

**ASIRT** | **ALBERTA  
SERIOUS INCIDENT  
RESPONSE TEAM**

## Why ASIRT ?

- Initiative by the Solicitor General in consultation with the AACP.
  - Need for an Independent Investigative Body to conduct Serious Injury/Death, Police related incidents.
  - Supported by Public & Police.
  - Avoid depletion of Police investigative resources.
  - Sensitive investigations are challenging to conduct in house.
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WAS DEADLY FORCE NECESSARY?

# Killing by police divides community

City police officers  
did what they had to

In light of the recent RCMP killings, I support the Edmonton police officers who were called to investigate a domestic dispute on March 11 and shot a knife-wielding man ("Police shoot man armed with knives," *The Journal*, March 12).

I believe the police should take these cases seriously, and should not be criticized for shooting a suspect when weapons are used and threats are made.

Maybe bad guys would think twice if they knew there would be serious consequences to their actions. If the police and the legal system had more power, the Mayerthorpe tragedy may never have happened.

*Linda Klufas, Barrhead*

## Where were the Tasers?

I read with alarm about the March 11 fatal shooting by police in Edmonton. How many has that been now?

In many other police services, the policy has been to use the least force necessary. Shoot to injure and stop, not to maim or kill. Where were the Tasers this night?

*Joan Gaffney, Edmonton*

## Rest in peace

That man (Daniel Lipka) was our best friend — a friend who we will never see again.



RICK MACWILLIAM, THE JOURNAL

The apartment complex where a man was killed by police after he charged them with a knife on March 11. Inset: A police officer samples blood at the scene.

the police there to protect us or are they just there to sit back and pander to the criminal element?

*Linden Stewart and Betty Postema*

accomplished and there will be unity and not division.

*L.M. Matheson, Edmonton*

## Alberta Police Act

- S. 46.1 of the *Act* states that notification is to be made from the police services' Chief of Police or Commanding Officer to the DLE where
  - (a) an incident occurs involving **serious injury** to or the death of any person that may have resulted from the actions of a police officer, or

### *Serious Injury:*

*An injury where one is admitted to the hospital and incurs a fracture to a limb, rib, vertebrae, skull; suffers burns to a major portion of the body; loses any portion of the body or suffers loss of vision or hearing.*

## Alberta Police Act

Or,

(b) a complaint is made alleging that:

- (i) serious injury to or the death of any person may have resulted from the actions of a police officer, or
- (ii) there is any matter of a **serious or sensitive nature** related to the actions of a police officer.

### *Serious or Sensitive Nature*

- *This could involve any allegation of corrupt or criminal behavior.*
- *May include any behavior or incident where the conduct of police may effect the public confidence in policing.*

## DLE Options

After receiving notification pursuant to S. 46.1, the DLE has a number of options:

- Have the home agency conduct the investigation
  - Have the home agency conduct investigation and insert an overseer
  - Have an outside agency conduct the investigation
  - Direct ASIRT to either lead or oversee the investigation.
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## ASIRT Legislative Authority

- The Director of ASIRT, in accordance with S. 46.2 of the *Act*, is defined as a Chief of Police for the purpose of S. 46.1 investigations
- ASIRT has jurisdiction over all sworn police officers of the 13 police agencies within the Province, both Municipal and the RCMP: approximately 6,300 members.
- ASIRT is focused on the **statutory** investigations and ordinarily would not become involved in the internal discipline.
- The *Act* sets out that code of conduct or regulatory matters will remain the responsibility of the home police agency.

## **Mission, Vision and Values**

### **MISSION:**

To effectively, independently and objectively investigate incidents involving Alberta's police that have resulted in serious injury or death to any person as well as sensitive allegations of police misconduct

### **VISION:**

To enhance public confidence and ensure accountability in the investigation of serious or sensitive incidents involving Alberta's police

### **VALUES:**

Integrity, Independence, Investigative Excellence, Respect, Trust and Professionalism

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# **ASIRT Management**

## **Executive Director: Clifton Purvis**

- Seconded from Alberta Justice
- Operational independence – Teams report directly to Director
- Reports administratively to ADM/DLE
- Has authority to decide if criminal charges should be laid following receipt of Crown opinion

## **Assistant Director: Roy Fitzpatrick**

- Government of AB employee
- Prior service with both RCMP and the Calgary PS
- Reports to the Director

# **Integrated Investigative Teams**

## **CPS, EPS, Peace Officers, RCMP**

- North and South (Edmonton & Calgary)
- 2 Staff Sergeant - Team Commander
- 8 Police officers/investigators
- 4 Civilian Investigators (peace officer designation)
- 2 Criminal Intelligence Analyst
- 2 Administrative Support
  
- Public Overseer
  - Only for serious injury or death investigations
  - Process focused, not substantive evidence

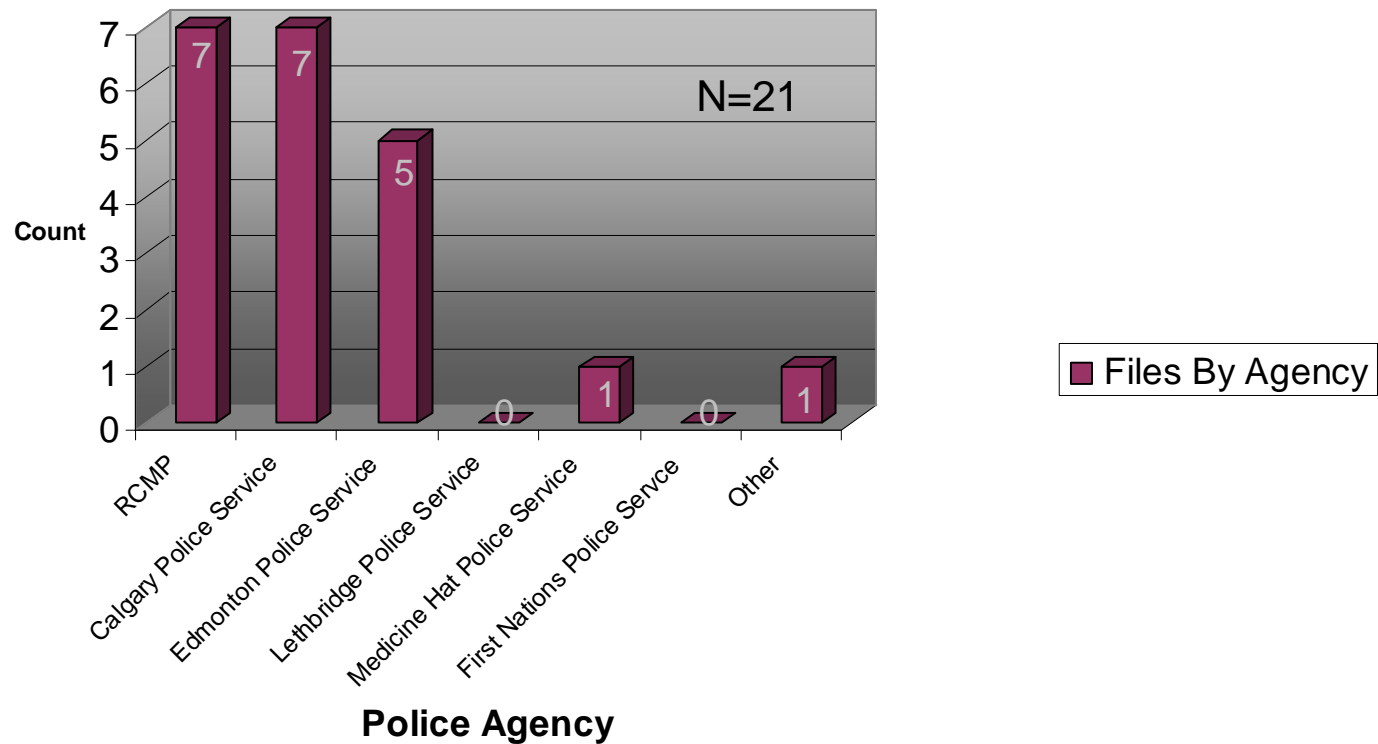
## Support Services

Would originate from either involved police service or another police service

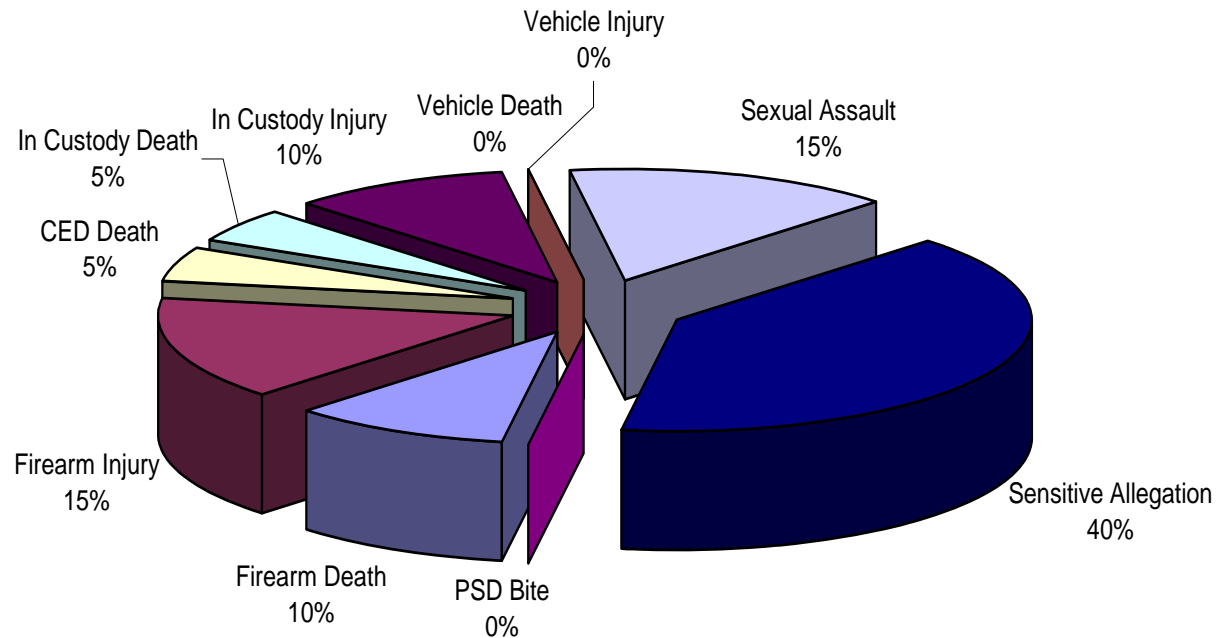
- Forensic Identification
- Collision Re-constructionist
- Interviewers – canvass, peripheral witnesses
- Surveillance Teams (Sheriff or Police Agency)
- Other Subject Matter Experts
- MOU between police agencies and ASIRT

# 2008 “In Review”

ASIRT Assigned Cases By Agency  
January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2008



## ASIRT Assigned Cases by Type January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2008



# Challenges

- Limited resources
- Concurrent investigations, both criminal and regulatory
- Ensure credibility with public and police
- Managing those situations where the home agency is conducting a concurrent criminal investigation
- Receiving notification in a timely manner
- Understanding of our mandate
- Staffing Ratio Civilian v Sworn Investigators

## Future

- ASIRT does not have the ability to self initiate investigations.
- ASIRT does not have the authority over Alberta Sheriffs



Questions?



## **Contact Information**

Clifton G Purvis

Executive Director ASIRT

Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security

Suite 1404, 9915 - 108 Street

Petroleum Plaza, South Tower

Edmonton, AB T5K 2G8

Ph: (780) 644 - 1487

Email: [clif.purvis@gov.ab.ca](mailto:clif.purvis@gov.ab.ca)