

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INCIDENT REVIEW SUMMARY**

### **Introduction**

This review focused on the circumstances of an assault of one offender by another offender at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility (CNSCF). The incident occurred on March 10, 2015 at approximately 10:40 p.m.

### **Considerations**

The review considered the following:

- The events leading up to the incident
- The actions of offenders during the incident
- The actions taken in response to the incident
- Whether policies and procedures were followed

### **Issue**

The victim was assaulted by another offender while housed in a cell they shared.

### **Facts**

- All offenders were already in their cells for the night and the alleged assailant and the victim were the only occupants in the cell during this time.
- The staff were alerted to the situation at 10:43 p.m.
- The on-site Paramedic responded within one minute of staff becoming aware of the medical emergency and Emergency Health Services attended the scene approximately 15 minutes later.
- Halifax Regional Police attended the scene approximately 10 minutes after staff became aware of the medical emergency.
- The victim of the assault was taken to hospital by ambulance, admitted and treated for his injuries. He was returned to CNSCF on April 27, 2015.

### **Findings**

- Staff responded quickly and appropriately to the medical emergency.
- An offender compatibility assessment, completed prior to the offenders being placed in the same cell, confirmed there were no incompatibility concerns, and no reason for staff to feel that the offender assaulted was in jeopardy from the alleged assailant.
- Correctional Services policies and procedures were followed with respect to the assault.
- It was not possible to ascertain the motivation for the assault. Offender witnesses were unwilling or unable to contribute any information to assist with the investigation.

### **Incidental Finding**

- Staff did not ensure visual contact with the victim during 10:30 p.m. rounds.

**Follow-up actions**

- The accused appeared in Dartmouth Provincial Court on March 16, 2015, charged with aggravated assault. He is scheduled to return to court on May 29, 2015.
- The victim, who was returned to CNSCF on April 27, 2015 was released on bail on May 6, 2015.
- Corrective action has been taken with staff involved related to the incidental finding.