

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical
Stewardship Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA August 2008

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Ministry of Environment is reviewing and revising the Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR) of the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)*. A Policy Intentions Paper outlining changes was distributed to Stewards in June. PCPSA has reviewed and submitted comments by the deadline. This paper refers to a list of waste streams that would be exempted from the definition of a hazardous waste. We strongly recommend that pharmaceuticals be exempted on the grounds that this category of waste does not meet the criteria of toxicity and quantity. We also argued that products already covered by the concept of extended producer responsibility with an approved Stewardship Plans (as required pursuant to the *Recycling Regulation*) “EPR Products”; should be exempted from the definition of hazardous waste. For additional information, please contact the office.

MRP Quarterly Report

The following is an update on the *Medications Return Program* in British Columbia for the April to June 2008 period.

- Weight for the quarter is up by 56% from 2007. The number of containers received has increased by 46%.
- At this rate, we will double our returns in 2008. Other stewards have noticed increases as well, but our program has the largest increase in products collected to date.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q2 - 2008	YTD - 2008	Q2 - 2007	YTD - 2007
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	950	1,863	653	1,199
Containers Received from Pharmacies	916	1,620	565	1,096
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	10,198	17,932	6,534	12,499

ONTARIO *Municipal Household Hazardous Waste*

Phase 1 of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Municipal and Household Special Waste (MHSW) recycling initiative began on July 1, 2008. Following the AGM last June our President, Robert White and the Executive Director, Ginette Vanasse met with Stewardship Ontario's (industry funding organization) CEO, Joyce Barretto, to discuss setting up a medications return program for Ontario. Our members, as well as other industry partners, believe that expired and unused medications should not be sent to municipal hazardous waste depots, but rather they should be returned to community pharmacies for collection and disposal of in an environmentally responsible manner. The Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores (CACDS) has indicated their member's support for such a program. Ms. Barretto also gave her support to PCPSA's intention to ask the Ontario Minister of the Environment to be designated as the industry steward for medication waste and to set up a medications return program consistent with B.C.

July 2008 - Environment Minister designates Stewardship Ontario to amend MHSW Program Plan to include Phases 2 & 3

Ontario's environment minister has released the program request letter for Phase 2 and 3 of the province's stewardship program for MHSW. Covered materials include mercury-containing items such as fluorescent lamps, switches and measuring devices, aerosol containers, fire extinguishers, pharmaceuticals and sharps.

Most significantly, funding shall become the full responsibility of the stewards and shall address all costs inclusive of collection through to final diversion or disposal of MHSW. An amended program plan for Phase 2 materials is due to be submitted to the minister by March 2, 2009.

If you are interested in participating in the development of a program plan in Ontario, please contact the office.

NEW BRUNSWICK *Recycle New Brunswick to oversee stewardship programs*

“The establishment of this board creates a level playing field for all brand owners, and relieves taxpayers of the responsibility of stewards costs for certain products,” said Environment Minister Roland Haché in an April 30 press release. Recycle New Brunswick, the province’s newly formed stewardship board, anticipates that collection and recycling of waste paint should start across the province in the fall of 2008. The new board took over product stewardship initiatives as of May 1. Recycle New Brunswick is now responsible for overseeing the province’s new waste paint stewardship program and will take responsibility for the existing tire stewardship program, which has been running for the past 12 years under the Tire Stewardship Board. Members of the board are now members of Recycle New Brunswick’s board.

Eventually, Recycle New Brunswick may oversee other industry-managed stewardship programs for waste products such as oil, electronic components, batteries, mercury-containing devices and pharmaceuticals.

Waste reduction and diversion are a key part of the five-year *New Brunswick Climate Change Action Plan*. The Government of New Brunswick is working to improve waste management in the province through such means as better recycling and composting systems, further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, reducing waste at its source, advocating recycled content in products and packaging, and promoting extended producer responsibility for products such as paint, oil and electronics.

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- Meetings with Stewardship Ontario concerning the consultation process in the coming weeks and months in order to develop a program plan. Anyone interested in participating to contact the office.

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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.