



Health Products  
Stewardship Association

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# 2024 Consolidated Annual Report



**HEALTH PRODUCTS**  
STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION  
25 Years of Stewardship, Sustainability, and Safe Disposal

## **Health Products Stewardship Association Association pour la récupération de produits santé**

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# Vision, Mission, and Values



## Vision

Building a healthier and safer environment together.



## Mission

HPSA is a bridge between health care and the environment by offering programs for the safe disposal and return of medications and medical sharps used in Canadian homes.



## Values

Four core values guide our work:



### Excellence

We strive for excellence in everything we do through evidence-based practice, learning and continuous improvement.



### Together We Make A Difference

Our work as individuals and as an organization depends on the collective work and actions of others. We can only be successful when we have the trusting and transparent relationships that help us collaborate to reach a common goal.



### Stewardship

We live up to the responsibilities entrusted to us by our members as we work to protect Canadians and the environment.

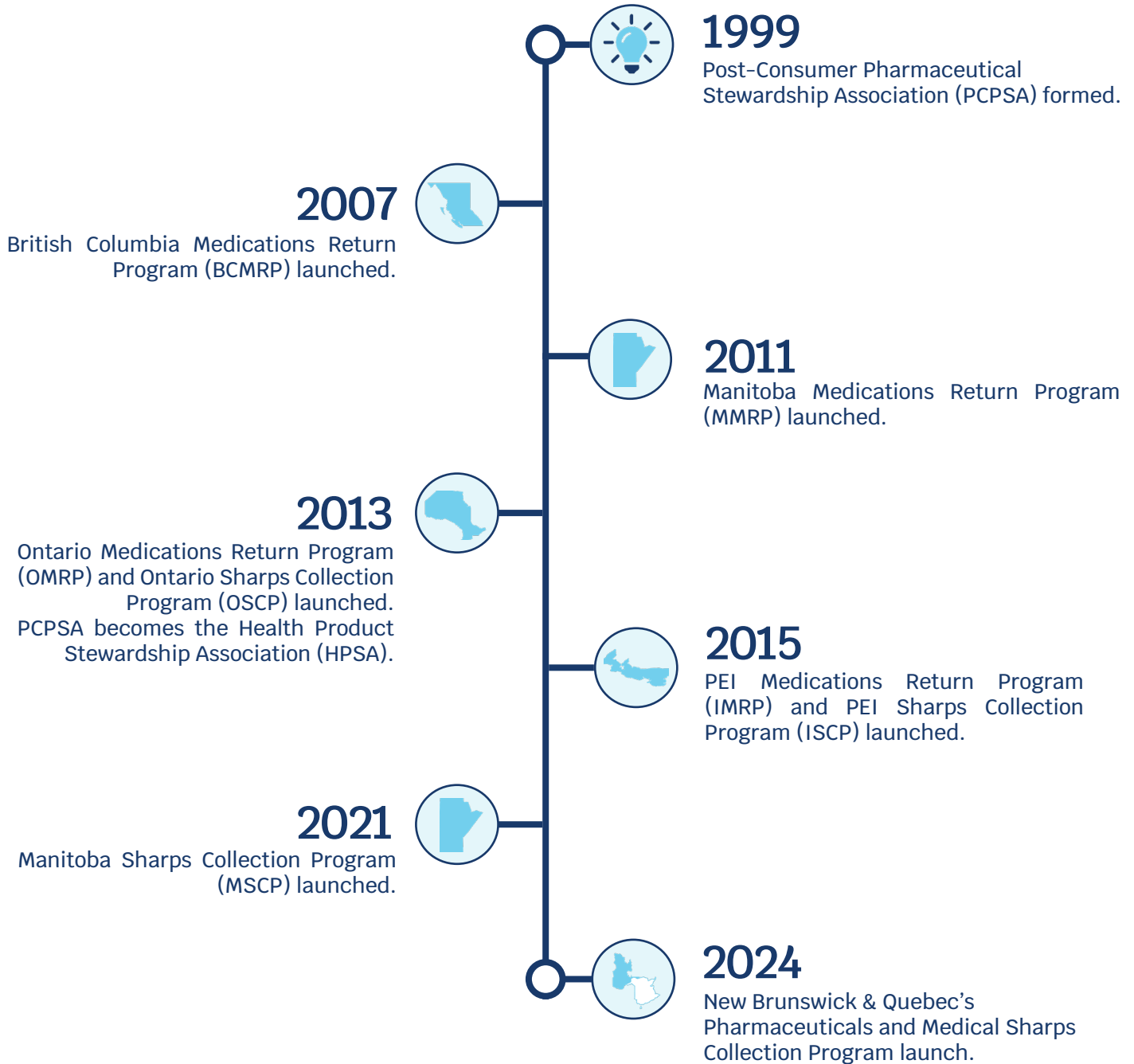


### Equity

We strive to be impartial, honest and free from self-interest.



# 25 Years in Operation





# Message from the Board



As a stewardship organization, our critical role is to provide value by operating pharmaceutical products take-back programs on behalf of our members to ensure public safety and protect the environment. This is at the heart of everything we do at HPSA, shaping our strategic vision, decision-making, and service innovation. Together with our partners and the Canadian public, we are making a difference.

2024 marked an unprecedented period of growth and progress in HPSA's history. The successful launch of two new medications and medical sharps return programs in Quebec and New Brunswick expanded our footprint to a total of eleven programs across six provinces—an important milestone in our national impact. Strategic and targeted recruitment efforts also led to a remarkable **24%** increase in membership, reflecting a growing commitment among producers to take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. This momentum underscores the industry's increasing recognition of its environmental and social responsibilities—and HPSA's role as a trusted partner in meeting them.

As HPSA continues to grow and evolve, so too does its governance. The Board of Directors has welcomed new members, bringing a rich diversity of expertise and perspectives to help guide the organization's strategic direction. In alignment with Quebec's regulatory requirements, HPSA has also established a Deliberative Council—an important addition to our governance structure. This Council serves as a valuable advisory body to the Board on all matters related to our programs in Quebec, strengthening both regional insight and organizational accountability.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express my appreciation for the impressive work that our former President & CEO Terri Drover achieved over her tenure at HPSA (2020-2024). Her steady, confident leadership was instrumental in our remarkable evolution and has positioned us for continued growth as we start our 25th year in existence.

I am pleased that Delphine Lagourgue will be leading the organization through its next phase. Delphine brings over 15 years of stewardship industry experience and has been with HPSA in the capacity of Vice President for the past years. We are confident that Delphine's approach to leadership, knowledge of the industry, and enthusiasm to drive sustainable growth will generate value for our members.

While we are still on a journey with more to achieve, the strong momentum over 2024 gives us confidence that we are on the right course to realize the full potential of this organization in 2025 and beyond.

**Kristen Willemsen**  
*Board Chair*



# Message from the CEO



2024 was a year marked by substantial progress in fostering consumer engagement in our programs, strengthening collaboration with collection partners, and continuing efforts to educate consumers about the environmental impact of incorrect disposal of health products while promoting sustainable stewardship practices.

Quebec and New Brunswick—HPSA now operates in six provinces nationwide. Thanks to the continued support of more than 7,700 participating pharmacies, we achieved strong national collection results: over 500,000 kg of unwanted medications and 550,000 kg of used medical sharps were safely returned and responsibly disposed.

Over the past year, we have also made important operational enhancements aimed at strengthening the efficient and effective delivery of our programs. In close collaboration with Health Canada, we responded to federal guidelines by developing an approved, practical solution for the safe return of post-consumer controlled substances.

Recognizing the vital role of our collection partners, we launched a new Collection Portal, a centralized platform designed to improve communication, streamline processes, and support a more seamless and connected experience between HPSA, our service providers, and collection sites. We also implemented key updates to the HPSA Member Portal, placing clarity, accessibility, and transparency at the heart of how we engage with members.

We are proud to welcome 36 new members to HPSA this year and deeply grateful to those who have stood with us (some since 2001!). Your continued trust and collaboration are the foundation of our shared success, and we remain committed to delivering programs with efficacy, transparency, and strategic value for the long term.

I would like to thank the entire team at HPSA for their hard work and dedication in delivering another successful year.

As I stepped into the role of President & CEO on January 1, 2025, I do so with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. My focus is to build on our progress and guide HPSA through its next chapter. One that continues to deliver value for members and reinforces our leadership in environmental stewardship.

**Delphine Lagourgue**

*President and CEO*



# Governance

HPSA is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of representatives from companies that manufacture consumer health products and of associations of those companies, as well as independent individuals with specific expertise. This diverse group reflects the broader health products industry and is responsible for guiding and overseeing HPSA's stewardship programs in accordance with provincial regulations for medications and medical sharps.

In 2024:

- The Board of Directors met quarterly and maintained compliance oversight.
- HPSA remained in good standing with regulatory requirements across all participating provinces.

## Board of Directors, as of December 31, 2024

**Kristen Willemssen**

CGPA (Rx)

**John Ly**

Sobeys (OTC/NHP)

**Cindy Giby**

Shoppers Drug Mart (OTC/NHP)

**Earl Black**

Apotex (Rx)

**Toni Bothwell**

Zoetis (Animal)

**Emily Roome**

IMC (Rx)

**Erik Botines**

Walmart (OTC/NHP)

**Michelle Saunders**

FHCP (OTC/NHP)

**Salman Hussein**

Novo Nordisk (Sharps)

**Mike Andraous**

Independent

## Conseil Délibératif, as of December 31, 2024

**Erik Botines**

Walmart (MVL/PSN)

**Sofia Lourenço**

Mantra Pharma (Prescription/PSN)

**Hana Daoud**

Metro/Jean Coutu (MVL/PSN)

**Stéphane Levesque**

Groupement Provincial de l'Industrie du Médicament (Prescription/MVL/PSN)

**Rebecca Deslandes-Brosseau**

McKesson (Prescription/MVL/PSN)

**Ludivine Lionnet**

Merck Animal Health (Prescription/Object PCT)

**Hugues Mousseau**

Association Québécoise des Distributeurs en Pharmacie (Prescription/MVL/PSN)

# General Overview

The Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a non-profit producer responsibility organizations (PRO) founded by trade associations of consumer health product manufacturers to promote **safe and environmentally responsible disposal of health products** in Canada. It was established in response to regulations. HPSA develops and administers Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for consumer health products in Canada on behalf of its members. ([Appendix I - List of Members](#))

We operate free take-back programs for used medical sharps in the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and for medications only in British Columbia. In addition to helping producers fulfill their regulatory stewardship obligations, we partner with collection locations to implement our programs and assist us in educating consumers on how to safely return accepted products.



# Medications Return Program (MRP)

The Medications Return Programs are designed to manage unused and/or expired pharmaceuticals from the residential sector. Participation in the Program is free for collection locations and for the public. Collection locations are community pharmacies and in Quebec, vet clinics and dispensaries, which are provided with collection containers and promotional materials to educate consumers. Consumers can safely dispose of their unwanted medications by taking them to a participating collection location. A list can be found on the geolocator available on our website ([Appendix 2 - Geolocator](#)).

HPSA operates Medication Return Programs in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

The following is an outline of what can be returned through our program.

## Included in All Provinces



All prescription drugs



Medication Patches



Over-the-counter medications



Fentanyl Patches



Natural health products



Medications for Companion Animals

*\* in NB, ON, QC*



Inhalers



Eyedrops with Drug Identification Number



Medical Marijuana

# Sharps Collection Program (SCP)

The Medical Sharps Return Programs are designed to manage used medical sharps that have been used by members of the public. Participation is free for both collection locations and to the consumers. Collection locations are community pharmacies and in Quebec, vet clinics, which are provided with collection containers and promotional materials to educate consumers. Consumers can pick up free medical sharps containers at participating locations and once full, return the container safely to a collection location. Collection locations can be found on the geolocator on our website ([Appendix 2 - Geolocator](#)).

HPSA operates Medical Sharps collection programs in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

The following is an outline of what can be returned through our program.

## Included in All Provinces



Needles



Prefilled syringes



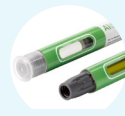
Syringes



Prefilled auto-injectors



Pen tips



Prefilled pen injectors

\* in NB, ON, QC



Lancets



Infusion sets



Prefilled cartridges



Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) applicators with needles



Safety pen needles









# Our Impact

For more than two decades, HPSA has been committed to making a positive impact on behalf of our members. As environmental stewards, we are responsible for the safe collection and disposal of program materials—keeping them out of landfills and water systems.

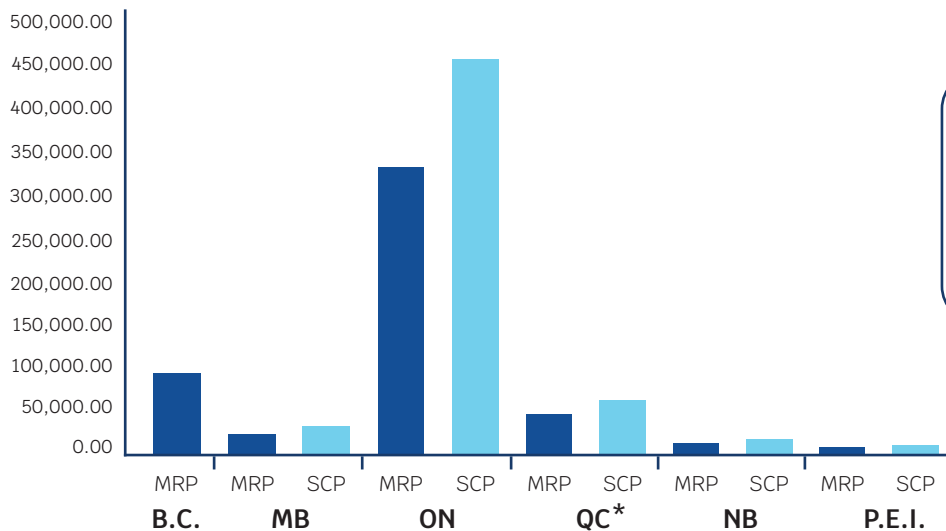
## Total Collection Locations: 7,794

Below is the number of collection locations and the percentage of participation in each province.



	British Columbia 1,047 (68.50%)		Quebec 1,496 (77.53%)
	Manitoba 443 (93.86%)		New Brunswick 200 (84.70%)
	Ontario 4,558 (92.43%)		Prince Edward Island 50 (100%)

## Total MRP and SCP Collections (kg) in 2024 by Province:



**Total Medications Collections: 507,424 kg**

**Total Medical Sharps Collections: 552,280 kg**

\* For the second half of 2024.



# 2024: Program Highlights

The successes of 2024 are a reflection of the strength of collaboration and commitment of our members, employees, board members, collection partners, service providers, provincial and municipal governments, other partners, and the Canadians we serve. Here are the key results and initiatives undertaken in 2024.

## Programs

As part of our commitment to expand access to safe and effective take-back programs, HPSA launched operations in two new regulated provinces: New Brunswick and Quebec.

Launched in January, the first year of the New Brunswick program, approved by Recycle New Brunswick, demonstrated a strong and measurable impact. More than **84.7%** of pharmacies registered as collection sites, over **11,000 kilograms** of used medical sharps and **7,000 kilograms** of unwanted medications were safely collected and disposed.

The June rollout in Quebec, with the program approved by RECYC Quebec, represented our most significant implementation in over a decade. This ambitious and complex initiative included the onboarding of close to **1,500** pharmacies (participation rate: **77%**), extensive member engagements, robust public awareness campaigns, and close coordination with collection partners and provincial government.

To ensure strong oversight and in line with regulatory requirements, HPSA also established the Quebec Deliberative Council — a dedicated governance body unique to the Quebec programs, reflecting the scale and complexity of operating in the province.

## Collections

**Total Medications Collections:** 507,424 kg

**Total Medical Sharps Collections:** 552,280 kg

To fulfill regulatory obligations on behalf of our members, HPSA focused on strengthening the collection of unwanted pharmaceuticals and used medical sharps across Canada. In 2024, thanks to the participation of more than 7,900 pharmacies, we achieved strong results with over 500,000 kilograms of unwanted medications and more than 550,000 kilograms of used medical sharps collected. Throughout 2024, HPSA continued its efforts to onboard collection locations into the Collection Location Portal in order to streamline operations and improve collaboration with collection partners.

This portal enhances efficiency, data accuracy, and support for collection sites across our programs. Responding to feedback from pharmacies and consumers, HPSA introduced a new 5L medical sharps container in Quebec, complementing the existing 1.8L option.



# 2024: Program Highlights

## Collections (continued)

This addition provides greater flexibility for patients with varying usage levels and improves the handling of larger medical sharp devices returned.

To improve safety and prevent potential misuse of controlled substances returned through the collection programs, HPSA implemented a one-way entry lid design for its medication containers—aligning with Health Canada’s requirements. The initiative was first piloted in Quebec, marking an important step in ensuring more secure and compliant collection practices.

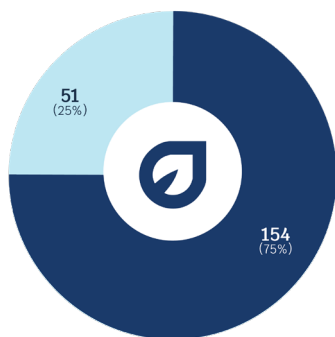
Our commitment to efficiency, effectiveness, and protecting both public health and the environment remained central to our efforts. To strengthen collaboration across the stewardship ecosystem, HPSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with packaging Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) Circular Materials and Éco Entreprises Québec (EEQ). These partnerships are designed to support shared goals, including improved materials management, enhanced consumer education, reduced contamination, and greater cost efficiency. They also create opportunities for future joint public campaigns in Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

## Membership

As part of our ongoing members recruitment strategy, HPSA welcomed **36** new members in 2024. The total membership of **186** is comprised of **154** medications return program members and **51** sharps return program members.

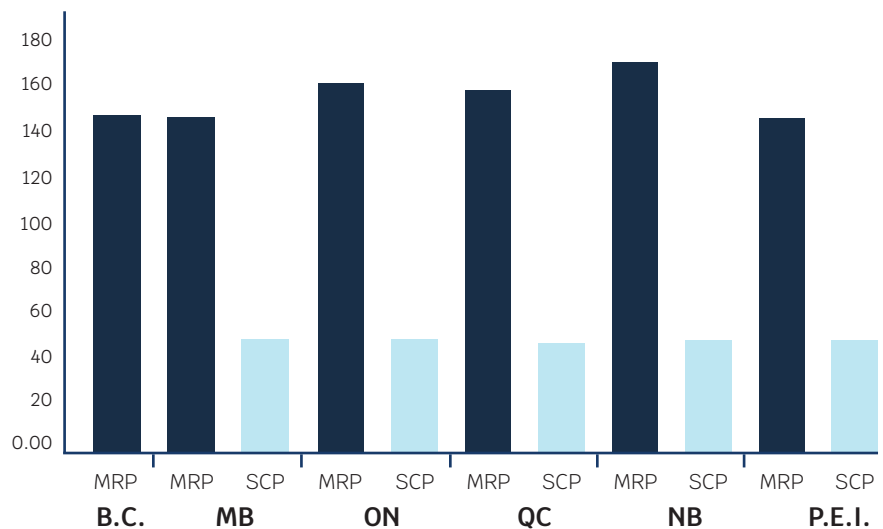
In the fall, we introduced five new membership policies along with a revised evergreen membership agreement. The new agreement enables producers to designate HPSA as their PRO to fulfill EPR obligations across multiple provinces.

## Member Segmentation by Program and per Province:



- Medications
- Medical Sharps \*

\* several members participate in both programs.



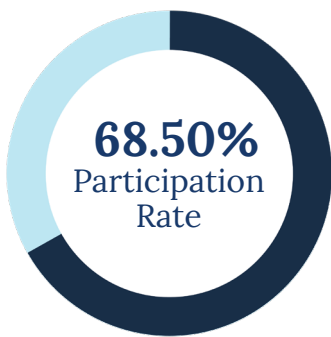


# Program Performance by Province

Below, *participation rate* refers to the number of pharmacies or vet clinics in the provinces that are registered as HPSA collection locations.

## British Columbia

Launched in 2007



2024 Collections in British Columbia:



## Manitoba

MMRP launched in 2011;  
MSCP launched in 2021



2024 Collections in Manitoba:





### Ontario

Launched in 2013

#### 2024 Collections in Ontario:

 Medications  
330,274 kg

 Medical Sharps  
452,203 kg



### Quebec

Launched in 2024



#### 2024 Collections in Quebec:

Medications   
47,795 kg

Medical Sharps   
51,981 kg



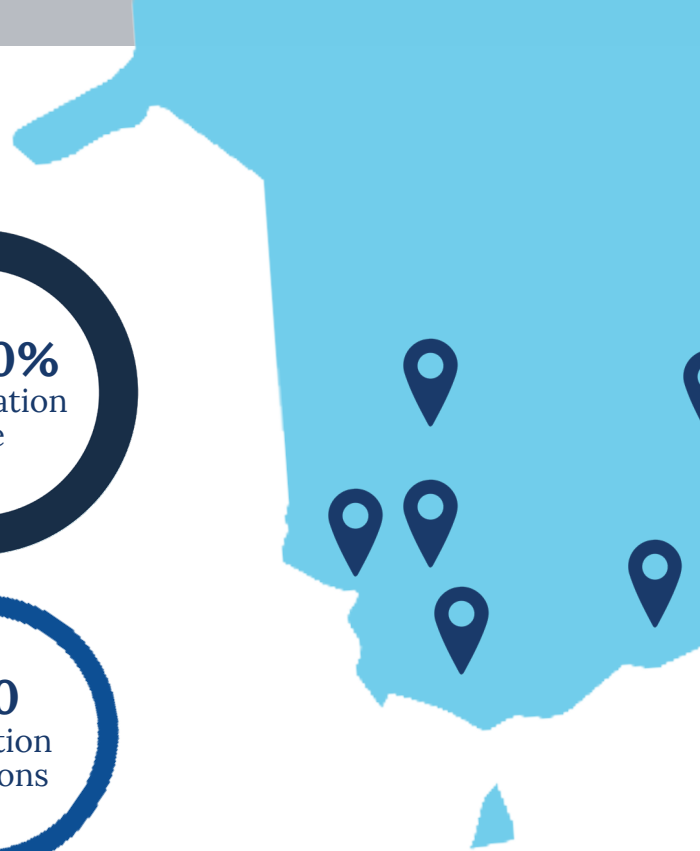
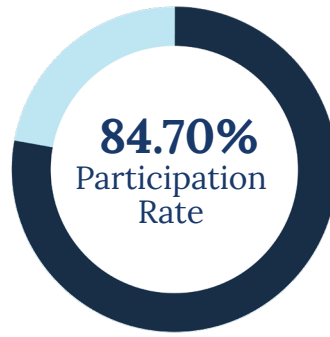
## New Brunswick

Launched in 2024

### 2024 Collections in New Brunswick:

 Medications  
7,661 kg

 Medical Sharps  
11,754 kg



## Prince Edward Island

Launched in 2015



### 2024 Collections in Prince Edward Island:

Medications   
3,784 kg

Medical Sharps   
8,086 kg





# Public Awareness and Education

Public safety and protecting the environment is at the heart of everything we do at HPSA. Together with our members, board, employees, partners, and all Canadians, we are building a healthier and safer environment.

Through the implementation of our programs, HPSA contributes to the public and environmental health. We are part of the greater community we serve and we share the views and concerns of the people in those communities. We are passionate about what we do and are committed to achieving our mission. The key to achieving our goals lies in our efforts to educate the public on how to safely return unwanted medications and/or used medical sharps.

Our outreach efforts focus not only on education, but also awareness of our return programs and instigating public action — the foundation of our impact on protecting the environment.





**Pharmacies & vet clinics:**  
*be the change your community needs.*

In 2024, HPSA expanded its public education efforts throughout 6 provinces to educate the public using many different methods— materials at our collection locations, provincial and regional initiatives, social media and advertising campaigns, partnering with health-promoting organizations, and attending public-facing events.

For example, in recognition of National Drug Drop-Off Month in August, we collaborated with Drug Free Kids (DFK) Canada to raise awareness among Canadian parents and their families about safe storage of products in the household and the correct way to dispose of unused medications. Outreach included a 13 week radio campaign, webinars, articles and media segments, and and take back days with a participating pharmacy banner.

Our ongoing “Don’t Dump Drugs” campaign delivers a simple but powerful message: the trash and the toilet are not safe disposal methods. By turning everyday items into characters that speak out against pollution, the message emphasizes the harmful consequences these disposal methods have on the environment. This initiative seeks to change behaviours and foster greater public participation in protecting the environment through responsible disposal.





During diabetes awareness month in November, HPSA ran a campaign targeting diabetes patients to raise awareness on the importance of safe disposal of sharps.

We aim to foster long-term partnerships and help ensure equitable access to Collection Locations throughout the provinces. Through participation in various initiatives and working with other PROs, HPSA engages with First Nations communities to share information about our programs and assist with local events and existing collection efforts.

Over the years, our collections of health products continues to grow as a result of education efforts, increasing awareness of our programs, and calling the public to action. Together we are making a difference.



# Looking Ahead

2025 will mark HPSA's 25th anniversary. As we look ahead, we will build on our past successes and core strengths to expand our leadership in environmental stewardship. HPSA will deepen collaboration, not only with our current partners, but also expand cooperation with public health organizations and educational institutions.

To bridge any gaps in consumer knowledge and increase awareness of our programs to the public, HPSA will expand its methods to reach the public, based on analytics-driven approach. As we continue to execute our strategy and work towards achieving our goals, we look forward to enhancing consumer participation, improving accessibility, and promoting safe disposal of health products.



# Appendix 1

## List of Members

A&D Instruments Canada Inc.  
AA Pharma Inc.  
Abbott Diabetes Care  
AbbVie Corporation  
Accord Healthcare  
Advanced Orthomolecular Research (AOR)  
Advantage Solutions  
Alcon Canada Inc.  
Amgen Canada Inc.  
Amway Canada Corporation  
Apotex Inc.  
Aralez Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.  
Arcutis Biotherapeutics Inc.  
Ascensia Diabetes Care Canada Inc.  
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.  
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.  
Atrium Innovations Inc  
Auro Pharma Inc  
Aventix Animal Health  
Bausch + Lomb Corporation  
Bausch Health, Canada Inc.  
Baxter Canada  
Bayer Inc.  
BGP Pharma (Mylan)  
Bimeda-MTC Animal Health Inc.  
Bioforce Canada Inc.  
Biogen Canada Inc  
BioSyent Pharma Inc.  
Blistex Corporation  
Body Plus Nutritional Products Inc.  
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada - Animal Health Canada Inc.  
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.  
Boiron Canada  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Canadian Custom Packaging Company  
Cardinal Health Canada  
Celex Laboratories Inc.  
Ceva Animal Health Inc.  
Champion Alstoe Animal Health Inc.  
Church & Dwight Canada  
Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Clorox Company of Canada Ltd.  
Costco Wholesale Canada  
D Drops Company  
Dechra Veterinary Products Inc.  
Dexcom Canada  
Domrex Pharma Inc.  
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories  
Duchesnay  
Eisai  
Elanco Canada Ltda  
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.  
Embecka Canada Co.  
EMD-Serono Canada Inc.  
EXZELL PHARMA IN  
Ferring Inc.  
Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.  
Galderma Canada Inc.  
Generic Medical Partners Inc.  
Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.  
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.  
GNC Canada Holdings, LLC  
Groupe Jean Coutu (PJC) Inc.  
Haleon  
Health First Network Association Inc.  
Herbalife of Canada  
HLS Therapeutics  
Horopito Inc.  
HPI Health Products/Lakota  
Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited  
Indivior Canada  
Intervet Canada Corp Merck Animal Health  
Jamieson Laboratories  
Jamp Pharma Corporation  
Janssen Inc.  
Kenvue Canada Inc.  
Laboratoires Atlas Inc.  
Leadiant Biosciences Inc.  
Leo Pharma Inc.  
Les Laboratoires Nicar Inc.  
LifeScan Canada ULC  
Loblaw Companies Ltd.  
London Drugs Limited  
Lundbeck Canada Inc.  
Mannatech Incorporated  
Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
McKesson Canada  
Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co.  
Medexus Inc.  
Merck Canada Inc.  
Mint Pharmaceuticals Inc  
Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC  
Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd.  
Nature's Sunshine Products of Canada Ltd.  
Nestle Canada Inc



# Appendix 1

## Members

Nestle Purina PetCare Canada  
New Chapter Canada Inc.  
Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.  
Novo Nordisk  
Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Organika Health Products Inc.  
Organon Canada Inc  
Otsuka Canada Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Paladin Pharma Inc.  
Pascoe Canada Inc  
Pattison Food Group Ltd.  
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  
Roche Diabetes Care - a division of Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd  
Sandoz Canada  
Sanis Health Inc.  
Sanofi Consumer Health  
Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.  
Seaford Pharmaceuticals  
Servier Canada Inc.  
Shaklee Canada Inc.  
Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC  
Sobeys National (Mississauga)  
SOBI Canada (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum)  
St. Francis Herb Farm  
Stella Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.  
Stericycle  
Sterimax Inc.  
Sumitomo Pharma Canada Inc.  
Takeda Canada Inc.  
Tanta Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Teva Canada / Novopharm  
UCB Canada Inc.  
UniPHARM Wholesale Drugs  
USANA Health Sciences  
Valeo Pharma Inc  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
Vetoquinol N.-A. Inc.  
Virbac Corporation

Vita Health Products Inc.  
Wal-Mart Canada Corp  
WellSpring Pharmaceutical Canada Corp.  
Wholesale Medical Network Inc  
WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd.  
Xediton Pharmaceuticals Inc.  
Zoetis Canada

# Appendix 2

## Collection Locations Geolocator

Use our Geolocator to find a collection location near you today!



<https://healthsteward.ca/find-a-collection-location/>

