

CFS worker accused of transporting drugs with foster child in car

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An employee of West Region Child and Family Services is on paid leave and facing criminal charges in connection with drugs found in a vehicle.

RCMP said they stopped a car not far from Winnipeg on May 21 and found nearly half a kilogram of marijuana in it.

One of two men in the vehicle was an employee of West Region Child and Family Services. A 13-year-old foster child was also in the car.

A 28-year-old man from Ste. Rose du Lac and a 24-year-old man from Ebb and Flow have been charged with possession of drugs for the purposes of trafficking.

Police said the foster child in the car was not involved.

"I think the agency, as well as ourselves, is very concerned over this kind of an incident," said Elsie Flette, CEO of the Southern First Nations Child and Family Services, which oversees the West Region agency.

While she said she could not comment on the matter of the criminal charges against the employee, Flette said the second man in the vehicle when it was pulled over should not have been in the car at the time.

"Speaking with this agency, they have a policy that there can be no 'ride-alongs,' unless the agency has approved them previously," Flette said. "They have advised [the suspect] that he was in breach of an agency policy, and that is what they're looking at in terms of what action to take."

The man was placed on paid leave as soon as the incident came to light, Flette said. He could face dismissal, she added.

"With respect to child safety, we're comfortable that what the actions the agency have taken to date are appropriate actions," Flette said.