

IIU investigation concludes investigation into the death of a male in police presence in Sandy Bay

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a male that occurred in police presence on Aug. 4, 2021, in Sandy Bay.

On Aug. 4, 2021, the Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS) advised the IIU of an incident that occurred earlier that day in Sandy Bay First Nation. According to the notification, MFNPS officers were responding to a report of an adult male with a firearm who was lighting grass fires in the area of Lake Road North. Officers attended and located a male with a firearm. While officers were on scene, the male received a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The officers on scene provided first aid until EMS arrived. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

As this matter involved a fatality, the IIU assumes responsibility for this mandatory investigation under section 65(4) of the Police Services Act (PSA). IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

The information obtained and reviewed by IIU investigators included:

- general report;
- supplementary occurrence reports;
- RCMP forensic identification occurrence report;
- witness officer notes;
- MFNPS use of force reports;
- Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) incident from Bell;
- MFNPS RCMP advance report;
- MFNPS preliminary report of death;
- report from medical examiner;
- firearm expert laboratory report;
- autopsy report; and
- toxicology report.

The IIU identified three witness officers and one civilian witness. Investigators interviewed two witness officers and one civilian witness, and received notes from the third witness officer who attended the scene but did not witness the incident.

Based on the evidence, the civilian director concluded there is nothing to support a finding that there was any level of contribution by the police officers to cause the affected person's

death by either action or inaction and therefore there are no grounds to justify the designation of any police officers as subject officers.

The investigation is now complete and the matter is closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca.

The details of this investigation were first announced on Aug. 6, 2021.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba