

July 19, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into injuries sustained by Norway House man during arrest by RCMP

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into how a male suspect came to be injured during his arrest by Norway House RCMP. It has concluded no charges should be laid against the involved officer.

On October 27, 2017, RCMP received a call from a home on the Norway House Cree Nation regarding an intoxicated male. When police arrived, the man ran away through bushes and over rocky terrain. When the man fell, an officer caught up and laid on top of him until backup arrived. The man was arrested and taken to the local RCMP detachment where, the next morning, he complained of having chest pain and difficulty breathing. He was taken to hospital, where it was confirmed he had sustained broken ribs and a punctured lung. As these are serious injuries as defined under IIU regulations, the agency was mandated to investigate.

Among the witnesses IIU interviewed was the man himself, who confirmed he had fallen on his chest onto a rock, and a physician who diagnosed the man's injuries at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre. The physician confirmed that a fall onto the rough terrain could have caused the man's injuries.

IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler determined no evidence exists that any officer applied excessive force to the man at any time. In his report on the investigation, Tessler also noted the man's level of intoxication could account for his delay in reporting pain and injury.

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

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba