



**Purdue Pharma**

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**THE RELEASE OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND TASK FORCE REPORT  
PURDUE STATEMENT**

**For immediate release**

**Toronto, Ontario - August 3, 2004**

On behalf of Purdue Pharma, I would like to congratulate the members of the Task Force for the time and energy devoted to preparation of their comprehensive final report. Purdue knows that prescription drug abuse is a serious health problem and, like the Task Force, is committed to taking action to help combat prescription drug abuse in general - and OxyContin® abuse in particular.

We are pleased that the Task Force has accepted our offer of \$50,000.00 to support the Substance Abuse Education Working Group - the goals of which include conflict resolution and healthy decision-making, as well as substance use and abuse education. This financial support was communicated early on in the process, and also included offers from Purdue to cover the costs (\$50,000.00 for year one) of development and implementation of a Tamper-Evident Prescription Pad Program, and a grant of \$110,000.00 toward the development and delivery of Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs identified by the Task Force's CME Sub-team.

The Report notes that OxyContin (and other opioids) reduces pain and improves quality of life in patients with chronic malignant or non-malignant pain, but that continuing education for physicians regarding pain management, the optimal use of opioids, and issues pertaining to addiction is essential. Purdue agrees fully with this position, and looks forward to supporting the ongoing activities of the Medical Association and Pharmacists Association of Newfoundland and Labrador in these areas. In concert with the Task Force's recommendations, Purdue Pharma continues to support the appropriate use of all opioids, including OxyContin, according to the Health Canada approved indications and dosing guidelines.

Solving the longstanding problem of misuse and diversion of prescription medications will require the cooperation of many elements of society, including healthcare professionals, patients and their families, law enforcement organizations, regulatory bodies and the pharmaceutical companies. Purdue will continue to contribute to these efforts, and in ways that should help reduce abuse of all drugs. We have benefited from our interaction and cooperation with the Task Force since its inception, and look forward to contributing to its ongoing activities that involve our areas of expertise.

John H. Stewart  
Executive Vice President  
and General Manager  
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