



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 Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) 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.

“The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is excited to partner with the BC Pharmacy Association to raise awareness and promote safe returns of old medications to pharmacies, rather than disposing them in the garbage or poured down sewers and drains,” said Andy Daniel, Manager of Environmental Services for the ACRD. “Proper disposal of medications will keep our children and pets safe and keep the medications from contaminating our rivers, lakes and oceans.”

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

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District is a local government that manages the recycling programs for Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet and Bamfield.

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

To interview a spokesperson at the ACRD, please contact Janice Hill: 250-720-2714 / janice.hill@acrd.bc.ca