



UNITED NATIONS

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

UNDER THE CONVENTION OF 13 JULY 1931 FOR LIMITING
THE MANUFACTURE AND REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF
11 DECEMBER 1946

CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1952

COMMUNICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith an annual report forwarded to him in pursuance of Article 21 of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946. (For the form of annual reports, see document E/NR.1949/Form)

New York, 1953

A. GENERAL

I. LAWS AND PUBLICATIONS

A. Laws

- 1.)
- 2.) Nil.

B. Publications

- 3. Nil.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. a.)

b.) Nil.

c.)

2. Drug addiction

A. Extent of addiction

1. Inasmuch as large supplies of heroin continue to enter the country illicitly, as evidenced by the amounts of drug being seized by enforcement officers and the steady prices maintained on the illegal market, it is reasonable to assume that our addict population may be slightly on the increase. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 persons are so addicted. Addicts in Canada are roughly 70 per cent male and may be divided into the following categories:

- a. Medical addicts - Those with an addiction factor superimposed on a genuine medical condition.
- b. Professional persons with psychosomatic or neurotic tendencies who take advantage of the fact that narcotics are available to them by reason of their related occupation.
- c. Psychotics from every walk of life who have drifted into sustained addiction and who constitute a major portion of our addict population.

2. Age groups over a calendar year period and involving 410 convictions were as follows:

<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>
17	1	35-39	55
18	1	40-44	56
19	8	45-49	23
20	9	50-54	21
21-24	65	55-59	5
25-29	94	60 and over	10
30-34	62		

- 3. As indicated in Chapter V, heroin is the chief drug of addiction being involved in over 90 per cent of the convictions established under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act during 1952. This material is smuggled into the country and it is not a case of supplies imported for domestic needs being diverted to illicit channels.
- 4. As previously reported, the majority of addicts congregate in the larger centres and the degree of fluctuation is not known.

B. Treatment of addicts

No definite programme of treatment has been formulated.

C. Nil.

3. Nil.

III. CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. No difficulties.
2.)
3.) Nil.
4. No difficulties.
5.)
6.)
7.) Nil.
8.)

IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1.)
2.) Nil.
3. All international conventions have been ratified.

V. ILLICIT TRAFFIC

1. Illicitly imported heroin, in substantial quantities still continues to be the major factor in our addiction problem. Moreover, this is a problem that will apparently continue indefinitely until much more effective narcotic control is established internationally. These conditions make inevitable the increase of addiction to heroin throughout the country in spite of relentless efforts on the part of enforcement officers to suppress and stamp out addiction.

In Western Canada, several convictions involving individuals responsible for introducing juveniles to heroin were registered during the year and other convictions of contributing to juvenile delinquency by means of the use of heroin were also registered. The penalties imposed upon those responsible were severe, including up to 7 years as well as being whipped. While it is true that most of the juveniles concerned were "problem children" prior to being involved with heroin, the fact remains that were illicit supplies of the drug not so readily obtainable, there would not be an increasing addiction problem in respect to individuals still in their formative years.

Of 371 convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act during the judicial year ending September 1952, 336 or 90 per cent of the cases involved heroin. Moreover, a bottle containing 8 ounces (226.8 g) of this drug which formed part of the merchandise concerned under Canadian Import Licence 96/51 and British Export Authorization Certificate No. 11/52 was found to be missing when the shipment was checked at the Customs warehouse in Montreal, Quebec. Exhaustive investigation extending back over the entire route of shipment failed to reveal any leads on where the material was actually removed from the case. The shipment arrived in Canada on 1 February 1952, and the British Narcotic Authorities were advised of the shortage when it was discovered.

Thefts from legitimate sources continue to decline as the following five-year review of statistics will indicate:

<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
107	94	87	80	66

Not one of the thefts occurring in the year under review represents a major loss. One wholesale firm was involved, but the amount of narcotics stolen was negligible.

2. Cultivation of opium poppy, Indian hemp and coca plant is not permitted in Canada.
3. During the judicial year in question, 371 convictions were registered under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. Of this total, 350 were for illegal possession and 21 for selling, offering or delivery. Length of sentences imposed is as follows:

6 mos. & under 1 year	1 year & less than 2 years	2 years & less than 3 years	3 years & less than 4 years	4 years & less than 5 years	5 years & less than 6 years	6 years & less than 7 years	7 Years
143	120	63	22	9	11	1	2

4. The 60 reports* of seizures submitted during the calendar year to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs include all the important narcotic cases for the year and the significant seizures.
5. During the year seizures were as follows:

Opium Gms.	Morphine Gms.	Heroin Kilos	Cocaine Gms.	Codeine Gms.	Cannabis Kilos	Pethidine Gms.	Methadone Gms.
458	3	1	787	2	36	1	715

The above represent seizures returned by various law-enforcement agencies for subsequent destruction by burning under the supervision of R.C.M. Police and officials of this Department. Inasmuch as seizures are held by police agencies until appeal periods have expired or appeals are heard, the quantities of drugs outlined above do not necessarily reflect actual seizures during the year in question.

6. Prices on the illicit market did not vary greatly during the year. In Eastern Canada, heroin sold at from \$3.00 to \$5.00 (US \$3.03-\$5.05) per capsule. In Mid West the price was as high as \$15.00 (US \$15.15) per one grain (0.06 g) capsule, and the Far West from \$3.50 to \$6.00 (US \$3.53-\$6.06) per capsule of varying strength, the price depending on the supply and activities of opposed factions involved in the illicit traffic. In certain urban centres, marihuana cigarettes were known to be sold in very limited quantities at varying prices up to \$1.50 (US \$1.50 each). There were not sufficient sales of any other narcotic drug on the illicit market to make it possible for prices to be obtained, a state of affairs that reflects the seriousness of the extent of the illicit distribution of heroin smuggled into the country. It is known that little if any material legally imported for medical needs reaches the illicit market. Marihuana smoking was noted to increase somewhat during the year. This traffic is, however, limited (only 3 convictions were registered in respect to marihuana) and is confined to supplies brought in by non-residents who were engaged in the entertainment field and were temporarily in Canada.

VI. OTHER INFORMATION
Nil.

B. RAW MATERIALS

- VII. RAW OPIUM
Cultivation of opium poppy is not permitted.

- VIII. COCA LEAF
Not grown in Canada.

* See E/NS.1952/Summary 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and E/NS.1953/Summary 1.

IX. INDIAN HEMP

1. Cultivation is prohibited and any plants found growing wild are immediately destroyed.
2.)
3.) See above.
4. Indian hemp found growing wild or under illicit cultivation is immediately burned, in the latter case charges of illegal cultivation laid. However, this problem has been for many years entirely negligible.
5. Not applicable.
6. Indian hemp in Canada is not used in the modern practise of medicine. In fact very few licensed narcotic wholesalers stock this material because there is little, if any, demand for it.
7. In common with all narcotic medication, except certain codeine compounds, Indian hemp in any form may only reach the public for medicinal purposes by means of a prescription issued by a physician.
8. Nil.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS

X. INTERNAL CONTROL OF MANUFACTURED DRUGS

1. a. Canada does not manufacture basic narcotic supplies.
b. Opium alkaloids, derivatives and all preparations containing such drugs, except Apomorphine, are only available to the public on prescriptions issued by a physician, the only exception being codeine preparations combined with non-narcotic medicinal ingredients wherein the maximum codeine content may only be 1/3 grain (0.02 g) in each fluid ounce and 1/8 grain (0.01 g) per tablet in solid form.
c. The provisions of Articles 13 and 14, Chapter V, of the Limitation Convention of 1931 are strictly complied with.
2. a. Nil.
b. No difficulties encountered, no changes necessary.
3. a. (i) - (iii) No manufacturing undertaken in 1953.
b. Nil.
c. (i) - (v) Not applicable.
4. Trade and distribution
a. A total of 147 licences were issued to narcotic wholesalers during the year. One of these was subsequently cancelled at the request of the firm concerned. Approximately half of our licensed wholesalers engage in the manufacture of narcotic preparations.
b. As indicated no manufacture of basic narcotic supplies is permitted. Moreover, three pharmacist auditors regularly audit the stock and records of all licensed narcotic wholesalers. All licensed narcotic wholesalers are required to submit monthly reports of sales of narcotic drugs and preparations containing narcotic drugs to the Department. The information contained in these reports is assimilated in an extensive system of purchase records covering the requirements of all individuals, firms and institutions authorized to handle narcotics. Constant review of these records make it possible to investigate thoroughly excessive or abnormal purchases and administrative action is taken where satisfactory explanations are not forthcoming.
Moreover all retail druggists throughout the country, approximately 4,450 in number, were required to submit periodic sales reports covering narcotic transactions on two or more occasions during the year. These reports were reviewed by trained scrutineers and again excessive purchases by individuals whose professions require the use

of narcotics were carefully investigated. These reports reveal as well, cases of misrepresentation by addicts and other abuses of like nature which were placed under control by the Department.

5. Manufacture of and trade in diacetylmorphine
 - a. Not manufactured.
 - b. Not applicable.
 - c. Nil.
 - d. During the year, 991 ozs. (28.094.3 kg) of diacetylmorphine were imported from Great Britain under the approved licensing system. Of this quantity, almost 70 per cent was utilized in the manufacture of cough syrups containing not more than 1/3 grain (0.02 g) to the fluid ounce. Medication of this nature comes, of course, under our prescription requirements and such prescriptions may not be repeated.

D. OTHER QUESTIONS

XI. CHAPTER IV OF THE HAGUE OPIUM CONVENTION OF 1912
Nil.

XII. PREPARED OPIUM

- A. No cases; unlawful possession of opium, should cases occur, would be dealt with sharply under Canadian Law.
- B. a.)
b.)Not applicable.
c.)
- C. See Chapter V.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

No special items to report.