

October 20, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into death while in police custody

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a 54-year-old male following his arrest by Selkirk RCMP in East District.

On December 30, 2019, the RCMP notified the IIU of an incident that took place at approximately 1:30 a.m. that day when officers responded to a call for service at a residence in the RM of St. Andrews. Upon arrival on scene, a male was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Selkirk detachment. Shortly after arrival at the detachment, the male became unresponsive and went into medical distress. CPR was quickly initiated by officers and emergency medical services was contacted. However, attempts to revive the man were unsuccessful and he was pronounced deceased.

As this matter concerns the death of a person which may have resulted from the actions of a police officer or officers, IIU assumed responsibility for this mandatory investigation in accordance with section 65 of The Police Services Act (PSA). A team of IIU investigators was assigned to this investigation.

Further, in accordance with section 70(1) of the PSA, the IIU was required to seek the appointment of a civilian monitor as this matter involved the death of a person. IIU requested the Manitoba Police Commission to appoint a civilian monitor.

Information obtained by IIU investigators included officers' notes and narrative reports, the in-custody death report, public safety report, occurrence summary, forensic identification service report, conducted energy weapon data downloads, 911 call audio recordings, cell bay video at RCMP Selkirk Detachment and the autopsy, pathology and toxicology reports of the affected person.

IIU investigators also interviewed two civilian witnesses and three RCMP officers.

After a thorough investigation, the civilian director found no actions by any police officer caused or contributed to the cause of the affected person's death.

The investigation is now complete and the matter is closed. The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca.

The details of this investigation were first announced on December 30, 2019.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
Communications Services Manitoba
Telephone: 204-945-3765

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