

## ***Annual Report by the Director***

### **2003 Reporting Period**

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Medication products are a small but important component of the waste stream with implications to virtually every household in British Columbia. Unused medications can pose a significant health, safety and environmental hazard when improperly stored in the home or disposed to the environment.

#### **Program Performance**

As of December 2003, the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA), through its program administrator the Residuals Management Group Ltd, reports that approximately 734 retail pharmacy outlets, representing over 86% of all pharmacies in British Columbia, accept unused and expired medications from consumers.

For the 12 month period ending December, 2003, the program collected \* 10,094 kg of unused or expired, post-consumer medications. The total residual medications collected since the program's inception is 72,275 kg.

Given the nature of these wastes, incineration is the accepted best management practice for the residual medications collected by the program. During this reporting period, residual medications were transported by licensed transporters to a licensed special waste treatment facility in Alberta.

\* Change over to new UN approved collection containers (as required by the [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act](#)) during the last quarter of 2002 resulted in volumes of residual medications that normally would have been reported in the following year (2003) to be reflected in 2002 results. As expected early 2003 collection results reflected this irregularity.

#### **Program Funding**

In order to ensure consumers are not discouraged from properly disposing of their waste medications, brand-owners are not permitted under the regulation to charge any fees to return regulated product residuals. The pharmaceutical industry has chosen to fund the program directly and no fees are assessed to consumers at the point of sale.

#### **New Developments**

The association plans on hiring its first executive director in the coming year and anticipates continued program success with the addition of this position.

The association will continue to work with municipalities to include the Medication Return Program in the municipalities' annual refuse information mailout to their residents. Industry continues to monitor collection results to ensure the public communications program continues to be effective.

Since March, 2000, the Residuals Management Group Ltd. of Surrey, BC, has assumed the program's day to day operations on behalf of the PCPSA.

Changes to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Clear Language Regulation in 2002 resulted in operational modifications to the program. These changes did not affect service to the public.

**Further Information**

[RCBC Recycling Hotline of BC:](#)

Greater Vancouver — (604) 732-9253 (R-E-C-Y-C-L-E)

Outside Greater Vancouver — 1-800-667-4321

For further information regarding the Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation, refer to the ministry's website.