



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

MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM - Quarterly Report

Medications Return Program in British Columbia for the July to September period.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q3 - 2009	YTD - 2009	Q3 - 2008	YTD - 2008
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	1,180	3,242	894	2,757
Containers Received from Pharmacies	1,142	3,156	805	2,425
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	14,678	38,667	8,704	26,636

- Weight for the quarter is up by 68% with the number of containers received is up by 42% from a year ago.
- Comparisons with last year are difficult to make as the volume has increased dramatically and containers have changed. We are now recycling the new rectangular containers.
- Waste audit is taking place later this year; this is to validate sector share for stewards' contributions for 3 years.
- Disposal costs have increase significantly, as we had to change incineration suppliers as Phase Separation Solutions sold the medications incineration right to Stericycle. The rates are \$.95 kg. from \$.40kg.
- A first full truckload of pallets was sent to Stericycle plant in Ontario for destruction.

ONTARIO *MHSW Program Plan set to begin on July 1, 2010*

On September 22, the Ontario Minister of the Environment approved the Consolidated Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program Plan. The plan will go into effect on July 1, 2010 and includes the collection and disposal of prescriptions drugs, orally ingested non-prescriptions drugs and consumer health products, nonprescription topical antibiotics, and anti-fungal creams marketed in Ontario.

Who is obligated? Any company that is a brand owner or a first importer of any of the materials designated under the MHSW program is obligated to register, file reports on the materials supplied for sale or use in the Ontario market and remit fees to Stewardship Ontario, the industry funding organization.

Registration: Stewardship Ontario has a registration page so that companies can provide the name and coordinates of the person in the company who should be the primary contact. To register, you, go to the Stewardship Ontario [website](#).

March 31, 2010: By the end of March 2010, obligated companies are required to file a report with Stewardship Ontario detailing the quantities of all designated products supplied for sale or use in Ontario in 2009. The Consolidated MHSW program contains a preliminary schedule of fees but fees may be amended based on the 2009 sales data provided by stewards by March 31, 2010. The recalibrated fees will be provided to stewards before the program begins on July 1, 2010. PCPSA has been working with SO on the current rate at \$.008 per unit and unit definition. In our view, both items require some modifications to reflect estimated program costs (1,8 millions) and units definition for prescriptions drugs and OTC's sector.

July 1, 2010: The official start date of the new Consolidated MHSW program. This is the date on which Stewardship Ontario collection and recycling services will include the additional materials that are encompassed by the consolidated program.

July 31, 2010: By the end of July 2010, all stewards of designated products will be required to file their first steward report based on the period April 1-June 30, 2010, after which the steward reports and fees will be due on a quarterly basis. The actual payment calculation will be based on one-quarter of the 2009 Annual Stewards' Report (required to be filed at the end of March 2010). At the end of 2010, Stewardship Ontario will reconcile both years.

At the same time the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association will be taking the appropriate steps to be appointed the industry finding organization for expired and unused pharmaceutical and consumer health products.

IN THE NEWS *London Drugs Diverts over 22,000 KG of Polystyrene*

Through a partnership with Genesis Recycling, London Drugs is Canada's only major retailer to offer an in-store take-back packaging recycling program. Customer can simply leave product packaging at London Drugs' customer service desks as they leave with their purchases. London Drugs currently fills at least one semi truck per week with polystyrene to go to recycling and, over the last 18 months, the chain's stores across Western Canada have diverted over 22,000 kilos from going to the landfill. "As a company, we continue to work diligently with our suppliers to reduce the polystyrene used in products and packaging," says Clint Mahlman, London Drugs Senior Vice President. "But we are also looking at long-term solutions to divert this waste from going to landfills. Our 'What's the Green Deal' program www.greendeal.ca is a 'beyond blue box' initiative that attempts to give consumers more options for recycling materials that previously ended up in the garbage." Source: London Drugs press release

LATEST NEWS

- Continue to seek alternative destruction sites for the B.C. Medications Return Program.
 - Abbott Laboratories is working on 40 different sustainable packaging initiatives across its product lines as part of a goal to reduce the amount of packaging the company uses in key products by 5% by 2013. The... **MORE»**
 - Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association will be taking the appropriate steps to be appointed the industry finding organization for expired and unused pharmaceutical and consumer health products under the MHSW regulation and program plan.
 - The Recycling Council of B.C. is proud to announce **Trailer Trashed** an environmental short film competition that harnesses your creativity to convince the world to stop making garbage! Enter online at www.trailertrashed.org
 - Please ensure that the office has the current contact information for your company.
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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 directed to info@medicationsreturn.ca. Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.