

# ASIRT DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF AN RCMP SHOOTING ON  
DECEMBER 12, 2024**

Acting Executive Director: Matthew Block

File No.: 2024-0064(N)

Date of Release: March 19, 2026

## Introduction

On December 12, 2024, pursuant to s. 46.1 of the *Police Act*, the Director of Law Enforcement directed the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to investigate a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) shooting of the affected person (AP) in Fort McMurray. One officer was designated as the subject officer (SO), with notice to her. ASIRT's investigation is now complete.

## ASIRT's Investigation

ASIRT's investigation was comprehensive and thorough, conducted using current investigative protocols, and in accordance with the principles of major case management.

ASIRT interviewed AP and he consented to the release of his medical records;

ASIRT investigators reviewed an interview conducted by the RCMP of civilian witness #1 (CW1), who called police to report a disturbance at a residence.

ASIRT investigators interviewed the following civilian witnesses:

Civilian witness #2 (CW2) – a person at the residence police were called to who observed certain aspects of the incident; and

Civilian witness #3 (CW3) – a person at the residence police were called to who observed certain aspects of the incident.

ASIRT investigators reviewed interviews conducted by the RCMP of the following civilian witnesses:

Civilian witness #4 (CW4) – a neighbour to the residence police were called to who heard and saw some aspects of the incident; and

Civilian witness #5 (CW5) – a neighbour to the residence police were called to who heard and saw some aspects of the incident.

ASIRT investigators interviewed the following witness police officers:

Witness officer #1 (WO1) – a patrol officer who responded with WO2, WO3 and the SO to a residence for a disturbance complaint;

Witness officer #2 (WO2) – a patrol officer who responded with WO1, WO3 and the SO to a residence for a disturbance complaint;

Witness officer #3 (WO3) – a patrol officer who responded with WO1, WO2 and the SO to a residence for a disturbance complaint; and

Witness officer #4 (WO4) – a supervisor who attended the scene following the shooting of AP.

ASIRT investigators interviewed the SO.

ASIRT investigators obtained external security camera video from CW4.

## Circumstances Surrounding the Incident

On December 12, 2024, CW1 called the RCMP to report a disturbance in the basement suite of her residence. She reported hearing crying and yelling coming from within the suite. Several RCMP officers attended the apparent domestic disturbance complaint. Officers knocked on the door to the suite and announced their presence for several minutes, but no one would answer the door. Finally, CW2 opened the door allowing the officers to enter to check on the welfare of those inside. Officers went inside and found CW3 and the AP. The AP was heard to say, "I'm going to fucking kill you" from one of the bedrooms. When the officers got to that bedroom, the AP had exited the room via a basement window that led to the backyard. The SO and WO3 ran out of the house to detain the AP. The two officers, with the SO in the lead, ran through a gate into the backyard. Upon entering the backyard, AP struck the SO in the head with a glass whiskey bottle. The SO responded to being struck in the head by discharging her firearm three times at the AP. The AP fell to the ground.

Officers provided first aid to the AP until EMS arrived and transported him to the hospital with gunshot wounds. He was treated there and survived. The SO was treated for the blow to her head and diagnosed with a concussion.

### *Affected Person (AP)*

The AP provided an audio and video-recorded statement to ASIRT investigators, which included the following information.

He had been visiting at a friend's residence, but that friend got arrested so he was left with CW2 and CW3. RCMP officers showed up to do a wellness check. He was "dope sick" [drug withdrawal] and as a result was making noise, yelling in pain.

He heard banging at the door but didn't know it was police. He didn't realize it was the police until they announced "RCMP" when they were coming downstairs. He did not see the RCMP until he was in the backyard.

He had gone out the bedroom window into the backyard. He tried to run away from police towards the back fence. He took two to three steps and was shot four times, once in the thumb and three in the chest. He stated he said, "Fuck you" to police when he ran.

When asked about the whiskey bottle in the backyard and the SO's injuries, he indicated that he may have taken the bottle outside with him, but he denied striking the SO with it.

### *Civilian Witness #1 (CW1)*

CW1 provided an audio-recorded statement to an RCMP officer who provided this statement to ASIRT investigators. CW1's statement included the following information.

She returned home around 4 p.m. on the date of the incident and noticed an unknown male walking around the side entrance of the basement rental unit. Approximately one hour after returning home, she heard very loud banging and a person yelling/crying hysterically.

She phoned the police in response to the disturbance; she was concerned because she knew there was more than one person in the house. She was startled by the screaming and crying and said this was the first time she felt the need to call the police despite the other disruptive occurrences.

Upon police arrival, she told them what she had seen and heard. The police banged on the door of the basement suite, and no one was answering. She heard the police identifying themselves as police and warning the occupants that they would break down the door. Someone eventually opened the door to the suite.

She does not know if it was the police or the occupants of the suite that fired a gun, but shortly after the police made contact with the occupants of the basement suite, she heard the sound of a gunshot.

### *Civilian Witness #2 (CW2)*

CW2 provided an audio and video-recorded statement to ASIRT investigators, which included the following information.

She was with her friend, CW3, who asked her to come with her to help clean up a friend's residence. They took the bus together to the friend's residence. When they arrived, she saw a male in the residence. While she knew him under a different name, it was confirmed that this male was AP.

AP was laying on the ground in the bedroom yelling and screaming and kept doing so for about 10 to 15 minutes. He was yelling that he needed drugs. She believed he was on drugs at that time, but she did not see any drugs.

She had been at the house for less than an hour when the RCMP showed up. She subsequently opened the door for the officers and was told to sit down outside. A number of officers entered the residence. Shortly after, two of these officers ran outside and towards the backyard. She could see the SO and WO3 in the backyard and they had their guns out and were pointing them in the backyard at the side of the house. She believed they were pointing them at the AP, but she could not see him from where she was. She heard the police say something like "freeze, get on the ground, put your hands on the ground," or something like that. She heard three to four gunshots which were very quick.

She heard the female officer in the backyard say, "Ow" like she was in pain. The female officer then came out of the backyard and then she heard her say, "Ow" again.

### *Civilian Witness #3 (CW3)*

CW3 provided an audio-recorded statement to ASIRT investigators, which included the following information.

She arrived at the residence of the incident to clean up the basement. Her boyfriend, the AP, was there and was sleeping on the floor suffering from drug withdrawal. He was moaning in a mid-to-loud voice.

There was a knock at the door, and it was the police. They knocked at the door for about 15 minutes, getting louder and louder and there were officers outside flashing their flashlights into the basement suite.

CW2 opened the door for the officers outside. Given her past dealings with the police, CW3 went inside a closet to hide, as she did not want to get arrested. From this location, she observed the AP trying to crawl out the basement window. She heard what she believed were five gunshots, then saw the police giving aid to the AP and heard he had a gunshot wound to the chest.

#### *Civilian Witness #4 (CW4)*

CW4 provided an audio-recorded statement to an RCMP officer who provided this statement to ASIRT investigators. CW4's statement included the following information.

She was upstairs in her house when she heard a noise. Her daughter said it sounded like a gunshot. She began looking outside through some windows and observed the SO. The officer was gesturing to her head and holding it, and she presumed the officer was telling her colleague that she had been struck in the head. She went and checked her security camera, and it appeared to show that something had happened to the female officer. She provided a copy of this video to investigators.

#### *Witness Officer #1 (WO1)*

An audio and video-recorded statement was obtained from WO1 by ASIRT investigators. His statement included the following information.

On the date in question, he was working in general duty, and a call was received for a disturbance in progress that was possibly domestic related. The reporter could hear crying from within the residence. He was the first on scene, arriving shortly afterwards were WO2, WO3 and SO. All of the officers present were wearing their full duty uniform. As he was walking up to the address, there was a lady in the front door who identified herself as the reporter [CW1]. CW1 said she heard a lot of banging and loud crying by a female coming from the basement suite.

He went to the door for the basement suite and knocked several times, announcing, "RCMP." He heard a muffled male voice coming from inside saying, "Go fuck yourself" and "Fuck off" several times. He repeated that it was the RCMP and told the male to open the door because they needed to come in. The male inside continued to tell him to, "Fuck off" and to go "Fuck himself."

Other officers present told him they could see through the back bottom window and could see people in the suite. He contacted his supervisor to get permission to breach the door to check on the welfare of the occupants. He received permission, but before doing so, he knocked again. Again, no one answered, so he tried to kick the door open but was unable to due to the angle and the icy terrain. CW2 then opened the door to the suite.

He and WO3 went into the suite and began clearing it. They announced RCMP several times as they made their way through the suite. He heard an officer behind him say, "He's going out the back window." He looked into the bedroom and saw the AP staring at him from outside the window. The AP had exited the window and was standing outside of it. He and the AP made eye contact. AP yelled and repeated several times, "Fuck off, I'm going to fuckin shoot you" in a threatening manner.

He couldn't see the AP's hands and because of the threats from the AP, he took cover behind a wall, losing his visual on the male. Within approximately five seconds he heard several shots. He heard activity on the radio and what he believed was, "Shots fired." He knew officers were still outside, so he ran outside to the backyard where he saw WO2 and WO3 with their guns drawn facing the back of the house. He joined them and saw a male with blood coming from him and blood on the ground and a visible gunshot wound to the chest area. With his flashlight he illuminated the male and then recognized him as the AP, having dealt with him on other occasions. By the time he had gotten to the backyard with WO2 and WO3, the SO was already gone.

WO2 and WO3 secured the AP while he went to his car to get a first aid kit and chest seal. While he was out by his car, he saw the SO pacing back and forth, crying. He asked if she was OK. He saw a big goose egg on the left side of her head. She told him, "He hit me" and "I shot him." He tried to calm the SO down. He saw her earlier in the day and she did not have the goose egg, so he assumed it came from the incident that had just happened. A supervisor arrived and took the SO away from the scene. He then left.

### *Witness Officer #2 (WO2)*

An audio and video-recorded statement was obtained from WO2 by ASIRT investigators. His statement included the following information.

He heard a call on the radio about a disturbance at a residence, with someone crying and maybe something smashing, so he also attended to offer assistance to WO1, WO3 and SO. The door to the basement suite was locked and the occupants were not answering, even though WO1 was saying, "This is the RCMP, open the door, this is the police." WO2 was speaking with CW1 who had called police. A female finally opened the door to the suite, and the other three officers present went inside. He heard someone say, "RCMP." He continued speaking with CW1 and then saw WO2 and the SO run outside and go to the backyard.

He could still see the SO in the backyard with her gun and flashlight out, yelling, "Show me your hands, show me your hands!" The SO was about 5 to 6 feet (about 1.5 to 1.8 metres) from WO2 who was still at the side door. The SO had gone through a gate into the backyard but had not gone around the corner, so he could still see her. He then saw something pass by the SO's head and she ducked and screamed, and he heard a gunshot. He believed someone had shot at the SO. He then heard two more gunshots, but he did not know if they were from the SO or WO2. The SO moved near the corner of the house, so he took a position where she was initially standing.

He pointed his gun toward the AP who was seated on the ground to the left of a basement window. The AP was screaming and leaning against the wall, and his right hand was bleeding. WO2 radioed, "Shots fired, shots fired!" and asked for more officers to attend and for EMS to also attend their location.

The AP also had a bleeding wound to the middle of the right side of his chest, and a bleeding exit wound on his back. WO2 assisted with putting pressure on the wounds, until another officer arrived and put a chest seal on the AP's wounds.

### *Witness Officer #3 (WO3)*

An audio and video-recorded statement was obtained from WO3 by ASIRT investigators. His statement included the following information.

He responded to a complaint of someone crying and calling for help in a basement suite. When he arrived, he observed WO1 knocking on the door to the suite to no avail. He looked in a basement window and observed two females and the AP inside. CW2 finally answered the door, and he went inside with WO1 and the SO.

He heard an RCMP officer say someone was going out through the window. He looked and saw the AP going through a basement bedroom window. The SO ran out of the suite and he followed her outside. The SO ran for the backyard and was the first through the gate. He followed the SO and turned to his right after entering to face the AP. When he came around the corner and observed the AP, he heard a "bang." He believed the observation and gunshot to be simultaneous. He only heard one gunshot. The SO went out of his sight but WO2 came into the backyard area, and he asked WO2 to keep lethal overwatch so he could go handcuff the AP and start first aid. Once in handcuffs, he noticed a gunshot wound to the AP's upper chest. He patted the AP down trying to determine if there were any other injuries. He did not find any and applied a chest seal to the AP. EMS arrived and he assisted them with putting the AP in the ambulance.

### *Subject Officer (SO)*

Subject officers, like all individuals under criminal investigation, are entitled to the constitutional right to remain silent. They are not obligated to participate in an ASIRT interview or to provide any information. In this case, however, the subject officer decided to participate in an audio and video-recorded interview.

Her statement included the following information.

She responded to the disturbance call where WO1 and WO3 were also at. When she arrived, WO1 told her a male had come to the door, told them to "fuck themselves" and closed the door. She and WO3 checked the basement windows and observed a male sitting on a bed. They went back to the entrance door to the basement suite. Finally, a lady opened the door for them. The three officers went into the suite to clear it.

In the basement suite WO1 went in one bedroom and she heard a voice say, "I'm going to fucking kill you" coming from the other room. She looked in that bedroom and the AP was exiting out of the window. She told WO3 that the male was in the backyard trying to run away from them.

She and WO3 ran out of the suite to go after AP. As soon as she opened the gate to the backyard she was struck with a solid object on the left side of her head. She fired one round from her service pistol at the AP. She told the AP to stop. After she fired, he backed up but then began moving forward. He had his arm raised like he was holding something and then he started to come towards her, and she believed he was going to strike her again, so she shot him once more. She thought AP was going to kill her which was why she shot him.

As a result of being hit in the head she subsequently went to the hospital where her head was examined. She had a large bump on the left side of her forehead and was diagnosed with a concussion. Over time, bruising appeared around her left eye.

## Video Evidence

CW4's residence was equipped with an external security camera. The video has no audio associated with it.

The camera was mounted on the south side of the residence facing east toward the doorway, backyard and gate of the residence where the AP had been inside before exiting the window into the backyard. The relevant portion of the video shows the SO and WO3 running out of the basement suite towards the backyard gate and entering through it. The yellow stripe on the SO's RCMP issued uniform pants is one of the few discernable details in the poor lighting of the area. One can also see the SO appearing to crouch down. She emerges from the backyard holding her head and appearing to be in pain. Approximately seven seconds elapse from the time the SO first enters the backyard to when she emerged holding her head.

There is no clear picture of the shooting due to poor lighting, the fence, gate, and hot exhaust vapor from CW4's furnace drifting across the camera view.

## Scene

The scene was processed by the RCMP's Forensic Identification Services with an ASIRT scene investigator present. A search of the backyard where the shooting occurred located the following:

- A partially filled whiskey bottle (**Error! Reference source not found.**); and
- 3 expended 9mm casings.



*Figure 1 - Bottle AP used to hit the SO in the head*

The whiskey bottle was subsequently sent for DNA analysis, and DNA from both the AP and the SO was found on it.

## Related Court Proceedings

On March 17, 2025, the AP pled guilty to assaulting the SO. The facts that were read into the record were as follows:

“At approximately 5:30 p.m. on December 12, 2024, Wood Buffalo RCMP members were dispatched to a call of a disturbance at a basement apartment situated at [address] in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The caller reported hearing crying in the apartment and was concerned that someone was hurt.

RCMP members, including [name of SO] attended. When they announced themselves at the door to the apartment, they heard a male voice yell, Go fuck yourself, from inside. RCMP members attempted to enter the apartment by force to check on the safety of those inside, but the door was eventually opened by a female occupant. RCMP entered the apartment, announcing themselves as police. While clearing the bedrooms, RCMP heard “I’m going to fucking shoot you” from one of the bedrooms. They then saw a male later identified as the accused exit the apartment by a bedroom window.

[Name of SO] and another member left the apartment from the door they had entered and went to the backyard to find the accused. They both had their sidearm drawn. [Name of SO] was in the lead and as soon as she stepped into the backyard, the accused hit her on the head with an unknown object. She described what happened as follows: (as read out)

I pushed the fence door open and as soon as I stepped in the backyard, I got hit really hard on the left side of my head near my temple with something that was hard. I couldn’t see what it was that hit me because it was too dark in the backyard. I was scared that the subject was going to kill me like he had threatened. I shot him one time. The male backed up for a second and I told him to stop. The male came to take another swing at me with the same object. I shot him again as he went down.

Other responding RCMP members provided first aid to [name of the AP] until paramedics arrived. [Name of the AP] was transported to the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre for treatment.

[Name of SO] was checked on by EMS for injury – an injury to the side of her head and later attended the Northern Lights Regional Hospital for follow-up care. After being struck on the head, she reported almost losing consciousness. Her jaw was stuck and in pain and she couldn’t hear from her left ear and had a big lump on her head where she was struck.”

The SO filed a victim impact statement with the court, which was entered into the proceedings, and included the following:

“On that evening, I was hit in the head with a bottle while performing my duty in the community that I serve. I was struck on the left side of my head. I went to the hospital that night and the doctor told me that if I had been hit slightly lower, I would be dead. The doctor diagnosed me with a concussion, a hematoma on my head, and a nondisplaced fracture of the jaw.”

## Analysis

### Facts

Several RCMP officers attended a residence on a report of someone crying and yelling coming from within the basement suite. It was believed they were attending an apparent domestic disturbance complaint. Officers eventually were provided entry into the suite. Once inside, the AP was heard threatening the officers with harm or death. He was observed to be exiting the bedroom he was in via a

window into the backyard. As confirmed by CW4's security video the SO and WO3 ran out of the suite into the backyard. The video shows the SO exiting the backyard shortly after entering it holding her head. The scene examination located a whiskey bottle that was used by the AP to hit the SO in the head. The shell casings confirm that three shots were discharged during this incident.

### *Section 25 Generally*

Under s. 25 of the *Criminal Code*, police officers are permitted to use as much force as is necessary for the execution of their duties. Where this force is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection. The force used here, discharging a firearm repeatedly at a person, was clearly intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. The subject officer therefore must have believed on reasonable grounds that the force she used was necessary for her self-preservation or the preservation of another person under her protection. Another person can include other police officers. For the defence provided by s. 25 to apply to the actions of an officer, the officer must be required or authorized by law to perform the action in the administration or enforcement of the law, must have acted on reasonable grounds in performing the action, and must not have used unnecessary force.

All uses of force by police must also be proportionate, necessary, and reasonable.

Proportionality requires balancing a use of force with the action or threat to which it responds. This is codified in the requirement under s. 25(3), which states that where a force is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection. An action that represents a risk to preservation of life is a serious one, and only in such circumstances can uses of force that are likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm be employed.

Necessity requires that there are not reasonable alternatives to the use of force that also accomplish the same goal, which in this situation is the preservation of the life of the officer or of another person under their protection. These alternatives can include no action at all. An analysis of police actions must recognize the dynamic situations in which officers often find themselves, and such analysis should not expect police officers to weigh alternatives in real time in the same way they can later be scrutinized in a stress-free environment.

Reasonableness looks at the use of force and the situation from an objective viewpoint. Police actions are not to be judged on a standard of perfection, but on a standard of reasonableness.

### *Section 25 Applied*

The subject officer was on duty and had responded to a disturbance call. The SO was one of several officers that attended the location of the reported disturbance, which was possibly domestic related. The officers were therefore lawfully placed when they ultimately made entry into the residence to check on the welfare of those within the suite. Once inside, the AP threatened to kill or shoot the officers. Regardless of which phrase he said, the result was the same: he presented as a possible lethal threat. When the AP fled out the window, he was already arrestable for uttering threats. The pursuit of him by the SO and WO3 was reasonable.

When the SO entered the backyard and was struck in the head with something hard it was reasonable for her to conclude that the AP was a threat to her life. A blow to the head with a solid object is

certainly capable of causing serious injury or death. The SO responded to this threat by shooting the AP. After the first shot, the AP still possessed the bottle and appeared to the SO that he was about to swing it at her again. She once again fired at the AP. Her actions were proportionate to the lethal threat the AP posed to her.

As previously noted, the AP struck the SO in the head almost immediately upon entering the backyard. She had no time to reflect on the situation. It was necessary for her to respond as she did.

The SO acted reasonably in her encounter with the AP and in her use of force. It was clear from the evidence that the AP initiated an assault on the SO using the bottle as a weapon and she only shot the AP in response to this unprovoked attack which threatened her life.

Given the above, the defence available to the subject officer under s. 25 of the *Criminal Code* is likely to apply.

## Conclusion

Under s. 25 of the *Criminal Code* a police officer is justified in doing what he or she is authorized to do and to use as much force as is reasonably necessary where he or she has reasonable grounds to do so. Force intended to cause death or grievous bodily harm is justified if the officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that the force was necessary to prevent the death or grievous bodily harm of the officer or any other person.

After a thorough, independent and objective investigation into the conduct of the subject officer, it is my opinion that the SO was lawfully placed and acting properly in the execution of her duties. There is no evidence to support any belief that she engaged in any unlawful or unreasonable conduct that would give rise to an offence.

**Original Signed**

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Matthew Block  
Acting Executive Director

**March 19, 2026**

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Date of Release