

September 3, 2015

**FORFEITED CRIMINAL PROPERTY TO PAY FOR
GREATER PUBLIC SAFETY: MINISTER MACKINTOSH**

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**Manitoba's Forfeiture Fund Provides New Tools and Training
For Altona, Morden, Winkler Law Enforcement**

Forfeited property connected to unlawful activity will pay for greater public safety through Manitoba's criminal property forfeiture fund, which will provide more than \$97,000 to purchase new, specialized equipment for a regional support tactical team serving the communities of Altona, Morden and Winkler, Attorney General Gord Mackintosh announced today.

"These communities have recognized the importance of having a specialized support unit with the necessary training and resources to respond to potentially dangerous situations, including specialized entries into homes where weapons or drugs are suspected," said Minister Mackintosh. "The money we're investing will help ensure these officers can do their jobs safely and effectively."

Money and other assets linked to unlawful activity can be forfeited to the province and placed into the fund. Every year this money is reinvested in law enforcement agencies and other initiatives through a grant program, the minister noted.

The regional support tactical team was formed in 2013 and includes nine members from police services in these three communities. The team conducts specialized home entries for search warrants and supports larger-scale emergency responses. The minister noted the team currently does not have any specialized equipment and the grant will be used to provide:

- protective clothing, including body armour and helmets;
- weapons suitable for higher-risk situations; and
- tactical equipment used to effectively enter barricaded buildings.

"The Winkler, Morden and Altona police services continue to truly appreciate the grants provided through Manitoba's criminal property forfeiture fund," said Perry Batchelor, chief of police for the Altona Police Service. "The regional support tactical team will enhance both public and officer safety in our jurisdictions".

The Altona Police Service will also receive more than \$15,000 to purchase a new thermal imaging camera and other equipment.

Funding for these projects is part of more than \$1.6 million in grants distributed through the criminal property forfeiture fund this year. Since 2010, nearly 1,200 files have been resolved, resulting in more than \$12 million in assets connected to unlawful activity has been successfully forfeited to the province. The assets include homes, cash, vehicles and other property.

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For more information about the criminal property forfeiture fund, visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/cpf/index.html.