



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN  
IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE RCMP  
IN PORT ALBERNI, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ON DECEMBER 20, 2025**

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

Chief Civilian Director: Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number: 2025-290

Date of Release: May 21, 2026

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On the afternoon of December 20, 2025, the Subject Officer (“SO”) was investigating a harassment complaint in the Port Alberni area. While conducting neighbourhood inquiries, the SO was knocking at the door of a rental cabin on shared rural property when the Affected Person (“AP”) came out of the cabin in an aggressive and assaultive manner, pushing the SO away. The AP’s dog also repeatedly bit the SO. The SO grabbed the AP and pulled him out through a gate in an enclosing fence, closing the gate on the dog. During this interaction, the AP sustained a fractured and dislocated shoulder.

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:

- notification from the RCMP of the incident;
- statements of the AP and one witness police officer;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of police radio transmissions;
- scene examination and photographs;
- photographs of an injury to the SO and of damage to his uniform; and
- medical evidence.

The IIO does not require an officer whose actions are the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, the SO did not give a statement to IIO investigators.

## **NARRATIVE**

At about 3:40 p.m. on December 20, 2025, the Subject Officer (“SO”) was working in full police uniform and driving a marked police vehicle. He was engaged in an unrelated investigation that took him to a collection of small rental cabins on rural property outside Port Alberni.

After speaking with a resident at one cabin, the SO moved on to a second, which he found unoccupied, and then to a third. He opened the gate and proceeded down a short walkway to the cabin door.

The notification information provided by the RCMP explained that once the SO knocked on the door, the AP immediately ran out and pushed the SO in the chest while saying “get the f\*ck off of my property.” The AP’s dog then bit the SO’s right thigh. The SO continued to back up and attempted to speak to the AP, while the AP kept advancing. The AP struck the SO in the chest again while his dog bit the SO’s left wrist. The SO grabbed the AP’s arm and pulled him through the gate to keep himself safe from the dog, arresting the AP for assault of a police officer. The AP complained about his shoulder which appeared dislocated. Emergency Health Services were called to attend to the AP.

Witness Officer 1 (“WO1”) was the acting Watch Commander at the time and had been monitoring the radio. WO1 heard the request for an ambulance and asked the SO over the air what he was working on. The SO replied:

*I’m working on a harassment complaint and the homeowner of the door knock I did, dog just bit my leg and then the ah homeowner pushed me in the chest. He yanked his arm and I think his shoulder is out.*

WO1 asked if the SO required EHS for his dog bite. The SO’s radio response was:

*Nope, my RCMP notebook saved my thigh but, ah, he’ll probably need EHS to fix his shoulder.*

At approximately 3:53 p.m., WO1 arrived on scene. He later told the IIO that he observed the AP sitting on the ground next to the fence with his knees buckled beneath him. The AP’s right shoulder was angled downward and his head was down. WO1 said that the AP appeared to be in a significant amount of pain.

WO1 told the IIO that the AP looked “skinny and frail.” He said he asked the SO what had happened. He said the SO told him he had been backing up the entire time. WO1 said he asked the SO whether he had pulled the AP to the ground, and the SO responded that he had not. WO1 said the SO stated he simply pulled the AP straight through the gate and he crumpled to the ground.

WO1 said he went to the AP and introduced himself. He said the AP mentioned something about his shoulder and then spontaneously uttered, “I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have done that. That was stupid of me.”

WO1 advised the AP he would worry about his medical concerns first and offered to move him to a police car to stay warm until EHS arrived. The two officers attempted to move the AP to WO1's police car but he was in too much pain to be moved. As it was raining, WO1 retrieved an emergency blanket and placed it over the AP.

WO1 said he then briefly left the scene to drive down the road where there was a stronger cellular signal so he could notify his supervisor of the incident. The SO remained on scene with the AP. WO1 said that when he returned a few minutes later, paramedics were loading the AP into an ambulance. WO1 said he intended to secure the AP's residence, but the dog was still in the backyard, so WO1 decided not to enter the yard.

WO1 obtained photographs of the bite marks on the SO's uniform pants as well as the puncture injury to his left wrist. Those photographs were provided to the IIO. They show small tears and abrasions on the pants near the right leg cargo pocket, and a pair of puncture marks on the inside of the officer's wrist.

On January 5, 2026, IIO investigators interviewed the AP. Asked about the incident in which he had been injured, he explained that he had been in his residence sleeping and woke up when his dog started barking. He said he did not hear the knock at the door as he has hearing problems. He said he assumed it was his landlord coming over for coffee, as he generally does not have other visitors.

The AP said he let his dog out and was surprised to see the police officer standing there. He acknowledged that he knew the SO was a police officer because he was wearing a uniform. He said he exited his residence in his sock feet, told the police officer to get out of the yard and pushed him back. The AP said that after he pushed the police officer back, the gate closed on his (the AP's) foot. He described the officer grabbing his right arm and throwing him to the ground, then pulling his foot free.

The AP stated his intent had been to push the police officer back so the dog would not hurt him. He said he was more scared for the police officer than for himself. He said he put his hands on the police officer's vest to get them both outside the gate because he knew the dog would be "coming around again." He admitted he went about it "all wrong." The AP said he did not blame the SO for his injury because he had put his hands on the officer first.

The AP had been diagnosed with a dislocated and broken shoulder. At the time of his IIO interview, he was awaiting surgery and expected to have a plate inserted in the injured shoulder.

## 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 goal 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.

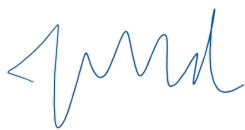
In a smaller number of cases, the evidence gathered may give the Chief Civilian Director ("CCD") reasonable grounds to believe that an officer has committed an offence in connection with the incident. In such a case, the *Police Act* gives the CCD authority to refer the file to the BC Prosecution Service ("BCPS") for consideration of charges.

In a case such as this one, involving the use of force by an officer, 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 the officer's actions were lawful, or whether the officer may have committed the offence of assault.

The SO was acting in the lawful execution of his duty in making inquiries about another, unrelated matter, and within the implied licence for an officer to approach the front door of a residence to pursue such inquiries.

As to what followed, the accounts of both the AP and the SO are largely consistent and supported by the physical evidence. The AP, evidently, was surprised by the officer's appearance and wanted to remove him quickly from the danger represented by the dog. From the SO's perspective, however, he was being subjected to an assault by both the animal and its owner and needed to put a gate and fence between the two. While the injury the AP suffered during the brief physical interaction that resulted was unfortunate, it was not caused by any act on the officer's part that was excessive, unreasonable or unjustified.

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 the BCPS for consideration of charges.



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Jessica Berglund  
Chief Civilian Director

May 21, 2026  
Date of Release