

FINAL REPORT: IIU concludes investigation into injuries to suspect and arrest by Portage la Prairie RCMP

On July 8, 2019, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the IIU of an incident that occurred during the arrest of a male suspect in Portage la Prairie. The notification read in part:

“On July 8th, 2019, at 01:11 a.m., Portage la Prairie RCMP detachment received a report of a breach of recognizance. The complainant reported that [the Affected Person (AP)] was in the residence without permission and was on a no contact order.

Upon RCMP arrival, [AP] exited the front door and ran from police. He was verbally arrested and told by police to stop multiple times.

As police caught up to [AP] and he was brought to the ground, he presented a knife and self-inflicted several injuries. Police were able to gain control and seized the knife, and placed [AP] in handcuffs. He was provided first aid, transported to the local hospital for treatment and subsequently transported to the Health Sciences Centre for further treatment. Injuries consisted of two lacerations to the neck and a stab wound to the throat.

[AP] remains at Health Sciences Centre in police custody and is currently in surgery. Police were advised that his injuries were non-life threatening and that he was in stable condition.”

AP’s described injuries and subsequent admission to hospital constituted serious injuries as defined by regulation. Accordingly, IIU assumed responsibility for this matter in accordance with section 65(1) of *The Police Services Act* (PSA).

Information obtained by IIU investigators included:

- occurrence summary;
- witness officers’ notes and reports;
- RCMP radio communications;
- photos of AP’s injuries;
- unit history reports.

IIU investigators attended Health Science Centre and met with AP while he was an admitted patient. AP showed investigators three injuries: two cuts to the right side of his neck and one longer cut to the base of his neck. AP said that prior to his arrest, he was running with a folding knife in his hand when he tripped, fell and stabbed himself in the neck. AP refused to provide an audio or video-recorded statement and refused to consent to the release of his medical records to IIU investigators.

The civilian director designated five police officers as witness officers. No witness officer observed AP in possession of a knife until he was on the ground and handcuffed. A knife was located at the scene of the arrest. No witness officer observed any injuries on AP until he was detained and handcuffed while on the ground.

Due to a dearth of information identifying any police officer as causing or contributing to AP's injuries, the civilian director designated no subject officer.

In light of the admission by AP that he was solely responsible for the cause of his injuries; the absence of medical records to the contrary; and the absence of any evidence identifying or connecting any police officer as causing or contributing to AP's injuries, I am satisfied IIU has no mandate to continue to investigate this matter.

Accordingly, the IIU investigation is complete and this file is closed.

Final report prepared by:

Zane Tessler, civilian director
Independent Investigation Unit
January 10, 2020

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