



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 9, 2011

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Christopher Nasca announce that MICHEL PERREAULT was found guilty of attempted importation of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

MICHEL PERREAULT was originally indicted on February 23, 2011, and charged in a two-count indictment: Importation or Attempted Importation of a Controlled Substance in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 960(a)(1) and (b)(4) and 963, and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a) and (b)(1)(D) (Count 2). On June 8, 2011, PERREAULT was found guilty of both counts in the indictment after a two and a half day jury trial in Albany, New York. The trial was presided over by United States District Court Judge Thomas J. McAvoy.

Both counts in the indictment stem from PERREAULT's arrest on February 16, 2011, after he was discovered to be driving a rental car loaded with approximately 44 pounds of marijuana while attempting to enter the United States at the Champlain Port of Entry. The marijuana was packed into the framing of the vehicle and was detected during a 7-point inspection after PERREAULT was referred for a secondary inspection. While the defense asserted that PERREAULT was unaware of the marijuana he was transporting, the jury issued guilty verdicts on both counts after only 40 minutes of deliberation.

PERREAULT, 48, is a Canadian citizen from Laval, Quebec. Following the jury's guilty verdicts, Judge McAvoy ordered the Defendant remanded to the custody of the United States Marshals. PERREAULT will be sentenced on October 11, 2011 before Judge McAvoy in Albany, New York. On Count 1 of the Indictment, PERREAULT faces a maximum penalty of up to five (5) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of at least two years supervised release up to life to follow any term of imprisonment. On Count 2 of the Indictment, PERREAULT faces a maximum penalty of up to five (5) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of at least two years supervised release up to life to follow any term of imprisonment.

The indictment and prosecution of PERREAULT was the result of a joint investigation by Homeland Security Investigations and United States Customs and Border Protection. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie S. Pfluger.

Inquiries may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie S. Pfluger at (518) 314-7800.