

February 4, 2019

## **IIU concludes investigation into injuries from “less lethal” weapons used by Thompson RCMP**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into injuries sustained by a male when Thompson RCMP deployed “less lethal” weapons during the course of his arrest. It has concluded no charge should be laid against any officer.

On October 17, 2018, members of the Thompson RCMP responded to a call of a man armed with a knife and threatening self-harm. Following unsuccessful attempts to have the man surrender his weapon, police used a low velocity extended range impact weapon (ERIW--a gun that fires a 40-millimeter foam-tipped projectile) and a conductive energy weapon (Taser). He was taken into custody and transported to Thompson hospital where he received treatment for a small laceration to his leg and a lacerated right wrist (self-inflicted).

The IIU civilian director determined the ERIW was a firearm for purposes under the *Police Services Act* and any injury resulting from its use would constitute a serious injury under IIU regulations. As the man suffered a small abrasion to his left thigh as a result of the ERIW projectile, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

In his report on the investigation, IIU civilian director Zane Tessler noted the man had mental health issues and he was likely to cause lethal harm to himself or others if he broke away from police. Tessler found the “less lethal” force options deployed by officers were necessary and appropriate.

The civilian director’s complete report is available online at [www.iumanitoba.ca](http://www.iumanitoba.ca). The details of this investigation were first announced on October 19, 2018.

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Information on the IIU can be found at [www.iumanitoba.ca](http://www.iumanitoba.ca) or at [www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba](https://www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba)