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**WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE RECEIVES \$356,000
FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING, EQUIPMENT TO TACKLE CRIME: SWAN**

Winnipeg police officers will be better able to serve the community, investigate incidents and support crime prevention with specialized equipment and training provided by a program that seizes criminal property and redirects funds back into law enforcement, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced today.

“The criminal landscape continues to change and we are pleased to provide law enforcement with the resources they need to update equipment and skills,” said Swan. “We’re taking money out criminal activity and putting it to work fighting crime. Supporting the work of Winnipeg’s officers benefits law-abiding citizens and helps us build a safer community.”

The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) will receive over \$356,000 to purchase two cargo vans to transport offenders and officers, surveillance equipment, an automated licence-plate reader, safety equipment for medical personnel and other specialized tools. The funds will also be used to provide officers with specialized training in areas such as emergency planning, fraud and child sexual abuse investigations.

“Organized crime, at its true core, is about money,” said Chief Devon Clunis, WPS. “Through this program, we’re able to take back these ill-gotten gains so that this money cannot be used to fund future crimes. At the same time, we’re using these funds to strengthen the efforts of police work, which goes a long way toward helping us creating a culture of safety for our community.”

In total, over \$1 million in grants will be distributed across the province this summer through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Unit. Since 2010, over \$5 million in assets have been successfully forfeited to Manitoba, Swan said. The money recovered is deposited into the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund and used, in part, to support the work of police and victim services. More forfeiture proceedings are in process, with over 200 files currently being pursued involving numerous vehicles, houses, rural properties and cash, the minister said.

For more information about criminal property forfeitures, visit:

www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html.

**CRIMINAL PROPERTY FORFEITURE FUNDING FOR
WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE**

The Winnipeg Police Service will receive over \$356,000 in grants from Manitoba's criminal property forfeiture branch to provide specialized equipment and training. Projects receiving grant money include:

Equipment

- \$100,000 for two cargo vans to transport offenders or officers;
- \$20,000 to purchase safety gear for the eight medical personnel working closely with the tactical response team in high-risk situations;
- \$6,919 for hardware and software upgrades in the Internet Child Exploitation Unit, which will allow officers to process images of child sexual abuse seized as part of their investigations more quickly and reduce the amount of time officers have to spend viewing these images;
- \$57,900 to purchase and install surveillance equipment in two covert vehicles;
- \$35,000 to purchase an automated licence-plate reader to quickly check plates against police databases, allowing for more efficient use of officer time and increasing the likelihood of arrests; and
- \$42,000 to equip the K9 unit with camera surveillance systems to gather information in high-risk incidents and help officers resolve situations safely.

Training

- \$7,500 to hold a four-day training session for 10 officers on crime prevention through environmental design, an emerging approach to ensure community safety;
- \$15,000 for the Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society to partner with Teen Challenge to offer a vehicle repair and refurbishment program for troubled youth;
- \$5,200 to make the training site used by police officers to learn specialized driving manoeuvres more realistic by adding roadway markings, traffic control signs and other features;
- \$3,315 to send two officers on a five-day business continuity course, which helps organizations plan to continue to deliver services during a disaster or other serious disruption;
- \$20,000 to hold a course on credit and debit card fraud and related investigations for up to 50 officers from across the province and from various law enforcement agencies, as this course is typically only offered in Ottawa, which limits participation;

- \$15,000 to provide specialized training on profiling and interviewing child sex offenders for all child abuse and internet child exploitation investigators;
- \$25,000 to train staff on the Next Generation 911 (NG911) system, as this will be implemented in Manitoba and across North America in future years; and
- \$25,000 to support the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police annual meeting, which will take place in Winnipeg this summer.