



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.

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**PROVINCIAL UPDATE**

***BRITISH COLUMBIA***

***2008 Ambassador Program Recap***

Last summer, the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association partnered once more with British Columbia Used Oil Management Association and Product Care for a province-wide communication campaign. The team met with and built relationships with important stakeholders in the program including numerous civic and regional district officials. They discussed how British Columbia communities can safely dispose of household hazardous materials and expired medications with government officials, as well as promoted all three programs at community events and media interviews. A total of 83 B.C. municipalities were visited over the 13-week program including communities on Vancouver Island, the Rockies, the East Kootenays, Northern B.C. and the Lower Mainland.

***MRP Quarterly Report***

The following is an update on the *Medications Return Program* for the July/September 2008 period.

- Weight for the quarter is up by 62% from 2007. The number of containers received has increased by 58%.
- Activity is significantly higher than in previous years.

<b>Collection Summary (actual):</b>	<b>Q3 - 2008</b>	<b>YTD - 2008</b>	<b>Q3 - 2007</b>	<b>YTD - 2007</b>
<b>Containers Shipped to Pharmacies</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>Containers Received from Pharmacies</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>1,605</b>
<b>Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)</b>	<b>8,704</b>	<b>26,636</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>17,866</b>

## **ALBERTA**

### ***ENVIRx Program***

ENVIRx is a program similar to the *B.C. Medications Return Program* run by the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) and funded in part by the pharmaceuticals and self-care health companies. PCPSA's Executive Director attended the Advisory Committee meeting last month to share information on key successes and challenges with medications return programs. In 2008, RxA introduced a corporate membership for pharmacies to recognize their participation in the safe disposal of post-consumer pharmaceutical waste. Albertans, with a population of just over 3.4 millions compared to B.C. at 4.3 millions are returning more pharmaceuticals waste. Alberta collected 3,183 containers (23 litres) compared to B.C. 2,425 (20 litres) for the same period (January/September). RxA expect to collect around 80,000 kg while B.C. program is in line for just over 40,000 kg. The differences can be attributed in part to topical returns and liquid medications. PCPSA thought the Residual Management Group will make some changes to the B.C. program to increase the returns of medications. Please note that the program has been running a deficit for several years and the RxA is evaluating different options to increase financial support from brand-owners to the ENVIRx program.

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## **ONTARIO**

### ***Municipal Household Hazardous Waste (MHSW)***

PCPSA's task force and working groups, facilitated by Stewardship Ontario (SO), have worked over the past two months and submitted comments to Waste Diversion Ontario and SO on the draft Program Plan for phase 2 material. Weekly meetings have allowed different stewards to familiarize themselves with pharmaceutical and self-care health issues and reach some agreement on material definition.

SO is the industry funding organization for MHSW and Blue Box programs. Phase 2 program plan includes pharmaceuticals, sharps, batteries, aerosol containers, portable fire extinguishers, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, and mercury containing devices. Phase 2 will require stewards, who are brand owners and first importers to cover 100% of program costs including from collection to diversion, promotion and education activities, research & development and capital costs to meet accessibility targets.

**Pharmaceuticals category** will include prescription drugs, nonprescription medicines, natural health products and prescription medications for companion animals from the residential sector. The exclusion lists is rather complicated, but essentially exclude topical products and food or beverage products regulated as natural health products.

Waste Diversion Organization's data call to municipalities reported 42,010 kg collected in 2007 from 89 municipalities serving 11.4M people. Collection information from pharmacies was unavailable, but it was suggested that greater than 50% of pharmacies currently run voluntary medications return programs in Ontario.

Timelines are idealistic and do not allow flexibility, market research and consultation with service providers. Deadlines are: plan submission to WDO by January 5, 2009, to Minister by March 2, 2009, posting on Environmental Registry for 30 days and implementation 90 days after approval. The Minister must approve the program plan. Payments and fee schedules, collection

system, disposal method and other key elements for Phase 2 material will be detailed for the January deadline. To set diversion targets, product generation and amounts of product available for collection will need to be estimated and will require significant data mining and assumptions.

You are invited to join the subject matter expert group, representing the stewards for Phase 2 material. Each and every Friday, we get updates on the program plan development through a conference call for ½ hr. starting at 10 a.m. Please contact the office to add your name to the list of participants.

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### **FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE**

- Meetings with Stewardship Ontario, Waste Diversion Ontario and the Ministry of Environment to develop a program plan by January 2009.
- Preparation for a new container with a removable lid with the *B.C. Medications Return Program*.
- E-newsletter to the B.C. pharmacies on the Medications Return program changes, handouts and collection information.

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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](mailto:info@medicationsreturn.ca). Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.