

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical  
Stewardship Association**

**Medications Return Program News Bulletin**



**PCPSA May 2009**

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 Medications Return Program recognized***

Metro Vancouver Waste Management Committee and the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association were chosen to receive the 2009 British Columbia Pharmacy Association **Award of Excellence** in recognition for their contribution to the medications return program for environmentally-responsible destruction of consumer medication waste. The award will be accepted by Mr. Jim Favaro, PCPSA director, during the 2009 BCPhA Annual Conference later this month. Congratulations to our partners and members for making this possible.

***MRP Quarterly Report***

The following is an update on the *Medications Return Program* in British Columbia for the January to March 2009 period.

<b>Collection Summary (actual):</b>	<b>Q1 - 2009</b>	<b>Q1 - 2008</b>
<b>Containers Shipped to Pharmacies</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>913</b>
<b>Containers Received from Pharmacies</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)</b>	<b>10,850</b>	<b>7,734</b>

- Weight for the quarter is up by 40.3% with the number of containers received is up by 36% from 2008.
- Collection costs have stayed constant despite the increase activity. This is due to the new larger rectangular containers ordered to reduce volume and fuel surcharge.

## **ONTARIO** *MHSW Program Plan Development*

Robert White (president) and Ginette Vanasse (executive director) met with Ontario Ministry of the Environment's John Vidan, Director, Waste Management Policy Branch, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the MHSW Regulation and a medications return program for Ontario. During the meeting we learned that the Ontario government is as concerned about reducing the amount of materials going to landfill as the effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment. This is, in all likelihood, why Stewardship Ontario, the industry finding organization (IFO) for blue box waste has also been designated the IFO for the municipal hazardous or special waste category. While stewardship organizations can apply to be exempted from the program plan when it is finally approved by the Minister of the Environment, PCPSA feels that implementation of a take-back program similar to British Columbia and Alberta may not be feasible in Ontario without an acceptable definition for "pharmaceuticals".

We can register to participate in the next webcast scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> (information to be released prior to meeting). The program plan for all materials under MHSW will be presented in addition to collection targets, costs and fee setting for stewards. <http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/ntk/2009/issue9.html> For a more information, please contact the office at [ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca](mailto:ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca)

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

As a member of PCPSA, you should have received a notice for our next AGM taking place on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Katz Group of Companies' offices starting at 10:00 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 and report from the Executive Director.

N.B. There are 2 vacancies on the Board of Directors, we are accepting nomination from the rand-name and the Generic sectors. If you are interested, please contact the office. It involves one trip for the AGM, 3 to 4 teleconferences during the year, and a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment when required.

## **FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE**

- 2009 invoices for *Medications Return Program* were mailed to the primary or billing contact. Please ensure that this bill is paid, late fees penalty (5%) will apply after 60 days. You can always contact the office if you require more information on these charges.
- Participation in the MHSW Steering Committee and public consultation meetings in Ontario.
- Attending RCBC Annual conference and Stewards meeting with the Ministry.

If you received this e-newsletter directly from PCPSA, then your company is already registered and you are identified as the contact. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the *Medications Return Program News Bulletin*, send an e-mail message to [pcpsa@medicationsreturn.ca](mailto:pcpsa@medicationsreturn.ca) with:

*Subject:* subscribe [or unsubscribe]

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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.