

SIRT

Serious Incident Response Team

Investigation Summary:

Incident Type: In-Custody Death

SIRT File No.: 2024-31

Incident Date: December 13, 2024

Agency Involved: RCMP

Civilian Executive Director: Greg Gudelot

Date of Report: June 5, 2026

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Introduction

On Friday December 13, 2024, at approximately 9:20 a.m., the Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) received a notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regarding an in-custody death at the Carlyle RCMP Detachment. SIRT's Civilian Executive Director accepted the notification as within SIRT's mandate and directed an investigation by SIRT.

On December 13, 2024, at approximately 12:20 a.m., the Carlyle RCMP received a call reporting an assault on the White Bear First Nation. Three RCMP members responded to this call, and located two injured individuals, who were transported to hospital.

In addition to the injured parties, a 49-year-old male, subsequently referred to as the affected person, was arrested and transported to the Carlyle RCMP Detachment, where, at approximately 1:30 a.m., he was placed in a cell. At approximately 9:07 a.m., the affected person was observed to have gone into medical distress and CPR was commenced. RCMP members provided first aid until the arrival of EMS at approximately 9:26 a.m., who then assumed responsibility for the affected person's care. At approximately 9:55 a.m., the affected person was pronounced deceased by EMS.

Timeline

SIRT was notified of the incident on December 13, 2024, at approximately 9:20 a.m. and a SIRT team consisting of the Civilian Executive Director and five SIRT investigators was deployed to Carlyle to begin the investigation. On March 11, 2026, the completed investigation was submitted to the Civilian Executive Director for review.

The Investigation

SIRT's investigation was comprehensive and thorough, conducted using current investigative protocols, and in accordance with the principles of Major Case Management (MCM). During the course of the investigation, all relevant police and civilian witnesses were interviewed, a scene examination was conducted within the Carlyle RCMP Detachment, and all relevant audio, video, and documentary evidence was seized.

Five members of the RCMP were designated as Witness Officers pursuant to *The Police Regulations* and were interviewed during the course of SIRT's investigation. On the basis of their roles in the initial arrest and transport of the affected person, two members of the RCMP were designated as Subject Officers within the meaning of *The Police Regulations*. Despite being under no legal obligation to do so, both Subject Officers voluntarily participated in interviews with SIRT investigators, providing evidence of their own actions and perceptions during the incident.

Seven civilian witnesses were identified and interviewed during SIRT's investigation. Those witnesses consisted of the detachment's civilian guard, the EMS staff who responded to the Carlyle detachment in response to the affected person's medical distress, and various family members of the affected person and others present in the residence at the time of the affected person's arrest.

Documentary evidence gathered during the investigation included cell logs, prisoner reports, and the contents of various RCMP files related to the initial arrest of the affected person and subsequent incident within the detachment. Those documents confirmed the timing of various events during the incident, including dispatch and response times, as well as the timing and observations recorded during the regular checks of the affected person in his cell.

Extensive video footage was seized from the detachment's CCTV recording system and the in-car digital video (ICDV) systems of the involved police vehicles. This footage captured the entirety of the affected person's time in custody, including his transport to the Carlyle RCMP Detachment, movement from the vehicle into the cellblock area, and his placement and presence within the cell until the time of his death.

An autopsy was conducted shortly after the affected person's death, which determined that the affected person had died from the combined toxicity of ethanol and multiple drugs with respiratory and central nervous system depressive effects. The affected person was also determined to have atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease which contributed to his death.

During the course of the investigation, as required by S.91.12(1) of *The Police Act, 1990*, a community liaison was appointed to assist the investigation. The liaison was provided with regular updates on the investigation, and at the conclusion of the investigation, was provided the opportunity to review the investigation in its entirety, and to make comments and recommendations as necessary.

Summary

On December 13, 2024, at approximately 12:20 a.m., three members from the Carlyle RCMP Detachment responded to a domestic assault complaint on the White Bear First Nation, arriving at approximately 12:40 a.m. along with EMS. Upon arrival, the members were informed that the affected person had assaulted his 24-year-old son, who was subsequently located lying on the living room floor and bleeding significantly from a head wound. One member of the RCMP assisted with the 24-year-old's medical treatment and later accompanied him to hospital, while two members of the RCMP, later designated as Subject Officers in SIRT's investigation, dealt with the affected person.

The affected person, who was described as appearing intoxicated and behaving in an agitated manner, was informed that he was under arrest, and instructed to turn around. The affected person complied with this demand and was placed in handcuffs without incident. One of the Subject Officers escorted the affected person out of the residence and to a police vehicle parked outside. While the affected person appeared unsteady on his feet as he was escorted out of the residence, he walked from the residence to the police vehicle under his own power, and at no time was any physical force used during the affected person's arrest or movement to the vehicle.

While outside the police vehicle, the affected person was searched and requested to have his handcuffs adjusted by police. One of the Subject Officers loosened the affected person's right handcuff, following which the affected person entered the vehicle under his own power. At approximately 1:09 a.m., the affected person was informed of the reason for his arrest and provided with his legal rights and warnings, following which, the Subject Officer radioed that he was enroute to the Carlyle detachment with the affected person in custody.

At approximately 1:27 a.m., the police vehicle transporting the affected person arrived at the secure bay of the Carlyle detachment. The affected person was assisted while still inside the vehicle by one of the Subject Officers as his foot had become stuck, but once assisted by the officer, the affected person stood and exited the vehicle under his own power. The affected person was then escorted by one of the Subject Officers into the detachment's cellblock area.

After walking into the cellblock area from the secure bay, the affected person stopped and dropped down to his knees, before lying on his back. Verbal and physical efforts to get him to stand were unsuccessful and one of the Subject Officers removed the affected person's handcuffs, at which time he returned to a seated position. Unable to convince the affected person to stand, the two Subject Officers pulled the affected person by his arms to the open cell door in a semi-seated position and finally pulled him inside the cell while the affected person remained in a reclined position. Once inside the cell, the affected person was searched with the use of a metal detection wand, and his shoes and a drawstring from his pants were removed for safety. At approximately 1:33 a.m., the cell door was then closed and locked, and one of the Subject Officers contacted a civilian guard while the second Subject Officer completed the prisoner report and monitored the affected person until the guard arrived.

At approximately 2:15 am, the civilian guard arrived at the Carlyle detachment and assumed responsibility for monitoring the affected person. Over the course of the next six-and-a-half hours, the civilian guard monitored the affected person using the video camera feed at the guard desk as well as completing 34 physical checks on the affected person by looking through the window in the cell door. The civilian guard described seeing the affected person breathing and indicated that the affected person could be heard loudly snoring throughout the morning. At approximately 4:45 a.m., both Subject Officers checked the affected person as they walked through the detachment's cellblock area, noting that he was breathing and continued to snore loudly.

The civilian guard departed the Carlyle detachment at approximately 8:45 a.m. to attend her primary employment, but prior to leaving, notified the RCMP members on shift at the detachment and transferred responsibility for monitoring the affected person to them. An RCMP member checked on the affected person at approximately 8:55 a.m., noting that he appeared to be breathing. At approximately 9:07 a.m., another RCMP member checked on the affected person and, unsure if he could see the affected person breathing, entered the cell to check on the affected person, finding him unresponsive.

After unsuccessfully attempting to rouse the affected person, RCMP members performed CPR on the affected person until EMS entered the affected person's cell at approximately 9:26 a.m. and assumed responsibility for his care. At approximately 9:55 a.m., the affected person was pronounced deceased by EMS.

Analysis

Following an assessment of the evidence obtained during SIRT's investigation, there is no reasonable basis to suggest that any use of force by police occurred during the arrest of the affected person. Civilian witnesses from within the residence where the affected person was arrested described the arrest occurring without incident, noting that the affected person willingly cooperated with police and accompanied them to the nearby police vehicle. Further, the autopsy examination conducted shortly after the affected person's death

noted the absence of any recent significant injuries to the affected person's body, determining that the affected person's death was the result of the combined toxicity of alcohol and multiple drugs with respiratory and central nervous system depressive effects, with the contributing factor of significant cardiovascular disease.

While two members of the RCMP were designated as Subject Officers during the course of SIRT's investigation, as previously noted, these designations were based primarily on the role of those officers in the initial arrest and detention of the affected person, which was later in the investigation confirmed through independent evidence to have occurred without the use of force by police. The affected person's state of intoxication was assessed by the Subject Officers at the time of his arrest and is consistent with the observations of the affected person on video. While the affected person was noted by the arresting members to be heavily intoxicated, and exhibited signs of difficulty walking straight, he was also able to appropriately interact with the arresting members, providing and spelling his name for police and accurately providing his date of birth. While the totality of the evidence confirms that the affected person was in a state of heavy intoxication, it falls short of imparting upon the arresting members knowledge of intoxication to such a degree that the affected person's life would reasonably be expected to be at risk, and accordingly, falls short of the legal standard required to establish *Criminal Code* jeopardy on the part of either Subject Officer.

The extensive CCTV footage obtained from within the detachment and reviewed during the course of SIRT's investigation provides significant certainty with regard to the timing and number of checks conducted on the affected person during the course of his time in RCMP custody. That footage confirms that the affected person was reasonably monitored during his time in custody by both civilian guard staff and RCMP members. Upon the discovery that the affected person was unresponsive, assistance was provided immediately, and EMS was contacted to attend the detachment. EMS arrived at the detachment shortly after they were contacted by the RCMP and assumed responsibility for the affected person's care, attempting lifesaving measures before ultimately determining that the affected person was deceased.

Following a review of the totality of the evidence in this case, and considering in particular the issues of the conduct of the affected person's arrest, the ongoing monitoring of the affected person while he remained in custody, and the reaction of police once it was determined that the affected person was unresponsive, there are no grounds to believe any police officer committed any *Criminal Code* offence during the course of this incident and no charges will be laid.

Decision

There being no grounds to believe an offence was committed by any police officer, SIRT's involvement with this matter is concluded without referral to the Attorney General for Saskatchewan in accordance with S.91.08(10)(a) of *The Police Act, 1990*.

Original Signed

Greg Gudelot
Civilian Executive Director
Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT)

June 5, 2026

Date of Report