



**IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF A MAN
WHILE BEING APPREHENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE
RCMP IN
PRINCE RUPERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON DECEMBER 19, 2025**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2025-289

Date of Release:

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INTRODUCTION

On the afternoon of December 19, 2025, a 911 caller asked police to attend a residence in Prince Rupert after the caller had been attacked by their roommate. RCMP officers arrived and encountered the Affected Person (“AP”) in the residence. There was an interaction between officers and the AP. An officer used a Conducted Energy Weapon (“CEW” or Taser) and the AP later died.

Because the death occurred in connection with the actions of police officers, the Independent Investigations Office (“IIO”) of B.C. was notified and commenced an investigation. The narrative that follows is based on evidence collected and analyzed during the investigation, including the following:

- statements from two civilian witnesses and four witness police officers;
- statements from two first responders;
- evidence from the scene;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of 911 calls and police radio transmissions;
- BC Emergency Health Services (“EHS”) records;
- RCMP policies and training records;
- CEW examination and reports;
- photographs of the scene; and
- autopsy and toxicology reports;
- expert witness evidence.

The IIO does not compel officers who are the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, the Subject Officer (“SO”) did not provide any evidence to the IIO.

NARRATIVE

On December 19, 2025, at 2:24 p.m., Civilian Witness 1 ("CW1") called 911 and informed the call taker that he had been assaulted by his roommate (the Affected Person or "AP"). CW1 was a tenant in a residence where individual bedrooms were rented out to separate occupants. CW1 and the AP were the only two people present at the residence at the time. CW1 said that the AP had grabbed and pushed him and "was going crazy on him." CW1 told the 911 call taker that he did not know the AP well, and that he was scared and hiding in his room.

The RCMP dispatcher advised officers over the radio that there was a disturbance at the residence and one of the occupants was "randomly attacked." Upon arrival, Witness Officer 1 ("WO1") called CW1 on his cell phone. CW1 told WO1 that he was still at the residence and had locked himself inside his room. CW1 said that he had seen the AP in the communal hallway holding a weapon and that he was scared to come out of his room.

WO1 and Witness Officer 2 ("WO2") walked into the residence and safely escorted CW1 out of his room and took him outside to discuss what had happened. CW1 told officers that he was inside his room when he noticed his towel was missing from where he had placed it under his door. CW1 used the towel to prevent light coming into his room. CW1 opened his door and was confronted by the AP, who pushed CW1 back into his room. CW1 said that he did not know why this had happened.

CW1 told officers that he opened his door a second time and saw the AP was holding a weapon in his hand which CW1 described as an unknown object with some sort of rope attached. CW1 said that the AP was agitated, and he did not feel safe around the AP. CW1 wanted time to gather his belongings so CW1 could leave the residence and not deal with the AP.

WO1, WO2 and the Subject Officer ("SO") re-entered the residence. They knocked on the AP's door and requested that the AP open it. The AP came out of the room and joined the officers in the hallway near a staircase. The AP was described as a large-built male, approximately 5'8" in height and weighing around 220 pounds. WO1 described the AP as "dazed and distracted."

WO1 asked the AP what was going on and the AP picked up a D-cell battery from a nearby shelf and replied "there's bombs in here." WO1 instructed the AP to put the battery down and the AP complied. The AP then said to WO1: "I want to push your button" and advanced towards WO1 with an outstretched hand.

WO1 gave a command to the AP to get back but the AP kept advancing towards the officers. WO1 and WO2 took hold of the AP and advised him he was under arrest. The

officers were unable to immediately get the AP into handcuffs. WO2 described the AP as having “extraordinary strength.” All three officers fell to the floor in the hallway and a physical struggle ensued between the three officers and the AP in the attempt to put the AP into handcuffs.

The efforts to get the AP into handcuffs were not working and the SO told the AP to stop fighting, or he would be tased. The SO deployed their CEW three times, which did not result in a change in the AP’s behavior. WO1 said that he continued to fight the officers.

The CEW was later analyzed by an expert for the IIO. The results showed that the first two deployments of the CEW resulted in a low output of energy. The third CEW pull only resulted in a brief one second connection with the AP. The expert confirmed that the CEW was functioning in accordance with manufacturers’ specifications. It is not clear why the connection was not perfected.

The officers continued to struggle with the AP as they attempted to get his hands behind his back to put on handcuffs. Once the officers had the handcuffs on, the AP stopped resisting and became unresponsive. The SO called over the radio:

“Prince, bravo 50. EHS to our location code 3. Male excited delirium. Taser deployed three times”

The officers then commenced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the AP. More first responders and paramedics arrived and took over life saving measures. The AP was transported to hospital, and was pronounced deceased at 3:59 p.m.

According to the autopsy report, the death was described as a result of “the combined effects of cocaine use, cardiomegaly, psychological stress, and the use of a conducted energy weapon (CEW).” According to the pathologist, the AP’s “enlarged heart combined with psychological stress, cocaine use and exposure to CEW discharges created a perfect storm which led to cardiovascular collapse and his sudden and unexpected death.”

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 many cases, those conclusions are presented in a public report such as this one, which fulfills 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 may have committed an offence in connection with the incident. In such cases, the *Police Act* gives the CCD authority to refer the file to the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges.

The issue to be considered in this case is whether an officer may have used unauthorized, unnecessary or excessive force in their dealings with the AP.

In these circumstances, the officers were acting lawfully in the execution of their duties when they attempted to arrest the AP. They had received information from CW1 that the AP had assaulted him and he was scared, and it was important for the officers to take action to prevent any violent reoccurrence. Both CW1 and officers said that the AP was acting strangely.

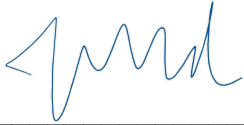
The circumstances escalated as the officers began to approach the AP and he extended an arm towards WO1. Despite officer commands, the AP did not comply. The officers needed to get the AP into handcuffs to restrain him as part of the arrest procedure and for safety reasons, but the AP resisted those efforts.

Using the CEW in this instance was reasonable as the AP became more resistant. The AP had allegedly just randomly assaulted his roommate, was acting strangely, had approached an officer aggressively and was fighting officer attempts to handcuff him. The CEW deployment in this case was in accordance with the British Columbia Policing Standards, which permit officers to deploy a CEW when a person is causing bodily harm to themselves or others, or when officers are satisfied that their behaviour will imminently cause bodily harm.

An officer is allowed to use force, provided that they are acting in the lawful execution of their duties and the amount of force used by an officer is necessary. The law requires that the use of force not be excessive, and the use of force is constrained by the principles of proportionality, necessity and reasonableness. In this case, after many attempts to get the AP into handcuffs using physical force, it was necessary and appropriate for officers to use a CEW to get AP to comply and into custody.

Once officers became aware that the AP was losing consciousness, they administered first aid in attempts to save the AP. Tragically, despite all attempts to save his life, the AP died.

Accordingly, as the 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 therefore the matter will not be referred to the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges.



Jessica Berglund
Chief Civilian Director

September 23, 2026

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