

Department of Justice

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CANADIAN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Karlene Powless, 28, of Ontario, Canada, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara, to conspiracy to import marijuana from Canada into the United States and bail jumping. The charges carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten, who is handling the case, stated that on November 10, 2004, Powless drove a Dodge pick-up truck to the Peace Bridge Port of Entry carrying marijuana. During a secondary inspection, Customs and Border Protection officers found 30 bags of marijuana in the spare tire. Further investigation revealed that Powless, and co-conspirator Danielle Bomberry, who was a passenger in the truck, had imported marijuana into the United States 15 times before their arrests. Both Bomberry and Powless were extradited from Canada into the United States after each failed to return to face charges after being released on bail.

Danielle Bomberry, also a Canadian Citizen, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import marijuana from Canada into the United States and bail jumping and is awaiting sentencing before Judge Arcara on June 18, 2012.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of James C. Spero.

Powless is scheduled to be sentenced on July 24, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.