

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2018-045

Referral from

RCMP – Southwest Nova District

December 17, 2018

Felix Cacchione
Director
March 19, 2019

Facts

On December 17, 2018 SiRT received a call from the RCMP – Southwest Nova District regarding an allegation of sexual assault by Cst. Yannick Frechette, a member of the RCMP – Meteghan detachment, on a female civilian, the Affected Party (“AP”) in the early hours of December 17 at a Christmas party. The complaint was initially reported by a Witness Officer (“WO”), another RCMP officer, who also attended the party and witnessed the alleged offence.

SiRT is mandated to investigate all allegations of sexual assault against a police officer under the provisions of the *Police Act*. As a result, an investigation commenced on that date and was completed on January 16, 2019.

Two SiRT investigators travelled to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on December 17 where they obtained audio statements from the WO and one civilian witness that day. On December 18 statements were obtained from the AP, three civilian witnesses and four RCMP officers.

Cst. Frechette was arrested on December 18 and his personal and work phones were seized and subsequently analyzed. Cst. Frechette provided a cautioned statement after consulting with legal counsel.

An Information charging Cst. Yannick Frechette with sexual assault and voyeurism was sworn on January 16, 2019. A summons requiring the SO to appear in court on February 9, 2019 was served on him on January 17, 2019.

Conclusion

This report is filed to meet the requirements of the *Police Act*, which mandates that the SiRT Director file a public summary of an investigation within three months of its completion. As this matter is currently before the courts and in accordance with SiRT policy, this report will not discuss the facts of the matter in any further detail. To do so might compromise the fair trial interests of the accused.

The Serious Incident Response Team Regulations made under the *Police Act* allow the director, should he/she choose, to provide a supplemental summary of the investigation at the conclusion of the prosecution.