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Investigation: DUNPHY – 2015-376186

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Greg Hicks - 2015-03-07: RCMP Update; Mitchell's Brook Shooting

From: Greg Hicks
To: 2014 RCMP news releases (use this group to send all releases)
Date: 2015/04/07 2:51 PM
Subject: 2015-03-07: RCMP Update; Mitchell's Brook Shooting

On Friday, April 3rd, a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer assigned to the Protective Services Unit was advised of the existence of a social media comment, in the public domain, which was felt to be a concern as it was believed to be directed towards provincial politicians. On Sunday, April 5th., the officer attended a residence in Mitchell's Brook, near Mount Carmel, NL, to investigate the social media remarks.

Prior to attending the Mitchell's Brook residence the RNC officer conducted a routine risk assessment within the scope of his duties accessing police databases, discussions with other police personnel, and neighbourhood enquiries.

The officer assessed the risk as low, based on all information he received and as such determined that a multi-officer response was not warranted. This included contacting the RCMP detachment at Holyrood, which is the police service of jurisdiction for Mitchell's Brook. The risk assessment process is an ongoing police activity that occurs throughout all aspects of every investigation.

To date, the RCMP investigation indicates the investigating officer attended the Dunphy residence, spoke with Mr. Donald Dunphy at the door, the officer was identified as a police officer, and was invited into Mr. Dunphy's home by Mr. Dunphy. Once inside the residence, a discussion unfolded between the officer and Mr. Dunphy over a period of approximately 15 minutes. During this time period there was a sudden and dramatic change in the demeanor of the visit. The police officer was faced with Mr. Dunphy holding a long barrel firearm which was pointed at the officer. Evidence indicates the police officer responded to this threat with lethal force by drawing and discharging his service pistol. Mr. Dunphy was fatally shot and succumbed to his injuries immediately at the scene.

Examination of the scene by Forensic Identification investigators has lead to the seizure of a .22 caliber rifle found on the floor of the residence next to Mr. Dunphy. The rifle was determined to be loaded. It has been seized and will be forwarded to a forensic laboratory for examination.

This matter remains under investigation by the RCMP.

The media are welcome to attend the Holyrood RCMP Detachment at 3:45 P.M. to meet with the below noted media contact on this matter.

Contact:

Sgt. Greg HICKS
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

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