



Supplemental Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2012-009

Referral from Bridgewater Police Service

August 1, 2012

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC

Director

April 2, 2013

This is a supplemental summary filed under subsection 9(5) of the Serious Incident Response Team Regulations made pursuant to the *Police Act*. In cases where SiRT lays charges, that section provides that the Director may file a supplemental summary at the conclusion of the prosecution, setting out reasons why the charge was laid. The original summary for this matter is dated November 5, 2012, and can be found at [sirt.novascotia.ca](http://sirt.novascotia.ca). Court proceedings in this matter concluded on March 21, 2013.

**Facts:**

On Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, SiRT was contacted by the Chief of the Bridgewater Police Service (BPS) to investigate a complaint of domestic violence involving one of their officers. Allegations were made against Constable Christine Marion Bonnell of Bridgewater, NS. Cst. Bonnell had been on leave from the force for the past four years. She has not returned to work since that date. The alleged victim in the matter was Joseph Wiley Ross.

The investigation resulted in SiRT receiving allegations from Mr. Ross in relation to two assaults alleged to have been committed against him by Cst. Bonnell between July 1, 2012, and July 22, 2012. These allegations and the SiRT investigation gave reasonable and probable grounds to lay two charges of assault contrary to section 266 of the *Criminal Code* against Constable Bonnell. In these cases there was no allegation of lasting bodily harm and therefore the charges were what many refer to as “common assault”. The first count was set for trial in Bridgewater Provincial Court on March 22, 2013, and the second on March 25, 2013.

**Conclusion:**

Court proceedings in this matter concluded on March 21, 2013. The prosecution of charges is the responsibility of the Public Prosecution Service of Nova Scotia, and Crown Attorneys exercise independent prosecutorial discretion whether to proceed with a prosecution. On that date, Ms. Bonnell agreed to enter into a peace bond under s. 810 of the *Criminal Code* for a period of 12 months which prohibits her from having any contact with Mr. Ross and from having possession of a firearm. Subsequently, no evidence was offered by the Crown on the charges which were dismissed by the court.