

April 06, 2020

## **IIU concludes investigation into death following arrest by WPS officers**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a 40-year-old male after his arrest by Winnipeg Police Service (WPS).

On May 21, 2019, WPS notified the IIU of an incident it responded to regarding a man causing a disturbance in the area of Provencher Boulevard and Tache Avenue. Officers located the male on a transit bus and attempted to take him into custody. He was handcuffed and removed from the bus. He went into medical distress and was subsequently transported to Grace Hospital, where he later died on May 24, 2019.

As the matter concerns the death of a person that may have resulted from the actions of a police officer(s), the IIU was required to investigate in accordance with The Police Services Act. IIU investigators interviewed 13 civilian witnesses and two attending officers, none of whom suggested the actions of any officer contributed to the man's death.

An autopsy determined the death was a result of deprivation of oxygen due to cardio vascular arrest caused by complications of cocaine toxicity and use. The IIU's civilian director has concluded there is no further requirement to continue with this investigation. The matter is now closed.

Manitoba's chief medical examiner has called for an inquest with respect to this death pursuant to The Fatality Inquiries Act. Other issues from this incident will be considered in those proceedings.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca). The details of this investigation were first announced on May 23, 2019.



Media inquiries may be directed to:  
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*Information on the IIU can be found at [www.iumanitoba.ca](http://www.iumanitoba.ca) or at [www.twitter.com/IUManitoba](https://www.twitter.com/IUManitoba)*