



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO  
AN IN-CUSTODY INJURY ON JUNE 2, 2023**

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

Civilian Director:	Roxanne M. Gagné
IIU File Number:	2023-0031
Date of Release:	September 15, 2023

## **Introduction**

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) is investigating after a female sustained an injury while in custody at the Portage la Prairie Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment.

On June 2, 2023, RCMP reported an incident to the IIU that occurred earlier that day.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

*“On June 1, 2023, at 3:39 pm, witness officer (WO1) of the Canadian Pacific Police executed an arrest warrant in Winnipeg on the affected person (AP) whom was suspected as being intoxicated. She was later transported to the Portage la Prairie RCMP Detachment by CP Police where she was lodged in custody.*

*On June 2, 2023, at 2:31 pm, the AP was observed falling in her cell by the guard. She again fell at 2:52 pm, this time striking her head on the bunk of the cell at which time WO2 of the Portage la Prairie RCMP was contacted to conduct a wellbeing check.*

*WO2 transported the AP to the Portage District General Hospital at 3:47pm. She was subsequently rushed to Health Sciences Center (HSC) by ambulance for emergency surgery.*

*It was determined that the AP had been admitted to HSC approximately two weeks ago for a left cranial brain bleed. She required surgery however the AP left without having the surgery completed.*

*The AP remains at HSC where she is currently undergoing surgery to repair a left cranial bleed.*

*The cell in which the AP was lodged has been secured. Arrangements are being made to secure cell video and any applicable RCMP radio transmissions.”*

As this matter concerned a serious injury as defined under the IIU regulations, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with section 66(4) of the *Police Services Act* (PSA). IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

The civilian director deferred the designation of any officers as a subject officer until more information was received through the investigation. This decision was later re-evaluated and no officers were ever designated.

## **Facts and Circumstances**

On June 1, 2023, the AP was arrested by the Canadian Pacific (CP) Police on an outstanding warrant for arrest and brought to the Portage la Prairie RCMP detachment.

The RCMP provided IIU investigators with video footage of their interaction with the AP while she was in their custody. The video shows the CP Police turn over the AP at the RCMP detachment where she is processed and lodged in cells. A review of the video footage shows the AP slump and fall several times while in her cell. There were no observations that would suggest

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any of those falls might have caused a significant head injury, believed to be a brain bleed. The footage demonstrates that the AP is either sitting on the toilet or in a sitting/kneeling position when she falls to the ground or on the cell bench. The footage demonstrates that there was no physical interaction between the AP and the police. The AP was alone in her cell while in police custody. The officers communicated verbally with the AP on two separate occasions while she was in the cell.

On June 2nd, at 3:47 p.m. the AP is brought for medical care to the Portage District General Hospital and subsequently to HSC for surgery.

On June 5th, 2023 the IIU obtained a statement from the AP. She stated that her brain injury was caused by her “*baby daddy*,” who punched her. She does recall being taken to the Portage la Prairie RCMP detachment, but could not remember her interaction with the police. She also stated that she had previously discharged herself from the hospital for her head injury.

### **Conclusion**

After reviewing the information received from the RCMP and the AP, it has been determined that the RCMP and its officers were not responsible for, nor did they take any action which contributed to, the serious injury suffered by the AP. The involved officers provided an appropriate medical care response once it was identified that the AP required medical attention.

Therefore, given the evidence does not demonstrate that the AP suffered a “serious injury” as defined in the IIU *Regulations* (99/2015), as a result of interaction with police, this incident no longer meets the IIU’s mandate. Therefore, there is no further need for the IIU investigate this incident and the matter will now be considered concluded.