



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon signs agreement with Alberta Serious Incident Response Team

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon now has an agreement with Alberta for use of the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to investigate serious incidents involving RCMP members in "M" Division.

In 2010, the co-chairs of the Review of Yukon's Police Force recommended that the territory engage an independent civilian investigation agency to conduct investigations into serious incidents involving the RCMP.

Justice Minister Mike Nixon says he welcomes ASIRT's presence in the territory.

"In the last year, the RCMP made progress in ensuring external investigations of these incidents by utilizing municipal police agencies from other jurisdictions," Nixon said. "This agreement will go a step further and ensure independent investigations are conducted by a civilian-led police investigation agency with a proven track record."

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team conducts investigations of serious incidents involving members of the RCMP and other municipal police agencies in Alberta. ASIRT is an agency of the Government of Alberta and is led by a civilian director who is a crown prosecutor. ASIRT's work is carried out by eight civilian investigators, 10 seconded police officers and one military police officer.

"ASIRT is committed to providing objective, independent investigations into incidents involving the RCMP," ASIRT executive director Clif Purvis said.

The ASIRT team is currently investigating a police-involved shooting near Dawson City, which occurred on October 20.

Yukon will provide ongoing funding for the equivalent of one full-time investigator to be added to the ASIRT team. The cost for operating this agreement is estimated at \$75,000 this fiscal year with ongoing costs to Yukon estimated at \$105,000 per year.

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