

August 21, 2024
Case Number: 2023-0020

IIU concludes investigation into a death while in police custody in Chemawawin

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a woman while in Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) custody in Chemawawin. On March 23, 2023, the RCMP notified the IIU of an incident that had occurred the previous day. According to the notification, at approximately 7:40 p.m. on March 22, RCMP officers attended a residence on Pon Street in Easterville following a call for service regarding an intoxicated female who was refusing to leave a residence and was yelling and pushing people. The female was taken into custody without incident, transported to the Chemawawin detachment and lodged in a cell. There was no evidence of any injuries that required medical treatment. At approximately 10 a.m. on March 23, the woman was found unresponsive in her cell. CPR and emergency medical treatment were administered. However, the woman was pronounced deceased at the scene. The medical examiner's report indicates the cause of death as cocaine toxicity, with cardiomegaly (an enlarged heart) as a contributing factor.

As this matter concerned a death, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 65(4) of the Police Services Act. No subject officers were designated. Two witness officers were designated. Investigators obtained statements from three civilian witnesses and four professional witnesses.

Following due consideration of all the circumstances and evidence, the civilian director concluded the police officers did not contribute to the death of the woman. Therefore, no charges are recommended against any of the witness officers. The IIU investigation is completed and the matter is now closed.

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

The details of the investigation were first announced on March 24, 2023.

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