

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 any parcel that is not yours across a border.**

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.

### **Crime and Punishment**

More than 2,300 Canadians are currently imprisoned outside Canada for various offences; 68 percent of them 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.**

### **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. See the DFAIT Web site for more information.

Canadian consular staff abroad must also follow the rules of the host country. If you do find yourself in trouble, they can help you locate 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.**

## **When You Return**

### **Departure Tax**

Some countries impose a departure tax or service fee at the airport or point of departure. Before 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**

It is thought that a single sausage illegally brought into Canada in the 1950s led to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, destroying

**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.

cattle and costing Canadians more than \$1 billion. Every year, thousands of travellers fail to declare things like cheese, meat, animal hides, live birds, plants, fruits and their products. These items may carry pests or diseases that pose a risk to human, plant or animal health.

Foreign pests and diseases could destroy Canada's crops and forests and endanger our livestock, thus threatening our ability to produce and supply safe food.