

*Confidential*



**Annual Report**  
**January 1, 2006 –December 31, 2006**

Submitted to:

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Submitted by

Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association

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### **Appendices**

- A. List of Participating Pharmacies
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## **I PROGRAM OUTLINE**

This program provides the pharmaceutical industry with a collective means of adhering to the requirements of the British Columbia *Recycling Regulation*. The program is funded by the pharmaceutical and self-care health product industries. Fees are collected by the association from brand-owners selling pharmaceuticals in British Columbia.

PCPSA has the most extensive network of the entire Extended Producer Responsibility program in BC. The collection sites for the *Medications Return Program* are community pharmacies. The pharmacies voluntarily collected these medications during usual business hours.

All containers returned from a pharmacy are tracked by weight, pickup date, location and stored in a secure location until a shipment is accumulated for safe destruction through a licensed incineration facility. Medications returned under this program do not meet the criteria for toxicity as defined under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

In this reporting period the *Medications Return Program* was contracted to the Residuals Management Group Ltd. by PCPSA.

## **II COMMUNICATIONS**

In 2006, we developed a poster and brochure for distribution to pharmacies and other locations such as municipalities, regional districts, clinics or doctor's offices through a reorder system by, fax, email or through the website.

Following public consultation sessions, municipalities/regional districts have included information on the *Medications Return Program* on their website under recycling or EPR programs, these are:

- a. Regional District of North Okanagan
- b. Mission
- c. City of Chilliwack

PCPSA continued to participate in the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) hotline that provides toll-free information regarding the disposal of expired and unused medications. Approximately 114 calls were made to the recycling hot line representing less than 1% of their total calls. These numbers of calls were slightly higher than in 2005.

During the BC Pharmacy Association's Awareness Week, March 6-12, 2006, an article on the program was circulated on the newswire. In the October/November issue of THE TABLET, BCPHA quarterly newsletter, an advertisement on the program was also published. In addition our brochure (4,800) was distributed to pharmacists as part of their membership drive in May.

London Drugs published a reminder in their weekly flyers (3<sup>rd</sup> week in October) reminding the public about safe disposal of unused or expired pharmaceutical through pharmacies.

### **III PROGRAM COSTS AND FUNDING**

PCPSA is registered nationally as a non-profit organization and operates in accordance with provisions set out in its by-laws. An Annual General Meeting is held annually, notices are sent to members and provisions are made for reasonable operating reserves for this program.

The cost of the Program during this reporting period, including management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, promotional activities and disposal in connection with the program was \$257,000. This was shared between pharmaceutical (brand name and generic) and self-care health products industries. Members remitted to the association an amount based on prescriptions dispensed in British Columbia during the previous year and/or at a per dollars rate on the sale of self-care health products in the province.

There are no user fees directed to the consumer/patient at time of purchase or at the point of collection.

### **IV MEDICATIONS COLLECTED**

The *B.C. Medications Return Program* continued to collect post-consumer, residual, unused and expired medications at pharmacies throughout British Columbia. Since the participation of a pharmacist is central to the success of this program, we work closely with the licensing authority, the British Columbia College of Pharmacies. They provide us with monthly reports of openings and closures (**Appendix C**). This ensures that all new locations are contacted and can receive information on this program in a timely fashion. The pharmacy managers interested in offering the *Medications Return Program* in their store must contact the program administrator for an application form to register. Specific information is provided to ensure that pharmacy manager and staffs are knowledgeable about the program and operating procedures. All participating community pharmacies receive a kit containing instructions on the program, posters and brochures for the public and a container (20 litres).

As of December 2006 we had 889 pharmacies participating in the program, a list of registered community pharmacies is attached in **Appendix A**.

In 2006, PCPSA had 92% of licensed community pharmacies in the province participating. The remaining 8% are either located in a hospital setting, offering the same service to their patients, or a return program was offered through a chain drug store. The public can easily locate a community pharmacy participating in the program on the association's website at [www.medicationsreturn.ca](http://www.medicationsreturn.ca) or by phoning the RCBC hotline services.

During the reporting period 19,995 kg of residual medications or 1709 containers were picked up from the pharmacies. Weight is up 11 % over 2005 and the number of containers received is up by 19.4%. We attributed this increase to regional districts promoting the program. The volume of medications collected by region was as follows:

| <b>REGION</b>     | <b>CONTAINERS</b> | <b>WEIGHT<br/>(Kg)</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Coastal B.C.      | 41                | 480                    |
| Fraser Valley     | 178               | 2,130                  |
| Greater Vancouver | 698               | 8,117                  |
| Kootenays         | 47                | 593                    |
| Northern B.C.     | 97                | 1,135                  |
| Okanagan          | 197               | 2,108                  |
| Vancouver Island  | <u>451</u>        | <u>5,432</u>           |
| Total             | 1,709             | 19,995                 |

On a quarterly basis the collections were:

| <b>QUARTER</b>        | <b>WEIGHT (Kg)</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Q1 – 2006 (Jan – Mar) | 5,729              |
| Q2 – 2006 (Apr – Jun) | 4,581              |
| Q3 – 2006 (Jul – Sep) | 4,738              |
| Q4 – 2006 (Oct – Dec) | <u>4,947</u>       |
| Total                 | 19,995             |

## **V WASTE DISPOSAL**

As per our program plan, we are limited in our ability to reduce the environmental impact of medications without affecting their legislative and regulatory obligations under Health Canada and Environment Canada. PCPSA with its *Medications Return Program* strives to limit environmental impacts. We urge pharmacists to recycle plastic by using recycling bins or take plastic containers used to dispatch pills and capsules for dispensing and outer containers coming from customers handing in unused or expired medications to recycling facilities when available in their communities. PCPSA organize transportation of large quantity of containers for destruction to government approved facilities to limit environmental impacts. All residual medications collected through the *B.C. Medications Return Program* was incinerated by:

- 1) Beiseker Envirotech Inc (formerly Cristallo Engineering Technologies Inc).  
Located in Beiseker, Alberta

Due to the nature of the waste and the risk to the public, no efforts are planned to move away from incineration as the preferred method of managing the residual medications.

## **VI EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

In August, PCPSA did undertake public consultation with stakeholders on the development of a revised program. Meetings were held in Victoria and Vancouver in addition to Webinar sessions prior to these meetings for any participant unable to participate in person. Letters were sent to PCPSA's members and participating community pharmacies inviting them to participate in the public consultation through a questionnaire. When required, calls and e-mails were made to participants to present additional explanations to comments raised.

The volume of product collected since inception of the program continues to increase. A survey was mailed to licensed pharmacists as part of the public consultation on the program. PCPSA will increase the frequency of exchanges with its pharmacy managers to improve understanding of the program, develop adequate communication of the program's goals with staff working in the store; and provide promotional items (posters and brochures) for display.

## **VII CONCLUSIONS**

During the reporting period, 19,995 kg of residual medications were collected and incinerated.

The PCPSA continues to contract with Residuals Management Group Ltd. to administer the *Medications Return Program*.

The public has accepted the *Medications Return Program* as the environmentally responsible solution for disposing of post-consumer, residual, unused and expired medications.