

## Winnipeg's bail compliance unit fully operational: Manitoba government

By **Terry Davidson**

Law360 Canada (March 4, 2026, 3:50 PM EST) -- A new police unit used to track and arrest those in violation of their bail conditions is now up and running in Winnipeg.

On March 3, Manitoba's justice minister confirmed the Winnipeg Police Service's (WPS) bail compliance unit is "fully staffed and operational" in the province's capital.

"The new unit focuses on locating and apprehending individuals who violate bail conditions, with an emphasis on repeat and violent offenders who pose a heightened risk to the community," states a news release. "It works in collaboration with law enforcement partners across the province and forms a key component of Manitoba's broader strategy to improve bail compliance and protect the public."

The new unit, which began operating in December 2025, is made up of 12 WPS officers on a mission to "enhance bail compliance monitoring and enforcement."

Those officers, states the release, will "prioritize high-risk offenders, including those charged with intimate partner violence," and work with the Manitoba integrated violent offender apprehension unit to prioritize the arrest of violent offenders.

"Manitobans deserve to feel safe in their communities and we're ensuring that law enforcement has the resources to do this important work," said Manitoba Justice Minister Matt Wiebe in a statement. "When we see people breach their bail conditions, it not only impacts victims of crime but also erodes trust in the justice system and makes the entire community unsafe."

Manitoba's government has earmarked \$3 million to support the unit.

The full activation of the unit comes only months after Canada's government introduced controversial legislation aimed at toughening the country's bail system.

Back in October, federal Justice Minister Sean Fraser said his government was proposing dozens of "targeted changes" that, among other things, would "make bail harder to get."

As for the bail compliance unit, WPS Criminal Investigation Bureau deputy chief Cam Mackid said it has "quickly become a high performing, proactive unit that has a very real, tangible impact on public safety."

"The unit went operational on Dec. 15 ... and in just over two months, has conducted 922 bail compliance and wanted person checks, resulting in 336 offenders being arrested or submitted for warrant because they could not be immediately located," said Mackid.

The news release goes on to note that the unit “forms a key part” of Manitoba’s “five-point” plan to ensure accountability within the province’s justice system and “reduce the impact of chronic offenders on communities.”

The controversial subject of bail reform recently became a hot-button issue in the province.

Back in October, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew received a scolding from two prominent lawyers’ groups — the Manitoba Bar Association (MBA) and the Criminal Defence Lawyer Association of Manitoba (CDLAM) — after he criticized the bail system while answering questions in the province’s legislature.

While facing questions from the opposition, Kinew brought up the case of Navjeet Singh, a truck driver who left Canada after allegedly causing a crash that killed a mother and her young daughter. Singh returned more than nine months later and was arrested at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport.

Around a week later, he was granted bail.

While in the legislature, Kinew said the prosecutor acting at Singh’s bail hearing had argued that releasing him would endanger the public’s confidence in the justice system.

The MBA and CDLAM slammed Kinew for his comments, saying they jeopardized both judicial independence and a “fair and impartial” justice system.

*If you have any information, story ideas or news tips for Law360 Canada, please contact Terry Davidson at [t.davidson@lexisnexis.ca](mailto:t.davidson@lexisnexis.ca) or 905-415-5899.*