

December 3, 2014

ASIRT Executive Director determines RCMP & CPS police officers' actions were justified

On October 19, 2014, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was assigned by the Director of Law Enforcement to investigate a motor vehicle collision that resulted in a young woman being seriously injured. This investigation is now complete.

On October 19, 2014, a 21-year-old woman, who has a mental disability, drove the family's all-terrain vehicle (ATV) onto a highway near Gleichen, Alberta. Unable to locate the woman, the family contacted the RCMP and reported her missing.

Several 911 calls were received reporting the ATV to be travelling at highway speeds and swerving across lanes of traffic causing other vehicles on the highway to take evasive measures. At approximately 1 p.m., a RCMP police officer saw the ATV and being aware of the missing person complaint, started to follow it at a safe distance in an attempt to hold back traffic and prevent it from moving ahead and encountering the young woman on the roadway. Upon entering Calgary, CPS police officers, in an effort to keep the young woman safe and to stop the ATV, planned to conduct a traffic stop. Unfortunately before that could be completed, the young woman lost control of the ATV and collided with a fence. She was transported and admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

The young woman has since been released from hospital and is continuing to recover at home.

Ms. Sue Hughson, ASIRT Executive Director, carefully reviewed the completed investigation and has determined that there is no evidence that the conduct of any police officers involved contributed to the young woman's loss of control of the ATV. The evidence confirmed that all of the police officers involved attempted to protect the young woman and everyone else on the road during the incident. Ms. Hughson has concluded the investigation without charges.

ASIRT would like to thank those from the public that assisted the investigation by providing video clips and accounts of the incident.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

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