

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical
Stewardship Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA February 2007

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 Recycling Regulation and Program Plan

PCPSA presented a revised *Medications Return Program* plan for approval as required under the Recycling Regulation. The MOE has written to PCPSA for clarifications on performance targets, summary of consultations issues and compliance process. We look forward to a formal approval once these points have been addressed.

MANITOBA Green Manitoba and Manitoba HHW Regulation

There are 3 working groups for MB HHW: household batteries (RBRC/CHBA), pharmaceuticals (PCPSA) and paint/HHW (Product Care). As expected, the MB Packaging Regulation was released in January for consultation online at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/waste/packaging_paper.html.

PCPSA organized a conference call with other stakeholders in November and agreed to compare the proposed HHW regulation with our current program and highlights areas of concerns for the group.

ONTARIO Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste

The Minister has directed Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), the industry-funded organization responsible for Ontario's blue box program, to develop and fund a diversion program for hazardous or special waste from homes and small businesses.

Materials will be added to the program in three phases beginning with paints, solvents, pesticides, disposable batteries and used oil filters and containers. WDO's plan for phase one must be delivered to the Minister by May 31, 2007.

Pharmaceutical waste is included in Phase 2 of the Program. Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) held several meetings in January to review the development process for Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Programs. The Ontario government's focus appears to be on reimbursing municipalities for existing and/or expanded MHSW product collection and handling costs.

The Minister also required that Stewardship Ontario Act as the Industry Funding Organization (IFO) for the program; however the Act permits industry stewards to implement their own plan if it is approved by WDO. PCPSA has written to WDO and the Minister suggesting that a *Medications Return Program* could operate in Ontario. As things develop, we will be asking for your support to help ensure that PCPSA is recognized in Ontario as the IFO.

For more information click on this link to Stewardship Ontario for recent information <http://www.stewardshipontario.ca>

BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

The following is an update on the program in British Columbia for the October to December 2006 period.

- Weight for the quarter is up by 14% from 2005. The number of containers received has increased by 21% from a year ago. On a year to date basis, the weight is up 11% and containers are up 19.4%.
- Overall, the program has grown more than expected and we anticipate with the requirements from the new stewardship plan, growth will be in the 25% range in 2007.
- One shipment was made to Cristallo Engineering Technologies for incineration in this quarter.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q4 - 2006	YTD 2006	Q4 - 2005	YTD-2005
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	421	1,868	375	1,524
Containers Received from Pharmacies	433	1,708	358	1,430
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	4,947	19,995	4,357	18,012

VARIA **New federal toxics program announced**

In an effort to counteract the environmental platforms of the opposition parties, the Conservatives have announced a new plan that targets toxic chemicals. The plan includes \$300 million to assess 200 potentially dangerous substances on the Canadian market, culled from a list of 23,000 chemicals that the government studied over a seven-year period (completed in September). The government has pledged to regulate the worst chemicals within three years.

The initiative arises from scientific concern about human health effects, including cancer and infertility that may be linked to exposure to industrial chemicals many of which are found in everyday consumer products. There will be a stricter regulation of chemicals in food, safer disposal

of pharmaceuticals and personal-care products, better labeling of cosmetics ingredients and closer monitoring of possible health impacts.

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- 2007 invoices for *Medications Return Program* have been mailed to the primary or billing contact. Please ensure that this small charge for a vital program is paid. You can always contact the office if you require a copy of these charges.
 - Coordination of replies and meetings with WDO on MHSW program.
 - Coordination of meetings on Manitoba HHW proposed regulation.
 - Results on research survey to measure public awareness and attitude on medications return programs in British Columbia and Manitoba.
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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.