



Serious Incident Response Team

Civilian Director's Report
SIRT-NL File No. 2026-0012

Stephen Ring
Director
August 24, 2026

Introduction

On March 23, 2026, the Serious Incident Response Team of Newfoundland and Labrador received notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that a member of the public had sustained a leg injury while being detained by RCMP officers at the Happy Valley-Goose Bay detachment. This matter was investigated as a possible assault causing bodily harm contrary to section 267(b) of the **Criminal Code**.

Mandate

SIRT-NL is a civilian-led oversight agency that conducts investigations into serious incidents. Serious incidents include matters 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.

As the allegation involved a serious injury involving a member of the public it fell within SIRT-NL's mandate. As such, I directed a SIRT-NL investigation into this matter.

The strategy for the investigation was a traditional one focusing on interviewing witness officers, civilian witnesses, the subject officers and obtaining any corroborating and/or refuting evidence that was available.

Terminology

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

- “Affected Person” or “AP” for the individual who sustained a leg injury while being detained by RCMP officers.
- “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.
- “Witness #” or “W#” for any civilian who provided relevant information.

Investigation

The SIRT-NL investigation began on March 26, 2026, and concluded on July 8, 2026.

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

- Collected and reviewed:
 - Copy of RCMP investigative file

- Body Worn Camera videos (BWC)
- RCMP Operations Communications Center (OCC) recordings
- Video of the RCMP Happy Valley- Goose Bay detachment holding cells and secure garage area
- Photos of the affected person's injuries
- Affected person's medical records
- Facebook message between the affected person and a civilian witness
- Notes and reports of WO1 and WO2
- Obtained statements from:
 - AP, W1, W2, WO1, and WO2

Overview

This report addresses whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Subject Officers assaulted the Affected Person causing bodily harm contrary to section 267(b) of the **Criminal Code**.

Affected Person (AP)

On March 27, 2026, the SIRT-NL investigator interviewed AP. Following is a summary of the interview:

AP advised that she had consumed alcohol and cannabis prior to her interaction with police and was unable to clearly recall all of the circumstances that led to police attendance. She stated that she was arrested and transported to the RCMP detachment, where she was searched and instructed to remove certain items of clothing. AP reported that she was upset and intoxicated throughout the interaction and acknowledged resisting officers as they attempted to place her in a holding cell. She alleged that during this process she grabbed onto the cell door and an officer kicked her in the back of the leg, causing her knee to dislocate and resulting in significant pain. AP further alleged that an officer laughed after the injury occurred and that police delayed calling an ambulance despite her requests for medical assistance. She stated that she was subsequently transported by ambulance to hospital, where she received treatment for her injury.

Civilian Witnesses

Witness 1 (W1)

On May 26, 2026, the SIRT-NL investigator interviewed W1. Following is a summary of the interview:

W1 advised that she was working as a detention guard at the RCMP holding facility in Happy Valley–Goose Bay on the evening of the incident. She recalled that AP arrived at the secure bay while being managed by several police officers and was yelling and acting in an agitated manner. W1 stated that she did not directly observe the moment the injury occurred because the officers

were positioned between her and AP during the placement into the cell. After officers moved, she observed AP on the floor of the cell and noted that one foot appeared to be positioned unnaturally, suggesting an injury. W1 advised that she did not participate in AP's admission to the cell, had no direct interaction with her concerning the incident, and did not witness any use of force that resulted in the injury. She confirmed that paramedics were called and attended the detachment, and she later heard officers indicate that AP had gone to the ground and injured her leg while they were attempting to place her on the mattress in the cell.

Witness 2 (W2)

On May 4, 2026, the SIRT-NL investigator interviewed W2. Following is a summary of the interview:

W2 advised that he was employed as a detention guard at the RCMP holding cells in Happy Valley–Goose Bay and arrived for his shift after the incident had already occurred. Upon his arrival, he observed that RCMP officers and another detention guard were present at a cell where AP was located. W2 stated that he did not witness the events that led to the injury and had no knowledge of how the injury occurred. He observed AP on the floor or mattress holding her leg and expressing pain. W2 advised that his interactions with AP were limited to routine detention guard duties and that he did not discuss the circumstances of the incident with her. He recalled being told that AP had injured or twisted her leg. W2 further advised that paramedics attended the detachment, assessed AP, and subsequently transported her by ambulance for medical treatment.

Witness Officers

Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

On April 8, 2026, the SIRT-NL investigator interviewed WO1. Following is a summary of the interview:

WO1 advised that he was off duty at the time of the incident and became aware of the matter after receiving information from on-duty RCMP members indicating that a female detainee had been injured while in custody and that paramedics had been requested. WO1 did not attend the detachment during the incident and had no direct involvement in the detention or the events leading to the injury. When WO1 attended the detachment the following morning, he was advised that officers had responded to calls involving intoxicated and disruptive individuals, that AP had been arrested after becoming obstructive and aggressive, and that she remained non-compliant while in custody. He was further informed that AP sustained a leg injury while officers were attempting to place her in a holding cell and that she had been transported to hospital by ambulance.

Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

On May 6, 2026, the SIRT-NL investigator interviewed WO2. Following is a summary of the interview:

WO2 advised that he was serving as an RCMP Risk Manager in the Provincial Telecommunications Centre and was on duty the evening of the incident. He stated that he was contacted by SO1 shortly after the incident and was advised that a female prisoner had assaulted an RCMP member and had sustained an injury while being restrained or handled in the holding cells, possibly involving a dislocated knee. WO2 was also informed that an ambulance had been requested to transport AP for medical treatment. WO2 advised that his involvement was limited to providing guidance regarding the continued supervision of AP while at hospital due to reports of violent and unruly behaviour. WO2 stated that he provided no further direction and believed the attending officers were taking appropriate steps to secure medical care for AP.

Subject Officers

The SOs declined to provide an interview and their notes related to the incident.

Body Worn Camera/ Cell Block Video and OCC Recordings

A review of the body-worn camera recordings, cell block video, and RCMP OCC recordings established that police initially attended a residence at the request of Emergency Medical Services in relation to an injured male and a disturbance at the scene. The recordings show the affected person being arrested and transported to the RCMP detachment, where she is observed crying, yelling, and repeatedly requesting to go to the hospital. Upon arrival at the detachment, she was escorted into the booking area, removed certain items of clothing and footwear, and was subsequently escorted toward a holding cell. The recordings show the affected person actively resisting officers' efforts to place her onto a mattress in the cell while officers maintained control of her arms. During this time, the affected person fell onto her right leg and sustained an injury. The recordings do not depict any officer kicking the affected person and do not show or capture any officer laughing following the injury. This evidence further shows that officers recognized the injury immediately, requested an ambulance through OCC within seconds of the incident, notified supervisory personnel, and remained with the affected person while awaiting medical assistance. Paramedics attended the detachment shortly thereafter, assessed the affected person, and subsequently transported her to hospital for further treatment.

Photos and Medical Records

During the investigation, SIRT-NL obtained and reviewed photographs provided by AP as well as relevant medical records from NL Health Services. The photographs depict bruising and swelling to the right knee, together with bruising to various other areas of the body, including the right shin, right foot, right bicep, left forearm, both legs, and the chest area. A later series of photographs also showed an abrasion behind the right knee.

Medical records confirm that AP was transported by ambulance to the Labrador Health Centre following the incident. This evidence confirms that AP sustained a serious knee injury requiring medical treatment and hospitalization.

Issue and Conclusion

On March 23, 2026, the Serious Incident Response Team of Newfoundland and Labrador received notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that a member of the public had sustained a leg injury while being detained by RCMP officers at the Happy Valley-Goose Bay detachment. This matter was investigated as a possible assault causing bodily harm contrary to section 267(b) of the **Criminal Code**.

In her statement to the SIRT-NL investigator, AP advised that she was intoxicated at the time of her interaction with police. She stated that she had consumed a significant amount of alcohol over several days and had also consumed cannabis. AP could not clearly recall why police initially attended the residence but believed it may have been related to a disturbance or a person refusing to leave the apartment. She stated that she was arrested and transported to the RCMP detachment.

AP recounted that, upon arrival at the detachment, she was searched and instructed to remove outer clothing. She reported being emotionally distressed, crying, and intermittently blacking out due to intoxication. AP stated that, while being placed into a holding cell, she resisted and held onto the cell door because she did not want to be placed in custody. AP alleges that one of the officers kicked her in the back of the leg causing her knee to dislocate. She stated that she heard and felt her knee “snap,” fell to the floor, and experienced significant pain. AP further alleges that an officer laughed at her after the injury occurred and that the police delayed calling an ambulance despite her request for medical assistance.

The objective evidence gathered during the investigation does not support AP’s account that an officer kicked her in the leg. Body-worn camera recordings and cell-area video show AP being escorted into the cell by officers and being directed toward a mattress. The recordings show that AP was intoxicated, highly agitated, yelling, and resisting officers’ efforts to place her on the mattress. As officers maintained control of AP’s arms and attempted to guide her down, AP fell onto her right leg. AP did not grab onto the cell door as she entered the cell and no officer can be observed kicking her in the leg.

Body-worn camera recordings also show that AP was agitated and yelling during the interaction. The recordings capture AP crying and yelling while being placed in the police vehicle, continuing to yell during transport, and remaining upset and non-compliant at the detachment. At the detachment, AP removed her jacket, sweater, and footwear, and one item of footwear struck an RCMP Officer. AP was then escorted toward the cell with her hands behind her back. The video evidence confirms that AP was resisting when officers were attempting to place her on the mattress in the cell.

OCC recordings and body-worn camera footage do not support AP's allegation that police delayed in obtaining medical assistance. The evidence indicates that the injury occurred at approximately 7:36 pm. At 7:36:22, SO1 left the cell and requested that OCC call an ambulance, advising, "She has a dislocated knee." OCC later advised that an ambulance would be attending, and an ambulance arrived at the detachment at approximately 7:46:26. This indicates that medical assistance was requested almost immediately once officers became aware of the injury.

The allegation that officers laughed at AP after she was injured is also not supported by the available investigative material. Body-worn camera recordings show that as soon as officers recognized that AP had sustained a significant injury, they requested medical assistance, contacted supervisory personnel, and remained with AP while waiting for paramedics. The investigative materials do not contain a witness statement, OCC recording, body-worn camera recording, or cell-area video that corroborates AP's allegation that officers laughed at her or treated the injury dismissively. In body-worn camera footage, one officer can be heard saying "oh my god her leg, her leg....I think your leg is broken".

Witness statements collected are consistent with objective recordings. W1 stated that AP arrived at the secure bay highly agitated, yelling, abusive, and being managed by several police officers. W1 did not directly witness the moment of injury because officers were positioned between her and AP. After officers shifted position, W1 observed AP on the cell floor between the mattress and toilet/sink area and noted that AP's foot appeared twisted in an unnatural position.

Witness officer statements are also consistent with body-worn camera and OCC recordings. WO1 was advised that AP had been obstructive and aggressive, had been arrested, remained non-compliant at the detachment, and assaulted an officer by kicking footwear into SO1's groin. WO1 was further advised that AP was injured while being escorted into a cell and taken to the ground, and that paramedics were called and transported her to hospital. WO2 was advised shortly after the incident that AP had assaulted an RCMP member and was injured while being restrained/handled in cells, possibly suffering a dislocated knee. He was also advised that an ambulance had been requested.

AP's medical records confirm that she sustained an anterior dislocation of the right knee. The records further note that AP presented to the Labrador Health Centre emergency department by ambulance following an incident while in RCMP custody and resisting arrest. The medical evidence confirms the existence and seriousness of the injury, but it does not establish that the injury was caused by an assault by the SOs.

Section 25(1) of the **Criminal Code** provides that a peace officer who is required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law is justified, if acting on reasonable grounds, in doing what he or she is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose. In this case, the available evidence establishes that AP was under arrest, intoxicated, highly agitated, and resisting officers while they were attempting to place her on a mattress in the holding cell. The force shown on recordings consists of officers maintaining control of AP and attempting to guide her down to the mattress. The available

evidence does not show a kick or use of force for any purpose unrelated to maintaining control of AP while placing her in the cell.

While AP appeared to genuinely believe that she had been kicked by an officer, concerns arise regarding the reliability of her recollection due to her admitted intoxication, cannabis consumption, and reported intermittent blackouts. Given the totality of the evidence, including: body-worn camera recordings, cell-area video, OCC recordings, witness statements, police notes, and medical records, I have not formed reasonable and probable grounds to believe that an assault causing bodily harm occurred. While AP sustained a knee injury, the available evidence supports the conclusion that the injury occurred while officers were attempting to place an intoxicated, highly agitated, and resistant detainee onto a mattress in the holding cell. The objective recordings and witness evidence do not support AP's allegations that she was kicked, that officers laughed at her, or that there was a delay in obtaining medical attention. In my opinion, the subject officers were acting within their lawful authority, and the force used was proportionate and authorized pursuant to section 25 of the **Criminal Code**.

SIRT-NL will now conclude this file.

Final Report prepared by:

Stephen Ring, Director

Serious Incident Response Team - Newfoundland and Labrador

August 24, 2026

File No. 2026-0012