

January 29, 2016

Hon. Kathleen Ganley
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Legislature Office
424 Legislature Bldg
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ganley:

The Department of Justice and Public Safety Newfoundland and Labrador is seeking approval from the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Public Security Division, for the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to conduct an Independent External Review of a criminal investigation conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Newfoundland and Labrador. The RCMP's Major Crime Unit has recently completed their investigation into the April 2015 shooting death of Mr. Donald Dunphy by a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

From the onset, this incident has garnered significant public and media interest. On December 15th, 2015, I announced that I will be calling for a public inquiry in relation to this incident once the police investigation is completed and subsequent to an independent review of that investigation. As this serious incident involved one of this province's Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officers and was investigated by the RCMP within our Province, we are requesting ASIRT review the RCMP's complete investigative file to ensure the RCMP completed the investigation in a manner that would maintain public confidence in policing in NL.

I understand that ASIRT would review an investigation for thoroughness, competency and overall accuracy and that the goal of any review is to identify whether the investigating agency has completed the investigation in a manner consistent with the level of investigative excellence that follows ASIRT's objective to maintain public confidence in policing. We would expect that the investigation be carefully scrutinized for evidence of investigative bias, tunnel vision and/or a lack of objectivity. Upon completion of a review, ASIRT would provide the RCMP with any recommendations that ASIRT may have made relating to the conduct of the investigation.

If approved, please provide written confirmation of the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Public Security Division's acceptance to undertake this review and further the request along to your ASIRT Executive Director Susan D. Hughson, Q.C. The RCMP will provide ASIRT with a complete copy of the investigation and ASIRT would assume full carriage and autonomy of all aspects of this review. All costs incurred during the course of ASIRT's work will be the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Public Safety Newfoundland and Labrador.

In order to preserve the independence of this review, subsequent to this request for assistance and acceptance, I would ask that any communication between the RCMP in NL and ASIRT pertaining to this matter be limited to the RCMP Criminal Operations Office and the office of the ASIRT Director. Please be advised that Supt. Stephanie Sachsse is currently the RCMP's acting Criminal Operations Officer and she can be reached at (709)772-6267. I am of the understanding that Supt. Sachsse has already had some preliminary discussions with the ASIRT Executive Director in relation to this request.

Sincerely,



for **ANDREW PARSONS**
Minister of Justice and Public Safety
Attorney General