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**FORFEITED PROFITS OF CRIME  
REINVESTED IN SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT FOR BRANDON POLICE: SWAN**

BRANDON—The Brandon Police Service will receive specialized equipment to improve safety in crisis negotiations and the effectiveness of crime investigations through grants funded by the forfeited proceeds of crime, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced today..

“Through our criminal property forfeiture grants, we are taking money out of criminal activity and giving it a new purpose – to support law enforcement and safer communities,” said Swan. “We are pleased to provide these new tools to the Brandon Police Service (BPS) as part of over \$1 million distributed among law enforcement agencies and victims’ services across the province.”

The Brandon Police Service will receive nearly \$60,000 in new equipment including:

- surveillance equipment,
- crash-data recording systems to collect information about traffic collisions,
- specialized equipment for the tactical response unit and crisis negotiation unit, and
- software upgrades to support the use of this new technology.

“Community safety is the top priority of the Brandon Police Service so taking funds from criminal enterprise and turning it into tools to assist the police makes perfect sense,” said BPS Chief Ian Grant. “The Brandon Police Service will put this new equipment to good use in our community safety efforts and would like to thank the province and the minister for this important support.”

The minister noted that another \$16,000 will purchase surveillance equipment for provincial investigations related to illegal tobacco sales and smoke shops. Last year, a specialized enforcement group was involved in over 20 seizures of contraband tobacco products in Manitoba. As a result, 15 people were charged with offences under the Manitoba Tobacco Tax Act and the Tax Administration and Miscellaneous Taxes Act. Over 1.1 million cigarettes and over \$420,000 was seized. Cases that cleared court over the past year resulted in over \$18,000 in fines and over \$1.6 million in tax penalties assessed against convicted tobacco smugglers.

This announcement adds to grants recently announced for the RCMP in Winnipeg and specialized services to support victims of crime and their families. In total, over \$1 million in grants from criminal property forfeiture will be distributed across the province this summer, said Swan.

Since the 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, the minister said.

More information about criminal property forfeitures is available at:

[www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html).