
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Model advances public safety, connects people to services in Gibsons

GIBSONS – People in the community of Gibsons will be better served by a collaborative approach to complex social challenges in order to deliver faster access to services for individuals at risk of harm or victimization.

Safe community situation tables gather frontline workers from the public-safety, health and social-service sectors to identify high-risk individuals and rapidly connect them to services and supports they need before they experience a negative or traumatic event.

“Safe community situation tables ensure that people remain our focus as we work to build safer, stronger communities,” said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. “By combining frontline workers expertise, the tables enhance our capacity to respond to community safety challenges, keeping people safe by swiftly connecting individuals to essential services.”

The Province has 36 operational safe community situation tables. The Gibsons table is expected to complete its training and onboarding in the coming months and the partners will meet on a weekly basis to address issues pertaining to their community, such as mental health and addictions, homelessness, poverty and survival crime.

“Situation tables are invaluable tools for communities by proactively facilitating supports for vulnerable people and we can help address their needs before crisis occur,” said Nicholas Simons, MLA for Powell River-Sunshine Coast. “This collaborative approach not only enhances the safety and well-being of our residents as individuals, but also strengthens our community as a whole.”

The model provides a structured, collaborative approach to managing complex or urgent circumstances by bringing together key groups, using systematic processes to mitigate risk and develop action plans to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of each individual. Furthermore, aggregate data analysis helps policy makers assess gaps and risks in their local communities.

The tables are considered a best practice for improving community safety and well-being by enabling community frontline workers to:

- proactively identify risks through real-time information sharing;
- reduce long-term demand on emergency and police resources;
- leverage and co-ordinate existing community assets and relationships between health supports, victim services, and culturally safe support and services;
- plan and deliver collaborative interventions before an incident occurs; and
- reduce increased risk in people’s lives.

The Province is supporting the Town of Gibsons with a \$70,000 grant to assist with implementation. Since 2018, more than \$3 million has been provided in grants to B.C. regions and communities to facilitate local safe community situation tables, intervention circles and other related initiatives. There are 44 funded situation tables and intervention circles in B.C. Thirty-six are operational and the other eight are under implementation.

Safe community situation tables are advancing the Safer Communities Action Plan's goal of creating safe, healthy communities. The tables build on the programs, services and initiatives the Province has undertaken or implemented to strengthen enforcement to break the cycle of violence and crime, and to strengthen services to keep communities safe and healthy.

Quote:

Silas White, mayor of Gibsons –

“We are incredibly grateful to the Province for this funding as this grant will allow our frontline workers to come together to address challenges in an innovative and proactive way, while helping to reduce the demand on our emergency services. As we've seen in other communities, situation tables have led to many positive outcomes, enhancing safety and well-being. We look forward to seeing similar benefits here in Gibsons and across the Sunshine Coast.”

Learn More:

For more information about situation tables, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/collaborative-public-safety-program/situation-tables>

For more information about ways the Province is making communities safer for everyone, visit:

<https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/safer-communities/>

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