

Nov. 20, 2019

Investigation into woman's hospitalization after arrest

On Nov. 17, 2019, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was directed to investigate the circumstances surrounding Blood Tribe Police Service (BTPS) officers' arrest and detention of a woman. The woman's condition deteriorated while she was in custody, requiring admission to hospital.

On Nov. 16, 2019 at approximately 10:45 a.m., BTPS officers responded to a complaint at a residence on the Blood Tribe First Nation and located a 35-year-old woman who was ultimately arrested for causing a disturbance. Prior to her arrest, the woman complained of a sore head, back and wrist. EMS was called to medically assess the woman on scene and again at the BTPS detention facilities.

Twelve hours later, at approximately 10:45 p.m., the woman was found in medical distress. Officers rendered aid and EMS was called to provide emergency care and transport her to hospital. The woman was admitted to hospital, where she remains.

Because the woman's condition deteriorated while in custody, Blood Tribe police provided notification under Section 46.1 of the *Police Act* and the direction was made that ASIRT would investigate. In this case, it is not yet known whether the woman's deteriorating condition was the result of a medical event or injury. ASIRT's investigation will focus on whether police conduct caused or contributed to the woman's deteriorating condition.

As ASIRT's investigation is now underway, no further information will be released until the matter is concluded.

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.

- 30 -

Media inquiries may be directed to:

ASIRT media line
780-641-9099