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## **Medical Pharmacies Group Acquires Desjardins Healthcare Group to Expand Its Offerings and Enhance Value to Customers**

*Combination will create a leading national provider of pharmacy services and healthcare products serving residents in long term care facilities, retirement homes and the community*

Pickering, Ont. (Sept. 16, 2013) – Medical Pharmacies Group Limited (MPGL), Canada's largest provider of pharmacy services to long-term care facilities and retirement homes, has entered into an agreement to acquire Ottawa-based Desjardins Healthcare Group (DHG), a leading provider of specialty pharmacy services, medical supplies and equipment in Ontario.

The transaction will bring together two companies with complementary product and service offerings to a similar customer base. It expands MPGL's footprint in Eastern Ontario and adds an expansive range of new healthcare products and services, setting the stage for further growth throughout Canada. The combined company will have more than 1,000 employees, with operations in Ontario and British Columbia.

"This is a major step in achieving our vision to become a leading national provider of specialty pharmacy and healthcare products and services," says Ed Jamieson, President and CEO, Medical Pharmacies Group. "We welcome Desjardins Healthcare Group and its employees to MPGL, and look forward to working together to maximize the opportunities made possible by joining forces."

Customers of both companies will gain the benefits of having access to a single source for the provision of a comprehensive suite of pharmacy and healthcare products and services. To this point most of them have had to use multiple providers.

Through its operating companies Desjardins Pharmacy and Ontario Medical Supply, DHG brings to MPGL significant experience and presence in Home Infusion Therapy, Total Parenteral Nutrition, and Medical Products and Equipment services including Home Oxygen, Wound Care and Pressure Management, Mobility, Incontinence, and Home Healthcare products. Together, the two companies' products and services will reach more than 45,000 seniors in long term care and retirement homes and thousands more receiving care through the Ontario Community Care Access Centres' Home Care Program.

"Joining forces will enable us to offer the most comprehensive suite of pharmacy services and medical products available in Canada," says Jean Desjardins, Managing Partner, Desjardins Healthcare Group. "We look forward to the opportunity to bring our experience and knowledge to the group's many clients, which will result in innovative and cost effective healthcare solutions."

MPGL and DHG have both been recognized by [Canada's Best Managed Companies](#) awards for multiple years.

The acquisition, which is subject to approval by the Competition Bureau, is set to close on October 31, 2013. The owners of DHG will have an equity stake in Medical Pharmacies. The Desjardins' medical supply and equipment business will operate under the name Ontario Medical Supplies Inc.

**About Medical Pharmacies Group Limited**

Medical Pharmacies ([www.medicalpharmacies.com](http://www.medicalpharmacies.com)) is Canada's leading pharmacy specializing in providing pharmacy services to long term care, retirement home and extended care facilities. From multiple locations in Ontario and B.C., Medical Pharmacies (MPGL) delivers a personalized pharmacy experience to over 40,000 residents, one person at a time. The company is a respected innovator of medication management systems that enhance medication accuracy, safety and cost efficiency. MPGL has been recognized annually since 2000 as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies, and is a Platinum Member.

**About the Desjardins Healthcare Group**

The Desjardins Healthcare Group (DHG) is a leading Ottawa-based retailer and wholesaler of medical supply equipment and pharmaceuticals. DHG provides its products and services under the Pharmacie Desjardins Ltd. (PDL), Ontario Medical Supply (OMS) and Nova Medical trade names throughout Eastern Ontario. DHG has been recognized as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies since 2008, and is a Gold Member. ([www.oms.ca](http://www.oms.ca))

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