



This quarterly report on *Medications Return Program* is an e-bulletin by PCPSA.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An Annual General Meeting was held last June in Toronto. Looking back on 2006, it has been a demanding year on multiple fronts: we held public consultation on the *Medications Return Program* in British Columbia; we increased the number of chain drug stores sponsoring PCPSA's *Medications Return Program*, we participated in preliminary discussion on regulating medications in Manitoba and Ontario and we continued to identify and made contact with brand owners who produce or sell regulated products in BC.

An annual report from the Executive Director was also provided to the members.

Mr. Robert White (NDMAC) and Ms. Julie Tam (CGPA) were re-elected for a two-year term as President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. We express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Bern Philip for serving on the Board since 1999.

**Note: There are two vacancies on the Board for members from the Rx&D or Self-care Health Product sectors. The Board of Directors holds quarterly meetings, three by conference call and one in conjunction with the AGM in the spring. If you are interested please contact the office.**

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### PROVINCIAL UPDATE

#### **BRITISH COLUMBIA      Annual Report**

PCPSA's *Medications Return Program* Annual report for the period ending December 31, 2006 is now available from the website at <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/ar2006.pdf>. The report is a summary of our performance and communications strategies.

### *Medications Return Program*

The following is a quarterly report on the program in British Columbia from April to June 2007 period.

- Weight for the quarter is up by 43% from 2006. The number of containers received has increased by 46% during the quarter. We might be seeing the results of promoting the *Medications Return Program* through municipalities and regional districts.
- Two shipments of containers were made to Phase Separation Solution in this quarter for disposal.

<b>Collection Summary (actual):</b>	<b>Q2 - 2007</b>	<b>YTD 2007</b>	<b>Q2 - 2006</b>	<b>YTD 2006</b>
<b>Containers Shipped to Pharmacies</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>997</b>
<b>Containers Received from Pharmacies</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>861</b>
<b>Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)</b>	<b>6534</b>	<b>12,499</b>	<b>4581</b>	<b>10,310</b>

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## **ONTARIO**

### **Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW)**

#### **PCPSA proposes Medications Return Program for Ontario**

Mr. Robert White, President and Ms. Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director of PCPSA, met with Ms. Glenda Gies, Executive Director of Waste Diversion Ontario (*an arm's length agency responsible for blue box and recycling initiatives in Ontario*), to discuss the province's plans with respect to Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Programs. This meeting was held in response to the Ontario Environment Minister's decision to include MHSW as a designated waste under the *Waste Diversion Act* thereby requiring WDO to develop a waste diversion program for these classes of waste. The Minister of the Environment has appointed Stewardship Ontario as the Industry Funding Organization responsible for developing the individual plans for the different classes of materials. PCPSA has proposed that the province implement the *Medications Return Program* to deal with expired and unused medications, which is included in Phase II.

PCPSA will need to participate on a Stewardship Ontario working group to sort out the details, such as definitions, data sets and reporting requirements. Stewardship Ontario would in turn charge PCPSA for a share of the administrative costs and the province-wide promotion and education programs related to MHSW. PCPSA will need to argue that periodic reporting of product volumes entering commerce is not needed as recycling, reuse and reduction initiatives are not applicable to this class of special waste. Ms. Gies commended PCPSA for stepping forward and has promised to keep them apprised of the government's timelines for addressing Phase II materials. There has been some pressure put on the Minister to move quickly.

## **MANITOBA**

### **Hazardous Household Material Regulation (HHM)**

The Executive Director of PCPSA, Ginette Vanasse, met with Jim Ferguson with Green Manitoba (*an arm's length agency responsible for delivering programs to foster environmental innovation and community development*) to discuss the province's plans with respect to HHM and more specifically medications. PCPSA would like to have a *Memorandum of Understanding* in place so that development of the program could begin in advance of the regulation scheduled for this fall. PCPSA is reviewing materials and will be proposing a program plan to implement a *Medications Return Program* in Manitoba similar to B.C. and Alberta.

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## **VARIA**

### **HEALTH CANADA**

#### **Medications Disposal Reviews**

Robert White, President and Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director, met with staff of Health Canada's Environmental Impact Initiative on May 3 to discuss medications in the environment. Health Canada received some initial funding from the Chemicals Management Plan to further examine how to minimize medications in the environment. PCPSA gave an overview of the British Columbia *Medications Return Program* and the voluntary provincial programs that are diverting expired and unused medication from landfill and sewage treatment facilities, as well as the ongoing discussions with the governments in Ontario and Manitoba to implement similar programs in these provinces. Health Canada is in early stages of information gathering on possible points of entry of pharmaceuticals into the environment and is drafting a report on national and international practices. Health Canada is thinking about developing best practices. Provincial jurisdiction on waste issues and municipal implementation increases the complexity in developing a national approach.

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### **Recycling Council of British Columbia Annual Meeting**

For the first time, PCPSA attended the RCBC Annual Zero Waste Annual Conference. A couple of meetings were scheduled for B.C. Stewards only, to discuss the Recycling Regulations and difficulties with depots and scheduling of new products with Ministry staff and RCBC ED Brock Macdonald. It was an excellent opportunity to meet staff from Regional districts/municipalities working on recycling/take back programs and be able to present first hand the *Medications Return Program* brochures and posters for promoting our program in their communities.

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## Vancouver Landfill Open House

PCPSA set up a booth advertising our program at the Vancouver Landfill Open House. This is a weekend event for the residents with a display area that consists of interactive and informative booths run by government and non-profit agencies on the subjects of waste reduction, recycling and sustainable living. PCPSA's booth is showed here with youngsters lining up for our fridge magnets specially produced for this event. Brochures and posters were also available for the adults.



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## PCPSA participation in the Ambassador Program



Two ambassadors canvassing the province in a branded Toyota Prius for the BC Used Oil Management Association will also promote the *Medications Return Program* with regional and municipal government officials and various community events to connect with the public. More than 40 communities around British Columbia will be visited, including cities and towns in the Thompson-Okanagan, Northern B.C., Kootenay, Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland regions.

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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. Send us your news tips, comments and suggestions. Mailing address: 406-1111 Prince of Wales Dr., Ottawa, ON K2C 3T2 Phone: 613-723-7282 Fax: 613-723-0779 Email: [ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca](mailto:ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca) . Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.