

IIU concludes investigation into death following interaction with RCMP in Ste. Rose du Lac

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of an adult male following an interaction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Ste. Rose du Lac.

On Jan. 6, 2023, the RCMP notified the IIU of an incident. According to the notification, at approximately 10 a.m. on Dec. 30, 2022, officers received a call for service regarding a home invasion and stolen vehicle in Rorketon. Soon after, officers located a vehicle in the ditch on Provincial Road 481 south of Crane River. Four individuals were attempting to dig out the vehicle. Officers approached the vehicle and informed them they were under arrest. Three remained at the scene, while the fourth – an adult male – fled into the woods. Officers transported the three individuals to the Ste. Rose du Lac detachment for processing. Due to insufficient resources, officers did not return to the scene to search for the male. Further, officers believed he may have gone to a nearby residence or been picked up by vehicle. On Jan. 4, 2023, RCMP received a missing persons report for the male and attempted to locate him. At approximately 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2023, officers searched the woods where the male was last seen and located his body.

The IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation in accordance with Sec. 66(4) of the Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation. Two subject officers and six witness officers were designated. Investigators also obtained statements from three civilian witnesses.

A post-mortem exam determined the cause of death was hypothermia. Toxicology reports showed alcohol levels that correspond to heavy drunkenness, confusion and grossly impaired coordination, as well as methamphetamine levels that could cause confusion, anxiety and hallucinations.

Following due consideration of all the circumstances, including the Crown opinion that the standard for prosecuting charges has not been met, the civilian director will not be authorizing charges. Therefore, the IIU investigation is completed and the matter is now closed.

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

The details of the investigation were first announced on Jan. 10, 2023.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba