



## COMMUNIQUÉ

**OTTAWA, July 19, 2007:** The 2006 Annual Report of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) was tabled before Parliament on July 18.

The PMPRB reports that sales of patented drugs in Canada increased by 3.7%, to \$12 billion, representing 68.1% of total sales of drugs in 2006.

Ninety nine (99) new patented drug products (DINs) for human use were reported to the PMPRB in 2006 of which 29 medicines, representing 43 DINs, were new active substances. As of March 31, 2007, 79 new patented drug products had been reviewed. Of those, 68 were considered to be within the Guidelines, while 11 are subject to ongoing investigations. A total of 1181 patented drug products for human use were under the PMPRB's jurisdiction in 2006.

Patentees reported total R&D expenditures of \$1.2 billion in 2006, while those that are Rx&D members reported R&D expenditures of \$949 million over the same period. For all patentees, the R&D-to-sales ratio continues its downward trend to 8.1% from 8.7% in 2005, as did the R&D-to-sales ratio for members of Rx&D – 8.5% compared to 8.8% in the previous year.

The PMPRB continues to enhance its reporting by providing more in-depth analysis of the key pharmaceutical indices. It has published a number of studies and reports under the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) and under the Non-Patented Prescription Drug Prices initiatives.

The Board pursued its consultations with stakeholders on the review of its Excessive Price Guidelines. Working groups are being established and bilateral meetings with representatives of governments, consumers and the industry will be held in the fall.

The PMPRB is increasingly being challenged to respond to new demands. Transparency and accessibility remain the central elements of the PMPRB to continue to protect consumer interests and to contribute to health care.

The Annual Report is available on the PMPRB Web site at [www.pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca](http://www.pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca). If you wish to obtain a paper copy, please e-mail your coordinates to [pmprb@pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca](mailto:pmprb@pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca), or call our Publications Office at 1-877-861-2350 or at 613-952-3300.