

October 5, 2015

## **UPDATE: IIU appoints temporary external director for officer-involved shooting**

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has appointed Mr. Ron McDonald, the director of the Serious Incident Response Team in Nova Scotia, as a temporary external civilian director to oversee the investigation of an officer-involved shooting on September 20, 2015, which resulted in a fatality on Highway 59. On October 1, 2015, Mr. McDonald visited Winnipeg to assume conduct of the investigation.

His appointment follows a decision by the IIU's civilian director, Mr. Zane Tessler, to recuse himself from the investigation. Mr. Tessler determined he was involved in a prosecution of the deceased individual while working as a Crown attorney in March 2011. At that time, proceedings were stayed. Mr. Tessler consulted current and former counterparts in other provinces before making the decision to recuse himself. While involvement with the deceased was limited, Mr. Tessler concluded that the appointment of an outside director for this investigation is important to maintain the integrity of the IIU process.

The IIU investigates all serious incidents involving police officers in Manitoba, whether occurring on or off duty. For more information about the IIU, visit [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca).

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