IIU concludes investigation into officer-involved shooting in Waywayseecappo

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a member of the Manitoba First Nations Police (MFNP) shot and injured a man after the officer was stabbed in the head and neck. The officer will not face any charges as a result of his actions.

On May 29, 2019, a member of the MFNP attended a disturbance complaint on the Waywayseecappo First Nation near Russell, Manitoba. In the parking lot of the Waywayseecappo Gaming Centre, the officer spoke with a number of intoxicated individuals and attempted to arrest one man under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act. The man suddenly stabbed the officer in the head, then continued to repeatedly stab him in the back and neck. After the officer and man fell to the ground, wrestling, the officer got to his feet and discharged his service pistol at the man, striking him once in the side of his face and shoulder.

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

IIU investigators were aided by interviews with nine witnesses, surveillance video from the Gaming Centre parking lot, and medical reports respecting both the man and officer. The officer's medical records showed he had been stabbed nine times in the head, neck and back.

IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler concluded the man attacked the officer without warning or provocation and that the officer's decision to shoot the man to prevent further harm to himself was both reasonable and justified.

The man remains before the Court on charges arising out of this incident. The civilian director's complete report will be available online following disposition of the charges.

The details of this investigation were first announced on May 30, 2019.

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