



Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report
SIRT-NL File No. 2024-0032

Stephen Ring
Director
March 24, 2025

Introduction

On October 10, 2024, the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL) received a public notification alleging that a member of the public had been assaulted by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) resulting in his leg being broken.

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 a serious injury (as defined in the **Serious Incident Response Team Regulations**) alleged to be caused by police officers, it fell within SIRT-NL mandate.

Terminology

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

- “Affected person” or “AP” for the individual who sustained the injury;
- “Subject officer #” or “SO#” for the police officers who are the subjects of this Investigation; and
- “Witness #” or “W#” for any civilian who provided relevant information.

Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on October 6, 2024 and concluded on March 10, 2025.

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

- Collected and reviewed:
 - PROS investigative files from the RCMP
 - RCMP Operations Communication Center (OCC) recordings
 - AP’s medical records
 - Report from SO1
 - Eight photos that a witness took of the SOs dealing with AP
- Obtained audio recorded statements from:
 - AP
 - 7 civilian witnesses

Overview

On the evening of September 9, 2024, W1 called the RCMP to report that a relative (not the AP) was outside of her house intoxicated. Sometime after this call, W1 looked out her window and noticed the RCMP dealing with the AP who was on the ground. An ambulance arrived on scene and AP was transported to hospital. At hospital it was confirmed that AP had suffered a broken right leg.

The Affected Person (AP)

On October 21, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator spoke to AP. AP provided the following information:

AP was drinking at a friend's house where he got drunk and stoned. AP left the friend's house and went to another friend's house where he had a couple more beer. RCMP officers showed up at the house and pushed him off the step causing him to break his leg. He never did anything to the police to deserve this. The officers then drove him to the hospital in Nain.

AP could not provide specific detail on when the incident occurred. AP advised that two tall male police officers were involved, both had beards and mustaches, and he never dealt with them before. AP could not recall which friends' houses he had visited stating: "he has many friends".

On November 7, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio-recorded statement from AP. AP provided the following information:

AP went to a beer store in Nain and purchased an 8-pack of beer. After making the purchase, AP walked to the residence of a friend. At this location, AP drank five beer and smoked some weed to the point of having "a good buzz on".

AP left this location and went to the residence of W1, W2, and W3. At this location, AP drank a couple more beer to the point where he was intoxicated and stoned. He went onto the front step to have a beer and while outside two officers told him they wanted to lock him up but cannot remember exactly what was said. AP believes he was pushed off the steps and landed on the ground but cannot remember actually being pushed off the steps. While on the ground, one of the officers pushed AP again and AP again landed on the ground and heard a snap to his leg. The officers snapped AP's leg back into place and offered to give him a ride to the hospital. AP thinks the officers drove him to the hospital but cannot remember arriving there.

AP spent a night at the clinic in Nain. The next day AP was brought to hospital in Happy Valley-Goose Bay (HPVG) where he stayed for a few more days before being flown to St. John's to be treated for a broken right leg. AP remained in St. John's for 4-5 days before returning to hospital in HPVG where AP stayed for another 4-5 days prior to being released.

When asked about whether he could identify the Subject Officers AP said "there were two tall male police officers involved and that both had beards and mustaches. He never dealt with them before."

Civilian Witnesses

Witness 1 (W1)

On November 20, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W1. Following is a summary of W1's interview:

On the night of the incident, W1 observed a relative, not AP, outside of her house intoxicated. W1 called to report the incident to the RCMP but recalls very little about making the call. Sometime later she looked out her window and saw a RCMP vehicle on the side of the road with a male who she later identified as AP on the ground. She did not see what led to AP being on the ground or RCMP officers' interactions with AP. An ambulance showed up after the RCMP officers. W1 is not sure whether an ambulance or RCMP took AP to hospital.

Witness 2 (W2)

On November 20, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W2. The following is a summary of W2's interview:

W2 was not home on the night of the incident. He believes W3 would have been home during that time.

Witness 3 (W3)

On November 20, 2024, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W3. Following is a summary of W3's interview:

W3 lives with his parents W1 and W2 in Nain. W3 advised the SIRT-NL investigator that he has bad memory loss and is not good with dates. W3 does not remember AP ever having a problem with the RCMP or the RCMP ever being around their residence looking for AP. W3 does not remember AP ever being at their house injured.

Witness 4 (W4)

On January 8, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W4. Following is a summary of W4's interview:

W4 is a registered nurse working in Labrador. On September 9, 2024, W4 received a request for assistance from the RCMP who were dealing with a male who had suffered a leg injury. W4 and W7 attended the scene with W7 driving the emergency response vehicle (ERV) to and from the clinic.

Upon arriving on scene, W4 observed SO1 and SO2 dealing with AP who was lying on a RCMP vehicle's tail gate. SO1 had traction applied to AP's leg. W4 observed that AP was extremely intoxicated. AP told W4 that he fell over some stairs and then continued to walk after falling. While at the scene, an intoxicated W1 was yelling at them saying that the police did this to AP. It also appeared that W1 was taking a video of the incident.

SO1 and SO2 assisted in getting AP onto a stretcher and into the ambulance. SO1 travelled with W4 and W5 in the ambulance. SO1 told W4 that he had previously been an advanced care paramedic prior to his career in policing. At the clinic, SO1 assisted with making a traction device for AP's right leg. W4 advised that both officers were very helpful to her, and it was nice to have somebody with SO1's experience to assist.

Witness 5 (W5)

On January 22, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W5. Following is a summary of W5's interview:

W5 is a medical flight specialist. On September 9, 2024, a request was received to transfer a patient from Nain to HVGB. Upon arrival at the Nain clinic, he met with W4 and AP. W4 advised that AP was found on the road by the RCMP and that AP told her that he had fallen over some stairs and continued to walk on his leg.

The only conversation W5 had with AP was to explain the purpose for travel. During transport, the airline was very noisy making it difficult to have a conversation. When on the plane, AP fell asleep right away and did not disclose how he received his injury.

Witness 6 (W6)

On February 17, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W6. Following is a summary of W6's interview:

W6 is a paramedic employed with the Medi Vac Flight Team based out of HVGB. W6 along with W5 were the paramedics assigned to transport AP out of Nain.

When W6 met AP at the Nain clinic, AP was complaining about pain to his lower leg but wasn't experiencing any other discomfort or pain. The nurse's report stated that AP had

fallen down and then tried to walk but couldn't. The Report also noted that AP had dealt with the RCMP.

While at the clinic, W6 assessed AP which is a standard procedure prior to travel. While being assessed, AP told W6 that he fell and couldn't get up when he tried. AP was relatively quiet and would answer questions when asked but nothing more. AP was pretty relaxed and pleasant when dealing with W6.

Nothing stood out as being odd or dramatic to W6. The nurse's report referenced AP falling which was consistent with the leg injury and what AP told W6.

Witness 7 (W7)

On February 17, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from W7. Following is a summary of W7's interview:

W7 is a maintenance repair person for the Nain clinic. One of W7's roles is to operate the ERV. On September 2, 2024, W4 called W7 out to an emergency call.

Upon arriving at the scene, W7 observed that SO1 and SO2 had AP on the back of their marked police truck. SO1 had traction applied to AP's leg. W7 could see a bone protruding and AP was "bawling in pain".

W1 was in the area and kept yelling that the RCMP broke AP's leg. W7 continuously asked if AP was alright but he didn't answer because of the pain. W7 did not witness any conversation between the police and W4 at the scene.

W4 dealt with AP medically while W7 assisted with getting AP onto the stretcher and into the ERV. On the way to the clinic, W4 and SO1 rode with AP in the rear. W7 did not hear any of the conversation on the ride to the clinic. Once at the clinic, W7 assisted getting AP into bed in the emergency room.

At one point while dealing with AP, AP told W7 that he couldn't remember what happened as he was too drunk. When the SIRT-NL investigator asked when this occurred, W7 replied that it was either the next day or after AP had calmed down. When asked to describe AP's signs of impairment, W7 advised that she could "smell booze from him and his eyeballs were small". W7 also estimated that AP was 10 out of 10 drunk. W7 told the SIRT-NL investigator that she is familiar with AP as she is from Nain and grew up and went to school with him.

Subject Officer (SO1)

On January 7, 2025 the SIRT-NL investigator obtained a copy of SO1's report from the RCMP. Following is a summary:

Members were called to a disturbance and found AP screaming in the middle of the road. AP told officers he was having leg pain. SO1 exposed his leg to see if there was an injury and found a compound fracture to his Tib Fib (SO1 stated he was previously an advanced care paramedic). Officers removed AP from the middle of the road for both AP's and officers' safety. The clinic was called to assist.

SO1 spoke to W1 because AP was found outside of her house. W1 was intoxicated and began accusing officers of breaking AP's leg and was believed to be filming officers using the same narrative.

The clinic asked SO1 if he would further assist them with transporting AP.

Medical Records

By AP's consent, SIRT-NL obtained a copy of his medical records on November 26, 2024.

The records contain the following information:

- AP was initially treated at the Nain clinic prior to being medevacked to HVGB and then St. John's for treatment.
- AP incurred the following injuries to his right leg:
 - Posterior tibial shaft fracture
 - Comminuted fracture of the proximal fibula
 - Non-displaced right posterior malleolus fracture

Photographs

On November 26, 2024, W1 provided a copy of eight photos she took of the two subject officers when dealing with the affected person on the night in question:

- Two photos of two uniformed RCMP officers and a female dealing with a male in the rear of a marked RCMP pick-up truck.
- Four photos of two marked RCMP pick-up trucks parked side by side.
- Two photos of two uniformed RCMP officers dealing with a male in the rear of a marked RCMP pick-up truck. (same officers as previous photos).

Issue and Conclusion

The issue for my consideration is whether there are grounds to believe that the SOs assaulted AP. The only evidence of an assault comes directly from AP. In his statement AP stated that he believes that SOs pushed him off the steps of the residence of W1, W2, and W3 but cannot remember actually being pushed. AP also stated that while on the

ground, one of the SOs pushed him again with AP again landing on the ground and then hearing a snap to his leg. The SOs snapped AP's leg back into place and offered to give AP a ride to the hospital.

There is considerable concern with the reliability of AP's statement given his level of intoxication. W7 is quite familiar with AP and described him as being 10 out of 10 drunk. In addition, AP told W7 that he couldn't remember what happened as he was too drunk. This is consistent with AP's statement when he states that he drank five beer and smoked some weed to the point of having "a good buzz on". It is also worthy of mention that AP could not remember arriving at the clinic and advised the SIRT-NL investigator that he believed that officers drove him to the hospital when he was in fact taken there by ambulance. AP's statement is also not consistent with what he told W4 which was: "he fell over some stairs and then continued to walk after falling". While being assessed at the clinic, AP told W6 that he fell and couldn't get up when he tried. These statements to third parties are in addition to the internal inconsistency within AP's statement noted above (i.e. was pushed by RCMP Officers but cannot remember being pushed).

A report authored by SO1 stated: "members were called to a disturbance and found AP screaming in the middle of the road. AP told officers he was having leg pain. SO1 exposed his leg to see if there was an injury and found a compound fracture to his Tib Fib (SO1 was previously an advanced care paramedic)." When asked about the incident, W6 stated that nothing stood out as being odd or dramatic. W6 noted that the nurses report referenced AP falling which is consistent with the leg injury and what AP told him.

From my review of the evidence collected during the investigation, it appears likely that AP fell which resulted in a severely broken leg. SOs would have arrived on scene and provided emergency first aid along with assisting in the transport of AP to the Nain clinic. I have not formed reasonable grounds to believe the SOs committed a criminal offence and I will not lay a charge in this matter.

SIRT-NL will now conclude this file.

Final Report prepared by:

Stephen Ring, Director
Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador
March 24, 2025
File No. 2024-0032