations will be held in Toronto on May 3 (in English only), Montreal on May 23 (in French with simultaneous translation) and Quebec City on May 10 (in French only). If you cannot attend one of these meetings, you may listen to the Montreal consultative session via webcast on May 23 at 9:00. To register, please fill in the form which can be found on ÉEQ's website at <http://www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca> or contact customer service at 514-987-1491 or 1-877-987-1491 or by e-mail to plegault@ecoentreprises.qc.ca.

VARIA

A major report, [There is no "Away" - Pharmaceuticals, Personal Care Products, and Endocrine-Disrupting Substances: Emerging Contaminants Detected in Water](#), was released by the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy on March 3 to coincide with National Pharmacists Awareness Week. The report reviews the developing issue of contaminants being detected in water including pharmaceuticals, personal care products and endocrine-disrupting substances. One section discusses how these substances enter water sources: unused medications are sometimes discarded and washed away by wastewater, and drugs and their metabolites are excreted and enter the wastewater stream directly. Antimicrobial resistance caused by the use of antibiotics is a concern. The report lists 11 recommendations including: to support or develop province-wide product stewardship programs for the return of unused drugs; and to support or develop municipal by-laws banning pharmaceuticals and other chemical discards in sewers. The report concludes that while not enough information is available to develop a strategy that can effectively weigh various actions related to emerging contaminants, the best approach is to encourage individuals and all sectors of society to move as far as possible towards a culture of environmental stewardship.

NDMAC Contact: [Robert White](#).

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- Medications Return Program Plan questionnaire will be circulated to members for feedback on the program.
- AGM and Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for May 31st in Toronto.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006

As a member of PCPSA, you should have received a notice for our next AGM taking place on May 30th at the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association's offices starting at 1:30 p.m. If you have not received the information, please contact the office at 613-723-7282. The information sent by e-mail were: the Notice of meeting with agenda and the proxy form. If you are unable to attend, please remember to fax your proxy to 613-723-0779. Available at the meeting will be the Annual Report submitted to the BC Ministry of Environment and the Financial Statements.

BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

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

- Weight for the quarter is up 34.7% over 2005. The number of containers received has grown 42.9% during the quarter.
- Volumes for the quarter are up 18.7% and 16.2% for the year. The majority of this increase occurred in March 2006 related to a publicity campaign during BC Pharmacy Association's Pharmacist Awareness Week.
- In February and again in March a shipment of full containers were shipped to Beiseker Envirotech Inc. for incineration.
- The program is above budget for the quarter as volume was significantly over budget.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q1 - 2006	Q1-2005
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	572	373
Containers Received from Pharmacies	473	331
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	5,729	4,252

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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.
