

*April 10, 2015*

## **ASIRT to take conduct of investigation into Yukon RCMP use of force in Facebook video**

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) will take conduct of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the use of force in the April 5, 2015 arrest of a male person by an RCMP officer in Whitehorse. A short video was taken that reflects, in part, the contact between the officer and the male person. The video was subsequently posted on Facebook.

The RCMP initially commenced an investigation into the incident with ASIRT engaged to conduct a file review. It was subsequently decided that ASIRT should, and would step in to lead the investigation. It should be clear that there was no suggestion that the investigation commenced by the RCMP was anything other than thorough and professional; it was simply determined that the particular incident required a higher level of engagement to ensure independence and objectivity. ASIRT is satisfied that any delay in commencing its own independent investigation will not compromise their investigation, in light of the nature and circumstances of the incident.

In addition to taking conduct of the investigation, ASIRT, the Yukon government and the RCMP are working towards the appointment of a community liaison to facilitate the link between the community, the affected person and as an impartial observer to the investigation.

ASIRT's mandate is to effectively, independently and objectively investigate incidents or complaints involving serious injury or death of any person, and matters of a serious or sensitive nature, that may have resulted from the actions of a police officer. Serious or sensitive allegations of police misconduct include any matter that might bring the administration of justice, and more particularly, the police service into disrepute. ASIRT seeks to enhance public confidence and ensure accountability in the investigation of incidents involving police officers in the Yukon.

- 30 -

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Lynn Crawford  
Alberta Serious Incident Response Team  
780-641-9099  
Media Inquiries: [media@asirt.ca](mailto:media@asirt.ca)  
Website: [www.asirt.ca](http://www.asirt.ca)