HEALTH PRODUCTS
STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

P.E.I. Medications & Medical Sharps Return Program

ANNUAL REPORT

For the period of January 1,2025 – December 31,2025

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HEALTH PRODUCTS
STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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Message from the CEO

Dear Stakeholders,

Protecting public health, safeguarding communities, and reducing environmental risk depend on stewardship systems that Canadians can trust. At the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), those commitments define our role. As a trusted stewardship organization, HPSA works on behalf of pharmaceuticals and medical sharps producers to ensure that health products used in Canadian homes are managed safely and responsibly at end of life—supporting both environmental protection and public safety.

In Prince Edward Island, HPSA delivers this mandate through the PEI Medications Return Program (IMRP) and the PEI Sharps Collection Program (ISCP) since the programs' inception in 2015, in accordance with the Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations (Divisions 6 and 7), pursuant to Section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

2025 also marked HPSA 25th year as leader in extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs for health products and we continue to remain focused on delivering stewardship programs that are compliant, accessible, and efficient on behalf of **158** medications producers and **56** Medical sharps producers.

Collaboration with pharmacies, banners, and other health partners remains central to ensuring broad program reach across Prince Edward Island's urban, rural, and remote communities. In 2025, our network comprised **50** Collection locations, equaling a participation rate of **100% (unchanged compared to 2024)**. In 2025, HPSA collected and disposed of **4,321.5 kilograms** of unwanted medications under the IMRP and **7,766.9 kilograms** of used medical sharps under the ISCP. HPSA could not have achieved those results without the collaborative efforts of our collection locations.

Public education and awareness remain critical drivers of behavior change. Consumer research shows encouraging progress in awareness levels reaching 84% for Prince Edward Islanders, while reinforcing the importance of sustained education efforts to close the gap between knowing what to do and taking action.

As a stewardship organization, HPSA is committed to not just being compliant but also forward-looking and outcomes-focused. Innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement remain essential to delivering effective, efficient and resilient stewardship systems.

Sincerely,

Delphine Lagourgue
Chief Executive Officer
Health Products Stewardship Association

Definitions

Collection Location Sites	Community pharmacies registered in the HPSA programs to collect unused and/or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps returned from the public.
IMRP	Island Medications Return Program
ISCP	Island Sharps Collection Program
Medical Sharps	A needle, safety engineered needle, lancet, or other similar instrument that is designed to puncture the skin for medical purposes and that is sold or otherwise distributed, and includes anything affixed to the medical sharp, including a syringe.
Natural Health Products	Under the federal Natural Health Products Regulations (SOR /2003 196), natural health products (NHPs) are defined as: • Vitamins and minerals • Herbal remedies • Homeopathic medicines • Traditional medicines such as traditional Chinese medicines • Probiotics • Other products like amino acids and essential fatty acids NHPs must be safe to use as over-the-counter products and do not need a prescription to be sold.
Non-Prescription Drugs	Non-prescription drugs do not require a prescription of a practitioner under Section C.01.040.03 of the Food and Drugs Regulations in order to be sold and are not listed in the Prescription Drug List established under Section 29.1 of the Food and Drugs Act. Examples include: 1) A drug available from a pharmacist but does not require a prescription. These are the drugs located in the area of the pharmacy "behind the counter", where there are no public access and no opportunity for patient self-selection, or 2) A drug which does not require a prescription and is available for self-selection from the area of the pharmacy under the direct supervision of the pharmacist, or 3) 3) A drug that may be purchased from any retail outlet (such as a grocery store).
Pharmaceuticals	Products sold directly to consumers and include: • Prescription drugs • Non-prescription drugs • Natural health products.

	The terms “medications” and “pharmaceuticals” have the same meaning in this Annual Report.
Prescription Drugs	A drug listed in the Prescription Drug List established under Section 29.1 of the Food and Drugs Act, requiring a prescription for sale in Canada
Regulation	Environmental Protection Act’s Material Stewardship and Recycling Regulations
Steward	Brand-owner/producer who is a member of the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA)

Section I: Program Performance

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	RESULTS
QUANTITY COLLECTED	In 2025, the following quantities were returned through the IMRP and the ISCP: The IMRP collected **4,321.5** kg of Pharmaceuticals returned by the public for safe disposal. The ISCP collected **7,766.9** kg of Medical Sharps returned by the public for safe disposal. Table 1 and Table 2 provides collection by regions.
ACCESSIBILITY	50 collection locations sites or 100% of all registered community pharmacies in Prince Edward Island See the full list in Appendix 3.
PHARMACIES	HPSA publishes and makes available information to educate both the pharmacists and the public on the IMRP and the ISCP. • Website: www.healthsteward.ca • HPSA Collection Location Portal • Promotional material order form • HPSA branded containers with MRP and SCP logo • Rack cards and bookmarks on IMRP and ISCP
EDUCATION OUTREACH AND CAMPAIGNS	• HPSA website with updated educational resources, FAQs, and an interactive collection location map. • Provincial and national awareness campaigns promoting the safe disposal of medications and medical sharps. • Social media and digital advertising campaigns to increase consumer awareness and education. • Consumer guides, collection location guides, videos, and other educational materials available online. • Consumer and pharmacy student surveys to assess awareness and support program improvement. • Information provided by IWMC under its Agreement with HPSA.

Section II: Program Outline

The Island Medications Return Program (IMRP) and Island Sharps Collection Program (ISCP) fulfill the extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps sold for consumer use in Prince Edward Island. These programs ensure that accessible collection services are available throughout the province and that returned Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps are collected, handled, stored, transported, and disposed of in a safe, environmentally sound, and regulatory-compliant manner. Program requirements are established under the Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations.

Under these Regulations, producers of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps are required to provide Prince Edward Island residents with free and convenient access to collection locations for the return and proper disposal of unused or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps.

The lists of producers participating in the Island Medications Return Program (IMRP) and the Island Sharps Collection Program (ISCP) are provided in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.

Section III: Collection System

Community pharmacies serve as collection sites for both the IMRP and ISCP. Pharmacies provide a safe, accessible, and convenient option for residents to return unused or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps, with many locations offering extended operating hours and year-round service. Program information is provided to pharmacy managers and staff to support their understanding of program requirements, objectives, and procedures.

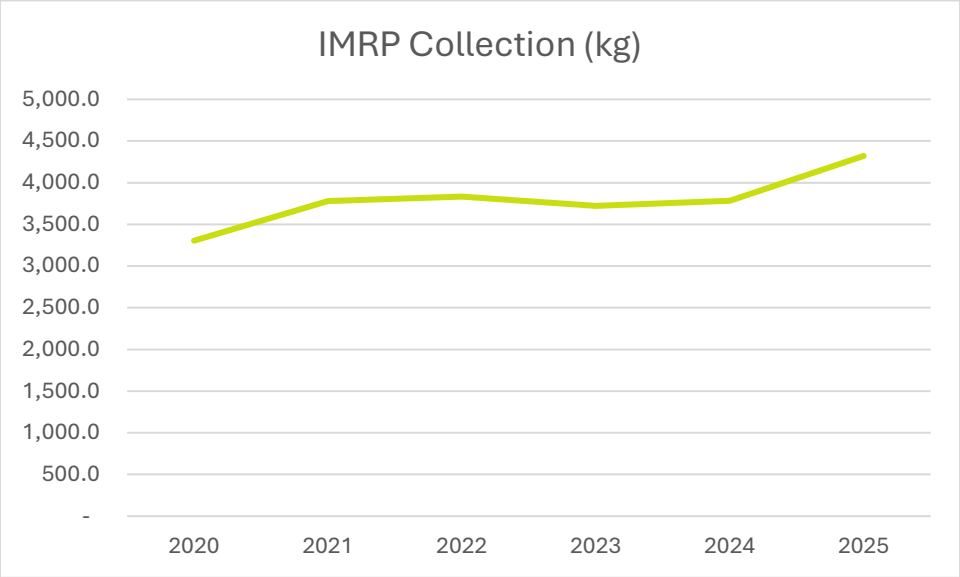
Participating pharmacies receive program guidelines, operational instructions, and educational materials for public distribution. Through HPSA, pharmacies can request branded collection containers for returned Pharmaceuticals. These containers are clearly labelled with HPSA branding, contact information, and details regarding acceptable and non-acceptable materials.

For the collection of used Medical Sharps, pharmacies may also request HPSA-branded sharps containers for distribution to patients at no cost. These containers are clearly marked for household use and include instructions for proper closure and return. HPSA accepts all approved medical sharps containers, regardless of whether they are HPSA branded.

Section IV: Program Collection

For Prince Edward Island, collection volume analytics indicate strong program performance and broad participation across the province. In 2025, HPSA collected 4,321.5 kg of unwanted medications and 7,766.9 kg of used medical sharps through its network of 50 collection facilities. This represents an average of 86 kg of medications and 155 kg of sharps collected per collection facility. Charlottetown recorded the highest total collection volumes, with 1,544.8 kg of medications and 2,938.7 kg of sharps collected, while the Western region recorded the highest average collection volumes per collection facility, with 139 kg of medications and 163.5 kg of sharps collected per location. When adjusted for population, PEI continued to achieve a high collection volume, with 237 kg of medications and 426 kg of sharps collected per 10,000 people. These results suggest strong public participation, effective collection accessibility, and continued program awareness throughout the province. HPSA will continue to monitor collection trends and regional performance over time.

The below charts summarize the IMRP and ISCP collections over the last five years.



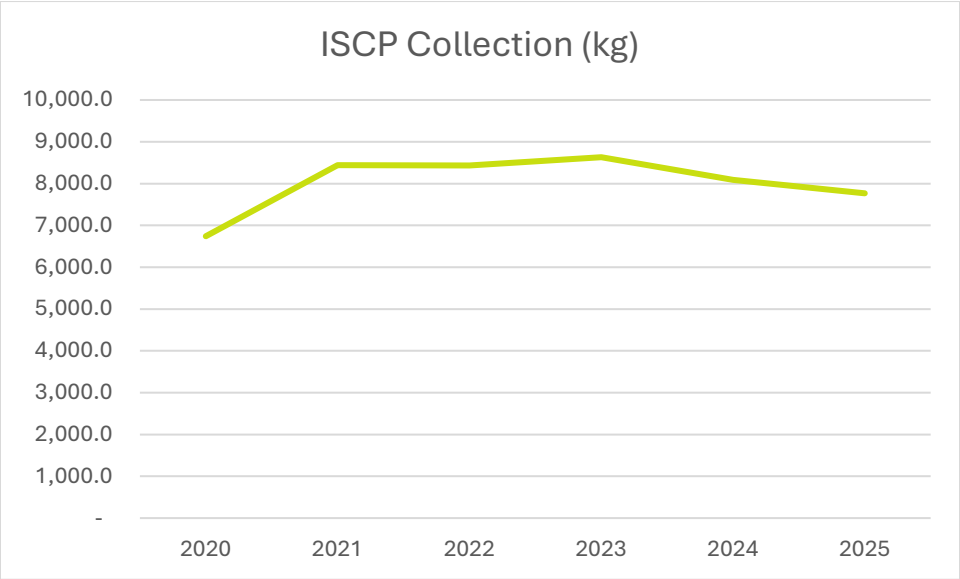


Table 2 shows 2025 weight collected per collection facility by regional districts:

Table 2.a - Pharmaceuticals

Regional District	Number of Collection Facilities	Kilograms Collected	Kilograms Collected per Collection Facility (Avg)
Charlottetown	18	1,544.8	85.8
Green Gables Shore	3	315.2	105.1
North Cape Coastal Region	14	1,095.1	78.2
Points East Coastal Drive	10	734.00	73.4
Red Sands Shore	3	354.2	118.1
Western	2	278.00	139
Total	**50**	**4,321.5**	

Table 1.b - Medical Sharps

Regional District	Number of Collection Facilities	Kilograms Collected	Kilograms Collected per Collection Facility (Avg)
Charlottetown	18	2,938.7	163.3
Green Gables Shore	3	494.00	164.7
North Cape Coastal Region	14	2,177.5	155.5
Points East Coastal Drive	10	1,384.3	138.4
Red Sands Shore	3	445.8	148.6
Western	2	327.0	163.5
Total	**50**	**7,766.9**	

Section V: Activities For Promotions and Communications 2025

1. Provincial and National Campaigns

1.1. Provincial Campaign: Don't Dump Drugs

HPSA's Don't Dump Drugs campaign was launched in Prince Edward Island to promote the safe and environmentally responsible disposal of unused or expired medications and medical sharps. The campaign utilized high-visibility media placements across the province to reach adults aged 18 and older, supporting awareness on medications and medical sharps return.

Overall, the campaign generated high returns through:

- **~100,600 impressions** through traditional print advertising
- 172,295 impressions through paid digital advertising
- 41,700+ individuals reached across digital channels

Print Advertising

- Traditional print advertisements were placed in newspaper inserts distributed in Charlottetown, Summerside, Montague, and Kensington, generating approximately **100,600 impressions** and **63 QR code scans** directing readers to additional program information.

1.2 National Campaign: HPSA 25th Anniversary

To mark HPSA's 25th anniversary, an integrated awareness campaign showcased its leadership in the safe disposal of unwanted medications and used medical sharps. The medication take-back program launched in British Columbia in 1999 and has expanded to six provinces. The campaign included digital advertising, national media outreach, a Take-Back Day with Pharmasave, a commemorative video, and tree plantings recognizing 40 long-standing collection locations that have been with HPSA since inception. This was supported by a national press release with a reach of ~2,788,796.

1.3 National Campaign: Together for Safer Homes Campaign – Drug-Free Kids (now Substance)

In 2025, HPSA supported the Together for Safer Homes campaign led by Substance to raise awareness of youth substance use and the safe disposal of unused or expired medications, promoting harm reduction and safer home environments.

1.4 National Campaign: Diabetes Awareness Month

During Diabetes Awareness Month in November, HPSA implemented a targeted campaign aimed at individuals living with diabetes to raise awareness of the importance of safe sharps disposal. The campaign included a social media post in collaboration with DASTRI, the French PRO managing used medical sharps, highlighting the need to return containers used for sharps associated with diabetes management.

2. Conferences and Symposiums

2.1 Promotion – PEI Pharmacy Association

HPSA participated in the PEI Pharmacy Association's annual conference, engaging pharmacists on safe disposal practices, product stewardship, and the critical role pharmacies play in responsible management of medical waste.

3. Social Media and Website

In 2025, HPSA saw strong growth and engagement across its social media platforms, expanding its reach and influence within the health products sector. By leveraging a mix of organic content and targeted paid digital advertising, we grew our audience and increased awareness of key initiatives.

Insights

- Paid advertising significantly broadened reach, connecting HPSA with new stakeholders and delivering over 6,765,473 impressions.
- In 2025, the HPSA website recorded over 88,000 visits, with more than 30,000 users searching for a collection location.

HPSA enhanced its website to improve visibility and navigation through a new interactive geolocator map to help users easily find collection locations.

4. Educational Materials

4.1 HPSA Consumer Survey 2025

HPSA conducted consumer awareness studies in 2021, 2023, and 2025 to assess behaviors related to the safe disposal of medications and sharps. The 2025 results showed that, among those who usually have each item, **70% of islanders** correctly identified collection locations as the proper disposal method. In 2025, awareness of collection locations was present for **64%** of consumers knowing **where to return** used medical sharps and **50%** knowing where to return unwanted medications.

4.2 Pharmacy Student Perspectives on Medication and Medical Sharps Take-Back Programs

A survey of 105 pharmacy students affiliated with CAPSI assessed their awareness and understanding of medication return programs based on their pharmacy internship experiences. Results showed that 52% of respondents were aware of take-back programs, while 78% strongly agreeing that these programs are important for health and safety.

4.3 Educational Guides

HPSA enhanced its educational assets to ensure users can easily access vital resources and information. The updated guides now offer a more streamlined and informative layout, featuring direct links to educational videos, collection location maps, and other materials available on the HPSA website. These resources are designed to provide clear, step-by-step guidance on the safe disposal of medications and medical sharps, as well as other critical topics. The updates aim to improve consumer knowledge and foster greater participation in safe disposal practices.

Collection Locations Guides

- Medications Return program guide
- Medical Sharps Return program guide

Consumer Guides

- Consumers Medication return guide
- Consumers Medical Sharps return guide

Videos

- How to assemble a Sharps Container
- How to Return Medications
- A Guide for Consumers Using Medical Sharps at Home
- HPSA 25 Year Anniversary Video

Appendix 1: HPSA Members – IMRP

3M Healthcare Canada Company Limited

AA Pharma Inc.

AbbVie Corporation

Accel Pharma Inc

Accord Healthcare

Advanced Orthomolecular Research (AOR)

Advantage Solutions

Alcon Canada Inc.

ALK-Abello Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Amazon.com.ca, ULC

Amgen Canada Inc.

Amway Canada Corporation

Analog Pharma Canada Inc.

Apotex Inc.

Aralez Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

Arcutis Biotherapeutics Inc.

Aspen Pharmacare Canada Inc

Assured Natural Distribution

Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.

AstraZeneca Canada Inc.

Auro Pharma Inc

Avir Pharma

Bausch + Lomb Corporation

Bausch Health, Canada Inc.

Baxter Canada

Bayer Inc.

BGP Pharma (Mylan)

Biocon Biologics Canada, Inc.

BioCryst Canada

Bioforce Canada Inc.

BioGaia Probiotics Canada Inc.

Biogen Canada Inc

Biomed Pharma

BioSyent Pharma Inc.

Blistex Corporation

Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.

Boiron Canada

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Canadian Custom Packaging Company

Celex Laboratories Inc.

Church & Dwight Canada

Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Costco Wholesale Canada

D Drops Company

Dermtek Pharma Inc.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories

Duchesnay

Eisai

Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

EXZELL PHARMA IN

Ferring Inc.

Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.

Galderma Canada Inc.

Galenova Inc.

Generic Medical Partners Inc.

Giant Tiger

Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.

GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

GNC Holdings, LLC

Grindeks Kalceks Canada Ltd

Haleon

Health First Network Association Inc.

Herbalife of Canada

Hill Dermaceuticals

HLS Therapeutics

HPI Health Products/Lakota

Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited

Incyte Biosciences Canada

Indivior Canada

Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada Inc

Jamieson Laboratories

Jamp Pharma Corporation

Janssen Inc.

Juno Pharma Canada Inc

Kenvue Canada Inc.

Knight Therapeutics Inc.

Laboratoire Riva

Laboratoire Trianon

Laboratoires Atlas Inc.

Laboratoires Confab Inc.

Leadiant Biosciences Inc.

Leo Pharma Inc.

Les Laboratoires Nicar Inc.

Life Science Nutritionals Inc.

Loblaws Inc.

Lundbeck Canada Inc.

Lupin Pharma Canada Ltd.

Mannatech Incorporated

Mantra Pharma Inc.

Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc.

McCaughey Consumer Products Management Inc.

McKesson Canada

Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co.

Medexus Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Medisca Pharmaceutique Inc.

Medunik Canada Inc.

Merck Canada Inc.

Mint Pharmaceuticals Inc

Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC

Natco Pharma Canada Inc.

Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd.

Nature's Sunshine Products of Canada Ltd.

Nestle Canada Inc

New Chapter Canada Inc.

New Nordic Inc.

Nora Pharma

Nordic Pharma Canada Inc.

Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.

Novo Nordisk

Nutratology

Odan Laboratories Ltd.

Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Organika Health Products Inc.

Organon Canada Inc

Otsuka Canada Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Pascoe Canada Inc

Pfizer Canada Inc.

Pharmasave Drugs Ltd

Pharmascience Inc.

Platinum Naturals Ltd

Procter & Gamble Inc.

Purdue Pharma

Puresource Corp

RB Health Canada Inc.

Rexall Pharmacy Group Ltd.

Roche Canada Ltd. - Hoffmann

Sandoz Canada

Sanis Health Inc.

Sanofi Consumer Health

Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.

Seaford Pharmaceuticals

Servier Canada Inc.

Shaklee Canada Inc.

Shoppers Drug Mart Inc.

Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC

Smith & Nephew Inc

Sobeys National (Mississauga)

SOBI Canada (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum)

St. Francis Herb Farm

Stella Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.

Sterimax Inc.

Sumitomo Pharma Canada Inc.

Sun Global Industries Inc.

Sun Pharma Canada Inc.

Takeda Canada Inc.

Tanta Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Teva Canada / Novopharm

The Clorox Company of Canada Ltd.

UCB Canada Inc.

Appendix 2: HPSA Members –ISCP

A&D Instruments Canada Inc.
Abbott Diabetes Care
AbbVie Corporation
Accord Healthcare
Amazon.com.ca, ULC
Amgen Canada Inc.
Apotex Inc.
Ascensia Diabetes Care Canada Inc.
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Bausch Health, Canada Inc.
BGP Pharma (Mylan)
Biocon Biologics Canada, Inc.
Biogen Canada Inc
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Cardinal Health Canada
Celltrion Healthcare Canada Ltd
Dexcom Canada
Domrex Pharma Inc.
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Elimedical
Embecta Canada Co.
EMD-Serono Canada Inc.
Ferring Inc.
Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.
Galenova Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Grey Wolf Animal Health Inc.
HTL-Strefa Inc.
Insulet Canada Corp
Intervet Canada Corp Merck Animal Health
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada Inc
Janssen Inc.
Knight Therapeutics Inc.
Leo Pharma Inc.
LifeScan Canada ULC
Medexus Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Medtronic Canada ULC
Montmed Inc
Nordic Pharma Canada Inc.
Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.
Novo Nordisk
Organon Canada Inc
Pfizer Canada Inc.
Roche Canada Ltd. - Hoffmann
Roche Diabetes Care - a division of Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd
Sandoz Canada
Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
SOBI Canada (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum)
Stericycle
Sun Global Industries Inc.
Takeda Canada Inc.
Teva Canada / Novopharm
UCB Canada Inc.
Wholesale Medical Network Inc
Ypsomed Canada Inc.
Zoetis Canada

Appendix 3: PEI Collection Facilities

Alberton Pharmacy
Bioscript Pharmacy
Bob's Pharmacy
Hunter River Pharmacy
Lawtons #2557
Lawtons #372
Lawtons #826
Lawtons #880
Lawtons #882
Loblaw Pharmacy #314
Loblaw Pharmacy #376
Loblaw Pharmacy #386
Loblaw Pharmacy #388
Main Street Pharmasave
McKenna's Pharmachoice
Montague Pharmasave
Murphy's Central Street Pharmacy
Murphy's Cornwall
Murphy's East Royalty Pharmacy
Murphy's Kensington Pharmacy
Murphy's Kinlock Pharmacy
Murphy's Morell Pharmacy
Murphy's Parkdale Pharmacy
Murphy's Queen Street Pharmacy
Murphy's Rustico Pharmacy

Murphy's Stratford Pharmacy
Murphy's Tyne Valley Pharmacy
Murphy's Wellington Pharmacy
Murphy's West Royalty Pharmacy
O'Leary Pharmacy
Pharmasave #823
Sentrex Pharmacy PEI
Sherwood Drug Mart
Shoppers Drug Mart #100
Shoppers Drug Mart #101
Shoppers Drug Mart #102
Shoppers Drug Mart #105
Shoppers Drug Mart #2029
Sobeys #621
Sobeys #628
Sobeys #721
Sobeys #868
Sobeys #870
Souris Remedy's Rx
South Shore Pharmacy
The Medicine Shoppe #187
The Medicine Shoppe #232
The Medicine Shoppe #327
Walmart #3162
Walmart #3644