



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AN ADULT  
MALE FOLLOWING AN OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN THE RM OF LA  
BROQUERIE**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVILIAN DIRECTOR**  
**OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT**

Acting Civilian Director:	Bruce M. Sychuk
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## **Introduction**

On May 24, 2024, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

Written excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on May 24, 2024:

*On May 23rd, 2024, at 2259 hrs, Steinbach RCMP were dispatched to a report of a suspicious person in La Broquerie.*

*CW1 reported that a suspicious male who was later identified as AP was standing outside her window looking for cigarettes.*

*On May 24, 2024, at 0030 hrs, members were patrolling the area after receiving numerous calls regarding a suspicious male. Police located a vehicle stopped in the area. AP was standing outside of the driver's door, reaching through the open window and choking the driver while holding a knife.*

*AP was ordered to step away and when he did so, he approached the officers while still holding the knife. He was directed to drop the knife but did not comply with police demands. SO discharged his service pistol striking AP.*

*CPR and first aid were provided to AP, however, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.*

As this matter concerned a shooting fatality during arrest, the IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation in accordance with Sec. 65(4) of The Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

IIU investigators obtained the following information from the RCMP, among other items:

- notes, narratives and reports of officers
- radio transmissions
- watch guard video
- video surveillance
- scene and autopsy photos
- autopsy report
- 911 call audio

The civilian director designated one subject officer (SO) and five witness officers (WO1 to WO5). IIU investigators also received information from three civilian witnesses (CW1 to CW3).

## **Facts and Circumstances**

### **Scene Examination**

IIU investigators attended the scene immediately and were provided forensic evidence from the RCMP. Investigators canvassed the area and obtained video surveillance from businesses in the area.

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## **Interviews**

### **Civilian Witnesses**

#### **Civilian Witness 1 (CW1)**

IIU investigators interviewed CW1 on May 28, 2024, and were provided the following information:

CW1 was at home when she observed AP outside her window. AP asked her for a cigarette, and she declined. AP staggered away from her window. CW1 had video of AP and sent it onto CW2.

CW2 told CW1 to call 911 and lock her doors as AP can be dangerous if he is under the influence of drugs. CW1 did call 911 and reached out to some relatives as AP was heading in their direction.

RCMP arrived shortly after and sought an update from CW1, which she provided. RCMP asked her to call 911 again if she saw AP, because he had outstanding warrants. After RCMP left, CW1 saw AP at the neighbouring residence, so she called 911 to update officers.

CW1 saw AP leaving the residence and approach an individual, stating something to the effect that he might as well kill the individual because the police were going to kill him. CW1 heard AP yelling, “they are going to kill me” or “they are going to shoot me.” AP then left the area.

CW1 recalled that an individual exited the neighbouring residence that AP had just left, advising that he took two knives away from AP before he left.

A taxi driver pulled up and mentioned something about the cops stopping an individual down the road, so CW2 decided to go there to see what was going on. CW2 sent CW1 a text that AP had been shot and police were performing CPR on AP.

#### **Civilian Witness 2 (CW2)**

IIU investigators interviewed CW2 on May 24, 2024, and were provided the following information:

CW2 confirmed that she was advised by CW1 about AP being near the residence. CW2 drove to the area out of concern and saw AP with some kind of knife in his hand. CW2 called RCMP to report AP’s whereabouts.

CW2 confirmed that she attended the scene after AP had been shot and that police were performing CPR.

#### **Civilian Witness 3 (CW3)**

IIU investigators interviewed CW3 on May 24, 2024, and were provided the following information:

CW3 was driving in the area when she observed someone acting erratically. CW3 thought the individual tried to enter another vehicle without success, before she opened her driver’s window to ask the individual if they were okay.

AP advised her that “they are trying to get me.” CW3 asked AP who was trying to get him and he responded “everyone.” AP ran to the passenger’s side door and tried to get in her vehicle, but it was locked. CW3 stated she would not take AP anywhere and intended to drive away when AP ran around to the open driver’s window and grabbed CW3’s neck. CW3 saw two police vehicles pull up as AP was grabbing her throat.

AP let go of her throat and backed away from her vehicle as police had their weapons drawn. CW3 could hear police yelling at AP to drop the knife approximately six or seven times. CW3 was observing the interaction in her side mirror between AP and police. CW3 recalled that police were yelling at AP to comply with directions and then heard gunshots. CW3 did not see who fired their gun but she recalled AP stumbling to the ground. Police started to perform CPR on AP while another officer came over to her vehicle to ask if she was okay. CW3 confirmed that her neck was sore, but she was otherwise fine.

### **Witness Officers**

#### Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

IIU investigators interviewed WO1 on Sept. 12, 2024, and were provided the following information:

WO1 arrived at the scene after the incident and observed AP on the ground. When WO1 arrived, no one was performing CPR on AP. WO1 assisted by driving WO5 back to the detachment as they did not want to disturb the scene, which included the two police vehicles.

#### Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

IIU investigators interviewed WO2 on Aug. 16, 2024, and were provided the following information:

WO2 confirmed that she went to the area as a result of a disturbance call involving AP and a knife. WO2 was aware that AP had an outstanding warrant at the time of the search. The original search for AP was not successful, so they went back to the detachment.

Approximately 10 minutes later, there was another report of AP in the same area. WO2 stayed back at the detachment while SO, WO4 and WO5 went to search for AP. After some time, WO2 and WO3 left the detachment to assist in the search for AP.

As WO2 and WO3 were driving to the area, they heard SO on the radio stating that shots were fired. As they were driving, she heard it state on the radio that they were performing CPR on AP.

WO2 arrived on scene and observed officers performing CPR on AP. The officers were taking turns while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. WO2 assisted in controlling the scene.

WO2 recalled that SO stated that AP had a knife and he had shot him. WO2 did not recall SO saying anything further about the incident.

Once emergency services arrived, WO2 was tasked with taking a statement from CW3. WO2 observed CW3 to be in shock and decided to give CW3 some time to compose herself before taking her statement.

Witness Officer 3 (WO3)

IIU investigators interviewed WO3 on Sept. 16, 2024, and were provided the following information:

WO3 confirmed that he was tasked with looking for AP because of a call about AP and a disturbance with a knife. WO3 was aware that AP had outstanding warrants. WO3 and other officers looked for AP in the area without success and then returned back to the detachment.

Once they were back at the detachment, another call came in suggesting AP was at his friend's residence. One of the officers called the friend who could be heard on the phone asking police to come get AP as he was crazy and breaking things. The friend confirmed that AP had left the residence and was yelling at individuals on the street. The friend was also asking the officer about laying charges against AP because he broke the friend's TV.

WO3 stayed back with WO2 while SO, WO4 and WO5 went to look for AP. A short time later, WO3 and WO2 went to assist the other officers in looking for AP. While on their way to the scene, they heard an officer state that they just shot someone.

WO3 arrived on scene and immediately recognized AP as the individual receiving CPR. WO3 thought AP was most likely dead, however, he did assist with CPR while waiting for emergency services to arrive. WO3 recalled SO telling WO4 that he discharged his firearm twice as WO4 was trying to treat AP's wounds.

WO3 called the fire department for assistance as the ambulance was still enroute. WO3 continued with CPR until the fire department arrived. Emergency services arrived shortly after, and AP was pronounced dead and a tarp was placed over his body because of the rain. WO3 recalled seeing a knife near AP's body.

WO3 assisted in maintaining the scene until relieved.

Witness Officer 4 (WO4)

IIU investigators interviewed WO4 on July 25, 2024, and were provided the following information:

WO4 was aware that officers were looking for AP and that AP had outstanding warrants. WO4 recalled the lead officer was taking a new call on AP's whereabouts, resulting in SO and WO5 going to look for him again. WO4 decided to assist SO and WO4 and travelled to the area in his own vehicle.

WO4 recalled receiving information that AP had a knife on him while they were driving to the area. WO4 recalled a red car parked just off the highway and someone standing outside the driver's door. WO4 could not see clearly that it was AP as the police vehicle in front of his was blocking his view. WO4 stopped his vehicle and observed a male walking away from the vehicle in an agitated or intoxicated manner.

WO4 recalled that AP was yelling and challenging the police. WO4 observed that AP had something in his hands but could not make out exactly what it was. WO4 was about to get out of the vehicle to arrest AP when he made a sharp turn and started moving aggressively towards the other police vehicle. AP started to challenge and yell at the other vehicle in a similar fashion.

WO4 was about to exit his vehicle to keep an eye on AP. WO4 heard SO yell “drop the knife” twice and then heard two gun shots. AP went to the ground. WO4 recalled that it all happened quickly, and that he observed an object on the ground near AP that looked like a knife.

WO4 walked over to AP and started to apply chest seals and perform CPR while waiting for emergency services to arrive. WO4 assisted in making sure the scene was not disturbed after AP was pronounced dead.

#### Witness Officer 5 (WO5)

IIU investigators interviewed WO5 on Sept. 19, 2024, and were provided the following information:

WO5 confirmed that police had received a call about a disturbance involving AP and a knife. WO5 went to look for AP in the area without success, so they went back to the detachment.

Soon after, WO5 was on the phone with CW2, who reported AP’s whereabouts. WO5 and SO went back to the area while CW2 provided updates. At one point, CW2 gave the phone to AP’s friend, who provided conflicting information related to whether AP did or did not have a knife. WO5 relayed the information to SO along with CW2’s comments that AP was tweaking out.

WO5 observed a red car parked in a weird way and noticed a male leaning against the car. WO5 thought there was some kind of struggle going on at the vehicle. WO5 believed the male was AP and noticed a sharp weapon in his hand.

WO5 was about to get out of the vehicle when she saw AP raise the sharp object in his hand. SO instructed WO5 to stay in the vehicle, so WO5 closed her door. SO started to reverse the vehicle, but could not move too far as WO4 had parked the other police vehicle nearby.

WO5 recalled WO4 getting out of their vehicle, which prompted AP to move towards WO5’s vehicle, at which point SO exited the vehicle. WO5 also exited the vehicle. SO and WO5 both had their guns drawn.

WO5 recalled telling AP numerous times to drop the knife. WO5 believed all three officers were yelling at AP to drop the knife. WO5 recalled that AP was yelling and defying their directions. AP continued to move toward the officers with the weapon in his hand in an aggressive manner. WO5 believed that AP had become focused on confronting SO as he continued to yell and move towards him.

WO5 then heard two gunshots and observed AP fall to the ground. WO5 went towards AP and moved the weapon away from his reach with her foot. WO5 confirmed that after removing the weapon from AP’s control, they started to initiate medical attention to AP.

#### **Subject Officer**

In accordance with his rights, SO declined to be interviewed by the IIU. However, SO, through his counsel, provided his notes and narrative, which provided the following information:

SO confirmed that he was aware of AP from previous dealings. SO was also aware that AP had outstanding warrants at the time they went to look for him.

SO confirmed that they did not locate AP when they originally searched the area. SO confirmed that further calls came in on the whereabouts of AP, resulting in SO, WO4 and WO5 returning to the area and continue the search. SO confirmed that there was conflicting information on whether AP still had a weapon or not.

SO recalled observing AP at a vehicle carrying a weapon in his hand. SO stopped the vehicle and warned WO5 that AP had a knife. SO exited the vehicle and had his weapon drawn. SO immediately told AP to drop the weapon. SO stated that AP originally was moving toward WO4's vehicle, but immediately turned his attention to SO.

AP continued walking toward SO while carrying the weapon, despite demands to drop it. In SO's opinion, AP was moving aggressively toward him with the weapon in hand. SO told him again to drop the weapon, which AP disregarded and lunged toward him. SO fired his gun twice, resulting in AP dropping to the ground. SO observed WO5 kick the weapon away from AP.

Shortly after, officers started to provide medical care to AP while awaiting the ambulance. SO recalled that the fire department arrived before the ambulance and took over medical care for AP.

### **Other evidence**

#### Watch guard video

Although the complete incident is not caught on the police vehicle videos, you are able to see AP in a very agitated state, holding some kind of weapon in his left hand.

#### Medical reports

Preliminary cause of death was noted to be gunshot wounds. Methamphetamine was noted in the toxicology report.

IIU has not received the final autopsy report at the time of writing this report. Because of the nature of the event, the Civilian Director has decided to move forward with completing the report to be accountable to the public in a timely manner. An addendum will be prepared if the cause of death varies from the above.

### **Applicable Law**

All relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada were considered with respect to this incident. Secs. 25(1), 25(3) and 25(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada have been emphasized here for consideration:

*25 (1) Everyone who is required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law*

*(a) as a private person*

*(b) as a peace officer or public officer*

*(c) in aid of a peace officer or public officer*

*(d) by virtue of his office,*

*is, if he acts on reasonable grounds, justified in doing what he is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose.*

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*(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), a person is not justified for the purposes of subsection (1) in using force that is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm unless the person believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary for the self preservation of the person or the preservation of any one under that person's protection from death or grievous bodily harm.*

*(4) A peace officer, and every person lawfully assisting the peace officer, is justified in using force that is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm to a person to be arrested, if*

*(a) the peace officer is proceeding lawfully to arrest, with or without warrant, the person to be arrested*

*(b) the offence for which the person is to be arrested is one for which that person may be arrested without warrant*

*(c) the person to be arrested takes flight to avoid arrest*

*(d) the peace officer or other person using the force believes on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the purpose of protecting the peace officer, the person lawfully assisting the peace officer or any other person from imminent or future death or grievous bodily harm*

*(e) the flight cannot be prevented by reasonable means in a less violent manner*

### **Conclusion**

It is my view that, in the full consideration of the circumstances of this incident, the use of lethal force by the subject officer was authorized and justified by law. There are no reasonable grounds to support any charges against the subject officer. Subject to further evidence arising from the final autopsy, IIU has completed its investigation and this matter is now closed.