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18-14

No charges approved in Salmon Arm non-fatal police shooting

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that no charges have been approved against members of the Salmon Arm RCMP involved in a non-fatal shooting near Salmon Arm on July 3, 2015. The officers were responding to a complaint of an armed robbery at a gas station involving an adult male near Sicamous. The suspect reportedly fled the scene in a vehicle.

During their efforts to apprehend the suspect two officers discharged their firearms in separate encounters with the suspect. In the second encounter, the suspect sustained serious gunshot injuries. The suspect was transported to hospital for medical treatment and subsequently recovered.

The incident was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO). The Interim Chief Civilian Director considered that RCMP officers may have committed criminal offences and on that basis he submitted a Report to Crown Counsel for review by the BCPS. The Interim Chief Civilian Director did not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved.

After reviewing the entirety of the evidence provided, the BCPS concluded that the charge assessment standard for initiating a prosecution has not been met.

A Clear Statement explaining the reasons for not approving charges will be made public following the conclusion of related legal proceedings involving the suspect. As the related charges are still before the court the BCPS will not be releasing any further information at this time.

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