

June 16, 2014

**POLICE AGENCIES SERVING BRANDON AND AREA RECEIVE NEW EQUIPMENT
TO BETTER SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES: MINISTER SWAN**

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**Funding Provided Through Manitoba's
Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund**

BRANDON—Police agencies serving Brandon, the Rural Municipality of Cornwallis and First Nations communities across southern Manitoba will receive specialized equipment to improve community safety through grants funded by the forfeited proceeds of crime, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced here today.

“Our Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund continues to put new resources in the hands of police officers, where they’re needed most,” said Minister Swan. “We are proud to support their dedication to keeping our communities a safer place to live and work. By taking money out of criminal activity and reinvesting it through these grants, we can continue to work together to reduce crime and protect Manitobans.”

The Brandon Police Service will receive nearly \$96,000 in new equipment including:

- a digital fingerprint scanner,
- a thermal imaging camera,
- cameras to be used by the forensic and investigation units, and
- portable radios for the community support unit.

“These funds will go a long way in helping us achieve our mission of community safety, while also ensuring the safety of our members as they do their jobs each and every day,” said Chief Ian Grant, Brandon Police Service. “I am certain that the community sees great value in taking money from the hands of criminals to assist police in addressing community safety issues.”

The Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS) will use its grant of more than \$67,000 to support the ongoing operations of its K-9 unit. DOPS serves five First Nations communities in southern Manitoba including Birdtail Sioux, Roseau River and Sioux Valley.

“The Dakota Ojibway Police Service is very appreciative of the funding received through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund, which will be used to purchase a dedicated vehicle for the police service dog unit, as well as cover the training costs of the DOPS dog handler,” said Chief Doug Palson, DOPS. “The establishment of a fully certified and equipped police service dog unit will enhance the overall capacity of the police service allowing us to better serve our communities.”

The RM of Cornwallis and its police service identified traffic safety and speeding as a local concern and received more than \$9,400 to purchase traffic enforcement equipment including a mobile radar unit, a breathalyzer and a meter used to measure window tinting, the minister said.

“The equipment purchased through the funding from the Criminal Property Forfeiture branch will be used to try to reduce traffic collisions and make Manitoba’s roads safer for all,” said Chief Const. Darwin Drader, RM of Cornwallis Police Service. “Our police service, police board and the citizens we serve would like to thank the province for providing funding for this worthwhile initiative.”

In total, more than \$1.2 million in grants from criminal property forfeiture will be distributed across the province this summer, said Minister Swan.

Since 2010, over \$8 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 information about criminal property forfeitures is available at:

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