

Media Release

Out with the old (medications), in with the New Year!

January 6, 2014 – Your medicine cabinet may contain unused or expired medications that can harm your family and the environment if not disposed of properly. This New Year, the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) urge British Columbians to return old medications to their local pharmacy.

“The New Year is a great time to take a look in your medicine cabinet and double check the expiry dates on your prescriptions,” said Don Cocar, president of the BCPhA. “It’s free for British Columbians to return unused or expired medications to pharmacies for safe and effective disposal.”

BC’s Medications Return Program covers all prescription drugs; over-the-counter medications, including topical antibiotic and antifungal creams; and natural health products that are orally ingested, such as vitamins, minerals, traditional Chinese medicines, herbal products, probiotics and homeopathic medicines.

The best way to return your medications to the pharmacy is to either combine loose pills into a small bag, or black out your personal information on the original containers. More information on the program can be found at www.healthsteward.ca.

“Safe disposal of unused and expired pharmaceuticals helps to protect local watersheds and preserve the health of our communities,” says Brooke Carere, environmental technician for the SLRD. “We’re happy to join forces with the BCPhA to create awareness of this important program.”

The BCPhA is a not-for-profit, voluntary association, representing almost 2,800 pharmacists and more than 800 pharmacies throughout British Columbia.

The SLRD provides a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional government services to approximately 38,000 residents. The SLRD is comprised of four member municipalities - Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and Lillooet; and four Electoral Areas - A, B, C, D (including Gold Bridge, Bralorne, Pavilion, Texas Creek, Yalakom, Seton Portage, D’Arcy, Devine, Birken, Pinecrest/Black Tusk Village, Upper Squamish, Ring Creek, Furry Creek, Britannia and Porteau Cove).

- 30 -

To interview a pharmacist in your local area, please contact Elise Riedlinger, BCPhA: 604.269.2866 / elise.riedlinger@bcpharmacy.ca.

To arrange an interview with an SLRD representative, contact Jeannette Nadon: 604.894.6371 ext.239 / jnadon@slrd.bc.ca.