



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN  
WHILE BEING APPREHENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
ABBOTSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT IN  
ABBOTSFORD, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ON DECEMBER 26, 2024**

**DECISION OF THE CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR  
OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**

Chief Civilian Director: Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number: 2024-297

Date of Release: April 15, 2026

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

On December 26, 2024, Abbotsford police arrested the Affected Person (“AP”) for an alleged assault. In the course of the arrest, the AP suffered an injury to his leg. The Independent Investigations Office (“IIO”) was notified and commenced an investigation.

The narrative that follows is based on evidence collected and analyzed during the investigation, including the following:

- statements of the AP, two civilian witnesses and seven witness police officers;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- scene examination and photographs;
- audio recordings of police radio transmissions;
- video recordings from police cells and the lobby and elevator of an apartment building; and
- medical evidence.

The IIO does not require officers whose actions are the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, the three subject officers have declined to give any account.

## **NARRATIVE**

### **Affected Person**

Interviewed by IIO investigators, the AP said that on the evening of December 26, 2024, he had been out drinking and ordered an Uber to go home. He said he could not recall anything from getting into the Uber to arriving at his apartment building where, he said, he had cut his hand on the doorbell camera. He said he remembered opening the door to the stairs and falling face down on the carpet. He said there was pressure on his back so that he was unable to breathe, but recalled screaming, “My leg, my leg!” He said he assumed that it was the police who were on his back, and said he was also being punched and kicked.

The AP said he woke up in a cell, “hog-tied” on his stomach. He said he had carpet burns on his face and pain in his right leg and testicles. He said he recalled people entering the

cell and punching him. Then, he said, he was taken to the hospital and strapped down. He said that he was punched again before being released the next night from cells.

The AP's medical records indicate that he was admitted to Abbotsford Regional Hospital in the early morning hours of December 27, 2024, complaining of a knee injury. Police were recorded as having told medical staff that the AP had been verbally and physically aggressive with police investigating a "domestic" complaint, and had fallen down a flight of stairs holding a bottle and cutting his hand when the bottle broke.

The records noted an injury to the AP's right hand and bleeding from his mouth. He was also found to have suffered a tibial fracture. The AP was discharged in the custody of the police, to return subsequently for corrective surgery to his knee.

## **Police Evidence**

The incident that led to the AP's injury was initiated by a 911 call from an Uber driver. The driver reported that there had been a "domestic" incident in his cab involving a man (the AP) who was drunk and yelling at a woman, with a child present. Police also received a call, shortly after this, asking officers to go to an apartment to "make sure [the AP's] not in there." Responding officers were told that the AP had committed an assault by pulling his girlfriend's hair.

Subject Officer 1 ("SO1") and Subject Officer 2 ("SO2"), in the company of Witness Officer 1 ("WO1") went to the apartment building and were let inside. They went to a suite where the victim of the alleged assault was located. Subject Officer 3 ("SO3") also arrived, and went to the stairwell leading up to the apartment where the AP was believed to be. WO1 took a statement from the assault complainant, and then heard a radio call saying that the AP had "taken off" from other officers.

Witness Officer 2 ("WO2") told the IIO she was arriving at the building when she heard an officer she believed to be SO1 calling on the radio for cover. WO2 said she located SO1 and SO2 with the AP on a landing in the stairwell. The AP was lying face-down in handcuffs, yelling, and the officers were standing beside him. WO2 said SO2 told her the AP had bitten him on the ankle. She said she heard from one of the officers that the AP had fled from them and had fallen down the stairs. WO2 recalled the AP being picked up by four officers and taken to the elevator while she took the stairs down.

Witness Officer 3 ("WO3") also came up to the landing where the AP had been apprehended. WO3 went with the AP and other officers into the elevator, and the AP was carried out to WO3's police vehicle. WO3 said she provided first aid to the AP's cut hand, and went with him to the hospital. WO3 told the IIO that at the hospital, the AP was placed in a restraint, but grabbed her hand, so she punched him in the face, causing his lip to bleed. She said that he then bit a nurse on her finger, so WO3 struck him again.

Witness Officer 4 (“WO4”) told IIO investigators that when she responded to the initial call, she went up the stairs in the apartment building to the location where she understood the AP had been taken into custody. She said she found the AP on the floor in handcuffs, screaming and thrashing around. She recalled SO2, SO3 and WO2 being present, and said she believed SO1 may also have been there. WO4 said that the AP would not walk, so was carried to the elevator and then out to a police vehicle.

Witness Officer 5 (“WO5”) said he witnessed several other officers controlling the AP on the floor and placing him in handcuffs. WO5 said that the AP complained that he could not walk because his knee was injured, so he was dragged by officers to the elevator.

Witness Officer 6 (“WO6”) gave a similar account of the AP’s arrest and transport out to a police car. WO6 said he escorted the AP to the hospital and was tasked with holding the AP down as the AP tried to bite him. WO6 recalled the AP biting a nurse and being struck in the face by WO3.

Radio traffic from the time period during which the AP’s injury evidently occurred includes a call from an officer saying, “We got him in custody. He just ran from us,” and another with shouting in the background has an officer saying, “Can I get some more members to this stairwell? Getting ridiculous.” A few minutes later, an officer is recorded saying, “Just an update: he’s biting members’ legs.”

Video recordings from the cells area, including inside the cell where the AP was held, show that at no time did anyone enter the cell and punch him.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia is mandated to investigate any incident that occurs in the province in which an Affected Person has died or suffered serious physical harm and there appears to be a connection to the actions (or sometimes inaction) of police. The aim is to provide assurance to the public that when the investigation is complete, they can trust the IIO’s conclusions, because the investigation was conducted by an independent, unbiased, civilian-led agency.

In most cases, those conclusions are presented in a public report such as this one, which completes the IIO’s mandate by explaining to the public what happened in the incident and how the Affected Person came to suffer harm. Such reports are generally intended to enhance public confidence in the police and in the justice system as a whole through a transparent and impartial evaluation of the incident and the police role in it.

In a smaller number of cases, the evidence gathered may give the Chief Civilian Director (“CCD”) reasonable grounds to believe that an officer has committed an offence in

connection with the incident. In such a case, the *Police Act* gives the CCD authority to refer the file to Crown counsel for consideration of charges.

In a case such as this one, involving the use of force by officers, the IIO investigators collect evidence with respect to potential justifications for that use of force. The CCD then analyzes this evidence using legal tests such as necessity, proportionality and reasonableness to reach conclusions as to whether officers' actions were lawful, or whether an officer may have committed the offence of assault.

The officers who were present when the injury to the AP's knee occurred did not share their accounts of the incident with investigators and the AP's account does not materially assist. Based on the evidence as a whole, including the radio traffic, the most likely cause of the injury appears to be flight from police and a fall down the stairs.

The attending officers were responding to a report of an assault, and were acting in the lawful execution of their duty in arresting the AP and in using reasonably necessary force to accomplish that.

While there is evidence that the AP was struck in the face by a witness officer while at the hospital, there is evidence that the AP was biting both officers and nursing staff, and the blows were a reasonable response to that behaviour, aimed at defending against it and/or preventing repetition. There is no reliable evidence that any inappropriate force was used against the AP while in police cells.

Accordingly, as Chief Civilian Director of the IIO, I do not consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an officer may have committed an offence under any enactment and the matter will not be referred to Crown counsel for consideration of charges.



---

Jessica Berglund  
Chief Civilian Director

April 15, 2026  
Date of Release