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## **MANITOBA INVESTMENT PROTECTS FRONT-LINE RCMP OFFICERS FROM FENTANYL EXPOSURE**

### **-Specialized equipment funded through criminal property forfeiture fund: Stefanson-**

Manitoba Justice is helping to protect all front-line RCMP officers from the health risks posed by fentanyl and other opioids by investing nearly \$54,000 from the criminal property forfeiture fund in personal protective equipment, Minister Heather Stefanson announced today.

“Fentanyl poses a serious and sometimes unexpected risk to officers when they respond to a call for assistance,” said Stefanson. “This equipment will allow RCMP members to take the necessary precautions when fentanyl may be present, reducing the risk to themselves and others. Our government is proud to make this investment in the health and safety of RCMP officers.”

Approximately 1,080 front-line RCMP officers will be fitted with respiratory and eye protection, to be used in situations where they may be exposed to fentanyl or other dangerous opioids. RCMP will also ensure remote detachments have access to fit-testing equipment so all officers’ respiratory protection will work effectively.

“Keeping our officers safe from the very serious consequences of accidental exposure to fentanyl and other illicit opioids is a priority for the RCMP,” said Assistant Commissioner Scott Kolody, commanding officer of the RCMP in Manitoba. “The funds announced today will be critical to ensuring all our officers are equipped with the best possible protection.”

This year, RCMP D Division will receive more than \$382,000 from the criminal property forfeiture fund to invest in specialized tools, resources and training, which also includes equipment to enhance road safety initiatives, such as radar guns and licence plate readers.

The minister noted more than \$1.5 million will be distributed this year through the criminal property forfeiture program.

Since 2010, more than \$16.5 million in assets has been successfully forfeited to Manitoba through criminal property forfeitures. There are currently 120 active forfeiture files being pursued by the province, involving vehicles, property, cash and other assets.

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).