



## Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report  
SIRT-NL File No. 2025-0012

Stephen Ring  
Director  
August 4, 2025



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## Introduction

On March 21, 2025, the Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT-NL) received notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) relating to a member of the public who was injured during an arrest in Curling, NL.

## 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 serious injury being caused by police officers, it fell within SIRT-NL mandate. I directed an investigation into this matter on March 28, 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 alleged he was assaulted;
- “Subject Officer” or “SO” for the police officer who is the subject of this investigation;
- “Witness officer #” or “WO#” for any police officer who provided relevant information; and
- “Witness #” or “W#” for any civilian who provided relevant information.

## Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on March 28, 2025, and concluded on July 15, 2025.

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

- Collected and reviewed:
  - RCMP investigative file # 2025-361806.
  - Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) investigative file # 2025-17559
  - RCMP SIRT referral letter and a Notification to SIRT-NL.
  - AP’s medical records.
  - Photographs of AP obtained by the RNC.

- Photograph of SO1 received from AP.
  - Witness officers' police notes and reports.
  - Subject Officers' police notes and reports.
  - Communication Center recordings associated with the arrest of the AP on March 20, 2025.
- Obtained audio recorded statement from AP.
  
  - Obtained audio recorded statements from:
    - WO1, WO2, WO3, WO3, WO4, WO5, WO6, and WO7.
  
  - Collected and reviewed audio recorded statements from:
    - W1, and W2.

## Overview

On March 20, 2025, AP approached a vehicle which he believed was surveilling him. This vehicle was being operated by SO1 who was conducting surveillance on an unrelated matter. AP attempted to take a photograph of the person inside the vehicle but SO1 kept putting his head down and hoody up. AP asked SO1 what he was doing and why he was following him. AP banged on the window of the vehicle and SO1 exited the vehicle, grabbed him, and attempted to bring him to the ground. AP neutralized himself and pushed SO1 against the car. SO1 then told him that he was resisting arrest. Shortly after, SO2 grabbed him from behind and said that they were RCMP officers. AP advised that he ended up on the ground and was punched three times in the ribs by SOs. AP reported that he received broken ribs because of his interaction with SOs.

## The Affected Person (AP)

On April 1, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from AP. The following is a summary of AP's account of what happened:

AP is receiving workers' compensation benefits and believes he was being surveilled related to his receipt of these benefits. In January of this year, AP located an object on his vehicle which he believes was tracking his movements. AP went to the RNC and RCMP to make a complaint about this alleged surveillance. The RNC advised that they would investigate but also suggested that AP should take photos of the driver and the license plate the next time he saw the vehicle.

On March 20, 2025, AP approached a vehicle which he believed was surveilling him. AP pulled up behind the vehicle and attempted to take a photograph of the person inside (SO1). SO1 kept putting his head down and hoody up. AP asked SO1 what he was doing and why he was following him. SO1 said something, but AP couldn't pick out what was said. AP asked SO1, "to get out and

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talk to me you cowardly cunt.” AP banged on the window of the vehicle and SO1 got out, grabbed him, and attempted to bring him to the ground. AP neutralized himself and pushed SO1 against the car. SO1 then told him that he was resisting arrest. Shortly after SO2 grabbed him from behind and said that they were RCMP officers. At that point AP stopped resisting. AP ended up on the ground and was punched three times in the ribs. AP was then handcuffed, and somebody pushed his face into the ground.

WO1 arrived on scene and brought AP to the RNC. While at the RNC, paramedics showed up, assessed AP, and told him that he had broken ribs. Paramedics brought AP to Western Regional Memorial Hospital in Corner Brook. AP had x-rays taken and was told that he had a broken rib - possibly two. WO7 showed up at the hospital and told AP that the RNC wouldn't be laying charges, let him go, and drove him back to his vehicle.

AP realized that his car had a dent to the front fender and believed the RCMP caused this damage when they moved his vehicle from the road. AP checked his cell phone which was in the vehicle and found that the RCMP had deleted all the pictures that he had taken earlier. AP advised the SIRT-NL investigator that he was charged by the RCMP with uttering threats, resisting arrest, and assaulting a police officer. AP also told the SIRT-NL Investigator that he was frustrated when he first approached SO1, he thought he was an employee of workers' compensation.

## **Witness Officers**

There were seven witness officers interviewed by the SIRT-NL investigator.

### **Witness Officer 1 (WO1)**

On April 2, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO1. The following is a summary of WO1's interview:

WO1, a patrol officer with the RNC, responded to a request from the RCMP and observed two plainclothes officers escorting a visibly upset and injured male (AP). WO1 read AP his rights, transported him to the RNC, and called paramedics due to AP's complaints of rib pain. AP shared his belief that he was being surveilled and had been assaulted by plainclothes officers. WO1 accompanied AP to the hospital and documented his injuries.

### **Witness Officer 2 (WO2)**

On March 31, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO2. The following is a summary of WO2's interview:

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WO2, a member of the RNC/RCMP Drug Unit, was monitoring the radio when SO1 reported an aggressive male at his vehicle. WO2 requested WO1 to respond and later confirmed with SO1 and SO2 that AP had threatened and attacked SO1. WO2 did not attend the scene and had no further involvement.

#### **Witness Officer 3 (WO3)**

On March 31, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO3. Following is a summary of WO3's interview:

WO3, an RNC Inspector, was consulted after AP expressed a desire to file a complaint. WO3 directed the matter to be referred to SIRT-NL and halted any further RNC investigation. She met AP at the hospital and confirmed his belief of being surveilled and assaulted. WO3 ensured AP's release and formal referral of the case.

#### **Witness Officer 4 (WO4)**

On April 1, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO4. The following is a summary of WO4's interview:

WO4, a RCMP supervisor, coordinated the response and complaint handling. Initially requesting RNC involvement, the RCMP later assumed responsibility for the investigation. He directed evidence collection, interviewed civilian witnesses, and concluded that charges against AP were appropriate.

#### **Witness Officer 5 (WO5)**

On April 1, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO5. The following is a summary of WO5's interview:

WO5, an RCMP GIS Unit officer, arrived after the altercation and found AP handcuffed and agitated. WO5 assisted in searching AP and noted damage to SO1's vehicle. He reported that SO1 described AP as aggressive and threatening. WO5 did not witness the struggle and had no further involvement.

#### **Witness Officer 6 (WO6)**

On February 19, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO6. Following is a summary of WO6's interview:

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WO6, a member of the RNC assigned to the JFO, heard SO1's radio call about threats and later learned of the physical altercation. She spoke with SO1, who admitted to deleting photos from AP's phone, and with SO2, who mentioned accidental contact with AP's eye. WO6 initially led the investigation and swore charges against AP before the case was reassigned.

#### **Witness Officer 7 (WO7)**

On February 13, 2025, the SIRT-NL investigator obtained an audio recorded statement from WO7. The following is a summary of WO7's interview:

WO7, an acting RNC sergeant, processed AP at headquarters and observed visible injuries. He called paramedics, took photos of AP's injuries, and transferred them to a USB. WO7 confirmed AP's allegations and drove him home after his hospital release. He coordinated with WO3 and WO4 regarding the handling of evidence and statements.

### **Civilian Witnesses**

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

On May 31, 2025, WO4 interviewed W1. The following is a summary of W1's interview:

W1 heard voices outside but couldn't see the incident due to tree coverage. He saw an unmarked and then a marked police vehicle arrive, and someone being escorted away. He later learned from his neighbor that someone had been handcuffed on the ground and noticed a white SUV had been moved near a fire hydrant.

#### **Witness 2 (W2)**

On April 17, 2025, WO4 interviewed W2. The following is a summary of W2's interview:

W2 heard yelling and saw a confrontation involving plainclothes individuals restraining a man on the ground. He observed bleeding from the restrained man's forehead and reported the incident to police. His home surveillance system did not capture the event.

### **Subject Officers**

Both subject officers declined to participate in an interview.

#### **Subject Officer 1 (SO1)**

On May 30, 2025, SO1 consented to the release of all notes and reports that he authored in relation to the investigation. The following is a summary of his notes and reports:

On March 20, 2025, SO1 was conducting surveillance as part of the JFO. SO1 was parked in an unmarked vehicle, partially obscured by a snowbank, and stacked wood. Around 9:50 a.m., SO1 noticed a white SUV pull up beside him, and the driver—later identified as AP—began staring at

him. AP honked his horn, rolled down his window, and made hand gestures. AP exited his vehicle and approached SO1's car, yelling and accusing him of conducting surveillance and ruining lives.

SO1 reported that AP became increasingly aggressive, slapping his window and threatening to “rip [his] head off.” SO1 radioed for assistance and attempted to leave, but AP blocked his vehicle. SO1 identified himself as a police officer and asked AP to stop making threats and leave. AP responded with more threats and began walking back to his own vehicle.

At that point, SO1 exited his vehicle and informed AP that he was under arrest for uttering threats. As SO1 approached, AP became more aggressive, grabbed SO1 in a bear hug, and told him he was “going to die.” SO1 was slammed into a vehicle, struck in the back and head, and had to use closed-hand strikes to defend himself.

During the struggle, SO2 arrived and assisted with getting the situation under control, AP continued to resist. Together, they brought AP to the ground and handcuffed him. SO1 noted that AP's hat and phone were on the ground, and he deleted photos from the phone for officer safety reasons. He observed a cut on AP's forehead and minor injuries to himself, including to his shoulder, neck, and back. SO1's hoodie was also torn during the altercation.

### **Subject Officer 2 (SO2)**

On May 27, 2025, SO2 consented to the release of all notes and reports that he authored in relation to the investigation. The following is a summary of his notes and reports:

On March 20, 2025, SO2 was assigned to surveillance duties with the JFO. SO2 was stationed a short distance from SO1, who was also part of the operation. Around 9:50 a.m., SO2 heard SO1 transmit over the police radio that an unknown male had approached his vehicle, was yelling, and was striking the car window while threatening to “tear his head off.” SO1 requested immediate assistance.

Upon arriving at the scene, SO2 observed SO1 and the unknown male—later identified as AP—engaged in a physical struggle in a parking lot. AP had SO1 in a bear hug, pushing him against a white SUV, and was punching him in the head and side. SO2 shouted multiple times “stop police, you're under arrest for assault”. Despite this, AP continued to punch SO1.

SO2 intervened by grabbing AP from behind. With SO1's assistance, they brought AP to the ground. AP continued to resist arrest and failed to comply with commands. Eventually, SO1 and SO2 managed to handcuff AP and bring him to his feet. WO5 arrived shortly after, followed by WO1 of the RNC, who transported AP in a marked patrol vehicle.

During the altercation, SO2 sustained minor injuries, including scrapes and cuts to both knees, elbows, and his left hand, as well as a bruised right shin and a sore neck. No photographs were taken of SO2's injuries.

## Medical Records

By AP's consent, SIRT-NL obtained a copy of his medical records on April 10, 2025. The records contain the following information:

AP was treated and released from the Western Memorial Regional Hospital on March 20, 2025. At triage, AP reported being beaten by police and complained of:

- Pain in the right rib area
- Pain in the right thigh
- Being tackled to the ground, striking his head and face
- Being struck in the eye
- Possible loss of consciousness

Diagnostic Results were as follows:

- CT Scan of the Head: No skull fracture identified.
- CT Scan of the Orbits (eye sockets): No evidence of acute injury.
- Chest X-rays: No significant change compared to a prior scan on an unrelated matter.
- Right Rib X-rays: No bony abnormalities detected.

While AP reported significant pain and visible injuries, the medical imaging did not confirm any fractures or acute internal injuries.

## Photographs

On March 20, 2025, WO7 took twelve photographs of AP which showed:

- Abrasions on the lower back, left shoulder, forehead, cheek, chin, and right eyebrow.
- A bloodshot right eye.
- Bruising on the right lower back and right knee.

On March 26, 2025, RNC Forensic Identification took ninety-seven photographs of AP and nineteen photographs of AP's vehicle which showed:

- Bruises on the forehead, right eye, wrists, shoulders, chest, ribs, and hip.
- Scratches and abrasions on the hands, elbows, lower back, knees, and upper right leg near the groin.
- A large dent above the front passenger-side tire.

## Issue and Conclusion

The issue for my consideration is whether there are grounds to believe that SOs assaulted AP. An assault pursuant to s. 266 of the **Criminal Code** requires an intentional application of force to a person, either directly or indirectly, without the consent of the other person.

I have reviewed the investigative file and have not formed reasonable grounds to believe that SOs assaulted AP. I base my opinion on the following. In his statement to the SIRT-NL Investigator, AP advised that he is receiving workers' compensation benefits and believes he was being surveilled related to his receipt of these benefits. AP also advised that in January of this year, he located an object on his vehicle which he believes was being used to track his movements. AP went to the RNC and RCMP to make a complaint about this alleged surveillance. The RNC advised that they would look into it but also suggested that AP should take photos of the driver, and the license plate the next time he saw the vehicle<sup>1</sup>.

On March 20, 2025, AP approached a vehicle which he believed was surveilling him. This vehicle was being operated by SO1 who was conducting surveillance on a matter unrelated to AP. SO1's unmarked police vehicle was parked in an area where there was a large snowbank in the front of the vehicle, a pile of stacked wood to his right, and AP's vehicle parked to the left<sup>2</sup>. RNC Communications Center recordings indicate the following sequence of events:

- 9:51:44 SO1 transmits (8 seconds). "I got some guy here; he is threatening me right now. Threatened to knock my lid off as I'm sitting here."
- 9:52:01 SO1 transmits (4 seconds). "He took a picture of the car and what not."
- 9:52:23 SO1 transmits (2 seconds). "He's losing it."
- 9:53:05 SO2 transmits (2 seconds). "He's in a fight guys. He's in a fight."

In his statement, AP indicated that he pulled up behind the vehicle he believed was watching him and attempted to take a photograph of the person inside (SO1). SO1 kept putting his head down and hood up. AP asked SO1 what he was doing and why he was following him. SO1 said something, but AP couldn't pick out what was said. AP asked SO1, "to get out and talk to me you cowardly cunt." AP banged on the window of the vehicle and SO1 got out, grabbed him, and attempted to bring him to the ground. AP neutralized himself and pushed SO1 against the car. SO1 then told him that he was resisting arrest. Shortly after SO2 grabbed him from behind and said that they were RCMP officers. At that point AP stopped resisting. AP ended up on the ground and was punched three times in the ribs. AP was then handcuffed, and somebody pushed his face into the ground.

AP told the SIRT-NL Investigator that he suffered broken ribs and that he "never lifted his hand to anybody." At no point did AP swing or kick at SO1.

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<sup>1</sup> The RNC has no record of this complaint.

<sup>2</sup> SO1's notes indicate that he was "blocked in" which would have prevented him from safely leaving the area.

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There are several concerns with AP's statement summarized above:

1. AP advised that during his altercation with SOs he never lifted his hand to anybody and at no point did he swing at or kick the officers. SO1 noted that during the altercation, AP struck him in the back and the head. SO2 noted that upon arriving on scene, AP and SO1 were wrestling in the parking lot. They were in a bear hug with SO1 facing him and AP away. AP had SO1 pushed up against a white SUV and was punching him in the head and side. SO2 yelled several times for the unknown male to stop and advised that he was under arrest for assault, but the unknown male continued to punch with his right arm and fist. SOs notes are consistent with radio communications which revealed:
  - a. At 9:53:05 SO2 transmitted "He's in a fight guys. He's in a fight."
  - b. At 9:59:34 SO1 was asked if he was ok. SO1 responded, "he gave me a couple of little shots there but I'm good."
2. AP advised that he only "banged on the vehicle's window and called the operator a cowardly cunt." SO1's notes indicate that after AP banged on his window, AP became more aggressive and threatened him several times. SO1's notes are consistent with radio communications of the incident.
3. AP advised that he was not aware that the persons who assaulted him were RCMP officers until after a second officer showed up and grabbed him from behind at which time he stopped resisting and complied with their demands. This was just before AP was brought to the ground. This statement is not consistent with AP's prior statement to the RNC where he advised that the officers didn't identify themselves until after he was on the ground. This is also not consistent with SO1 and SO2's notes. SO1 noted that prior to exiting his vehicle he told AP that he was a police officer and requested that he stop threatening him and leave the area. SO1 also noted that AP noticed and commented about a police vest that he had on his seat. SO1 further noted that upon SO2 arriving on scene he also identified himself as a police officer and told AP that he was under arrest. SO2's notes indicate that he yelled several times to AP, "stop police, you're under arrest for assault".
4. AP alleged that SOs broke his ribs. AP's medical records revealed that his ribs were not broken, and he did not receive a serious injury from his interaction with the SOs.
5. AP alleged that his vehicle was damaged by the RCMP after he had left the area. AP speculated that the RCMP drove his vehicle and struck a fire hydrant. Evidence collected during this investigation indicates that AP's vehicle was likely damaged as a result of AP pushing SO1 into his vehicle. SO1 noted that during his interaction with AP, AP forced him into his vehicle. SO2 noted that when he arrived on scene, AP had SO1 pushed up against a white SUV. The photographs taken of the damage to AP's vehicle appear consistent with a person being pushed into the vehicle.
6. AP alleged that the photographs he had taken of SO1 and his vehicle were removed from his cell phone by the RCMP after he had left the area. SO1's notes indicate that he removed the photographs from AP's cell phone for officer safety reasons. SO1's notes also indicate that this would have occurred prior to AP being transported from the scene by the RNC.

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As a result of the above, I have concerns with AP's reliability and credibility. From my review of the investigative file, it appears that AP erroneously believed he was being surveilled by SO1. AP approached SO1's vehicle while in an agitated state, blocked SO1's ability to safely leave the area, threatened him, and struck his vehicle. SO1 exited his vehicle with a view to arresting AP and was required to use force in an attempt to get the situation under control. Upon arriving on scene, SO2 observed SO1 and AP in an altercation with AP striking SO1. SO2 used force in assisting SO1.

Section 25(1) of the **Criminal Code** allows a peace officer to use as much force as necessary for the enforcement of the law, provided they act on reasonable grounds. Given the totality of the circumstances, I am of the opinion that SO1 and SO2 were acting within their lawful authority, and the use of force was proportionate. I have not formulated reasonable and probable grounds to believe an assault occurred.

SIRT-NL will now conclude this file.

**Final Report prepared by:**

Stephen Ring, Director  
Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador  
August 4, 2025  
File No. 2025-0012