

## Pharmaceutical sales rise by 14% in Canada, China

Pharmaceutical sales rose by 13.9% in Canada during 2002, to reach \$Can13.1 billion,\* compared with the year before, according to the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board 2002 annual report, states *Scrip*.<sup>1</sup>

Patented medicine sales reached \$Can8.8 billion, an increase of 17.3% over the same period, accounting for just over two-thirds of total medicine sales. Compared with 2001, there was a drop in the prices of existing patented medicines during 2002; however, prices were 1% higher than the median of foreign prices, says the board.

There was a 14.1% increase in Chinese pharmaceutical sales in Q1 2003, compared with the same period in 2002, say industry spokesmen and Chinese health officials, reports *Marketletter*.<sup>2</sup> Sales growth for 2003 is expected to reach 16% for the year. Manufacturers of traditional Chinese medicines saw a huge rise in the use of their products following the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, say local experts, although the effect was short lived; only one-third of the Chinese pharmaceutical industry is represented by traditional Chinese medicines. In contrast, manufacturers in western countries, particularly those producing antibacterials, were badly effected by SARS.

\* Canadian dollars

1. Canadian sales up by 14%. *Scrip* : 17, No. 2878, 22 Aug 2003.

2. Chinese drug sales to rise 16% this year. *Marketletter* 30: 16, No. 34, 1 Sep 2003.