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**PROGRAMS SUPPORTING AT-RISK YOUTH IN THE INTERLAKE
FUNDED BY FORFEITED PROCEEDS OF CRIME: SWAN**

Manitoba will provide \$47,000 to support three community-based programs that work with at-risk youth in the Interlake with the ultimate goal of reducing future contact with the law, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced today.

“There are often many reasons why young people are at risk for criminal behaviour. Appropriate supports from family and the community can make a world of difference,” said Swan. “We are pleased to support the important work being done in the Interlake to encourage a healthier future for youth and improve safety in our communities.”

These programs are led by local RCMP detachments in partnership with the community, health care and educational agencies, and the provincial government. The Southwest Teens at Risk (STAR) Community Partners program in Stonewall, Selkirk Team for At-Risk Teens (START) and Families and Youth Regional Support Team (FYRST) in Gimli work with youth aged 12 to 17 who have been or are at risk for criminal activity or are known to local law enforcement. In partnership with the youth and their family, the team helps determine why the youth is involved in risky behaviour and tries to overcome the underlying issues. With support, the youth can make better and healthier decisions, reducing the likelihood of future involvement with law enforcement, Swan said.

“The RCMP believes that long-term prevention of youth crime and victimization can only be accomplished in partnership with the community,” said Chief Superintendent Scott Kolody, criminal operations officer for RCMP “D” Division. “We certainly appreciate the province’s support for these programs that will benefit many Interlake youth.”

The minister noted an additional grant of over \$12,400 will be provided to the Springfield Police Service to install two new in-vehicle laptops.

“This new equipment is an invaluable resource in today’s policing world to improve officer safety and ensure we have the information needed to do our jobs effectively,” said Chief Constable Rick Myall of the Springfield Police Service. “Having a laptop in a police vehicle is a necessity and the Springfield Police Service appreciates the assistance from the province to make this possible.”

These initiatives were funded through a grant program operated by Manitoba’s Criminal Property Forfeiture Unit, with funds sourced from provincial criminal property forfeitures as well as federal proceeds of crime seizures. The province has also recently announced grants to the RCMP in Winnipeg and specialized services to support victims of crime and their families. In total, over \$1 million in grants will be distributed this summer, with over \$277,000 going to RCMP detachments across the province.

Since Manitoba's Criminal Property Forfeiture Act was put in place in 2010, over \$5 million in assets have been successfully forfeited to Manitoba. 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, Swan said.

For more information about criminal property forfeitures, visit:

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