



Press Statement

RCMP Police Brutality Inflicted on Indigenous Women in Sask. Healthcare, as Systemic Racism Continues to Rear its Ugly Head

Jan 25th, 2021 (Ottawa, ON) – On Tuesday, December 29th, 2020, Emily Kammermayer, a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, brought her 2-year-old son to the La Ronge Health Centre for an x-ray pertaining to a possible arm injury. She was acting on the advice of her mother, who is a nurse, as well two nurse practitioners. Attending Dr. Sean Groves refused to order an x-ray for her son.

When officers arrived on the scene Emily's son ran out of the examination room and into the hospital. Emily tried to retrieve him and as she was doing so, she was tackled by RCMP officers.

According to an official complaint filed with the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP, she was pinned to the ground and unable to move. An officer placed his knee on the back of her neck so that she could not breathe, and she was punched repeatedly in the head and face. She asked an officer if he enjoyed hitting women, and then he punched her again in the head, adding more bodily injuries.

While in RCMP custody, Emily was hogtied by police issued twist ties and told to 'hop like a bunny' into her cell while restrained in this position and as officers laughed at her. She has said this was the worst pain she has ever felt, it was as if her limbs were being torn apart.

While in custody of the RCMP, guards threatened Emily to plead guilty. When Emily asked why she was punched in the head multiple times, the officers stated because she was trying to go for their firearm, which she was not.

Officers told Emily that they were under the impression from hospital staff who called them to the scene that she was "a violent patient holding a child hostage." This was not the case. Emily was not the patient, nor was she holding her son hostage as she dressed him to leave the facility.

"I would never hurt my own son, I love him more than my own life. That lie is absolutely sickening," says Kammermayer. "I hope whoever made the phone call and misinformed the police will face consequences for lying."

Emily ended up facing a number of serious and exaggerated criminal charges.

- Assault with a weapon
- Assaulting three RCMP officers
- Resisting arrest

At 8:30 pm, Emily was released by the RCMP; she had no choice but to travel down south to seek medical treatment at the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Due to the unjustified, excessive force Cst. Daniel Cline, Cst. Mark Malacapo, and Cst. Craig Murray used on Emily, she was diagnosed with a concussion from the multiple blows to the head and face she received from the officers, and from an officer placing his knee on her neck as she struggled for her life. The doctor in Prince Albert was greatly concerned about a possible broken or fractured neck. Her neck was found not to be broken but was severely spasming as a result of the trauma to her neck. She also has damage to the ulnar nerve in her right wrist, causing numbness and weakness in the fingers and hand.

It has been a slow recovery for Emily, and who will be getting a CT scan of her head in the next day or two to see the true extent of her head injury. We know what happened to George Floyd as a result of this same police procedure after he uttered the fateful words “I can’t breathe.”

On December 31st, 2020, Emily filed a complaint with the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP online. Emily was later arrested for ‘uttering threats’ to the RCMP, at 4:00am on January 17, the day before Emily was contacted by the Sergeant who is investigating Emily’s complaint she filed on the 31st of December.

RCMP officers swooped in on her place of residence without identifying themselves as they pounded on the door, without an arrest warrant or stating who they were. Her partner called the RCMP, stating that people were outside and they were scared for their life only to be told that it was the RCMP and not a burglar at the door.

“I believe this was retaliation for filing a complaint against the RCMP,” says National Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin.

“This is a case of systemic racism in our healthcare system, unprofessional conduct by the RCMP and police brutality all because a mother, an Indigenous woman, was trying to get medical attention for her son. These officers and Dr. Sean Groves, who blatantly refused medical care to Emily’s son, should be held to account.”

“It’s a classic move by the RCMP to over charge and under protect Indigenous peoples. No questions were asked to de-escalate the situation because she was Indigenous. Their discriminatory racist attitudes took over. I don’t believe we should have officers working in communities where Indigenous people live who carry these types of values into their work,” says Kim Beaudin.

“I was scared for my life, I’m looking at moving away from La Ronge, my family’s traditional territory where my direct ancestor Chief James Roberts, signed Treaty 6 with Canada and where my family lives. I’m really scared for my life because of the RCMP in La Ronge — because of their violence and unwillingness to protect Indigenous people. So much for the slogan ‘to serve and protect,’” says Kammermayer.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to reform the RCMP in his 2020 throne speech. RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki acknowledged that “systemic racism exists in the RCMP” last June. “Systemic racism isn’t about the behaviour of a single individual or the actions of one person. It’s in the institutional structures that reflect the inequities that persist in our society,” [Lucki said](#). Emily’s partner, newspaper reporter Michael Bramadat-Willcock said that he is “heartbroken” by what happened to her.

“The day of December 29, 2020 started out normally and Emily was happy. I dropped her and her son off at the hospital and went to run some errands. When I returned to get her, I was shocked to see her being carried out of the hospital hogtied and crying my name,” Bramadat-Willcock said.

“I am heartbroken that this happened to Emily because she was only trying to seek medical care for her little boy. I feel like the medical system and law enforcement both failed her on that day.”

A news conference is planned for January 25, 2021 4:30pm CST to address the response of the RCMP and the La Ronge Health Centre.

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