

# News Release

## Escalating Costs of Policing Discussed

### *Unique group asks for cost control, more funding*

**July 22, 2004** – The Large Urban Policing Working Group met Tuesday with Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh to discuss the rapid increase in police costs over the past number of years. The group feels that the Province should either control the cost of policing, or afford Manitoba's large urban municipalities greater funding for policing in their areas.

The working group, formed in 2003, consists of seven large urban communities in Manitoba who all have direct policing contracts with the R.C.M.P. These communities are Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, The Pas, and Thompson.

Because municipalities must determine the appropriate level of police service in relation to their budget, police service may be adversely affected if police costs continue to escalate. Portage la Prairie Councillor Orville Wagner, Chair of the group, noted, "Although our communities do not have any control over the costs of policing, we are required to pay a set amount of 70%. That means that if policing costs rise dramatically from one year to the next, we must absorb these cost increases even though the overall budget may not have increased".

The group also noted that policing costs are only expected to rise. Stuart Briese, President of the AMM, explained that "RCMP costs are expected to rise significantly in the future due to increasing salaries, increased RCMP reporting requirements, demographic trends, and rising public expectations for initiatives like community policing and school programs."

Minister Mackintosh committed to review this issue and continue to work with the group to find a solution.

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***A copy of the position paper presented to Minister Mackintosh is available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca/provministermeetings.htm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/provministermeetings.htm).***

***For additional information, or to arrange an interview with President Briese, please contact:***

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