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Case Number: 2023-0057

IIU concludes investigation into an incident during MFNPS arrest in Sandy Bay First Nation

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into a Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS) arrest in Sandy Bay First Nation during which a male was bitten by a police dog.

On Sept. 27, 2023, the Manitoba First Nations Police Service notified the IIU of an incident that had occurred on Sept. 26. According to the notification, officers saw a truck parked outside of a residence known for drug trafficking. The licence plate did not correspond to the vehicle and was also expired. The truck started to drive away, officers activated their emergency lights and attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the truck did not stop. Officers observed the occupants reaching around inside the truck in a suspicious manner, possibly trying to conceal or retrieve a weapon or conceal illegal substances. A brief pursuit ensued, but officers soon disengaged for reasons of public safety. A short time later, the vehicle was found abandoned on a trail. A police dog was deployed to track the suspects who were located in a field. A male sustained a dog bite during his arrest. The male was transported to Portage District General Hospital, where he received outpatient treatment for a wound on his calf.

The civilian director determined it was in the public interest for the IIU to investigate the incident and the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 75(1) of the Police Services Act. One subject officer and two witness officers were designated. Investigators obtained statements from one civilian witness and one professional witness.

Following due consideration of all evidence and material facts, the civilian director concluded that the subject officer's deployment of the police dog was reasonable. Therefore, no charges are recommended against the officer. The IIU investigation is completed and the matter is now closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available at www.iumanitoba.ca.

The details of the investigation were first announced on Oct. 3, 2023.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

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