



**MANITOBA TO HOST NATIONAL K9 TRAINING AND VALIDATION EVENT
“UNITED K9 2023” to be Held This Fall**

Date Issued: August 1, 2023

Manitoba will host a first of its kind, national K9 search and rescue (SAR) training event called “UNITED K9 2023” this fall that will be led by members of Manitoba’s Canada Task Force 4 (CAN TF-4) heavy urban search and rescue (HUSAR) team, Municipal Relations Minister Andrew Smith, minister responsible for the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), announced today.

“We are pleased to welcome canine teams from across the country and are proud to have the kind of expertise in the OFC and CAN TF-4 that it takes to lead these skilled handlers and their animals through these exercises,” said Smith. “We appreciate the dedication of these teams and the support of their organizations in allowing them to come here for the kind of training that could be put to use in any number of emergency or disaster situations.”

Hosted by Manitoba’s CAN TF-4, “UNITED K9 2023” will be held September 25 – October 1 at the Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) Practical Training Site (PTS) in Brandon. Under the direction of staff from the OFC, this very special training opportunity will include “K9 Search Specialist” classroom training through MESC. This course is designed as an introduction to all aspects of K9 handling including ground and urban SAR, as well as police and detection work. The USAR team dogs and handlers will be put through their paces in real-life training scenarios

on the CAN TF-4 rubble pile and in the USAR training area at the PTS located near Brandon Municipal Airport.

With participation from the six CAN TFs and a number of law enforcement K9 teams taking part in the classroom training activity, there will be over 20 dogs and their handlers in attendance.

The goal of UNITED K9 2023 is to ensure the HUSAR CAN-TF K9 teams are validated by achieving certification to the Canadian USAR K9 standard through MESC which will qualify them for disaster response deployments in Canada or internationally.

Manitoba's CAN TF-4 HUSAR/All-Hazards Disaster Response Team is one of six teams participating in the National HUSAR Program managed by Public Safety Canada. The other HUSAR teams include: CAN TF-1 (Vancouver), CAN TF-2 (Calgary), CAN TF-3 (Toronto), CAN TF-5 (Halifax) and CAN TF-6 (Montreal). These teams are expected to send participants to this event.

