

Statement from Erin Nauss, Director, Serious Incident Response Team, April 10, 2026

Information about Indige-Watch was included in the report to provide context. I reviewed the records and I summarized the discussions the SiRT investigator had with Indige-Watch directors in the final report. I certainly do not dispute anything the Indige-Watch directors wish to clarify about their organization and am truly sorry to have made anyone feel as though their words were not captured correctly.

It would not be appropriate to speculate how a different set of circumstances would impact the legal analysis of the officer's actions and the decision on criminality. In the present case, although I felt it important to reference Indige-Watch, this did not impact the analysis of whether criminal charges should be laid.

SiRT's investigative team is presently made up of former and seconded police officers. A current or former police officer cannot be the Director of SiRT, and as Director, all decisions whether a file meets the SiRT mandate, or whether charges should be laid, rests with me.

We are committed to the principle of police accountability through highly professional and independent investigations. In recent files in Indigenous communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, we have engaged community liaisons with the goal of keeping family and community members informed, and to provide cultural, historical and community background to assist SiRT in interacting with and understanding families and communities while conducting the investigation. In each of these files SiRT has met with Chief and Councils and the impacted family members. Community liaisons receive ongoing updates throughout each investigation.

SiRT also recognizes the importance of diversity and representation and have been advocating for the expansion of our team in this regard. The New Brunswick budget recently included funds for Indigenous representation for SiRT, and we will be working diligently to develop and fill this position.