

# SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT  
RESPONSE TEAM

## Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2012-010

Referral from Bridgewater Police Service and  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police regarding a  
Lunenburg District RCMP Officer

August 7, 2012

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC  
Director  
December 10, 2012

## **Facts**

On Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at approximately 5p.m., the Chief of the Bridgewater Police Service and the Staff Sergeant in charge of the Lunenburg District RCMP contacted the Nova Scotia Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT). They called to alert SiRT to several allegations of assault made by a female RCMP officer against her husband, also a member of the RCMP. Both were stationed within the Lunenburg District. The allegations relate to matters occurring within the Town of Bridgewater.

The investigation commenced immediately, and continued until September 26, 2012. Twenty-seven police officers and 16 civilians were interviewed during that time. The accused RCMP member was arrested on the evening of August 7 and appeared in Bridgewater Provincial Court on August 8. He was arraigned on three charges, all alleged to have occurred between December 1, 2010, and August 7, 2012. Charges included assault, contrary to section 266 of the Criminal Code; sexual Assault, contrary to section 271; and uttering threats, contrary to section 264.1.

The individual was released from custody on August 10 subject to several bail conditions, including no contact with the female complainant and to reside outside of Nova Scotia except when attending court.

On November 5, a new charge was added, alleging the careless use of a firearm, contrary to section 86(1) during the same time frame.

## **Relevant Legal Issues**

An assault is committed whenever a person intentionally applies force against another without their consent. A sexual assault is committed whenever a person commits an assault that is of a sexual nature and the sexual integrity of the victim is violated. A threat offence is committed if a person utters words, intended to be taken seriously, which threaten death or bodily harm. Careless use of a firearm is committed when a person handles a firearm in a careless manner. Each offence must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt before the accused can be found guilty.

## **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. However, this matter is currently before the courts, returning to Bridgewater Provincial Court on January 4, 2013 for election and plea. In accordance with SiRT policy, this report will not discuss the facts of the matter in any further detail. To do otherwise might compromise the fair trial interests of the accused. The SiRT Regulations under the *Police Act* state that the Director may provide a supplemental summary of the investigation at the conclusion of the prosecution.