

March 4, 2019

IIU concludes investigation into single vehicle highway accident in northern Manitoba

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into injuries sustained by a 19-year-old woman following brief contact with an RCMP officer on a highway near Cranberry Portage. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against the subject officer.

In the early morning of July 22, 2018, an officer noticed a vehicle that had been idling for some time at a junction in the road, and with its high beams on. When the officer pulled up alongside the vehicle and activated emergency equipment, the female driver took off north on Highway 10. The officer briefly lost sight of the vehicle, but encountered it a short distance later in a water-filled ditch. The woman was found unconscious, was rescued from the vehicle and was transported to Flin Flon General Hospital and then to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

Because this incident involved the hospitalization of an individual following contact with a police officer, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

At the conclusion of the IIU investigation, the civilian director determined there is no evidence the officer contributed in any way to the woman driving into the ditch nor the injuries she sustained. Moreover, he reported that IIU's mandate was tenuous given the contact between the parties was limited to the officer driving his vehicle up to the woman's vehicle; there was no evidence as to what caused the woman's vehicle to leave the road and enter the ditch; and doctors were unable to determine if she suffered a head injury as a result of her collision with the ditch, or whether she had suffered a neurological event prior to entering the ditch.

The female driver faces outstanding charges related to this incident. The complete report on the IIU investigation will be posted online once those charges are dealt with by the courts.

The details of this investigation were first announced on July 24, 2018.

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