

nicotine and alcohol. Many respondents insisted that smoking marijuana was less harmful than smoking tobacco and was not as addictive.

Most respondents were under the impression that marijuana was already decriminalized. Decriminalization was also very confusing to some participants as they wondered if only possession was allowed, how it was affected by quantity, how possession could be permitted while selling it could constitute a crime. Although almost all participants were in favour of decriminalizing marijuana, many went a step further and felt that it should be fully legalized. Roughly half the participants in Toronto felt marijuana should be legalized and slightly more than half the people in Montreal felt this way. Age did not appear to be a big factor as these proportions were very similar in both age groups in both cities. Only one participant in the second Toronto group was adamantly opposed to both decriminalization and legalisation.

Legalisation of marijuana was viewed as solving many problems and as an opportunity for government revenue. Full legalisation would allow the government to charge and collect taxes on its sell, to control its availability to children and youngsters, to control its quality ensuring that no unwanted or dangerous chemicals were added, and to save on policing and other justice related expenditures. Legalisation was also viewed as a potential way of boosting tourism and Amsterdam was provided as an example. In Montreal, concern with organized crime appeared common and legalizing soft drugs was viewed as a good way to reduce the "black market" and potentially hurt criminals financially.

Drug Smuggling - Understanding The Mindset

Some participants readily admitted using drugs in foreign countries. In the first Toronto group where participants appeared more open than in any other group, 3 participants had smoked drugs in the United States; although 2 of the 3 had brought drugs from home, all 3 had actually purchased drugs while in the U.S. One participant had intended on crossing the Mexico border with his drugs but changed his mind at the very last minute and disposed of his drugs. In the older Toronto group, one participant had been to Jamaica four times in the past two years and clearly smoked drugs while he was there. He suggested there were ways to bring drugs home with the guarantee of not getting caught. One semi-retired participant in the second Montreal group admitted that he regularly smoked pot when visiting his condo in Florida.