



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING  
SERIOUS INJURIES DURING AN RCMP ARREST IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE**

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

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

On July 11, 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:

Excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on July 11, 2024:

*On July 6th 2024, Portage la Prairie RCMP received two reports of males fighting possibly with weapons. One of the files describes that several males were trying to push someone off a bridge that goes over rail tracks. SO attended the location with lights/sirens activated and saw several males running from the scene. AP saw SO but continued to flee from the area. SO was able to get close enough to AP to tell him he was under arrest and to get on the ground, but AP refused to comply with demands. SO pulled AP to the ground and then saw that he had a cast on his right arm. SO secured AP who was then identified as a 15-year-old. Following the arrest, AP complained of pain to his right wrist and an ambulance was dispatched and transported the male to the Portage General Hospital.*

*AP's mother later reported that her son had pins already in his hand and a cast from a previous injury and some of the pins may now be bent and may require further surgery. Further follow-up with the AP's mother confirmed that the male did attend Portage General Hospital and the pins in his arm were bent and had to be removed.*

*It is unknown if the pins were bent as a result of the incident with SO or if they were bent as a result of previous incidents that AP was involved in.*

As this matter concerned potential injuries during an arrest, the IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation in accordance with Sec. 75(1) 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
- 911 call audio and radio transmissions
- watch guard video
- medical reports

The civilian director designated one subject officer (SO) and one witness officer (WO1). IIU investigators also received information from AP.

## **Facts and Circumstances**

### **Scene Examination**

No scene examination or canvassing of the area was conducted by the IIU because notice was not received until July 11, 2024.

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## Interviews

### Affected Person

AP was interviewed by IIU investigators with his parent present on July 18, 2024, and provided the following information:

AP confirmed that in early June of 2024, he had suffered an injury to his hand resulting in pins being placed in his hand. AP also confirmed that on July 9, 2024, the pins in his hand were removed and that he was instructed to wear a soft cast for a further period of time.

AP confirmed that on the date of the incident, his girlfriend had told him to run. AP stated that he ran because he saw a group of individuals in a car that he doesn't get along with. AP stated that he panicked and started running.

AP said that once he realized the vehicle following him was a police vehicle, he took five more steps before he put his hands in the air. AP stated that SO asked him why he ran and then he was placed against the fence and tackled to the ground. AP said that SO put his knee on AP's back while trying to handcuff him. Once SO observed the cast on his right arm, AP was picked up by his left arm and placed in the back of the police vehicle.

AP became aware that police were looking for a kid in a blue shirt that had been involved in an earlier incident in the same area. AP stated that SO never told him he was under arrest and that he only asked him why he ran away.

AP confirmed that he was taken to the hospital for his shortness of breath. AP confirmed that the hospital did not check his hand injury.

### Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

WO1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Aug. 27, 2024, and provided the following information:

WO1 and SO responded to a call about a group of youths fighting. In the call history, it was suggested that one of the youths was trying to throw an individual over the bridge in the area. SO and WO1 left for the scene in separate police vehicles, with SO driving in front of WO1. Both vehicles had their sirens and lights activated.

WO1 recalled that SO radioed that he saw a youth in a blue shirt running. WO1 and SO followed this youth in their vehicles. By the time WO1 arrived at the scene, SO already had AP in his custody.

WO1 confirmed that AP told them that he ran because he thought a group of individuals were going to attack him. At this point, WO1 determined that AP was not an accused.

WO1 confirmed that soon after, AP's family members attended to the scene and were upset with SO for the manner in which he treated AP. WO1 explained to the family members the circumstances and suggested that SO leave the area.

WO1 took the handcuffs off AP and placed him in the back of his police vehicle because AP was complaining of shortness of breath and pain in his arm. Emergency medical services (EMS) arrived on the scene at WO1's request and AP was taken to the hospital.

### Subject Officer

In accordance with his rights, SO declined to be interviewed by the IIU investigators. Further, in accordance with his rights, SO declined to provide any notes or narratives to the IIU investigators.

### Other evidence

#### Watchguard video

The video confirms that WO1 came upon the scene after AP was on the ground. SO can be seen attempting to place handcuffs on AP while placing his knee on AP's back. AP is wearing a blue T-shirt and black shorts.

As the video continues, AP's family and friends start to appear and are upset about how AP was treated. WO1 can be heard addressing the situation and explaining the circumstances to the respective family members. After a period of time, it would appear as if AP's family are accepting of the explanation.

EMS arrives shortly after.

#### 911 calls

In reviewing the various 911 calls that came in just before the incident, there definitely was some kind of fight occurring that involved numerous youths. Further, the calls identified AP as a potential participant.

#### Medical report

Medical reports from the Portage general hospital confirm that they were aware of his right-hand injury and did not observe any concerns. Focus was on his breathing concerns.

### Conclusion

Based on all the evidence available in this matter, I am not able to say that SO caused any form of further injury to AP's hand pursuant to the mandate. Therefore, no charges are recommended and the IIU investigation is now completed and closed.