

August 09, 2022

Case Number 2021-0051

## **IIU concludes investigation into RCMP officer-involved shooting in Thompson**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an officer-involved shooting in Thompson, Manitoba.

On Oct. 25, 2021, the IIU was notified by the RCMP of an incident that occurred at approximately 2:45 p.m. According to the notification, an officer attended a residence on Princeton Drive when he encountered a male armed with a knife. During the encounter, the officer discharged his firearm, striking the male. The individual was transported to Thompson Hospital, where he underwent surgery for a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

As any injury caused by the discharge of a firearm by a police officer is defined as a serious injury, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

IIU investigators met with and interviewed one witness officer, nine civilian witnesses and the affected person (AP). The subject officer (SO) declined to be interviewed but IIU investigators were able to review his notes, reports and a prepared statement. Investigators also reviewed the affected person's medical reports.

RCMP file material and other information obtained by IIU investigators included:

- occurrence summary
- Forensic Identification Service (FIS) reports and photographs
- dispatch audio transmissions
- two video recordings taken by civilian witnesses
- three enhanced video recordings
- reports and notes of witness officers
- RCMP recorded interview of the affected person
- physical evidence seizures
- a medical report respecting the affected person
- a Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) report

- EMS response report

Following the completion of the investigation, the civilian director also requested an expert opinion use of force report (focused on the discharge of the service firearm) from a recognized Canadian expert in this field.

In his final report, the civilian director stated:

*I am satisfied that all the evidence gathered from all sources provides a reliable and sufficient support for the sole conclusion that the decision by SO to shoot AP was necessary to prevent the injury or death to himself or anyone in the vicinity. In the final analysis, SO was doing his job and acting within his sworn duty to protect the public from threats to their safety. SO attempted to resolve this matter without resorting to force, including lethal force. SO's decision to discharge his service pistol was made when all other attempts to negotiate with AP failed and the risk of grievous bodily harm to him was real and substantial. SO shot AP a single time and neutralized the threat.*

The IIU mandate was to determine whether consequences should flow from the actions of the subject officer, in light of all the circumstances and information known to him at that time. Following a detailed review of this investigation, the civilian director concluded that the use of lethal force by the subject officer was reasonable, necessary and justified in law.

The IIU investigation is now closed and the civilian director's complete report is available online at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca).

The details of this investigation were first announced on October 26, 2021.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:  
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Information on the IIU can be found at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca) or at [www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba](https://www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba)