

FINAL REPORT: IIU terminates investigation into serious injury during an RCMP arrest

On July 22, 2020, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident where a male sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Police had responded to a call concerning a potential armed and barricaded male at a residence within the Riding Mountain National Park. When a decision to breach the front door and enter the residence was made, the injured male surrendered to police and the gunshot injuries were noted. The male was transported to Health Science Center (HSC) in Winnipeg for treatment.

Any injury caused by the discharge of a firearm falls within the definition of serious injury found in IIU regulation 99/2015. Accordingly, the IIU is mandated to investigate the conduct of the involved RCMP officers, pursuant to The Police Services Act (PSA). IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

Following receipt of RCMP agency information, including officers' notes, incident reports and scene photographs, IIU investigators attended to HSC to meet with and interview the injured male (the affected person (AP)). The following is a summary of the evidence gathered:

- AP was unlawfully in the residence at the time of the incident.
- AP did not communicate with police at any time prior to suffering self-inflicted gunshot wounds or exiting the residence.
- AP admitted to the RCMP that he had shot himself and caused his injuries.
- IIU investigators obtained a written statement in which AP admitted shooting himself.
- AP advised IIU investigators that the RCMP did not act as a catalyst for his actions.
- AP did not suffer any other injuries as a result of his interaction with police.

After reviewing the information received from the RCMP and the evidence collected by IIU investigators, it has been conclusively determined that no member of the RCMP was responsible for, nor contributed in any way, to the injuries sustained by AP. Accordingly, there is no longer any justification for IIU to continue the investigation into this matter.

The IIU investigation is complete and this file is closed.

Final report prepared by:

Zane Tessler, civilian director
Independent Investigation Unit

August 04, 2020

Ref 2020-0035