

June 26, 2014

**PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES  
TO SUPPORT OFFICER, COMMUNITY SAFETY IN WINNIPEG: MINISTER SWAN**

Specialized equipment and training funded through the criminal property forfeiture program will help build safer neighborhoods by assisting Winnipeg police officers conduct investigations more safely and effectively, Justice Minister Andrew Swan announced today.

“Criminal investigations require increasingly specialized tools and expertise,” said Minister Swan. “The criminal property forfeiture grant program continues to ensure police officers have the necessary resources to investigate crimes and better serve the community.”

More than \$420,000 in new specialized equipment and training will help Winnipeg Police Service officers more effectively investigate crimes, keep officers safer while at work and ensure community safety. Funded resources include:

- specialized equipment for surveillance operations,
- a trailer to be used for community outreach projects and to provide on-site services to victims after critical incidents,
- a robot used to detonate suspected explosives,
- camera equipment and other tools used to track and record evidence, and
- software and hardware used in forensic computer investigations.

“This funding will enhance our members’ abilities to keep pace with the ever-evolving sophistication of the crimes they are tasked to investigate,” said Chief Devon Clunis, Winnipeg Police Service.

The grant program has approved funding to ensure officers will receive training on:

- new and emerging evidence-gathering processes intended to help officers keep pace with technology,
- specialized interview techniques for suspects involved in child exploitation cases,
- use of expert witness testimony in organized crime cases, and
- the national high-risk offender program.

- more -

More than \$1.2 million in grants from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund will be distributed to police agencies across the province this summer. Since 2010, over \$8 million in assets have been successfully forfeited to the province with the money recovered deposited into the 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](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html).