

FINAL REPORT: IIU terminates investigation into serious injury sustained during RCMP arrest in Portage La Prairie

On May 4, 2022, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) about an incident where a 17 year old male suspect (the affected person (AP)) sustained a serious injury during the course of his arrest.

According to an excerpt of this notification:

“On May 03rd 2022, at 21:58 hours a call was made to the RCMP that 4 people were bear sprayed outside of a residence in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

RCMP Members attended the scene and patrolled the area where two of the involved males were located and fled the area on foot in separate directions.

An RCMP member ran after one of the males, later identified as AP, told him he was under arrest and to stop running.

As AP was running away he tripped on some ice in a ditch, got back up, stumbled forward and tried to get back up again. The RCMP member performed a takedown on AP by grabbing his shoulder. AP was then placed under arrest who then informed the RCMP member that his leg was broken.

AP was provided with immediate medical attention and was transported by ambulance to the local hospital...AP...stated that he could not believe that the police caught him after only making it 10 feet and that he could have made it if he had not broken his leg when he slipped into the ditch...”

As the allegations in the notification concern a broken leg sustained by AP during his arrest by police, this is a mandatory investigation pursuant to the provisions of The Police Services Act (PSA) and regulations. IIU investigators were assigned to this matter.

On May 4 at 1:55 p.m., IIU investigators made contact with AP by telephone. During that conversation, AP stated,

“The RCMP did not do it, I broke my own leg...while I was running from the police I slipped on a piece of black ice and broke my own leg”.

IIU investigators requested an opportunity to meet with AP in person and obtain a statement from him. AP advised that he was not obligated to meet with IIU investigators and accordingly declined to meet with or provide a statement to them. As of the date of this report, AP has not made any attempts to have further contacts or communications with IIU investigators.

In light of the fact that AP has accepted sole and full responsibility for the cause of his serious injury coupled with his position that he will not cooperate with the investigation, the civilian director is not satisfied that there exists sufficient grounds or purpose to continue this investigation and has concluded that this matter be terminated.

Final report prepared by:

Zane Tessler, civilian director
Independent Investigation Unit
June 09, 2022

Ref #2022-018