



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 Program Plan

The Ministry of Environment approved PCPSA's *Medications Return Program* Plan. The plan called for new targets, performance measures and strategies for continuous improvement. A performance target has to be established for public awareness and potential barriers toward returning unused or expired medications to the pharmacy identified.

Medications Return Program

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

- Weight for the quarter is up by 4.2% from 2006. The number of containers received has grown by 12.3% during the quarter.
- Containers shipped to pharmacies in the quarter decreased by 26% over the same period in 2006.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q1 - 2007	Q1 - 2006
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	546	572
Containers Received from Pharmacies	531	473
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	5965	5729

Results of Survey on disposal of medications in B.C.

PCPSA hired Redfern Research to conduct a survey on opinions toward safe disposal of unused or expired pharmaceuticals. Preliminary results indicate:

1. One-fifth of people already dispose of medications at pharmacies, and almost one-third are already aware that pharmacies will accept unused or expired medications for disposal.
 2. Almost all residents are willing to use pharmacy disposal programs in the future.
 3. No major attitudinal or practical barriers exist to the use of these programs. Furthermore, attitudes are equally positive in all regions of the province.
 4. The disposal programs themselves are easily associated in the public mind with health and environmental protection.
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ONTARIO Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW)

As per the Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) consultation procedures, the Draft Preliminary MHSW Program Plan was submitted on April 13 to the WDO Board of Directors for review and comment at its April 19 meeting. The plan has been posted on the Stewardship Ontario website for review by MHSW stewards and stakeholders.

To view the plan: http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/plan/MHSW_plan_april_13.pdf

Following the review and comments by the WDO Board, it will be revised and submitted as the Draft Final MHSW Program Plan for WDO Board approval at its May 23rd meeting and submitted to the Minister of the Environment by May 31st.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2007

As a member of PCPSA, you should have received a notice for our next AGM taking place on June 6th at the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association's offices starting at 10:30 a.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 Audited Financial Statements.

N.B. There is an vacancy on the Board of Directors for a representative from the Rx&D sector. If you are interested, please contact the office. It involves one trip for the AGM, a few teleconferences during the year, and a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment when required.

VARIA Donation of medicines for the developing world

Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) worked with NDMAC, Rx&D, MEDEC, and CGPA to obtain an incentive for corporations to participate in international programs for the distribution of medicines. Budget 2007 proposes to allow corporations that make donations of medicines from their inventory to claim a special additional deduction equal to the lesser of:

- 50 per cent of the amount, if any, by which the fair market value of the donated medicine exceeds its cost; and,
- the cost of the donated medicine.

This measure will apply to gifts made on or after March 19, 2007.

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- Coordination of meeting with Waste Diversion Ontario to present a draft Industry Stewardship Plan in Ontario.
- Drafting terms of reference to establish an Environmental Committee.

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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 . Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.