

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2016-005

RCMP - PEI

February 20, 2016

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC

Director

August 8, 2016

Facts

On February 20, 2016, the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety contacted SiRT with information regarding an investigation that had been commenced by the Charlottetown Police Service (CPS) involving a member of the RCMP in PEI.

That investigation commenced on February 14, 2016 when the CPS responded to an incident that had allegedly occurred at the home of the RCMP member. While investigating that matter, members of the CPS discovered a number of firearms within the home. Those, and other items, were eventually seized from the house.

Given the significant nature of the incident, SiRT was contacted and asked to conduct an independent investigation of the matter. That investigation commenced on February 20, 2016, and was significantly assisted by members of the CPS and the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team.

As a result of the investigation, on August 5, 2016, charges were laid against 43-year-old Jeffrey Rae Gillis, a former member of the RCMP. In total Gillis was charged with 12 offences, including:

- unlawful storage of firearms,
- possession of firearms obtained by an offence,
- unlawful possession of firearms,
- unlawful possession of prohibited firearms together with ammunition,
- unlawful possession of restricted firearms together with ammunition,
- unlawful possession of prohibited weapons,
- five counts of filing false reports with a peace officer about the destruction of firearms, and
- breach of trust.

The charges involve allegations with respect to over 70 firearms and other weapons.

Gillis is expected to appear in Provincial Court in Charlottetown on August 15, 2016.

Relevant Legal Issues:

The legal issues in relation to each charge are as follows:

- Unlawful Storage: When storing firearms specific security must be in place in accordance with federal regulations. Prohibited and restricted firearms require additional security.
- Possession offence: It is an offence to possess weapons that have been obtained by the commission of an offence.

- Prohibited and restricted firearms can only be possessed if a person holds specific legal authorizations.
- Without authorization those firearms cannot be possessed and stored with usable ammunition.
- Filing a false report with a peace officer in relation to a firearm constitutes an offence.
- A breach of trust is committed when a public official, acting in his official capacity, breaches the standard of conduct required of him as a public official in a manner that is a marked departure from expected standards and for a purpose other than the public good.

Where reasonable grounds exist to believe a criminal offence has been committed, the Director may charge the police officer. Any offence must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt before the accused can be found guilty.

Conclusion

This investigation has led to the conclusion that there are sufficient grounds to lay the charges outlined above. This matter is now currently before the courts. In accordance with SiRT policy, this report will not discuss the facts of that matter in any further detail. To do otherwise might compromise the fair trial interests of the accused.