



## Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report  
SIRT-NL File No. 2024-0028

Stephen Ring  
Director  
June 30, 2025

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## Introduction

On September 9, 2024, the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL) received notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), advising that the Affected Person attended the Happy Valley-Goose Bay RCMP Detachment on September 6, 2024, and reported being sexually assaulted by two unknown RCMP officers earlier that day.

## 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. Because this matter involved an allegation of sexual assault by police officers, it fell within SIRT-NL mandate. My predecessor, Michael King, directed an investigation into this matter on September 13, 2024.

The strategy for this investigation was a traditional one focusing on interviewing the Affected Person, civilian witnesses, along with reviewing video footage, Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK/Blue Force Tracking), RCMP Communication Records along with additional corroborating and/or refuting evidence that was available to investigators at the time. The complexity of the investigation did not merit initiating major case management.

## Terminology

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

- “Affected Person” or “AP” for the individual who alleged she was sexually assaulted; and
- “Witness #” or “W#” for any civilian who provided relevant information.

## Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on September 13, 2024, and concluded on May 1, 2025.

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

- Obtained audio/video recorded statements from AP
- Collected and reviewed photographs and medical records of AP
- Obtained audio recorded statement from a civilian witness
- Collected and reviewed a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Report
- Collected and reviewed RCMP Officer Handwritten Notes
- Collected and reviewed RCMP Occurrence Reports including: Calls for Service, Communication Center Recordings, RCMP Radio Transmissions, CCTV Footage, Prisoner Reports, Cell Logbook, Officer Notes, and Occurrence Details

- Collected and reviewed RCMP - Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK / Blue Force Tracking) which provides GPS locations of RCMP members during their shift
- Collected and reviewed RCMP - K9 Report
- Collected and reviewed RCMP Pro's Reports
- Collected and reviewed CCTV footage of Finance Building and immediate area

## Overview

On September 6, 2024, AP attended the RCMP Detachment in Happy Valley-Goose Bay where she provided a statement providing details about a sexual assault which occurred earlier that day. AP advised that she had been arrested for being intoxicated in public and while being conveyed to the RCMP detachment she was brought to Sunday Hill in North West River where she was sexually assaulted by two RCMP Officers. After the sexual assault, she was brought to the RCMP holding cells and released from custody later that day.

## The Affected Person (AP)

On October 10, 2024, AP provided an audio/video recorded interview to the SIRT-NL investigator. Following is a summary of the interview:

On September 6, 2024, AP was arrested for being intoxicated in public. AP stated she had been drinking, passed out, and her friends called the police. When the police arrived on scene, they woke her up, AP was drunk and couldn't walk. AP stated that while being conveyed to the RCMP detachment in Sheshatshiu, 2 RCMP Officers drove her to Sunday Hill in North West River where they unbuttoned her pants, put condoms on, and raped her. During the sexual assault, AP indicated that she blacked out and kept passing out. After the sexual assault, the officers punched her and told her not to tell anyone about the incident or they would kill her.

AP was conveyed to the Sheshatshiu RCMP Detachment and placed in cells until her release at 11:08 am. AP went home, showered, and went to the RCMP Detachment in Happy Valley-Goose Bay where she gave a statement. Upon completion of her statement, she was conveyed to the Labrador Grenfell Hospital where a Sexual Assault Examination was completed. AP advised that the sexual assault occurred at approximately 5:00 am and she arrived at holding cells sometime after 6:00 am.

## Civilian Witnesses

AP provided the names of several witnesses who were "hanging out" around the Finance trailer on the date in question. AP believed that one of these people called the police requesting assistance to deal with her because she was intoxicated. AP provided contact information for W1.

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### **Witness 1 (W1)**

On October 17, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W1. Following is a summary of the interview:

W1 is 18 years of age and had been “hanging out” with several people at the Finance trailers during the night in question. W1 stated: “everyone was drinking that night, we were all drunk. AP was really drunk and had left for a few minutes to pee”. W1 was not sure who called the police to request assistance for AP and she has “no idea what happened when the police placed AP in the cop car”. W1 did not have any contact numbers for the other people who were hanging out, she further advised that some of the group moved to Goose Bay.

It was decided that further interviews were not required because of the information collected from the RCMP Communication Center Recordings, RCMP CCTV, ATAK along with CCTV of the Finance Building, RCMP Prisoner Report and RCMP Cell Logbook. It was determined that no other persons would have been a witness to the actions specific to the alleged sexual assault.

### **Use of Technology to Determine Timeline**

The SIRT-NL investigator assigned to this file relied heavily upon available technology during the investigation. A review of RCMP Communication Center Recordings, RCMP CCTV, RCMP ATAK and supported by the Finance Building CCTV, RCMP Prisoner Report, and RCMP Cell Logbook indicate the following timeline of events:

The original call for service to deal with AP was received by the RCMP at approximately 2 am on September 6 (Communication Center Recordings). Officers arrived on scene at 2:07 am and were enroute to the detachment with AP by 2:10 am (ATAK). RCMP Officers arrived at cell blocks with AP at 2:17 am (Cell Block Video). AP was released at 11:08 am (RCMP Cell Logbook). A review of ATAK also indicated that RCMP officers were in North West River between 3:21 and 3:56 am at which time AP would have already been in holding cells. At no time were RCMP officers at Sunday Hill (ATAK).

### **Subject and Witness Officers**

Given the nature of this investigation and the information available to determine a timeline, there were no Subject or Witness Officers designated.

### **Medical Records**

AP attended the Labrador Grenfell Health Center on September 6, 2024, at approximately 2:37 pm and was released at 7:10 pm.

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AP was seen and assessed in the emergency room by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and had a Sexual Assault Kit (SAEK) completed. The SAEK was provided to the RCMP. Based upon the information collected throughout the course of this investigation, SIRT NL did not take possession of the SAEK in order to minimize the risk of cross contamination while maintaining continuity.

Nursing notes stated that AP was drinking and there was ETOH use. Physical injuries included a bruised right shoulder, bruising to both legs (calve area), and swelling under her eye.

## RCMP Photographs

The SIRT-NL investigator reviewed RCMP photographs of AP on September 12, 2024. The review indicates that AP had a bruise to her upper center left arm, bruise to her right leg (upper lateral calf muscle), and a slight blemish to her right cheek.

## Issue and Conclusion

The issue for my consideration is whether there are grounds to believe that RCMP Officers sexually assaulted AP. A sexual assault under s. 271 of the **Criminal Code** requires:

1. an assault
2. of a sexual nature such that the integrity of the victim is violated
3. to which the complainant did not consent

I have not formed reasonable grounds to believe that RCMP Officers committed a criminal offence for the following reasons. AP stated that on September 6, 2024, she was arrested for being intoxicated in public. AP stated that while being conveyed to the RCMP detachment in Sheshatshiu, 2 RCMP Officers drove her to Sunday Hill in North West River where officers unbuttoned her pants, put condoms on and raped her. Officer (s) then punched her and told her not to tell anyone about the incident or they would kill her. AP was then conveyed to the Sheshatshiu RCMP Detachment and placed in cells until her release at 11:08 am. AP went home, showered, and went to the RCMP detachment in Happy Valley– Goose Bay where she gave a statement. Upon completion of her statement, AP was conveyed to the Labrador Grenfell Hospital where a Sexual Assault Examination was completed. AP advised that the incident occurred at approximately 5:00 am and she didn't arrive at holding cells until after 6 am.

The SIRT-NL investigator assigned to this file relied heavily upon the utilization of available technology during the investigation. A review of RCMP Communication Center Recordings, RCMP CCTV, RCMP ATAK and supported by the Finance Building CCTV, RCMP Prisoner Report and RCMP Cell Logbook indicate the following timeline of events:

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In addition to the timeline noted above, there is concern with the reliability of AP's statement given her level of intoxication. The police responded to a call for service where the caller indicates that AP was "blacked out" and asleep on the stairs of the finance building in Sheshatshiu. In her statement to the SIRT-NL investigator, AP stated she had been drinking, passed out, and her friends called the police. AP also mentioned that the police woke her up when they arrived on scene, she was drunk and couldn't walk. During the sexual assault, AP indicated that she blacked out and kept passing out. RCMP CCTV footage corroborates that AP was intoxicated.

While I have not formed reasonable and probable grounds to conclude that RCMP Officers committed an offence, I am by no way suggesting that AP could not have been the victim of sexual assault on the day in question by some other person or persons. In this regard, SIRT-NL plans to provide its investigative file to the RCMP for further action that they may deem appropriate.

SIRT-NL will now conclude this file.

**Final Report prepared by:**

Stephen Ring, Director  
Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador  
June 30, 2025  
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