



July 27, 2023

23-22

BC Prosecution Service approves charges against RCMP Officer

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that charges of assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, and dangerous driving causing bodily harm have been approved against Williams Lake RCMP Cst. Madeline Hjelden in connection with their involvement in an on-duty motor vehicle incident that is alleged to have occurred on May 31, 2020, in Williams Lake.

An Information charging Cst. Hjelden with these *Criminal Code* offences was sworn on July 27, 2023, under Williams Lake Provincial Court file number 38286-1. The first appearance date on this matter is yet to be determined, in Williams Lake Provincial Court.

The charge was approved by an experienced Crown Counsel with no prior or current connection with the officer. The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BC Prosecution Service in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

BCPS guidelines for assessing allegations against peace officers are also established in policy and are available at:

www.gov.bc.ca/allegations-against-peace-officers

As this matter is now before the court the BCPS will not be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

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To learn more about BC's criminal justice system, visit the British Columbia Prosecution Service website at: gov.bc.ca/prosecutionservice or follow [@bcprosecution](https://twitter.com/bcprosecution) on Twitter.