

driving. Checking through customs with drugs was viewed as being a much higher risk than driving across the border. A car offered more hiding places and airports appear somewhat intimidating.

Although no one admitted transporting drugs into any other country than the United States, some seem to think that transporting them into the States by car is a very low-risk venture. There is a perception that the quantity and type of drugs is an important factor and that getting caught with a few joints of marijuana would not be taken very seriously. Some admitted that the consequences of getting caught were not well known and felt that the laws were potentially different in different states. Others felt ignorant about the law when it came to quantity and felt a need for more information. That being said, a few participants would seriously consider transporting small amounts of soft drugs when crossing the Canada-U.S. border by car and perceive the risks of doing so as being quite low and the consequences if caught as not being all that severe. Such was not the case for hard drugs, large amounts of soft drugs, other countries or trips made by plane.

Drug smuggling on the other hand was viewed as a very serious offence. Participants felt that the main reason someone would be willing to take such a risk was for the money. Smuggling was viewed as a calculated risk and it was believed that all smugglers are fully aware of the risks and consequences of transporting large amounts of drugs. Nobody considered transporting drugs for personal use as smuggling and smuggling was viewed mainly as a business transaction.

When asked why people would take such a risk, all participants mentioned financial gains. A few also felt that some smugglers may be doing it for the thrill, the adventure, the risk and the excitement. Not one single participant admitted he or she would consider taking such a risk and, in fact, thought that those who did were "stupid".

Levels Of Assistance

When asked what kind of assistance is available to Canadian travellers who are arrested for drug-related offences in other countries, participants were quick to mention that it depended on which country we were referring to. In other words, it was felt that the Canadian government's power, influence and ability to assist were directly dependent on the country in question (i.e. China, Cuba or Panama vs the United States, France, or the UK). Furthermore, people did not see a difference in our government's ability to assist based on different types of crime. Governments could intervene as easily in drug-related offences as in many other types of offences.