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CWF and Pollution Probe Release New Report on Pharmaceuticals in the Great Lakes

The Clean Water Foundation and Pollution Probe are pleased to announce the release of the new report, *Reducing the Impact of Pharmaceuticals on the Great Lakes*.

Pharmaceuticals provide important benefits to society, helping treat disease and improve quality of life in humans and animals. However, the widespread use of these substances has increased their discharge into the environment and the Great Lakes. Concerns are increasing about these emerging water pollutants and their potential adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems and human health.

This study examines what is known about pharmaceuticals in the Great Lakes, their pathways and impacts on Great Lakes aquatic systems and human health. It also provides an overview of measures and actions taken within Canada to address this emerging issue, and compares them to research, monitoring and mitigation actions taken by other jurisdictions, especially the United States and the European Union. International examples of leadership on policy, consumer programs and technology are discussed. The study identifies key knowledge gaps and proposes a path forward, offering basin-wide and lake-specific recommendations to address pharmaceutical pollution in the Great Lakes.

“Pharmaceuticals are finding their way into the Great Lakes but our understanding of the sources, pathways and impacts of pharmaceutical pollution is limited and there is no coordinated approach to address the issue in Canada.”, says Christopher Hilken, President of the Clean Water Foundation.

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