

January 17, 2022

Investigation into death of man in RCMP custody continues

On Jan. 10, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was directed to investigate the death of a 25-year-old man that had occurred earlier that day when the man was in the custody of the St. Paul RCMP.

At approximately 5:40 a.m., St. Paul RCMP received a complaint of three suspicious people looking into vehicles on 51 Avenue near 55 Street. An officer went to the area and located three people. One man was arrested on outstanding warrants.

The man was cooperative with the officer. He was searched and put into a police vehicle. He was then taken to the St. Paul RCMP detachment, arriving at 6:33 a.m., and was placed into a cell to wait for a bail hearing. No one else was in this cell, which was monitored by a guard throughout the day.

At 6:20 p.m., the man asked for coffee and was given some. A short time later, he appeared to be sleeping. At approximately 9 p.m., an officer entered the cell in order to allow the man to speak to duty counsel prior to his bail hearing. The man was unresponsive. Officers began life-saving efforts and called Emergency Medical Services, which arrived a short time later and took over care. Their efforts were unsuccessful and the man was pronounced deceased at approximately 9:45 p.m.

An autopsy was conducted on Jan. 13. Full results of the autopsy, including toxicology results, are pending and will be incorporated into the investigation. ASIRT's investigation will examine the circumstances surrounding the death in custody. No additional information will be released at this time.

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.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

ASIRT media line
780-641-9099