

possession and trafficking. For more information, visit DFAIT's Anti-Drug Information Program Web site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/travel/adip-pia>).

In some countries, possession of even small amounts of drugs carries the death penalty.

Never take across a border any parcel that is not yours.

Choose your travelling companions wisely. Never cross a border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker. Although you may not be carrying anything illegal, your companions may be.

Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Government of Canada has enacted legislation that permits the arrest and prosecution of Canadians in Canada for the sexual exploitation of children in other countries. Most countries are now enacting legislation, or more vigorously enforcing existing laws, concerning the sexual exploitation of children. Those convicted face a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment.

Crime and Punishment

More than 2,200 Canadians are currently imprisoned abroad for

various offences; 60 per cent of those are in the United States.

The laws and customs of countries around the world can be very different from those in Canada. Ignorance of those laws is no defence.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. Your Canadian citizenship offers no immunity. Canadian consular staff abroad must also follow the rules of the host country. If you do find yourself in trouble, they can help you find a lawyer, contact your family and friends, and ensure that you receive fair treatment according to the standards of that country. However, they cannot wield any influence to reduce your sentence or fine.

Judicial Process

Never assume that the legal system of the country you are visiting is the same as at home. "Innocent until proven guilty" is not a universally recognized concept. In some countries, you may not even have the right to legal representation or a trial in your mother tongue.

Some countries do not recognize or respect religious freedom, freedom of association, speech or the press,

or equality of the sexes. For instance, guilt by association is presumed in some countries. This means that you may be charged simply for being in the company of a person suspected or found guilty of a crime.

Even if you are an innocent bystander at a demonstration or riot, you may be considered a participant and rounded up with those involved. **Your Canadian citizenship does not grant you immunity.**

If you do find yourself in legal trouble, contact the nearest Canadian mission immediately. If you cannot do so yourself, have someone else do it for you.

Mail

If you are travelling for an extended period of time, you can arrange to have your mail sent to a post office

box or, where possible, to the nearest Canadian mission. In the latter case, the mission will hold on to letter-size mail (not parcels) for you to pick up **in person**. This mail cannot be forwarded to another address.

Travel to the United States and Mexico

Always carry your Canadian passport, citizenship certificate or birth certificate when you are travelling to the United States or Mexico. A driver's licence is not valid proof of citizenship.

For more detailed information about travel to the United States or Mexico, refer to the DFAIT booklets *Crossing the 49th and México: ¿Qué pasa?* (see page 30 for details on how to order these publications).

When You Return

Departure Tax

Some countries impose a departure tax or service fee at the airport or point of departure. Prior to leaving such a country, make sure you set aside enough money, in local funds, to pay this tax.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: Be Aware and Declare

A single sausage illegally brought into Canada caused foot-and-mouth disease, destroying cattle and costing Canadians more than \$1 billion. Every year, thousands of travellers fail to declare things