



Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report
SIRT-NL File No. 2023-0026

Michael NR King
Director
October 18, 2023

Introduction

On July 3, 2023, a member of the public contacted the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL), alleging corruption within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In response, I assigned an investigator to meet with the individual and gather the details of his complaint.

Mandate

SIRT-NL is a civilian led oversight agency that conducts its own investigations into serious incidents. Serious incidents within this context are those involving serious injury, death, sexual offence, domestic violence or any matter of significant public interest arising from the actions of a police officer in Newfoundland and Labrador. An allegation of corruption falls within the “significant public interest” component of SIRT-NL’s mandate. Accordingly, I directed an investigation.

Terminology

I have made the following substitutions to protect the privacy of those involved:

- “Affected person” or “AP” for the individual making the allegations; and
- “Witness officer #” or “WO#” for any police officer who provided relevant information.

Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on July 20, 2023 and concluded on September 26, 2023.

During the investigation, SIRT-NL took the following steps:

- Reviewed emails from AP.
- Interviewed AP.
- Interviewed two witness officers.
- Obtained and reviewed the police notes of both witness officers.

- Obtained a reviewed a video of a traffic stop conducted by one of the witness officers.

Affected Person (AP)

SIRT-NL investigators met with AP on July 5, 2023 and gathered preliminary information. Investigators then interviewed AP on July 27, 2023. In addition to this, AP sent several emails to the primary investigator. AP would only meet with investigators in a private location, as he did not want his face to be captured on video. When AP arrived for the interview, he was in disguise and stated he had to conceal his appearance to avoid being followed.

What follows is a summary of the information AP provided during these interactions.

On July 11, 2022, AP visited the RCMP office in Corner Brook and requested to speak with an officer in charge of organized crime. He met with an officer (WO1) and spoke about criminal activity on the west coast of NL. AP told WO1 the people involved in the illegal activity were trying to set AP up. AP provided names of two individuals. AP felt WO1 did not seem interested but asked AP about the activities of another individual on the west coast. AP and WO1 were supposed to meet a couple of weeks later; however, AP never heard from WO1 after. AP believed WO1 was “not who she said she was” and rather went by another name, which AP provided to the SIRT-NL investigator. AP believed WO1 made the individuals, whose names AP gave to WO1, aware that AP was providing information about their illegal activities.

Witness Officers

Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

The SIRT-NL investigator interviewed WO1 on August 2, 2023.

WO1 is a police officer with the RCMP. In July 2022, WO1 met with AP at RCMP Headquarters. WO1 had never met WO1 before this. The meeting was not recorded; however, WO1 took notes. AP was dressed as though he was attempting to disguise himself. He felt his phone was bugged. AP provided information on people living on the west coast and their involvement in illegal activity. WO1 did not recognize any of the names AP mentioned. By the end of the meeting, WO1 felt AP was not psychologically sound. She decided the RCMP would not utilize the information AP provided. Contrary

to AP's assertion, he and WO1 made no plans to meet subsequently. WO1 has had no contact with AP since that time.

Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

The SIRT-NL investigator interviewed WO2 on September 14, 2023.

WO2 is a police officer with the RCMP. On May 30, 2023, WO2 was operating a LIDAR (a device used to capture the speed of motor vehicles) in the area of Butterpot Park. He observed a vehicle travelling east at a fast rate of speed and the vehicle continued to speed up to approximately 150km/h. WO2 completed a traffic stop of the vehicle.

The entire traffic stop, including WO2's communications with the operator, were captured on both video and audio. WO2 provided a copy of the video to SIRT-NL. The operator of the vehicle was the AP, who requested to speak with WO2 outside of his vehicle as AP's vehicle "had ears". WO2 allowed AP out of his vehicle, at which time AP told WO2 he sped up to catch WO2's attention. AP wanted to speak about drug activity. AP told WO2 that, last year, he provided drug information to an officer on the west coast and nothing was done about it. AP did not elaborate on the information he provided. WO2 noted AP's name, date of birth and phone number with the intention of passing this information along for further follow up. WO2 had no prior nor subsequent dealings with AP.

Issue and Conclusion

The issue for my consideration is whether there are grounds to believe an RCMP officer committed a criminal offence.

AP has made several reports to the RCMP of organized criminal behaviour by several individuals with whom he is familiar. To AP's knowledge, the RCMP did not act on these reports. AP feels this indicates the RCMP is corrupt. Beyond AP's suspicion, there is simply no evidence to suggest this is the case. Furthermore, WO1 provided SIRT-NL investigators with an explanation as to why the RCMP did not follow up with AP. I have not formed grounds to believe a criminal offence has taken place. I will not lay a charge in this matter.

This file is now concluded.

Final Report prepared by:

Michael NR King, Director

Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador

October 18, 2023

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