



## Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report  
SIRT-NL File No. 2025-0008

Stephen Ring  
Director  
April 7, 2025



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## Introduction

On February 23, 2025, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) notified the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL) of an incident involving one of its members in St. John's, NL. The RNC provided notification after two members attended a call for service in which it was disclosed to them that an off-duty RNC officer assaulted his girlfriend.

## 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 domestic violence by a police officer, it fell within SIRT-NL mandate. I directed an investigation into this matter on February 24, 2025

The strategy for the investigation was a traditional one focusing on interviewing witnesses and obtaining any corroborating and/or refuting evidence that was available. 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 sustained the injury;
- “Subject Officer” or “SO” for the police officer who is the subject of this Investigation; and
- “Witness officer #” or “WO#” for any police officer who provided relevant information.

## Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on February 24, 2025, and concluded on March 26, 2025.

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

- Collected and reviewed:
  - RNC SIRT referral letter and a Notification to SIRT-NL.
  - RNC File # 2025-12035
  - Reports and notes authored by WO1 in relation to RNC File # 2025-12035
  - Reports authored by WO2 in relation to RNC File # 2025-12035
  - RNC Communication Center recordings
  - 911 recordings

- Obtained audio recorded statements from:
  - W01 and W02

## Overview

On February 23, 2025, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) notified the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL) of an incident involving one of its members in St. John's, NL. The RNC provided notification after members attended a call for service in which it appeared that an off-duty RNC officer assaulted his girlfriend. Included with the referral was a copy of RNC File # 2025-12035.

## The Affected Person (AP)

On February 23, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator spoke to AP. AP provided the following information:

AP was asked if she would be willing to meet for an interview, she responded by stating that “she didn't want to meet and didn't want anything done here”. AP also advised that she “misspoke in the car with the officers”. When asked whether AP lived with SO, she stated that she “was not prepared to answer any more questions”. AP agreed to a follow-up call the next morning to determine whether she wanted to participate in an investigation.

On February 24, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator spoke to AP. AP provided the following information:

AP stated that she wasn't willing to provide a statement and would like the matter closed as SO is a real good person. She had misspoken to RNC officers and felt manipulated given that she didn't want to give a statement. She also stated that she was intoxicated while speaking to RNC officers. When asked if the SO had any influence on her call to SIRT-NL, she assured the SIRT-NL investigator that he absolutely had no influence. AP advised that she feels extremely safe and there are no safety concerns with SO.

During this call, AP was made aware that SIRT-NL would be continuing with an investigation and that she could call at any time in the event she changed her mind about providing a statement.

On March 10, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator spoke to AP. AP again stated that she did not want to meet and provide a statement.

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## Witness Officers

### Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

On March 7, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO1. Following is a summary of WO1's interview:

On February 23, 2025, WO1 and WO2 attended a call for service. Upon arriving on scene WO1 observed a broken box of clothing scattered on the driveway along with a Christmas wreath on the front step. As they approached, a female, later identified as AP, opened the door. AP was upset and crying. When asked about what happened, AP informed WOs that she had been downtown drinking and upon returning home she got into a verbal argument with her boyfriend (SO) who had threatened to leave the house in his vehicle.

While at the residence, WO1 observed RNC body armor, along with a RNC issued bag and other belongings scattered on the floor. There were boxes at the bottom of the stairs, the dining room table had been pushed into the dining area, and a piano bench was tipped over by the piano. The home was in disarray. SO and AP were observed as being intoxicated with a strong smell of alcohol and bloodshot eyes.

WO1 observed that SO's fists were clinched, and his attention was on AP. SO told AP to "get the fuck out, we are done" on three separate occasions. When WO1 asked SO what happened and the reason for his anger, SO said nothing happened and that he was embarrassed by all this. He said "this is fucked and he just wanted AP out".

AP made arrangements to stay at her grandparent's house for the night. While enroute to AP's grandparents, AP disclosed that a verbal argument with SO escalated. SO became enraged and grabbed her by the wrists and threw her into the piano. He threw her twice to the ground and she in turn punched him in the face and then he punched her in the face. Prior to leaving the RNC vehicle, AP put both wrists out and rotated them. There were no wrist or facial injuries observed.

WO1 asked AP if she wanted to provide a statement, AP declined and asked whether she could provide one later.

### Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

On March 5, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO2. A summary of this interview is not necessary for the purposes of this Report given that it is consistent with WO1's interview noted above.

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## Subject Officer (SO)

On March 10, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator contacted SO and requested to meet for an interview. At this time, SO denied the allegation made against him and declined to participate in an interview.

## Issue and Conclusion

The issue for my consideration is whether there are grounds to believe that SO assaulted AP. On February 23, 2025, WOs attended a call for service. Upon arriving on scene, officers observed a broken box of clothing scattered in the driveway along with a Christmas wreath on the front step. While at the residence, WOs observed RNC body armor, along with a RNC issued bag and other belongings scattered on the floor. There were boxes at the bottom of the stairs, the dining room table had been pushed into the dining area, and a piano bench was tipped over by the piano. The home was in disarray. SO and AP were observed as being intoxicated with a strong smell of alcohol and bloodshot eyes.

AP made arrangements to stay at her grandparent's house for the night. While enroute to AP's grandparents, AP disclosed to WOs that a verbal argument with SO escalated. SO became enraged and grabbed her by the wrists and threw her into the piano. He threw her twice to the ground and she in turn punched him in the face and then he punched her in the face. There were no wrist or facial injuries observed by WOs.

When the SIRT-NL investigator spoke to AP and asked her to make a statement, AP stated that she wasn't willing to provide a statement and would like the matter closed as SO is a real good person. She had misspoken to RNC officers and felt manipulated given that she didn't want to give a statement. She also stated that she was intoxicated while speaking with RNC officers. When asked if the SO had any influence on her call to SIRT-NL, she assured the investigator that he absolutely had no influence. She feels extremely safe and there are no safety concerns with SO.

I am of the opinion that there is insufficient evidence to support the laying of a criminal charge given that AP was not willing to provide a statement and later stated that she had misspoken to officers, AP was intoxicated when first speaking to WOs, and there were no visible injuries.

I have not formed reasonable grounds to believe the SO committed a criminal offence and I will not lay a charge in this matter.

SIRT-NL will now conclude this file.

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**Final Report prepared by:**

Stephen Ring, Director

Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador

April 7, 2025

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