

September 14, 2018

IIU investigating historical allegations of assault and sexual abuse in Gillam

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) is investigating allegations of assault and sexual abuse by members of the RCMP in northern Manitoba. These allegations were made during Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) hearings earlier this year by members of the Fox Lake Cree Nation and date back to the 1960's in Gillam.

Details were made public on August 21, 2018, with the release of a CEC report on the public outreach and review of the Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment conducted by Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro for the Nelson, Burntwood, and Churchill river systems. The RCMP formally notified the IIU of the alleged assaults on August 22.

Although these incidents are not subject to mandatory investigations under the *Police Services Act*, the civilian director has deemed it to be in the public interest for the IIU to investigate.

In accordance with its mandate, the IIU investigation will focus on the actions of RCMP officers.

Witnesses or other individuals who have information that may assist this investigation are asked to contact the IIU toll free at 1-844-667-6060.

The investigation is ongoing so no further details will be provided at this time.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
Barbara Czech
Communications, Independent Investigation Unit
204-803-9644

Note to media: Civilian Director Zane Tessler will be available for phone interviews only between noon and 2:00. Arrange via Barbara Czech.

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