



## **NATIONAL NORTHERN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY**

The *National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy (Strategy)* sets forth the Administration’s plan for preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs across the U.S.–Canada border. The *Strategy* builds upon the understanding of shared responsibility articulated in *Beyond the Border: A Joint Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness (Beyond the Border)*.

The *Strategy* recognizes the reality that transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) operating on both sides of the U.S.–Canada border exploit the international boundary to smuggle proceeds from illegal drugs sold in the United States and Canada and to transport drugs such as marijuana, MDMA (ecstasy), methamphetamine, and cocaine between the two countries. To increase each country’s individual security and economic vitality, the United States and Canada must appropriately plan, train, and act together to address threats at the earliest point possible and work toward optimizing joint border management goals.

### **Strategic Goal**

Substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds along the Northern border.

### **Strategic Objectives**

The *National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy* is a blueprint for substantially reducing the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds along the Northern border. The *Strategy* comprises the following five strategic objectives:

1. Enhance intelligence and information-sharing capabilities and processes associated with the Northern border;
2. Interdict illicit drugs and illicit drug proceeds at and between the ports of entry along the Northern border;
3. Interdict illicit drugs and illicit drug proceeds in the air and maritime domains along the Northern border;
4. Enhance counterdrug efforts and cooperation with tribal governments along the Northern border; and
5. Investigate and prosecute the TCOs operating along or exploiting the Northern border.

## Supporting Actions

The *Strategy* delineates 44 specific actions to be taken by Federal agencies. These actions fall under the following five broad categories:

- Enhancing intelligence and information sharing among U.S. Federal, state, local, tribal, and Canadian law enforcement agencies with Northern border counternarcotics responsibilities;
- Enhancing the capabilities to interdict illicit narcotics and drug proceeds crossing the Northern border by bolstering security at and between ports of entry;
- Maintaining air and maritime domain awareness and response capabilities along the Northern border;
- Developing resources and providing training opportunities to tribal law enforcement agencies; and
- Increasing cooperation with Canada, targeting the financial infrastructure of TCOs, maintaining investigative resources, and proactively addressing instances of public corruption.

## Outlook

- Instances of MDMA (ecstasy) seizures will remain relatively stable, based on the continued availability of the drug and the niche market associated with MDMA (ecstasy).
- Southbound seizures of marijuana may decrease as a result of Asian transnational criminal organizations establishing indoor marijuana growing operations throughout the United States in an effort to decrease transportation costs and limit the risk of seizure when smuggling the drug across the U.S.–Canada border.
- Cocaine will continue to transit the United States en route to Canada, and traffickers will seek new routes and means of transportation for this and other drugs.
- Without increased efforts on Indian reservations, drug traffickers are likely to continue exploiting tribal lands for smuggling illicit drugs.
- The potential exists for new drug threats to emerge. For example, non-abuse-resistant generic formulations of controlled-release oxycodone (which are available in Canada) could be smuggled into the United States (where those formulations have been withdrawn from the market).

## Online Resources

### ONDCP's Northern Border Web Page

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/northern-border-strategy>