

# SMS/CRT/WEST Backgrounder

*November 2022*

## Saskatchewan Marshals Service

### Key Facts

- The SMS will provide an additional law enforcement presence across Saskatchewan. The SMS will conduct proactive investigations, and provide support to the RCMP and municipal police services.
- Once fully implemented the SMS will consist of approximately 70 officers.
- The SMS will:
  - detect, disrupt, and deter criminal activity across Saskatchewan, with a focus on higher crime locations throughout the province;
  - locate and apprehend high risk and prolific offenders wanted on arrest warrants;
  - conduct proactive enforcement and investigations into offenses related to farming and agriculture, such as cattle, crop, metal and farm chemical theft, and trespassing; and
  - provide emergency and specialized support or assistance to other law enforcement services, such as the RCMP or municipal police services.
- The SMS is not replacing the RCMP. The RCMP will remain the provincial police service of jurisdiction. The SMS will have police authority throughout the province and, where appropriate, support RCMP and municipal police operations. Citizens currently in areas policed by the RCMP or a municipal police service will still call their police service of jurisdiction or 9-1-1 to report crimes or request police services.
- The SMS will be established as an independent agency falling under the responsibility of the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.
- The SMS is expected to be fully operational by mid-to-late 2026. Additional details will be provided as the Service is developed.

### Funding

The Saskatchewan Marshals Service (SMS) is expected to cost approximately \$20 million on an annual basis once fully operational, although this number may fluctuate based on the structure of the service and external factors, such as inflation.

# Crime Reduction Team Expansion

## Key Facts

- The Government is expanding the CRT by one additional team, consisting of ten positions.
- Currently, the CRT consists of nine teams established in eight locations in Saskatchewan (two teams in Prince Albert). The teams are located in the following communities within the noted police agencies:
  - RCMP La Ronge
  - RCMP Prince Albert
  - RCMP Meadow Lake
  - RCMP Moose Jaw
  - RCMP North Battleford
  - RCMP Lloydminster
  - Prince Albert Police Service
  - Regina Police Service
  - Saskatoon Police Service
- The new team will be located in the Battlefords region, and will consist of eight RCMP officers, one analyst and one administrative support position.
- This expansion is expected to be operational in late 2023-24 (fiscal year).
- The CRT's mandate is to target street gangs, prolific offenders, and to respond to both urban and rural crime surges.
- The CRT assists in the investigation, disruption, dismantling, and prosecution of organized crime. This includes high visibility patrols, tracking chronic dangerous offenders, tackling street-gang activity, and executing arrest warrants. In addition, the CRTs can rapidly deploy to communities that are experiencing dramatic surges in criminal activities.
- In 2021-22, the CRT executed 180 arrest warrants; investigated more than 300 files; and seized over 150 firearms and approximately 65,000 grams of drugs worth between \$1.5M and \$2.1M.

## Funding

The expansion will create an additional Crime Reduction Team (CRT), at a cost of \$2.3 million annually starting in 2023-24.

As per the Provincial Police Service Agreement with the federal government, the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety will pay 70% of these costs (\$1.6 million) and Public Safety Canada will pay the remaining 30% (\$700,000)

# Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team Expansion

## Key Facts

- WEST was launched in April 2022 to target high-profile offenders who are a significant threat to public safety, such as gang members and violent offenders with outstanding warrants.
- Currently, WEST is based out of Saskatoon and Meadow Lake and is deployable around the province.
- The new team will be located in Prince Albert, and will consist of eight RCMP officers, one analyst and one administrative support position.
- The new WEST team is expected to be operational in late 2023-24 (fiscal year).
- Since being launched in April of 2022, WEST has taken 18 individuals into custody, 16 of which were unlawfully at large.

## Funding

The expansion will create an additional Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST), at a cost of \$2.3 million annually starting in 2023-24.

As per the Provincial Police Service Agreement with the federal government, the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety will pay 70% (\$1.6 million) of these costs and Public Safety Canada will pay the remaining 30% (\$700,000)