



For immediate release

Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Looks Forward to Ongoing Discussions to Enhance PharmaCare for British Columbians

Toronto, May 21, 2008 – The Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) looks forward to working with the pharmacy community and the Government of British Columbia to develop proposals to increase the generic pharmaceutical industry's significant contribution to affordable health care, and bring greater transparency to the system.

The CGPA made the comments following today's release of the B.C. Pharmaceutical Task Force Report by Health Minister George Abbott.

"Generic drugs are dispensed to fill fully 56 per cent of all prescriptions in British Columbia but account for only 26 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs," said Jim Keon, President of CGPA. "Clearly generic drugs are providing excellent value for money for B.C. patients, taxpayers and consumers. We believe that by working with our partners in the pharmacy community and government, we can make an even greater contribution."

Keon said that CGPA is pleased that the Pharmaceutical Task Force Report recommended that a new framework for the compensation of pharmacists must account for the significant support generic pharmaceutical manufacturers provide to pharmacies for important patient services for British Columbians.

About the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association

The Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) represents Canada's generic drug industry – a dynamic group of companies that specialize in the production of high quality, affordable generic drugs and fine chemicals and in conducting the clinical trials required for government approval of generic drugs. The industry plays an important role in controlling health-care costs in Canada. Generic drugs are dispensed to fill 49 per cent of all prescriptions but account for less than 21 per cent of the \$19-billion Canadians spend annually on prescription medicines.

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