

May 18, 2023
Case number 2021-0046

IIU concludes investigation into death in custody in Thompson

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into a man's death while in RCMP custody in Thompson.

On September 14, 2021, RCMP reported an incident to the IIU that occurred earlier that day. According to the notification, at approximately 6 p.m. on September 13, 2021, a male was arrested under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act and lodged at the Thompson RCMP detachment. At approximately 11 p.m., he was found unresponsive in his cell. He was transported to the Thompson General Hospital, where he later died on September 14, 2021.

The IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with section 65(1) of the Police Services Act. As the matter involved a fatality, a request for a civilian monitor was also made to the Manitoba Police Commission.

Information obtained by IIU investigators included:

- incident occurrence report;
- forensic identification reports;
- scene photographs;
- various video recordings (including hotel surveillance, police cell and vehicle bay);
- prisoner report;
- notes and reports from witness officers;
- prisoner/cell log sheets;
- radio communications audio;
- 911 call audio; and
- autopsy report.

IIU investigators met with and interviewed five civilian witnesses and three witness officers. Investigators also consulted with the province's chief medical examiner in their review of the autopsy report.

The civilian director found no evidence to suggest that any police officer failed to discharge the statutory duty of care owed to intoxicated persons in their charge. Accordingly, there are no grounds that would justify the designation of any of the officers as a subject officer.

Therefore, the matter is now closed and the civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca.

The details of the investigation were first announced on September 15, 2021.

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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