

March 08, 2021

IIU concludes investigation into serious injury during arrest by RCMP in Sandy Bay

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into serious injury during an arrest by RCMP in Sandy Bay.

On August 13, 2020, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) advised the IIU of an incident that occurred on Sandy Bay First Nation where two individuals needed medical treatment after being bitten by a police service dog during the execution of search warrant. According to the notification, police from RCMP and Manitoba First Nations Police (MFNP) were responding to a tip that a suspect was trafficking methamphetamine from a camper located on Sandy Bay First Nation. When police arrived, a number of individuals ran from the scene and were pursued into dense bush. Information contained in the search warrant suggested the suspects could be armed. The police service dog and its handler apprehended two of the suspects, and during the course of their arrests the two individuals were bitten by the police service dog. Lacerations from the dog bites required medical treatment at Portage General Hospital, and one of the suspects required surgery.

The lacerations caused by the dog bites and hospitalization of the suspect, both meet the definition of a serious injury as defined in IIU regulation 99/2015. As a result, IIU assumed responsibility for this mandatory investigation in accordance with section 66 of The Police Services Act (PSA). A team of IIU investigators was assigned to this investigation.

The information obtained and reviewed by IIU investigators, included:

- RCMP General and Supplementary Reports;
- RCMP officers' notes and narrative reports;
- MFNP officers' notes and narrative reports;
- Scene photos and video;
- RCMP Drone video of execution of warrant and arrests;
- Photographs of AP1's injuries;
- Suspect's medical reports;
- RCMP radio transmissions;
- RCMP Police Dog policy;

- Dog Handler training manual;
- Police Dog and the Incident Management/Intervention Mode; and
- Copy of SO yearly validation certificate

The IIU interviewed the affected suspect, but was unable to locate or interview the second injured suspect. Based on the evidence, review of drone footage, suspect and civilian witness interviews and the statement from the subject officer it was determined that the subject officer used appropriate, measured, and justified force in the deployment and handling of the police service dog. There are no grounds to justify the laying of any criminal code or other offence charges against the subject officer.

The investigation is now complete and the matter is closed. The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on August 27, 2020.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iiumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba