

Feb. 15, 2017

ASIRT investigates RCMP in-custody death

On Feb. 12, 2017, the Director of Law Enforcement directed the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a 20-year-old man.

On Feb. 11, 2017 the Beaverlodge RCMP received a 911 call of a possible break and enter in progress at a rural residence near Goodfare, Alberta. RCMP officers responded and entered the house after receiving permission from the owner to do so. As the officers moved through the house, verbally identifying themselves, they observed a man lying on a couch. The man stood up and picked up a shotgun that was lying nearby. The officers retreated from the residence, surrounded the home, and waited for additional officers to arrive on scene. Attempts to initiate contact with the man were unsuccessful. Upon entry into the premises by officers, the body of the man was located.

The man's death, having occurred while contained in a residence under the custody and control of police officers, is considered to be an in-custody death, triggering the application of Section 46.1 of the *Police Act*. ASIRT's investigation will focus on the circumstances surrounding the death of the man in the residence.

ASIRT has commenced its investigation, including responding to the residence, examining the scene, and speaking with witnesses. Preliminary evidence supports suggestion that no shots were fired at any time by members of the RCMP.

ASIRT's investigation is ongoing. No further information will be released until the investigation has been completed.

ASIRT's mandate is to effectively, independently, and objectively investigate incidents involving Alberta's police that have resulted in serious injury or death to any person, as well as serious or sensitive allegations of police misconduct.

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