

**NEWFOUNDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL
ASSOCIATION**



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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: March 31, 2000

Pharmacists in this province are not at all happy with the most recent provincial budget.

In 1996, the provincial government drastically reduced the amount of money paid to pharmacists for their professional services by 46%. None of the \$5.4 million added to the provincial drug program in the recent budget will be paid to pharmacists for the services they provide. The rate paid to pharmacists remains 23% below what was paid nine years ago in 1991.

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association President Margot Priddle said that pharmacists are very disappointed. "We sincerely thought that, in this budget, pharmacists would be addressed." According to the Pharmaceutical Association, the 1996 cut has cost pharmacists \$9 million, collectively, and is having a widespread impact on pharmacy services in the province. In fact, the number of pharmacists leaving the province is increasing every year. This is leading to a shortage, which is going to hit a crisis point within a few short years.

Priddle says that the province's current practice of redistributing money throughout the system instead of bringing in new revenue either by increased federal funding or finding savings in the current program is non-productive. "We support the idea that federal government funding cuts have had a dramatic impact on health care in this province, and that these cuts must be restored. The fact remains, however, that there is a significant amount of money wasted in the current provincial drug program. We would welcome the opportunity to sit down with the Minister and find ways that we could save this money together or find alternative ways to compensate pharmacists."

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: April 4, 2000

Pharmacists to meet with Minister – More funding sought

Representatives for the province's pharmacists are meeting with Minister of Health and Community Services, Roger Grimes later today to seek more funding for pharmacists.

The recent budget contained no funding for pharmacists and did nothing to restore the 46% cut that took place in 1996. Pharmacists will be seeking an explanation from the Minister since in pre-budget meetings there were indications that this issue would be addressed.

Many pharmacists have left the province in the last year and this out-migration is expected to continue. These pharmacists are choosing to work in provinces where government funding for pharmacist's services is more reasonable. Until government is willing to address this issue, there will continue to be a pharmacist shortage in Newfoundland, which will eventually have a direct impact on patient services. Over the last 18 months, pharmacies have closed in Salmonier, Holyrood and Clarenville.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: April 5, 2000

Minister Pledges to Restore Funding to Pharmacists

Following Tuesday's meeting with Minister of Health and Community Services, Roger Grimes, Pharmaceutical Association President, Margot Priddle said "the Minister stated that the provincial government is committed to restoring funding to pharmacists once money is received from the federal government. The Minister indicated that this could happen as early as this fall, following the First Ministers meeting with the Prime Minister." Priddle added, "We are pleased to accept the Minister's commitment."

Since 1996, when government slashed pharmacist's reimbursement in half, pharmacists have been exiting the provinces and many Newfoundland-owned pharmacies have closed. With new money in the system, funding will be restored to the level set in 1991, which should help to alleviate some of these problems.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: June 8, 2000

Pharmacists to meet with Federal Minister of Health – More Health Care Funding Sought for Province

Representatives from the Executive of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association are meeting with Federal Minister of Health, Alan Rock, on Friday morning to seek more health care funding for the province.

Payment to pharmacists for prescriptions filled for Social Services patients was slashed by 46% in the 1996 provincial budget as part of the province's attempt to deal with reduced transfer payments from Ottawa for health care. While some restoration of the 1996 cut has taken place, fees paid to pharmacists by the provincial government remain at the same level that they were 18 years ago in 1982. Roger Grimes, the provincial Minister of Health and Community Services, has committed to pharmacists that their fees will be raised when additional funding is received from the federal government.

Pharmacists will impress upon Mr. Rock the necessity for increased federal funding of health care to this province. They will also stress the particular problems faced by this province in dealing with a small population spread over a huge geographic area and the shift in population demographics caused by out-migration in recent years.

Given the fee structure in this province, pharmacists are finding it more and more difficult to retain pharmacists. In the last year pharmacies have closed in Salmonier, Holyrood, Clarenville and Bay D'Espoir. At the same time a number of hospital pharmacy positions remain unfilled because of the lack of applicants.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: June 15, 2000

Pharmacists Shocked by Sudden Increase in Drug Price

The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, the governing body for pharmacists and pharmacies in the province was shocked by the notice just sent to all pharmacies that the widely prescribed heart medication, Lanoxin will more than double in price.

Lanoxin is the brand name for the drug digoxin, which until not was manufactured and marketed by the internationally respected Glaxo-Wellcome Inc., and is used to improve the strength and efficiency of the heart, or to control the rate and rhythm of the heartbeat. The majority of patients using Lanoxin are senior citizens.

The marketing of Lanoxin in Canada has been transferred to Virco Pharmaceuticals (Canada) Inc., a company unknown to most Canadian pharmacists. The price published by Virco Pharmaceuticals is more than double the price now charges by Glaxo-Wellcome. In addition, pharmacists could previously purchase Lanoxin directly from the manufacturer, but now must purchase this drug from a wholesaler, resulting in an additional increase in price. For example, a supply of Lanoxin that previously cost the pharmacist \$23.62 may now cost as much as \$57.35, effective immediately.

The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association has been unable to determine an explanation of why such a dramatic price increase should occur, particularly since for the immediate future the Lanoxin will continue to be manufactured by Glaxo-Wellcome and the only difference will involve the marketing function.

There is no generic equivalent of Lanoxin presently approved for substitution by pharmacists in this province. Pharmacists are concerned that they will have no other choice but to pass along this dramatic increase to their patients. Even those patients who have drug insurance programs may be faced with rising insurance premiums if drug costs increase significantly.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: September 8, 2000

The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association

90 Years of Service

to

The People of Newfoundland and Labrador

Strengthened by the Past, Challenged by the Future

On January 2nd, 1910 ten St. John's druggists, chaired by Thomas McNeil, met in the Reading Room of the Total Abstinence Club. The purpose of the meeting was to select a deputation to meet the Prime Minister to discuss a proposed Pharmacy Bill.

On March 29th of the same year, 29 members signed the original constitution to establish The Pharmaceutical Society, and on April 11th six members of the Society were elected for appointment to the newly established Newfoundland Pharmacy Board.

Today, 90 years later, the successor body, **The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association**, has a total membership of 562 pharmacists, practising in 175 community pharmacies and 16 hospital pharmacies, located in 113 different communities.

On the weekend of September 8 to 10, pharmacists from across the province, and visiting representatives from other provinces and national pharmacy bodies will meet at Hotel Newfoundland in St. John's for the 90th Annual Conference of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association.

While pharmacists will be celebrating the accomplishments of the past, they will also be focusing on the challenges of the future.

This plans to be one of the NPhA's busiest conferences, with a wide range of issues to be considered. In addition to the standard reports that are presented at the Annual General Meeting of the association, discussions and presentations at this year's conference will focus on:

- the administrative role increasingly being played by pharmacists in government and private third party drug benefit programs,
- a proposal for the establishment of an advocacy body for pharmacists separate from the regulatory body,
- the use of improved technology to reduce medication errors,
- innovative practices to coordinate pharmacy care as patients move between the hospital and community setting,
- privacy and confidentiality issues related to personal health information,
- stress management in an increasingly demanding professional practice,
- and strategies to deal with a continent wide shortage of pharmacists.

At the annual Awards Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, September 9th, the ceremonies will include recognition of 22 new graduates who have been registered since last year, 11 members who have been practising for 25 years, the awarding of two Honorary Life Memberships, the awarding of the James C. Quick Awards for Innovative Practice, and the announcement of this year's winner of the prestigious international award, the Whitehall Robins' Bowl of Hygeia.

Association President, Arlene Crane, of St. John's says: "We look forward to this conference as not only an opportunity to review our past year, but also as a chance to meet with friends, recharge our batteries and renew our enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the future."

If you have questions about the conference, wish further information, or wish to receive this or other news releases via e-mail, please contact our offices.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: September 12, 2000

Pharmacists Pleased to See Health Care Funding Restored by Federal Government

Newfoundland pharmacists want to be one of the first to congratulate the Minister of Health and Community Services, Roger Grimes, on the transfer of \$450 million back into the provincial health budget.

Representatives of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association visited Federal Minister of Health, Alan Rock, in June to impress upon him how important restoration of funding was to our population as a whole. They stressed the particular problems faced by this province in dealing with a small population spread over a large geographic area and the shift in population demographics caused by out-migration in recent years.

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association President, Arlene Crane, says, "We were pleased to accept the Ministers commitment and are encouraged by the fact that Minister Rock kept his word."

Representatives of NPhA met with Minister Grimes in April to express their disappointment with the lack of funding given to them in this year's provincial budget. At that meeting, Minister Grimes committed to restoring pharmacists reimbursement back to the 1995 level. "Restoration of the pharmacist's fees would cost the government less than 1% of the total allotted by the Federal government. We are eagerly anticipating word from Minister Grimes on when pharmacists can expect to see the fee restoration process begin," Crane said.

Pharmacists in this province are still reeling from the 1996 provincial budget when government slashed pharmacist's reimbursement in half. Many pharmacists have since left the province and many Newfoundland-owned pharmacies have closed their doors. "We are not even trying to move ahead," said Crane. "We are simply trying to get back to where we were 5 years ago."

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: **October 1, 2001**

Fifty Five Pharmacies Voluntarily Say "NO" to Tobacco

St. John's - A Bay Bulls pharmacy is the first of 55 Newfoundland and Labrador pharmacies to receive recognition from their professional association for their choice to go tobacco free. Kennedy's Family Drugs stopped selling tobacco earlier this year, despite worries about the impact it would have on the economic viability of the pharmacy. Tom Kennedy, pharmacist and owner, was recently presented with the first certificate of recognition by the Honourable Gerald Smith, Acting Minister of Health and Community Services.

Mr. Kennedy related an experience in his pharmacy that made him decide to remove tobacco. "A customer had different prescriptions for each of his two children but bought only the lower priced of the two, intending to share it between the two children. The customer then proceeded to the front counter, and purchased \$70.00 worth of tobacco for himself and his wife."

Mr. Kennedy and his son, who is the manager, were so disturbed by this they decided to remove tobacco completely from their pharmacy. "I know this decision will probably only send smokers elsewhere, but how can I, as a pharmacist and a health care professional, have anything to do with the sale of tobacco after such an incident?", asks Mr. Kennedy. At the risk of considerable loss of revenue to his pharmacy he decided to go tobacco-free immediately, earlier than the deadline established by Standards of Pharmacy Practice adopted by the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA).

"There was a drop in business at first," says Kennedy, "but we recovered most of that business from other retail products, and from new customers who preferred a tobacco-free pharmacy. I was also very pleased by the number of customers, and local physicians, who congratulated us on making this decision."

Arlene Crane, President of the NPhA, says, "Our Association has advocated the voluntary removal of tobacco from pharmacies for many years. This year we have adopted Standards of Pharmacy Practice which will enhance pharmacists' promotion of smoking cessation and will also make mandatory the removal of tobacco from every pharmacy in the province by the end of 2004."

"These certificates recognize pharmacies in the province that have voluntarily made the decision to disassociate the profession of pharmacy from the sale of tobacco." "While we realize that some pharmacies need time to adjust to the potentially significant loss of revenue, we continue to urge pharmacies to voluntarily make the tobacco-free decision as soon as possible."

Minister Smith was very impressed with the initiative and congratulated the association. "Nearly 8,000 children receive care for tobacco related illnesses every year. So, on behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the children of the province, I congratulate Mr. Kennedy and all the other pharmacists who have made this decision.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: **October 13, 2001**

The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association

91 Years of Service

to

The People of Newfoundland and Labrador

Strengthened by the Past, Challenged by the Future

On January 2nd, 1910 ten St. John's druggists, chaired by Thomas McNeil, met in the Reading Room of the Total Abstinence Club. The purpose of the meeting was to select a deputation to meet the Prime Minister to discuss a proposed Pharmacy Bill.

On March 29th of the same year, 29 members signed the original constitution to establish The Pharmaceutical Society, and on April 11th six members of the Society were elected for appointment to the newly established Newfoundland Pharmacy Board.

Today, 91 years later, the successor body, **The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association**, has a total membership of 584 pharmacists, practising in 177 community pharmacies and 17 hospital pharmacies, located in 113 different communities.

On the weekend of October 12 to 14, pharmacists from across the province, and visiting representatives from other provinces and national pharmacy bodies will meet in Gander at Hotel Gander for the 91th Annual Conference of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association.

While pharmacists will be celebrating the accomplishments of the past, they will also be focusing on the challenges of the future.

This plans to be one of the NPhA's busiest conferences, with a wide range of issues to be considered. In addition to the standard reports that are presented at the Annual General Meeting of the association, discussions and presentations at this year's conference will focus on:

- consideration of a report calling for the establishment of a professional association for pharmacists separate from the regulatory body,
- the administrative role increasingly being played by pharmacists in government and private third party drug benefit programs, and the refusal of these parties to resolve pharmacists' issues
- the use of improved pharmacy design to increase efficiency and reduce medication errors,
- the appropriate use of antibiotics
- a collaborative approach to the care of patients with Alzheimer's Disease
- liability issues related to pharmacy practice,
- and financial and estate planning for pharmacists,

At the annual Awards Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, September 15th, the ceremonies will include recognition of 24 new graduates who have been registered since last year, 25 members who have been practising for 25 years, the awarding of the J. Frank Janes Meritorious Service Award, the awarding of the E.C. MacDonald Memorial Medal, and the announcement of this year's winner of the prestigious international award, the Whitehall Robins' Bowl of Hygeia.

Association President, Arlene Crane, of St. John's says: "We look forward to this conference as not only an opportunity to review our past year, but also as a chance to meet with friends, recharge our batteries and renew our enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the future."

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: October 14, 2001

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Awards Luncheon 2001

Almost 150 pharmacists and guests were present today at the Albatross Hotel in Gander, when a number of awards were presented at the annual Awards Luncheon held as part of the annual conference of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association. The awards were presented by association president Arlene Crane.

- 24 new graduates were welcomed as pharmacist members of the association.
- 21 pharmacists were awarded pins for 25 years service to the public.
- St. John's pharmacist **Barbara Scaplen** was awarded the **J. Frank Janes Meritorious Service Award** in appreciation of the outstanding contribution she made as provincial coordinator for the first Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Since this year was the first for such an OSCE-style exam, Barbara's leadership involved incredible effort to put the basic infrastructure in place. Model patients and assessors had to be recruited and trained, logistics for the actual administration of the exam had to be planned, and arrangements for the required security of the examination process had to be put in place. Barbara's efforts not only made the success of this year's exam possible, but also laid the foundation for the efficient administration of the exam in future years.

In her "real job", Barbara is the Director of Pharmacy for Lawton's Drugs in Newfoundland and has contributed to the profession over the years through her service to the Association. She served on the association's Council from 1997 to 1999, sat on the committee that developed advertising guidelines for pharmacies in the province, and has served as the Chair of the Government and Third Party Relations Committee for the past several years.

- The **E. C. MacDonald Memorial Medal**, which is awarded by the President of our association to a member who has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the profession in Newfoundland and Labrador, has been awarded to St. John's pharmacist **Margot Priddle**.

Margot was presented with this award in recognition of her devotion to the profession of pharmacy in this province, but also to the affairs of our association in particular. Margot was first elected to Council in 1994 and immediately accepted the responsibilities of Vice-President and Chair of the Finance Committee. She was later the first female to serve as President of the association and has also represented our association on numerous provincial and national committees. She has served on the Board of the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA), the Executive Committee of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Associations (NAPRA), the Board of the Canadian Pharmacists Benefits Association (CPBA) and serves as the President of the Canadian Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Margot currently represents the association on

the Advisory Committee on Nurse Practitioner Regulations, which advises the province's Minister of Health and Community Services.

Margot has been untiring in her involvement with the profession and the promotion of pharmacy in the health care community provincially and nationally. She has been particularly supportive of our current President Arlene Crane, by extending her own term of office as President for an additional five months, while Arlene became attuned to the office. Margot presently practices with the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information as a consultant pharmacist.

- The most prestigious pharmacy award in North America is the **Whitehall Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award**. This award recognizes outstanding community service through pharmacy, and has been awarded this year to Baie Verte pharmacist **Joan Wells**.

In addition to actively practising pharmacy since 1979, Joan has been involved in committees and boards, which touch upon a wide variety of aspects of community life. Her untiring involvement typifies the dedication and commitment that pharmacists make to their communities, as well as to their profession.

Joan has been involved for many years in numerous community groups that involved her children, and has continued to volunteer her services long after her children have been a part of these groups. She is the first to volunteer her time to any community group that approaches her, and she is an extremely active member of her community. Joan's activities have included:

- President of the Baie Verte Dolphin Swim Club from 1991-1995
- Treasurer of the Baie Verte Skating Club from 1984-1989
- Involvement with Girl Guides of Canada from 1991 to the present
- Served on the Youth Justice Committee from 1977 to the present
- Served on the Baie Verte High School Council from 1997-2000
- Former member of the Anglican Church Women's Association
- Sunday School teacher from 1985-1998
- Served as church Youth Group leader from 1993-1994

A native of Gambo, Joan has spent most of her life in Baie Verte and currently practices at Shoppers Drug Mart in Baie Verte. She and her late husband Norman have two daughters, Pamela and Elizabeth.

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NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: November 14, 2001

Pharmacists Help Newfoundlanders and Labradorians Quit Smoking

St. John's, NF – Now that pharmacies in Newfoundland and Labrador are going smoke free, they're doing more to help the people in this province make the same move. As part of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association's goal to improve the health of the people of the province, they are launching a major smoking cessation awareness program. In a series of print and radio ads and in-store posters, pharmacists want to communicate to the general public that they can offer advice and assistance to people who are considering quitting smoking.

For Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, their local pharmacist can be a tremendous resource. Pharmacists are, after all, the most accessible health care professional and are an excellent contact for people considering and planning to kick the habit. They can provide support, advice and complimentary educational information.

Keith Hogan, president of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, says the ultimate goal of the association is to greatly reduce the number of smokers in the province. "We believe with the help of all of our pharmacists, we can achieve our goal. We deal first-hand with smokers every day and with all of the tools we're providing them with, success is definitely achievable." Mr. Hogan adds, with this smoking cessation program in place, pharmacists can make a real difference in the lives of people who smoke by helping them quit.

The program is sponsored by the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association.

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NEWS RELEASE

Person to Contact: Donald F. Rowe, Secretary-Registrar

Date of Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pharmacists Warn Patients about the Purchase and Use of EPHEDRINE and EPHEDRA

Health Canada yesterday requested manufacturers, distributors and importers to immediately stop the distribution, sale and/or importation of products containing Ephedrine or Ephedra that:

- have a unit dose of more than 8mg of ephedrine, or
- have a label recommending more than 8mg per dose, or
- have a label recommending more than 32mg per day, or
- are labeled or implied for use exceeding seven days, or
- are combination products containing ephedrine/ephedra together with stimulants (e.g. caffeine, yohimbine), or
- are products with labeled or implied claims for appetite suppression, weight loss promotion, metabolic enhancement, increased exercise tolerance, body building effects, euphoria, increased energy or wakefulness, or other stimulant effects.

Health Canada also requested that these products be returned to the retailer, and that retailers remove these products from their shelves and return them to their suppliers.

Citing serious adverse events **"including stroke, cardiac infarction (heart attack), cardiac arrhythmias, seizures, psychoses and deaths"**, Health Canada considers these products to be a **"Class 1 Health Hazard"** for high-risk patients (such as those who have diabetes, heart problems, glaucoma, thyroid problems, enlarged prostate, seizure disorders, impaired kidneys, psychiatric disorders, or who are taking MAO inhibitors).

A "Class 1 Health Hazard" is a situation where there is a reasonable probability that the use of, or exposure to these products will cause serious adverse health consequences or death.

Keith Hogan, President of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, says, "The risks of inappropriate use of ephedrine or ephedra (which is also found in most brands of the herbal remedy Ma Huang) has been well documented for quite some time."

Health Canada issued an advisory letter to consumers last June warning about the inappropriate and unapproved use of ephedrine.

"In April of 2000, almost two years ago," says Hogan, "at the request of our Association, the provincial Minister of Health and Community Services (Roger Grimes at the time) implemented provincial Drug Schedules that made ephedrine/ephedra a prescription-only product in Newfoundland and Labrador." " The only exception is that ephedrine may be sold without a prescription, or outside of a pharmacy setting, if the product contains less than 11mg per dose or 32.5 mg per day, and if the product is for use as a nasal decongestant."

Don Rowe, the Association's Secretary-Registrar, says, "If, since April of 2000, you purchased a product containing more than 11mg of ephedrine per dose without a prescription in this province, you can be certain that it was sold to you illegally."

"It is disturbing to think that supposed "health food" stores and "fitness" centres would sell these products when they were either not aware of the potentially serious risks to their customers, or chose to ignore those risks." "Why would a retailer offer high doses of a drug like ephedrine, labeled as a nasal decongestant, from the "weight reduction" section of their store?"

Says Keith Hogan, " Many people also think that because a product is labeled "natural" or "herbal" it is safe and innocuous. In some cases that could be a fatal mistake." Taken inappropriately, or in combination with other prescription or non-prescription drugs "natural" and "herbal" products can cause serious adverse affects.

"Your best advice when you have questions about the proper use of drugs is to consult with your community pharmacist, preferably a pharmacist who is familiar with your history and any pre-existing medical conditions."

-30-

January 10, 2002

Further background information may be obtained from the Association offices.

The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association is the professional association and licensing body for pharmacists and pharmacies in Newfoundland and Labrador

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NEWS RELEASE

Person to Contact: Keith Hogan, President (709-437-6441)

Date of Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program operated by the Newfoundland Medical Board is now nearing the end of its two-year pilot period and is under review for its effectiveness. For many years the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association has endorsed the principle of a monitoring program for narcotics and other drugs of potential abuse, and has advocated the establishment of such a program. However, it has serious reservations about the existing program and in fact does not endorse it in its present form.

The present program, while it receives its data from reports of dispensed prescriptions submitted by law from pharmacies, does not provide feedback to pharmacists on potential double doctoring or abuse.

The present program operates as an "after the fact" review of prescriptions dispensed that may be weeks old, rather than a "real-time" review that occurs at the time prescriptions are being filled. (Such real-time computerized review is a function that already exists as a component of the processing of some private sector third party insurance claims).

The present program continues to present technical difficulties for some pharmacists with respect to transmission of the required reports. Our association continues to receive comments from some pharmacists regarding numerous unsuccessful attempts to submit data, requiring their uncompensated time and effort.

Many pharmacies have also incurred additional costs to upgrade and adjust their computer systems to comply with the requirements of the program, even though our association was assured that the program would be initiated at no additional cost to pharmacists.

Other pharmacists report that they continue to encounter incidents where they are required to collect information that the physician has not provided on the prescription as required by the program. The only alternative for the pharmacist is to send the patient back to the physician, or to submit reports to the program with incomplete information.

Our association is receiving mixed reports from pharmacists with respect to the program's effectiveness in reducing either double doctoring or inappropriate physician prescribing. Some pharmacists indicate that they have

seen significant reductions in the quantities of narcotics and controlled drugs being prescribed in their areas, while others indicate that they see no appreciable change, or that the prescribing practices of certain individual physicians continue to appear to be significantly higher than those of their peers. These observations are entirely anecdotal and our association assumes that the review of the specific data that has been provided to the program from pharmacies has allowed it to make evidence based conclusions about the overall effectiveness of the program, or to identify specific problem areas. We look forward to the report on the review of the program.

While the Prescription Monitoring Program may have reduced the amount of monitored drugs being prescribed in many areas, our association is not convinced that the amount of drugs being diverted to illicit use on the street has necessarily reduced. The significant escalation in the number of break-ins at pharmacies in recent months has resulted in a similarly significant quantity of monitored drugs getting onto the streets, or at least into the hands of abusers. While it can be questioned whether there is a direct causal link between the effects of the Prescription Monitoring Program and the number of pharmacy break-ins, pharmacists have no desire whatsoever to have the problem simply transferred to their doorsteps.

The broad problem of inappropriate drug use, abuse and diversion of prescription drugs, inappropriate prescribing of certain drugs, and the health and social implications of drug dependency and addictions is one that requires a broad response and an integrated approach. A Drug Monitoring Program, in and of itself, cannot solve all these problems. Pharmacists are prepared to work jointly with physicians and other health care professionals address these issues. In particular, our association would endorse a revised Drug Monitoring Program that is efficient and effective. To be efficient and effective, such a program would have to be "on-line" and "real time", provide vital feed back to the pharmacist who is dealing with the patient, have full participation by prescribers, and reimburse pharmacists for the costs they incur in providing the required participation.

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February 25, 2002

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NEWS RELEASE

Person to Contact: Keith Hogan, President

Date of Release: immediately

LOCAL PHARMACIST BECOMES PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Prominent Corner Brook pharmacist, Bernd Staeben, was elected President-Elect of the Canadian Pharmacists Association at the organization's Annual Conference, held recently in Winnipeg.

A Past President of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association, Staeben has had a long and distinguished career as a pharmacist in Corner Brook. He is also well known for his community service activities. He has served on the Corner Brook City Council, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves as chairman of the Board of the Western Health Care Corporation the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Discipline Committee. Mr. Staeben was formally recognized for his contributions to his community in 1994 when he was awarded the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia, an award presented to only one pharmacist in each Canadian province and American state annually.

Mr. Staeben has been a member of the Canadian Pharmacists Association for more than 30 years and has served as the Newfoundland and Labrador Board Member of CPhA for the past 6 years.

The Canadian Pharmacists Association is the national organization of pharmacists and is committed to providing leadership for the profession of pharmacy.



NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: September 15, 2002

Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Awards Luncheon 2002

Almost 150 pharmacists and guests were present today at the Glynmill Inn in Corner Brook, when a number of awards were presented at the Awards Luncheon held as part of the annual conference of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association. The awards were presented by association president Keith Hogan.

- 15 pharmacists were awarded pins for 25 continuous years of service to the public.

- St. John's pharmacist **Derrick Hierlihy** was presented with the **J. Frank Janes Meritorious Service Award** in recognition of his long-standing and exceptional service to the association.

Derrick graduated in 1975 and served as a member of Council, and Vice-President of the Association from 1976 to 1979. He later served a further 9 years on Council from 1988 to 1997, including service as President from 1991 to 1994. Derrick has continued to serve the association on numerous committees since the completion of his terms on Council. He has served on the Legislative Committee, and has served as Chairman of that committee since 1997. He is a member of the Professional Development Committee, He served on the Advocacy Role Task Force, and is a member of the Transition Committee set up to facilitate the transformation of the NPhA into a separate regulatory Board and professional Association.

Derrick has frequently acted as parliamentarian for our Association general meetings and has over the years assumed the stature of a senior member of the profession whose experience and wisdom commands respect, both inside and outside the profession.

- **The James C. Quick Award** for innovative practice was presented to **Scott J. Edwards** of Marystown for his work in developing a Seamless Care Program on the Burin peninsula.

Scott graduated from Memorial University's School of Pharmacy in 1997 and has practised at the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre since registration. After returning from a 1999 Canadian Pharmacists Association / Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists sponsored national conference on seamless care, he assumed the task of implementing a pilot project at the Burin hospital. The project spearheaded by Scott became a beta-test site for development of Seamless Care software.

Given the success of the initial pilot project, the program has now been extended to include patients from all areas of the Burin Peninsula and Scott has contacted all pharmacies on the peninsula to inform them of the program. Not surprisingly, all community pharmacists have endorsed the program and agreed to participate. Other pharmacists at the Burin Hospital also became more involved in the program as it expanded, and as their schedules permit. The program is also being further refined to begin classifying the discrepancies detected and evaluating their significance. Work is also being done to formalize the procedures and documentation of the project, so that its results will be suitable for publication as pharmacy practice research. Clearly the intent is to make this an on-going program if at all possible.

Seamless care is not a particularly revolutionary idea, but the difference in the Burin Peninsula project, which is worthy of recognition, is that here the concept was taken up and championed by an individual pharmacist (and a recent graduate at that). Instead of talking about a project and arguing for its value, Scott adopted the slogan "Just Do It". Also particularly impressive about the Burin Peninsula Project is the fact that it is occurring, not in one of the province's major medical facilities, but in a smaller, rural setting. This demonstrates that practice innovations and research can occur wherever the initiative to take on the project exists, and the resources can be put in place to allow pharmacists to reach their full potential. This program is one that every pharmacist can point to with pride, and cite as a perfect example of the contribution that pharmacists can make to improved patient care.

- **Honorary Life Membership** was awarded to **Neil Curtis** of St. John's. Neil began his pharmacy career when he worked part time and summers while he was in high school for the renowned druggist and Victoria Cross winner, Tommy Rickets. Neil then apprenticed at Theatre Pharmacy and the old General Hospital in St. John's and was first registered as a pharmacist in 1954. From 1956 to 1960 he served as Chief Pharmacist at the General Hospital. After further administrative and managerial education Neil became the Assistant Administrator at the General Hospital, and later the Pharmacy Consultant at the Department of Health with the provincial government until 1979.

After early retirement from the Department of Health he returned to community pharmacy, practising in independent pharmacies. Neil was a founding member of the Alpha Group of independent pharmacies and has been the Executive Director of the Alpha Group since its formation in December of 1992. At the same time he continues a level of relief practice in independent pharmacies.

Neil's involvement with the association includes having served three terms as a member of the Council, from 1964 to 1973. He was instrumental in establishing a local presence of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, serving as the first local president. For a number of years Neil served on the association's Negotiating Committee, and he acted as a resource person to the ad hoc Reciprocity Committee initiated by a number of members in the early 1990's.

He served voluntarily as Secretary-Registrar from 1964 to 1971 and served a term as President of the national Conference of Pharmacy Registrars of Canada. Neil was the first recipient of the association's E.C. MacDonald Memorial Medal for exceptional contribution to the work of the profession in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- The **Preceptor of the Year Award** was presented to St. John's pharmacist **Carol Hipditch** in recognition of outstanding contribution to the educational development of future pharmacists by demonstrating high standards of professionalism, ethics and clinical practice.

- The most prestigious pharmacy award in North America is the **Whitehall Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award**. This award recognizes outstanding community service through pharmacy, and has been awarded this year to Grand Falls-Windsor pharmacist **Edward J. Dawe**.

Ted was born July 19, 1958 in Grand Falls. After graduation from St. Michael's High School in Grand Falls, he entered the Pharmacy Program of the College of Trades and Technology in St. John's and graduated as a pharmacist in June of 1979.

After a number of years practice in community pharmacy, Ted joined the staff of the Pharmacy Department of the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre, where he has practised ever since. Ted has been the Director of Pharmacy at the hospital since 1997.

Ted's involvement in civic organizations and community activities are wide and many and include:

Current:

- Coach of Seniors Boys Basketball for at least four years
- President of Exploits Otters Swim Club for at least 7 years
- Member of Exploits Valley High School Council – Greenwood Division for policies and procedures
- Coach of Juvenile Boys Basketball
- Eucharistic Minister at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Past:

- Member of Provincial Under 21 Baseball Team representing the province from 1974-1979
- President of local basketball league
- Member of Grand Falls Beothucks Baseball Executive – Treasurer & President for 15 years
- Member of Nfld. & Labrador Baseball Association – Executive
- Inducted into Nfld. Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame
- Member of Host Committee for Canada Summer Games 1977
- Recipient of Charles R. Edwards Volunteer Award (Grand Falls-Windsor) 1985
- Coach of Minor Baseball Program

In addition to his work in the community, Ted has been very involved in many pharmacy related organizations and committees, and is currently a member of the Board of the Pharmacists Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. He is well respected in his community for the time and energy he devotes to the youth of the community and his church. Ted is married to the former Colleen Cashin of Grand Falls, and they have one daughter, Kathleen.

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The Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association is the licensing and regulatory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in this province, with a mission to set, govern and advance the standards and scope of pharmacy practice and pharmacy service for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NEWS RELEASE

DATE OF RELEASE: November 17, 2003
PERSON TO CONTACT: Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar 753-5877 (St. John's)
Karen Colbourne, President 686-2065 (Pasadena)

NEWFOUNDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR ACTION ON PRESCRIPTION EXPORTS

At its November 15th meeting, the Council of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association approved enhanced Standards of Practice of pharmacists in the province who may offer pharmacy services via the Internet, or by distance delivery. The NPhA Council also discussed the issues surrounding cross border pharmacy service between Canada and the United States, and endorsed the press release issued on November 13th by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA). The NAPRA press release reads:

"A growing number of Canadian pharmacies that are exporting prescription drugs to American citizens, creating regulatory challenges for those mandated to protect public safety.

These challenges were identified during the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities' (NAPRA) "International Forum on the Export of Prescription Drugs to the US" held in Ottawa, February 2003. Following the Forum, NAPRA's Board of Directors asked its Council of Pharmacy Registrars of Canada (CPRC) to examine the regulatory issues that exist and make recommendations on possible means to address these issues to protect the interests of the Canadian public. A significant concern appears to be the lack of effective enforcement of American laws by American agencies.

The federal and provincial regulatory systems in Canada were not originally designed to regulate the export of prescription drugs. Provincial self-regulation of the profession of pharmacy and the distribution of drugs is intended to protect Canadians. Similarly, the federal drug approval process is designed so that Canadians will have safe and effective access to drugs.

Some government agencies in other provinces have encouraged the export of prescription drugs because this trade fulfills the public policy objective of regional economic development. We believe that this objective may conflict with the public policy objective of Canadians' access to health care, specifically access to drugs and pharmacy services. Because of the conflict resulting from these competing objectives, those government agencies responsible for their implementation must also be responsible for the consequences.

Important trade and political issues exist over which NAPRA and its members have no jurisdiction. In particular, Canadians expect Americans to respect the sovereignty of our health care system, including drugs and pharmacy services, and we should similarly discourage practices in Canada that interfere with US health care systems.

More importantly, the export of prescription drugs is not always consistent with our vision of contemporary and indeed, future pharmacy practice. This vision is founded on how pharmacists must respond to the needs of Canadians in the context of the Canadian healthcare system.

For these reasons, a Canadian solution is needed and NAPRA requests that the federal government ban the exporting of drugs from Canadian pharmacies to citizens of other countries until such time as governments can implement systems that will ensure the effective regulation of these practices to protect public safety.”

In addition to the adoption of enhanced Standards of Practice for pharmacists in this province and the endorsement of a call for the prohibition of drug exports from Canada until appropriate regulations are in place, the NPhA will consult with this province’s new Minister of Health and Community Services to ensure that this issue receives appropriate attention at the federal / provincial / territorial level.



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*A member body of the **National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities***

The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board is the licensing and regulatory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in this province, with a mission to set, govern and advance the standards and scope of pharmacy practice for the service and protection of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NEWS RELEASE

DATE OF RELEASE: July 22, 2008
PERSON TO CONTACT: Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar 753-5877 or 1-877-453-5877
TOTAL NO. of PAGES: 2

For Immediate Release

Minister Approves move of Plan B to Schedule III

The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board has notified pharmacists that on July 15th the Hon. Ross Wiseman approved changes to the Provincial Drug Schedules under the Pharmacy Regulations, based on recommendation made by the Board. One of the recommendations approved by the Minister was with respect to levonorgestrel in concentrations of 0.75mg or 1.5mg (commercially available under the brand name **Plan B**).

Before early 2005, Plan B was available only by prescription. Since then it was de-regulated by Health Canada to non-prescription status, as a Schedule II drug which required pharmacist's advice and counselling before it could be sold.

Over the past year the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) had been considering an application from the manufacturer of Plan B to have this drug moved from Schedule II status to Schedule III status, so that it could be sold from the self selection area of the pharmacy and without mandatory patient counselling.

After consideration of the scientific evidence related to the safety of using this drug by self selection, the information provided to the patient by the package information leaflet, and the regulatory status of this drug in other countries, NDSAC recommended that Plan B be moved from Schedule II to Schedule III (when packaged and labeled for emergency contraception). This recommendation was followed by a 30 day period in which response from interested parties could be made. At the end of this final response period on May 18th past the recommendation was accepted by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) and was incorporated into NAPRA's National Drug Scheduling System model.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board endorsed the recommendation of NDSAC at its meeting on June 14th and recommended to the Minister of Health and Community Services that our provincial drug schedules be amended accordingly.

Under the previous Schedule II status, Plan B was required to be kept behind the counter in the pharmacy and a pharmacist was required to be directly involved in the sale and counsel the patient on the appropriate

use of the product; whereas, under Schedule III status, the product may be sold from outside the counter of a pharmacy in the self selection area, and counselling will not be mandatory, but will be available from a pharmacist to those patients who desire it.

In making its recommendation to the Minister the Board noted that there are Standards of Pharmacy Practice already in place regarding the expectations for the availability of professional service and appropriate patient counselling for all scheduled drugs, and that even under Schedule III status a pharmacist must be available to the patient for advice and consultation. With respect to emergency contraception, particular training has been completed by pharmacists in recent years since this drug was moved to non-prescription status.

While emergency contraceptives will not require mandatory advice and counselling from a pharmacist, the Board advises all patients to consult with their pharmacist if they have any questions about emergency contraception.

Further information:

Drug schedules are lists of specific drugs that fall into various categories or "schedules", based on the conditions of sale under which they may be sold in this province. In this province drug schedules are established by the Minister of Health and Community Services under regulations to the *Pharmacy Act*. Changes to the drug schedules are approved by the Minister upon the recommendations of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board.

The provincial drug schedules are:

- **Schedule I** - These products require a prescription for sale and are provided to the public by the pharmacist following the diagnosis and professional intervention of a practitioner.
- **Schedule II** - These products require professional intervention from the pharmacist at the point of sale and possibly referral to a practitioner. While a prescription is not required, the drugs are available only from the pharmacist and must be retained within an area of the pharmacy where there is no public access and no opportunity for patient self-selection.
- **Schedule III** - These products are to be sold from the self-selection area of a pharmacy which is operated under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. Such an area should be accessible to the patient and clearly defined as the "professional services area" of the pharmacy. The pharmacist should be available, accessible and approachable to assist the patient in making an appropriate self-medication selection.
- **Unscheduled** - Adequate information is available for the patient to make a safe and effective choice and labeling is deemed sufficient to ensure the appropriate use of the drug. These drugs are not included in Schedules I, II or III and may be sold from any retail outlet.