

Drug Use, Drinking, and Driving

Focus Questions

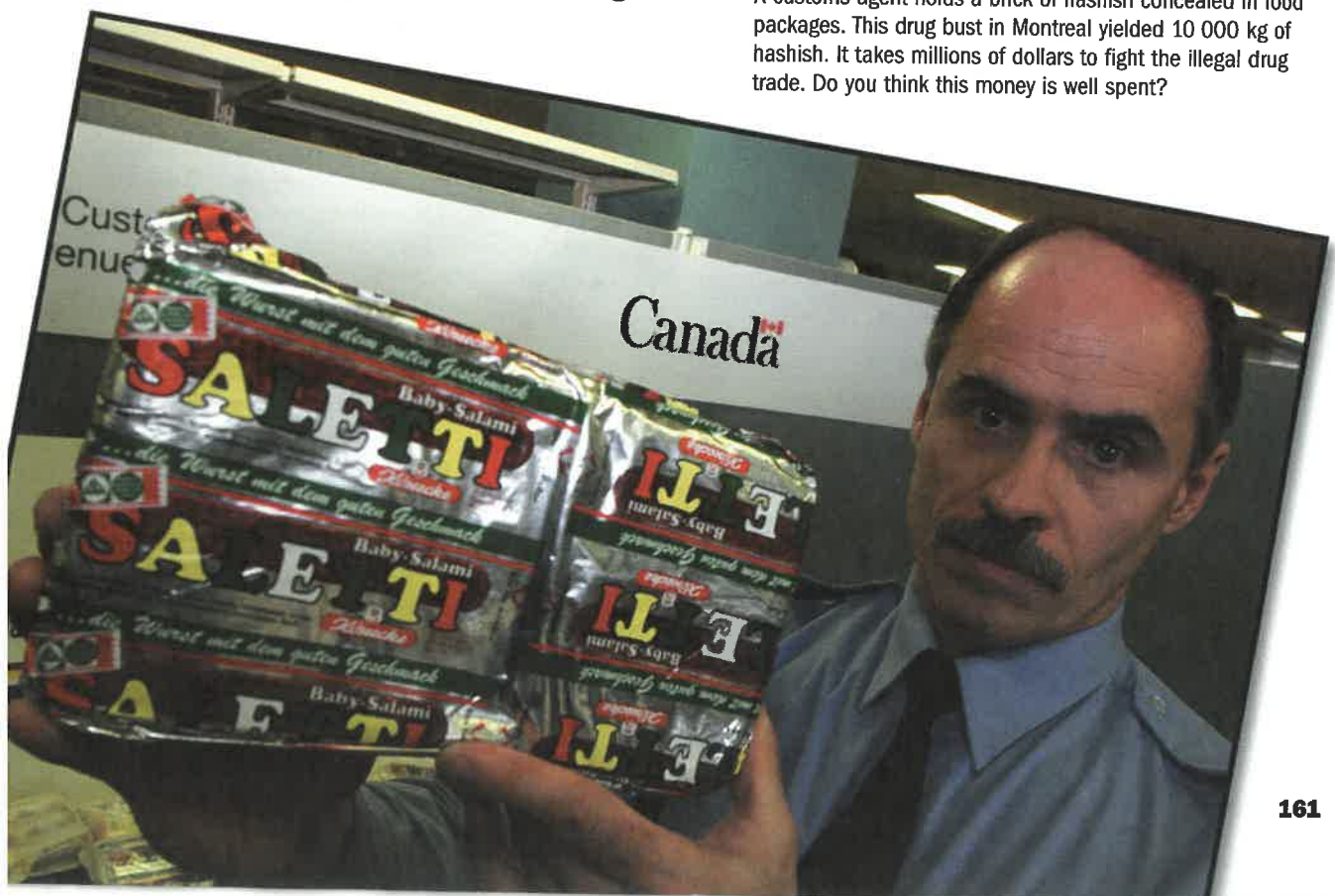
- What basic drug offences are found in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*?
- What rights do police have for the search and seizure of controlled drugs?
- Which offences are connected with impaired driving?
- What changes in the law have been made to reduce the occurrence of drinking and driving?
- What are the costs to Canadian society of illegal use of drugs and impaired driving?

Chapter at a Glance

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Figure 6-1

A customs agent holds a brick of hashish concealed in food packages. This drug bust in Montreal yielded 10 000 kg of hashish. It takes millions of dollars to fight the illegal drug trade. Do you think this money is well spent?



6.1 Introduction

Driving under the influence of alcohol and using illegal drugs are serious crimes that trouble Canadians. These crimes are costly to Canadian society, resulting in more tax spending on health care and legal aid, and soaring insurance rates. Federal and provincial governments have tried to solve these problems by introducing stiffer penalties and other **deterrents**, and by giving the police greater powers. Still, there is a widespread belief that neither drug traffickers nor impaired drivers are penalized severely enough. In this chapter, you will examine these crimes in more detail as well as the legislation designed to protect Canadian society.

The Cost of Illegal Drugs

Worldwide, governments spend millions monitoring drug traffic and arresting people involved in the drug trade. It is also expensive to prosecute crime related to illegal drugs; for example, murder, property damage, assaults, theft, and robbery. The illegal drug trade feeds large fortunes to criminal organizations. Do such costs justify the “war on drugs,” or should governments just legalize the possession and use of certain drugs? Revenue generated by the world’s illicit drug industry is estimated to be \$600 billion. Annual production of marijuana in British Columbia is valued at \$6 billion, which would make it the largest industry in the province.

6.2 The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

A **drug** has been defined as “any substance that by its chemical nature alters structure or function in a living organism.” Of course, not all chemicals with these effects are classified as illegal drugs. Otherwise, tea, beer, cola, and aspirin would be classed with heroin and cocaine. Drugs are classified as criminal because using or possessing them is restricted by law. Thus, the fact that marijuana is not a narcotic has been ruled by the courts to be irrelevant; marijuana is still on the list of substances defined as a controlled drug by Parliament. The rel-

Figure 6-2

Controlled substances are used legitimately by some Canadians to manage pain. How can prescription medication be kept away from addicts?

Did You Know?

Some authorities recently told the United Nations: “We believe that the global war on drugs is now causing more harm than drug abuse itself.” How might this be possible?



Visit www.law.nelson.com and follow the links to learn about drug awareness programs.

evant statute relating to the use of drugs—the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*—was enacted in 1997. It is a combination of the old *Narcotic Control Act* and sections of the *Food and Drugs Act*.

The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* criminalizes possession of, and trafficking in, a variety of illegal and controlled drugs. The Act has four basic schedules, or lists:

- Schedule I lists the most dangerous drugs, including narcotics such as heroin and cocaine.
- Schedule II lists cannabis (marijuana) and its derivatives.
- Schedule III lists many of the more dangerous drugs previously found in the *Food and Drugs Act*, such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).
- Schedule IV lists drugs that must be controlled but that have therapeutic use, such as barbiturates.

Two other schedules that will be referred to below are Schedules VII and VIII. Schedule VII refers to cannabis resin and cannabis in amounts up to 3 kg; Schedule VIII refers to cannabis resins in amounts up to 1 g and to cannabis in amounts up to 30 g. The Act defines a **controlled substance** as being any substance included in Schedules I to IV.

Possession

It is an offence to possess any drug listed in Schedules I to III. Canadians are allowed to possess drugs found in Schedule IV, which are for therapeutic use. Figure 6-3 summarizes the penalties for possessing drugs found in Schedules I, II, VIII, and III.

Penalties for Possession

Schedule and Substance	Offence	Penalty (maximums)
Schedule I Dangerous drugs	If a first offence and tried as a summary offence	\$1000 and/or 6 months
	If a subsequent offence	\$2000 fine and/or 1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	7 years
Schedule II Cannabis (marijuana) and its derivatives	If a first offence and tried as a summary offence	\$1000 and/or 6 months
	If a subsequent offence	\$2000 and/or 1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	5 years less a day
Schedule VIII Cannabis resin up to 1 g and cannabis up to 30 g	If charged under Schedule VIII, the offence is always tried as a summary offence.	\$1000 and/or 6 months
Schedule III Dangerous drugs formerly listed in the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>	If a first offence and tried as a summary offence	\$1000 and/or 6 months
	If a subsequent offence	\$2000 and/or 1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	3 years

Figure 6-3

A person found with one marijuana cigarette will not be treated the same as someone who has a large amount of cannabis. In many locations, possession of a Schedule VIII amount of marijuana is ignored. The Crown can also discriminate between first offenders and those with numerous possession convictions.

Excerpts from the *Criminal Code*

- 4.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act,
- (a) a person has anything in possession when he has it in his personal possession or knowingly
- (i) has it in the actual possession or custody of another person, or
- (ii) has it in any place, whether or not that place belongs to or is occupied by him, for the use or benefit of himself or of another person; and
- (b) where one of two or more persons, with the knowledge and consent of the rest, has anything in his custody or possession, it shall be deemed to be in the custody and possession of each and all of them.

For Discussion

1. Describe what “possession” means, referring to section 4(3)(a)(i) of the *Criminal Code*. Give examples of how this situation could occur.
2. Why would the law allow a charge of possession even if the person does not actually have the drugs?
3. Kim knows that Cheryl’s locker at school is about to be searched for illegal drugs, so she agrees to put the drugs in her own locker. What part of the definition of possession applies to Cheryl?

Even if you possess a small quantity of a drug, you can still be charged with possession. As long as the drug is identifiable, a charge can be laid. In addition, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* adopts the definition of possession given in section 4(3) of the *Criminal Code*. A person is defined as “having possession” even when he or she does not technically own the drug. Having control over a drug can therefore lead to a charge. For example, Deirdre, who gives a controlled substance to Max for safekeeping, is guilty of possession. Taia, who is part of a group using a controlled substance, can also be found in possession. If five people are sharing a marijuana “joint,” they could all be convicted of the offence of possession. The owner of the house in which the five are smoking the drug is particularly vulnerable, even if he or she does not use the marijuana, because allowing its use in his or her home implies consent.

When prosecuting a drug case, the Crown must prove possession and show that the drug in question is a controlled substance. In addition, the Crown must show that there was intent to possess; that is, the accused must know that the substance is a drug. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *R. v. Beaver* (1957) that *mens rea* is a necessary element of the offence. Beaver had a package he thought contained sugar of milk, a white powder. In fact, it contained a narcotic. Beaver was acquitted.

In 2001, regulations under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* were changed to allow patients with terminal illnesses, chronic conditions, or chronic pain to either grow their own marijuana or designate someone to grow it for them. The federal health department is paying a Saskatchewan company to grow the marijuana for eligible patients. The legal users of marijuana under this legislation must carry an identification card.

Did You Know?

A 2000 *National Post*/COMPAS poll showed that 53 percent of Canadians opposed buying or using marijuana for personal use. Sixty-nine percent thought that marijuana possession could be punishable by a fine instead of imprisonment.

Case

R. v. Hamon

(1993) 85 C.C.C. (3d) 490
Quebec Court of Appeal

Hamon was found guilty of growing and possessing marijuana. He challenged the constitutionality of the relevant sections of the *Narcotic Control Act*, now known as the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. He argued that the provisions violated section 7 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Hamon based his challenge on the following points:

- “Liberty” as used in section 7 includes the right to make fundamental personal decisions without state interference.
- There are benefits to the non-abusive use of marijuana.
- If the objective is to protect people with whom he associates, a complete ban on cultivation and possession is unnecessary.
- The prohibition is not entirely rational since the government has not prohibited alcohol or tobacco use.
- Marijuana is not a narcotic and is not similar to narcotics.
- The prohibition could be achieved by regulating the use of marijuana.
- It is unnecessary to prohibit marijuana given its actual effects.

The Quebec Court of Appeal dismissed Hamon’s appeal of his conviction.

R. v. Parker

(2000) 188 D.L.R. (4th) 385
Ontario Court of Appeal

The accused, Terrance Parker, had suffered from epileptic seizures for almost 40 years. He tried to control the seizures through surgery, which failed, and conventional medicine, which was moderately successful. Smoking marijuana reduced the number of seizures substantially. He had no legal source of marijuana, so he grew his own. His home was searched twice, and he was charged. He brought forward the defence that the legislation infringes his rights as guaranteed by section 7 of the *Charter*. The trial judge stayed the cultivation and possession charges against Parker. To protect Parker and others like him

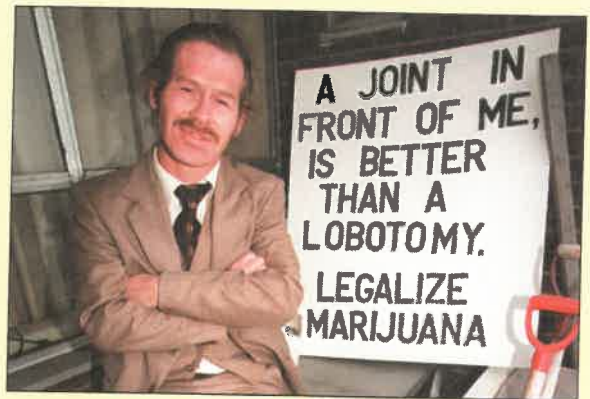


Figure 6-4

What does Parker’s message say to you?

who need to use marijuana as medicine, the trial judge read into the legislation an exemption for persons possessing or cultivating marijuana for their “personal medically approved use.” The Crown appealed that decision.

The Ontario Court of Appeal agreed with the trial judge that Parker should have the right to grow marijuana for his medicinal use. However, the appeal court did not agree with the trial judge’s unilateral decision to amend the legislation. The court declared the prohibition on the possession of marijuana in the Act to be of “no force and effect” for a period of one year, to allow Parliament to amend the legislation.

For Discussion

1. What does section 7 of the *Charter* guarantee? Discuss the guarantee as it applies to Hamon’s and Parker’s defences.
2. Present a counterargument for each of Hamon’s arguments.
3. What does it mean to “stay” the charges against Parker?
4. The trial judge “read into the legislation” an exemption. What does that mean? Why did the appeal court overrule this decision of the trial judge?
5. The court declared the prohibition on the possession of marijuana for medical purposes to be of “no force and effect.” What does that mean?

Prescription Shopping or Double Doctoring

Some people need controlled drugs for medical reasons, for example, for a severe chronic condition or for relief from cancer pain. Other people are addicted to certain controlled substances. Such people may engage in **prescription shopping** or **double doctoring**; that is, they try to obtain the same prescription from a number of doctors. It is an offence to seek or obtain a narcotic or prescription from a doctor without disclosing all other controlled drugs or prescriptions for controlled drugs received within the previous 30 days. If tried as a summary offence, a first offence carries a penalty of \$1000 and/or six months in prison. If the person has committed the offence before, he or she may be fined \$2000 and/or sent to prison for one year. If tried as an indictable offence, the penalties range from 18 months to 7 years, depending on the substance.

Offences Related to Trafficking

According to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, to **traffic** is to “to sell, administer, give, transfer, transport, send or deliver the substance.” Section 5 of the Act states that no person shall traffic in, or possess for the purpose of trafficking, any substance included in Schedules I, II, III, or IV or any substance believed to be that substance. The penalties for trafficking vary and are listed in Figure 6-5.

Because trafficking has such a broad definition—merely to give drugs to another person constitutes trafficking—no profit motive is necessary. How much assistance must someone give a drug buyer before the law views it as trafficking? This issue was addressed in *R. v. Greyeyes*.

Penalties for Trafficking

Schedule and Substance	Offence	Penalty (maximums)
Schedule I Dangerous drugs	If tried as an indictable offence	Life
Schedule II Cannabis (marijuana) and its derivatives	If tried as an indictable offence	Life
	If amount trafficked not more than amount specified in Schedule VII (3 kg)	5 years less a day
Schedule III Dangerous drugs formerly listed in the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>	If tried as a summary offence	18 months
	If tried as an indictable offence	10 years
Schedule IV Controlled drugs with therapeutic use	If tried as a summary offence	1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	3 years

Figure 6-5

The maximum penalties for trafficking vary with the type of controlled substance. Trafficking in what substances could result in a penalty of life imprisonment?

Case

R. v. Greyeyes

[1997] 2 S.C.R. 825

Supreme Court of Canada

Ernest Greyeyes sold five joints of marijuana to Constable Morgan, an undercover RCMP officer. The next day, Morgan asked Greyeyes if he knew where he could get some cocaine. Greyeyes said that if Morgan would drive him, he would take him to an apartment building to get some. The sellers were not at home, so Morgan and Greyeyes returned in the evening and entered the building together. Greyeyes talked to the occupants through the closed door and negotiated a deal. The purchase price was to be \$40 for the cocaine, and the items were exchanged under the door. Morgan drove Greyeyes home and gave him \$10 for helping to obtain the cocaine.

At trial, Greyeyes was acquitted of trafficking in cocaine but the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturned the acquittal and entered a conviction. Greyeyes's appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was dismissed.

For Discussion

1. Examine the wording of what constitutes the offence of trafficking. Is possession an included element of the offence?
2. Review the elements necessary to be found guilty of aiding and abetting an offence, as discussed in Chapter 4, page 114. What are those elements?
3. Compare the sentences for possession and trafficking of a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug. In a case with facts similar to *R. v. Greyeyes*, would it be fair that a buyer could possibly receive a possession penalty whereas a person who assists in finding drugs could possibly receive a trafficking penalty? Support your opinion.
4. In your opinion, should Greyeyes be found guilty of possession, possession for the purpose of trafficking, aiding or abetting for the purpose of possession, trafficking, or aiding and abetting in trafficking? Support your opinion.
5. Having police officers pose as drug dealers to entrap offenders of illegal-drug laws has been criticized as being unethical. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

The amount of controlled drug seized may determine whether a charge of trafficking is laid. Before 1986, if the accused was found guilty of possession, the onus was on that person to prove that he or she did *not* have the controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking. In *R. v. Oakes* (1986), the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that this "reverse onus" violated the presumption of innocence contained in section 11(d) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Since then, the onus has been on the Crown to prove that the person possessed the controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking. The Crown may be aided in proving trafficking if drug paraphernalia (equipment) is found, such as scales or pipes. Large amounts of cash may also be used as evidence that trafficking has occurred.

Police often act as undercover agents in stopping the drug trade, and the procedures they use to obtain evidence may open the door to an offender's appeal. Some of these practices, such as having police officers pose as drug dealers to **entrap** drug offenders, seem to undermine the integrity of the justice system by allowing the police too many powers. Several court rulings have sent a message to police that they may not entrap individuals or use

You Be the JUDGE

"[T]he offence of trafficking is taken extremely seriously by both the courts and the public.... It goes without saying that someone branded as a 'trafficker' is held in extremely low regard by the public."

—Supreme Court Justice
Claire L'Heureux-Dubé

- Do you agree with this statement? Support your opinion.

physical violence to obtain evidence. Nor may police undertake **random virtue testing**, which is the practice of investigating an individual for drug offences without having reasonable and probable grounds for so doing.

Importing and Exporting

Section 6 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* makes it an offence to import or export any substance listed in Schedules I to IV. The accused need not bring the goods into the country; simply arranging for their importation can result in a conviction. The penalties for importing and exporting a controlled substance are listed in Figure 6-6.

Penalties for Importing and Exporting Controlled Substances

Schedule and Substance	Offence	Penalty (maximums)
Schedule I Dangerous drugs	If tried as an indictable offence	Life
Schedule II Cannabis (marijuana) and its derivatives	If tried as an indictable offence	Life
Schedule III Dangerous drugs formerly listed in the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>	If tried as a summary offence	18 months
	If tried as an indictable offence	10 years
Schedule IV Controlled drugs with therapeutic use	If tried as a summary offence	1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	3 years

Figure 6-6

The maximum penalties for importing and exporting controlled substances vary from one year to life imprisonment depending on the type of substance.



Producing a Controlled Substance

The amount of marijuana being grown in Canada has increased greatly. Growing marijuana is illegal, unless permitted by the federal health department. It is also illegal to produce any other drug specified in Schedules I to IV. The penalties for producing a controlled substance are listed in Figure 6-8.

Figure 6-7

These imported fake duck eggs were filled with heroin and were seized by customs agents in Toronto and Vancouver.

Penalties for Producing a Controlled Substance

Schedule and Substance	Offence	Penalty (maximums)
Schedule I Dangerous drugs	If tried as an indictable offence	Life
Schedule II Cannabis (marijuana) and its derivatives	If tried as an indictable offence	7 years
Schedule III Dangerous drugs formerly listed in the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>	If tried as a summary offence	18 months
	If tried as an indictable offence	10 years
Schedule IV Controlled drugs with therapeutic use	If tried as a summary offence	1 year
	If tried as an indictable offence	3 years

Figure 6-8

It is illegal to produce a controlled substance unless authorized to do so. The production of dangerous drugs and narcotics may result in a penalty of life imprisonment.

Possession of Property Obtained by Certain Offences

It is also an offence to possess any property you know was obtained through the commission of a crime. Similarly, it is an offence to possess the cash obtained from selling the property. This section of the *Criminal Code* is used to charge those who do not take part directly in offences such as trafficking, but who share in the proceeds of illegal drug sales. Therefore, if Sam accepts gifts from Clara knowing the gifts were obtained from trafficking, Sam can be charged. If the value of the property exceeds \$1000, the penalty for an indictable offence is up to 10 years in prison. If the value of the property is less than \$1000, the penalty ranges from a \$2000 fine plus six months in prison for a summary conviction, and if indictable up to two years in prison.

Enterprise Crime and Laundering

Money or property associated with a crime such as trafficking is often “laundered” by criminals to remove the taint of the crime. To **launder** means to use, transfer the possession of, send, transport, transmit, alter, dispose of, or otherwise deal with any property obtained through crime. By making laundering an offence, police are able to reduce the easy movement of property, especially cash, obtained through the drug trade. Because many of the illegal drugs sold in Canada come from foreign sources, it is quite common for the profit from the sale of the drugs to be transferred outside Canada. Since it is believed that profits from the sale of illegal drugs fund terrorism, the federal government has stepped up its surveillance of large amounts of money leaving the country.

Since 2000, certain groups must report cross-border transactions exceeding \$10 000, large cash transactions, and “suspicious” transactions. This law applies to lawyers, accountants, real-estate agencies, and financial institutions, including banks. The government has set up an office to investigate each reported transfer. The law calls into question lawyer–client confidentiality, and may one day be challenged in the courts. The penalties are substantial: \$2 million dollars and/or five years in jail.



Figure 6-9

In 1996, owners of this company in Vancouver were charged with an international money-laundering scheme and drug operation.

Police Rights of Search and Seizure under the Act

The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* grants police the right to search for controlled substances and drugs. Other rights that are incidental to the search, such as arrest, are granted by the *Criminal Code*. Search and arrest are discussed in more detail in Chapter 7.

Section 11 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* states that a warrant can be issued by a judge for a search if police believe an offence is in progress. An officer may act without a warrant if the situation is urgent and it is impractical to obtain one. For example, an officer would be compelled to force a search if the suspect is obviously flushing evidence down the toilet. The Act provides that the officer can use as much force as is necessary in these circumstances to enter the premises.

Upon entry, the officer can search anyone if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person possesses a controlled substance. The officer may seize any controlled drugs or substances, or any items reasonably believed to contain or conceal one. Objects that may have been used in the commission of the offence may also be seized.

Case

R. v. Adams

(2001-08-13) ONCA C34243
Ontario Court of Appeal

The police had reasonable and probable grounds to arrest Fritz Adams for trafficking in narcotics. They entered his rooming house by tricking the superintendent into believing they were investigating a noise complaint. They found Adams in the laundry room, and he was arrested after police found narcotics in his pocket. At trial, the Crown argued that the police did not need to obtain a warrant because Adams had no expectation of privacy while in the laundry room. Furthermore, the Crown argued that the superintendent gave informed consent to the officers' entry. Adams was found guilty of drug trafficking by a judge alone.

Adams appealed the decision to the Ontario Court of Appeal, stating that his right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure under section 8 of the *Charter* was violated. He acknowledged that the police had reasonable and probable grounds to arrest him, but argued that the superintendent only let them enter because he was given false information. Adams also argued that the arrest was illegal because the police failed to obtain a warrant to enter a dwelling-house as required by the *Criminal Code*. Adams was acquitted by the court.

In *R. v. Feeney* (1997), the Supreme Court of Canada outlined the following with respect to police entering a dwelling-house:

- The privacy interest outweighs the interest of the police, and arrests without a warrant in dwelling-houses are prohibited.
- There are exceptions with respect to the unreasonableness of searches without a warrant.
- Privacy issues must give way to the interest of society in ensuring adequate police protection when there is hot pursuit.
- Even if a warrant is obtained, proper announcement must be made before forcibly entering a dwelling-house to make an arrest.

For Discussion

1. Why would Adams prefer to have been tried by a judge alone instead of a judge and jury?
2. If the police had been refused entry by the superintendent, what means could they have used to obtain the legal right to enter?
3. What is "hot pursuit"? Did it exist in this case? Explain.
4. Applying the Feeney decision to the Adams case, do you think that Adams's right to privacy outweighed the desire of the police to make an arrest? Explain.

The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* does not give police the power to stop and search a person for drugs in a public place. The *Criminal Code* authorizes this type of search. However, there must be reasonable grounds for believing that the person is in possession of a drug.

Sentencing

In 1999, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* was amended to reflect the occasionally violent nature of illegal drug transactions and the vulnerability of youth. The Act outlines the principles of sentencing in this area, noting that sentencing must contribute to respect for the law and the maintenance of a just, peaceful, and safe society. Sentences must encourage offenders to rehabilitate (reform) themselves, seek treatment in appropriate circumstances, and acknowledge the harm done to victims and to the community.

The amendments also specified circumstances where the offence would be considered especially serious:

- if a weapon was used, carried, or threatened to be used
- if violence was used or threatened
- if the offender trafficked or tried to traffic substances found in Schedules I to IV in or near a school or any public place usually frequented by persons under 18 years of age
- if the offender trafficked or tried to traffic substances found in Schedules I to IV to a person under 18 years of age
- if the offender was previously convicted of a substance offence
- if the offender used the services of a person under the age of 18 years to commit, or be involved in, the commission of a substance offence

Parliament's concern with these factors is so great that if one of these factors exists and the judge does not sentence the offender to prison, he or she must give reasons for that decision.

Agents of Change

The Drug Treatment Court in Toronto

The Toronto Drug Treatment Court—the first of its kind in Canada—was established in 1998 for a six-year trial period. Its purpose is to keep offenders in the criminal justice system receiving both community support and treatment under judicial supervision for 12 to 18 months.

This unique court is based on the principles that treatment for offenders' drug problems will reduce their dependency on drugs, prevent them from reoffending, and provide an alternative to incarceration, thereby saving the system money. The program is directed at nonviolent offenders who are addicted to cocaine or opiates, with a focus on youth, women and men from diverse communities, and street prostitutes.

The Drug Treatment Court is a combined effort of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the criminal justice system in Toronto, the Toronto Police Service, the City of Toronto Public Health and Healthy City Office, and various community-based service agencies.

For Discussion

1. Identify the objective of the Toronto Drug Treatment Court program.
2. How does this program save the criminal justice system money?
3. Why do you think this program is directed at the groups identified?

Should People Who Use Illegal Drugs Be Punished?

Marijuana, cocaine, and heroin are just three of the illegal drugs listed in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Twenty-three percent of Canadians admit to using cannabis (marijuana and a related substance, hashish) at least once in their lifetimes. Four percent have admitted to using cocaine at least once.

■ Drug Use in Canada (percentage of population)

Substance	1989	1998
Cannabis	6.5	7.5
Cocaine, including crack	1.4	0.7
Heroin	0.4	1.0

Figure 6-10

Why do you think that the use of cannabis has increased rather than cocaine or heroin?

Cannabis generally induces a state of relaxation, heightened sensory awareness, a sensation that time is slowing down, and a rapid heartbeat. Some studies have shown that it may be more damaging to health than ordinary cigarettes. It can cause physical addiction, paranoia, and damage to body organs.

■ Drug Incidents, Canada, 2000

65 196 drug offences, an increase of 5.6% over previous year

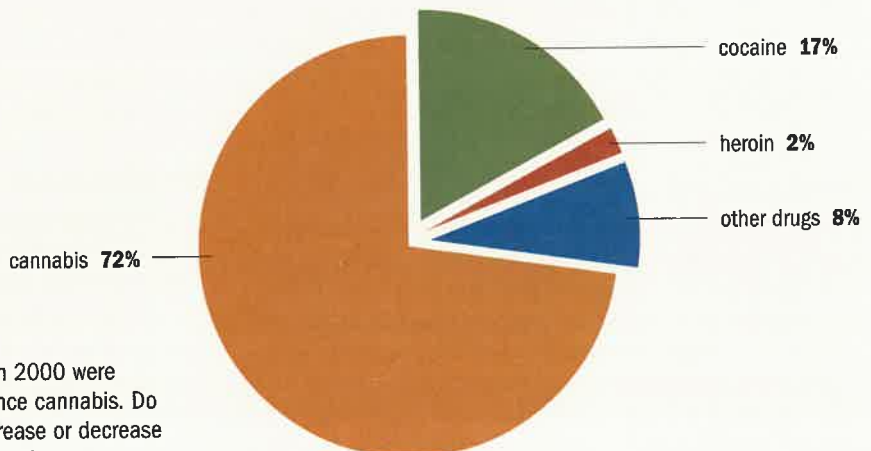


Figure 6-11

Most drug incidents in 2000 were related to the substance cannabis. Do you think this will increase or decrease in the near future? Explain.

Cocaine is a stimulant extracted from the South American coca bush. Its use can lead to severe physical, psychological, and dependency problems. Regular use can damage nasal passages, cause impotence, and create paranoia or depression. Large doses can cause violent behaviour, convulsions, and even death.

Heroin is a substance derived from the opium poppy. It can produce a “rush” and a feeling of excitement immediately after it is taken. As the body develops a tolerance for the drug, increasing amounts are needed to achieve the same effect. It is highly addictive, and nausea, diarrhea, and pain are symptoms experienced after the drug’s effect wears off.

On One Side

Many people think drug abuse is a serious offence. They believe that higher fines and longer jail sentences for drug users and traffickers would reduce drug use. They applauded the fact that in 1999, there were 39 percent more arrests for possession of marijuana than in the previous year; 21 126 people were convicted of a marijuana offence; and 13 percent of this group served time in jail. These Canadians want the police to have greater powers to search for illegal drugs so that the