

May 8, 2017

IIU concludes investigation following police stand-off and death near Anola

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a 45-year-old man near Anola, following a stand-off with police early this year. It has determined there are no grounds for any charges against any of the officers involved.

On January 6, 2017, Oakbank RCMP received a report of a man with firearms, who had sent dozens of threatening text messages to his estranged wife. The messages also threatened any police who came for him. RCMP determined the man should be arrested.

Oakbank RCMP officers attended the man's residence, determined that he was likely home alone, and set up containment around the house. An RCMP emergency response team and crisis negotiator team were also deployed to the residence.

Police negotiated with the man throughout the night but were unable to convince him to surrender. Shortly after 8:00 a.m. on January 7, officers entered the home and found the man in a bedroom closet, dead from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The IIU examined witness and subject officers' notes and reports, audio recordings with the RCMP telecommunications centre, communications between the officers and their supervisors, seized exhibits, and scene photographs. Investigators also obtained the man's computer, a long rifle, ammunition, firearm analysis, and a medical examiner's findings.

Following the detailed review, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler wrote he is satisfied there is no evidence that any of the RCMP subject officers did or failed to do anything that caused or contributed to the death of the man.

Tessler determined RCMP officers responded appropriately and did everything possible to de-escalate the matter and negotiate a peaceful surrender, and that the man was intent on taking his own life.

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

The details of this investigation were first released on January 9, 2017.



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