

September 11, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into in-custody injury on Long Plain First Nation

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has completed its investigation into the injury of a suspect while in the custody of Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS) and has determined no charges should be laid against the arresting officer.

On the afternoon of December 3, 2016, DOPS responded to a call for service concerning an intoxicated and belligerent male who was causing a disturbance and punching holes into walls at a residence on Long Plain First Nation. The male, age 50, was arrested and transported to the Long Plain detachment. While in custody, the man was very agitated and wrapped various articles of clothing around his neck. On five occasions the female DOPS officer entered his cell to remove those articles of clothing. The man also continuously punched at the cell door and a window. That night, the man complained of pain in his hand and elbow and was transported to hospital for assessment. The attending physician determined he had a broken bone in his right hand.

IIU investigators reviewed video surveillance recordings of the confrontations between the officer and prisoner; they showed no instance of the officer using any excessive or unnecessary force on the man.

The video was also reviewed by a specialist who treated the man's hand injury. The physician said he observed nothing in the video that would have been a likely cause of the injury. Rather, he stated the injury was consistent with a person punching a very hard object, such as a wall.

In his report on the incident, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler wrote the man's own conduct was solely responsible for his injuries, which were unrelated to anything done or force used by the officer.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca

Details of this incident were first released on December 7, 2016.

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