

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2025-0114

Referral from

Halifax Regional Police

December 17, 2025

Erin E. Nauss

Director

March 10, 2026

MANDATE OF THE SiRT

The Serious Incident Response Team (“SiRT”) has a mandate to investigate all matters that involve death, serious injury, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence or other matters determined to be of a public interest to be investigated that may have arisen from the actions of any police officer in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

At the conclusion of every investigation, the SiRT Director must determine if criminal charges should result from the actions of the police officer. If no charges are warranted the Director will issue a public summary of the investigation which outlines the reasons for that decision, which must include the information set out by regulation. Public summaries are drafted with the goal of adequate information to allow the public to understand the Director’s rationale and conclusions.

Mandate invoked: This investigation was authorized under Section 26I of *Police Act* in the public interest.

Timeline: SiRT commenced its investigation on December 17, 2025. The investigation concluded on February 12, 2026.

Terminology: This summary uses the following language in accordance with regulations made under the *Police Act* and to protect the privacy of those involved:

- **“Affected Party/AP”** means the person who died or was seriously injured in relation to a serious incident.
- **“Civilian Witness/CW”** means any non-police individual who is a witness to or has material information relating to a serious incident.
- **“Witness Officer/WO”** means any police officer who is a witness to or has material information relating to a serious incident.
- **“Subject Officer/SO”** means a police officer who is the subject of an investigation, or whose actions may have resulted in a serious incident.

Evidence: The decision summarized in this report is based on evidence collected and analyzed during the investigation, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Police Incident Reports
2. Subject Officer Statement, Notes, and Reports
3. Witness Officer Statements (3)
4. Affected Party Statement
5. Civilian Video Footage
6. CCTV Footage from police agency

INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

On October 6, 2025, SiRT received a public referral regarding an alleged theft by a Cape Breton Regional Police (CBRP) officer. Based on the information provided at the time, it was determined that the matter did not meet the SiRT mandate for an investigation in the public interest. Due to the nature of the complaint, the Director contacted CBRP. Based on its internal review, CBRP sent the file to Halifax Regional Police (HRP), who contacted SiRT with additional information on December 17, 2025. Based on this information, SiRT assumed the investigation in the public interest.

On September 30, 2025, CBRP officers executed a search warrant at a residence. One of the officers took a small sign from the residence and did not document it as part of items seized. The sign was eventually located in the officer's office. Video footage captured the officer taking the sign. The Subject Officer ("SO") was cooperative with the investigation and provided a statement to the SiRT investigator. The SO admitted to taking the sign and accepted responsibility for his actions. The sign was of minimal value but held sentimental value for the Affected Party.

LEGAL ISSUES & ANALYSIS

In this circumstance, this conduct would warrant a charge for theft under Section 334 of the *Criminal Code*. The Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program ("NSRJP") is an integrated program for adults and young persons in conflict with the law. NSRJP is authorized as a program of alternative measures to be used by police for adults under section 717 of the *Criminal Code*. The program focuses on a restorative approach to justice, rather than proceeding through the traditional court system.

In considering whether to refer this matter to the NSRJP, the following eligibility criteria have been met:

- the SO fully and freely consents to participate;
- the SO is represented by counsel;
- the SO accepts responsibility for the act that is the subject of this summary;
- there is, in the opinion of the Attorney General or the Attorney General's agent, sufficient evidence to proceed with the prosecution of the offence; and
- the prosecution of the offence is not in any way barred at law.

In assessing whether to make a referral to the NSRJP, I have considered the goals and objectives of restorative justice and have determined this is an appropriate mechanism to address the harms and impacts of this situation. In the event the SO fails or declines to participate, a criminal charge will be laid.

CONCLUSION

My review of the evidence indicates that the appropriate avenue to address this matter is through the NSRJP.