British Columbia Medications Return Program (BCMRP) is administered by Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), a non-profit association funded and governed by the health product industries.¹

http://www.healthsteward.ca/returns/british-columbia

The British Columbia (B.C.) Medications Returns Program was first established in 1996 with the B.C. Waste Management Act (B.C. Reg. 111/97). In 2004, the B.C. Recycling Regulation (B.C. Reg. 449/2004) replaced the old legislation.⁴ Currently, all brand-owners (both prescription and non-prescription) are responsible for funding the entirety of the B.C. Medications Return Program.⁵ The HPSA operates the collection system and ensures producers are held accountable for their responsibilities.⁶ The program collects prescription drugs, non-prescription medications and natural health products.⁷

The pharmaceutical industry is responsible for funding the entire cost of the program; this includes costs for management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, and promotional activities.⁶

- For prescription medications, producer fees are calculated by combining the previous year’s market share and collected data IMS Compuscript Eutrx Data.⁸
- For Over The Counter (OTC) medications and Natural Health Products (NHP), producer fees are calculated by a ratio of retail sales from the previous year.⁸

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⁶ “Product Stewardship Financing Models”
⁷ “Producer Provided Medications Return Program”

Last updated: 2/9/2015
Program Costs:
- 2009: $350,827 USD
- 2011: $516,800 USD, ~$3.40 per lb and/or ~$500 per pharmacy/year
- Costs are shared by the by the both prescription and non-prescription health product industries.

Program Chronology:
- 1996: B.C. Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) establishes BC EnviRx program.
- 1997: B.C. Waste Management Act- Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program implemented (B.C. Reg. 111/97), requiring all brand producers to be fully responsible for their products’ end-of-life disposal.
- 2000: A nationally registered non-profit, Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) replaces BCPhA. PCPSA begins managing the Medications Returns Program.

Collection Locations: At community pharmacies around BC. Participation by pharmacies is voluntary. As of 2013, 1,132 pharmacies participated in the program; representing 94.1% of all pharmacies in B.C.
Results:

- Between 2009 and 2013 there was an 81% increase in the amount of medications collected.
- The graph below represents B.C. Pharmaceutical Waste Collection from 2009-13. The data was obtained through the B.C. Medications Returns Program from Annual Reports 2009 to 2013.  

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B.C. Informational Sticker attached to collection containers in pharmacies ([Health Products Stewardship Association Website](http://www.healthsteward.ca/sites/default/files/BCMRPbrochure.pdf))

Public Brochure for the BCMRP: