

August 17, 2016

**MANITOBA'S CRIMINAL PROPERTY FORFEITURE GRANT  
HELPS PROTECT RCMP K9 UNIT**

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**Victims Services, Police Agencies across Manitoba  
To benefit from \$1.85 million in Grant Funding: Stefanson**

The Manitoba government is investing more than \$1.85 million in victim services programs and new resources for police agencies across the province, including more than \$91,000 to better protect the RCMP's K9 unit with ballistic vests and camera systems, Justice Minister Heather Stefanson announced today.

"The criminal property forfeiture program is a unique opportunity to take money from unlawful activity and put it to good use," said Stefanson. "The grant provides stronger supports for victims of crime, while also investing in new investigative tools, community safety initiatives and improved officer safety throughout Manitoba. We also want to recognize the important work of the RCMP K9 unit and we are proud to help support new equipment to keep these highly trained dogs safe in dangerous situations."

The K9 unit will use the grant to purchase six ballistic vests for the animals to better protect them in higher-risk situations. The unit will also receive two new wireless camera units that allow K9 handlers to see what the dog sees in real-time, allowing them to provide commands to the dog or to suspects using a built-in speaker system.

"Through the criminal property forfeiture program, we have the ability to strip criminals of the proceeds they have gained through illegal activity and enhance policing services across Manitoba," said Scott Kolody, commanding officer, RCMP D Division. "The money and equipment announced today will directly enhance the safety of our officers, help us target child predators and improve community projects led by our detachments."

The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) will receive more than \$534,000 to purchase specialized equipment to support its investigations including a portable X-ray scanner and ion scanner, 10 new bikes for the downtown police patrol and equipment needed to add four members to its tactical medical support team. Funding will also be used to support the work of a criminologist and offer a new mental health and wellness program for officers.

"Forfeiture allows the government to curb criminal behaviour by removing the incentives," said Supt. Jeff Szyszkowski, acting deputy chief, investigations, WPS. "It is then reinvested to assist law enforcement with specialized training, equipment and crime prevention initiatives to help improve safety and health in our communities. On behalf of the Winnipeg Police Service and our other public safety partners, I would like to thank the province for this important support."

Another \$450,000 will be dedicated to victim services programs throughout Manitoba. This includes \$65,000 to help offset travel and parking costs for family members who come to court for matters involving a fatality and \$30,000 to the Salvation Army's Peace of Mind program, which offers support to women who have experienced domestic violence.

"Our program is a safe, caring environment that offers women support and the knowledge that they are not alone in dealing with abuse in their relationship," said Dianna Bussey, director, correctional and justice services, The Salvation Army. "Women can talk about the effects of abuse on themselves and their children, safety planning, self-esteem and healthy relationships. This investment recognizes that the work we do is important, and will go a long way in ensuring we can continue to help women and children in need."

Stefanson noted more than \$1.85 million will be distributed to law enforcement agencies and in support of victim services in Manitoba this year through the criminal property forfeiture program.

For more information about criminal property forfeitures, visit:  
[www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

**CRIMINAL PROPERTY  
FORFEITURE GRANTS**

RCMP D Division will receive more than \$390,000 to purchase new equipment used in investigations and to improve public safety including:

- a self-contained mobile forensic lab vehicle (\$100,000);
- surveillance equipment to investigate and monitor high-risk sex offenders (\$3,100);
- four new digital display boards to help reduce highway speeds and improve safety in the Shoal Lake area (\$22,000);
- three smart boards for the covert operations unit to help keep information protected and secure during investigations (\$27,600);
- bike and related equipment needed to support the bike patrol program in Flin Flon (\$2,000);
- four tents, 20 personal flotation devices, paddles and other equipment to be used by a youth cadet program in Cross Lake (\$15,000);
- low-light and night-vision equipment to be used in surveillance operations (\$45,000);
- equipment to help recover evidence in child exploitation investigations (\$10,600); and
- a new network system that expands the range of tactical robots, making them more effective in remote areas (\$59,000).

The Winnipeg Police Service will receive more than \$534,000 to for specialized equipment and training including:

- a portable X-ray machine to more quickly determine if suspicious packages pose a threat to public safety (\$108,500);
- a portable ion scanner to detect explosives and drugs during investigations (\$64,200);
- an online and in-person mental health and resiliency training program for officers (\$75,000);
- 10 bikes and other equipment for the downtown police patrol (\$24,800);
- sonar, GPS and other equipment for the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (\$8,600);
- funding to support the work of a criminologist in the service (\$35,000);
- a course on investigating drug-related crimes for four members of the Organized Crime Unit (\$13,400);
- an automated licence plate reader (\$35,000);
- 10 training suits to be used in the academy by newly hired officers (\$40,000);

- new equipment needed to expand the tactical medical support team from 16 to 20 members (\$15,000); and
- 240 sets of bullet-resistant gear to be placed with each uniformed patrol unit, to ensure their safety in high-risk situations (\$115,000).

Manitoba's victims services programs will receive \$450,000 from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund including:

- Wiping Away the Tears, an annual gathering to support families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in their healing, to be hosted by Ka Ni Kanichihk in September (\$45,000);
- travel and parking costs for families of fatality victims who choose to come to court (\$45,000);
- interpreters to help Manitobans applying for protection orders (\$5,000);
- an international roundtable focused on how to stop human trafficking, taking place in Winnipeg in September (\$6,000);
- an outreach street worker at Sage House who supports people exploited through sex work (\$30,000);
- the Peace of Mind program at Salvation Army for women who have experienced domestic violence (\$30,000); and
- ongoing plans to establish Candace House as a resource for victims of serious crime and their families (\$30,000).