

September 07, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into serious injury during arrest in Beausejour

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has completed its investigation into an incident in which a woman was injured while being arrested by a member of the Beausejour RCMP. It has determined there are no grounds for charges against the officer.

On April 30, 2017, RCMP received a call about a woman who, after throwing items around a convenience store, had gone outside and was lying in the roadway. An officer responded and arrested a 64-year-old female under the *Intoxicated Persons Detention Act*. While attempting to handcuff the woman, she pulled her arms away. The officer applied an arm bar (a wrestling hold) on the woman in an attempt to take her to the ground to gain control. While doing so, the officer felt a pop from her right elbow area as he handcuffed her.

The woman was taken to the RCMP Beausejour detachment, examined by paramedics, then to to Beausejour Health Centre where medical staff diagnosed a broken right arm above the elbow. The attending physician also admitted the woman for a mental health assessment.

A broken arm is a serious injury as defined by IIU regulations, so the agency was mandated to investigate.

As part of their investigation, IIU investigators interviewed two civilians who witnessed the arrest. They also interviewed the woman, who had no memory of how or when her arm was injured.

In his report on the incident, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted the presence of independent civilian witnesses significantly aided him in reaching the conclusion there are insufficient grounds to believe the officer used excessive force in arresting the woman.

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

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:
Barbara Czech
Communications, Independent Investigation Unit
204-803-9644
bczech@mts.net