

Serious Incident Response Team

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

NOVEMBER 5, 2025



www.sirtnsnb.ca

SIRT | SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Independent Police Oversight

CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT

Public complaints about criminal misconduct by a municipal police officers

Municipal & RCMP agency concerns about potential criminal misconduct by an officer

Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT)

MISCONDUCT

Public complaints – misconduct by a municipal police officers

Public complaints – misconduct by a RCMP police officers

Police Complain Commission (PCC)

The Civilian Review and Complain Commission for the RCMP (CRCC)

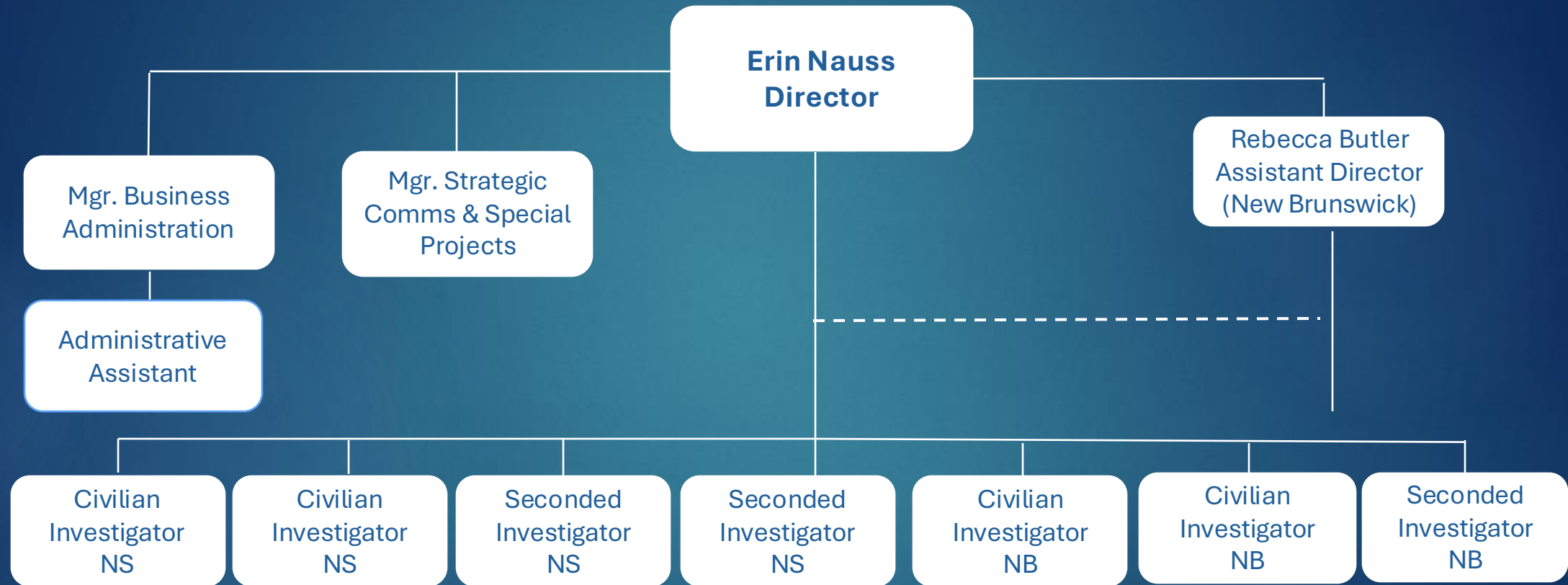
About SiRT

The Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT) is a civilian led police oversight agency that is responsible for conducting investigations into incidents that involve death, serious injury, sexual assault, intimate partner violence or any matter of public interest to be investigated that may have resulted from the actions of a police officer in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick

- ▶ On or off duty conduct
- ▶ Municipal police and RCMP

- ▶ 2012: SiRT was established in Nova Scotia
- ▶ 2023-2024: Established and staffed New Brunswick office

Team Chart



- - - Decision making on investigations

Reporting an Incident

- ▶ The Chiefs of police agencies and the head of the RCMP are required by law to refer all serious incidents to SiRT.
- ▶ Members of the public can also report an incident directly by calling **1-855-450-2010** (toll free) or emailing sirt@novascotia.ca .
- ▶ To meet SiRT's investigation mandate, the serious incident must be a result of a police officer's actions and meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - ▶ death
 - ▶ serious injury
 - ▶ sexual assault
 - ▶ intimate partner violence
 - ▶ any matter of public interest

Referral to Director

Does it meet the mandate?

YES

Assign to investigator

Investigation process begins

Investigation concludes

Investigators report to Director

Director makes decision on charges

Director's Report shared with Minister of Justice, Chief of Police, Affected Party, Subject Officers and the public

NO

No further action

MAYBE

Review process begins

SiRT investigator reviews file. Directors determines if it meets the mandate

SiRT Stats

During the 2024-25 fiscal year, SiRT received 142 incident notifications.

- ▶ 113 from police
- ▶ 29 from public

Of those notifications:

- ▶ 43 investigations (24 NS & 18 NB)
- ▶ 18 review files (8 NS & 10 NB)
- ▶ 53 police referrals did not meet the SiRT mandate (30 NS & 23 NB)
- ▶ 28 public referrals did not meet the SiRT mandate (19 NS & 10 NB)

SiRT Stats

NS police officers were charged with:

- ▶ Assault (3)
- ▶ Criminal Harassment (1)
- ▶ Break & Enter (1)
- ▶ Sexual Assault & Choking (1)

NB police officers were charged with:

- ▶ Aggravated Assault (1)
- ▶ Child Internet Exploitation offences (1)
- ▶ Voyeurism & Child Pornography (1)
- ▶ Breach of Trust and Theft (1)

Community Liaison Program

- ▶ The Police Act permits the SiRT Director to appoint a community liaison or observer
- ▶ Goals of the community liaison are to:
 - ▶ Assist SiRT in removing communication barriers with the investigative team and communicating the role of SiRT to members of the community
 - ▶ Provide cultural, historical and community background advice that will help SiRT interact with and understand the needs of the Affected Party, their family, and community members
- ▶ Community Liaison Committees are being established in both NS and NB
- ▶ NS Community Liaison Committees will have representation from the following communities:
 - ▶ Black and African Nova Scotian communities
 - ▶ Mi'kmaw communities
 - ▶ Newcomer communities
 - ▶ Muslim communities
 - ▶ Others

Mass Casualty Commission Recommendations

Eight of the 130 MCC
recommendations related to SiRT.

SiRT actions :

- ▶ Partnering with DOJ to amend SiRT Regulations
- ▶ Creating and updating SiRT policies
- ▶ Identifying areas for partnership within and outside government
- ▶ Working with police agencies
- ▶ Working with DOJ on HR

	MCC Recommendation	SiRT Action
1	P. 27 SiRT Investigators and Specialized Services	Complete
2	P.28 (a) and (b) SiRT Control of Crime Scenes and Evidence	Complete
3	P.30 Providing Support to SiRT Witnesses	Complete/Ongoing
4	P.31 (a) RCMP Liaison with the SiRT	Complete
5	P.32 SiRT Protocol for Information Exchange with Police Agencies	Complete
6	P.33 Expert Witnesses Retained by the SiRT	Complete
7	P. 34 SiRT Resources	DOJ responsibility/Ongoing
8	P.35 SiRT Reports	Complete



Questions?

<https://sirtnsnb.ca/>