



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PORT HARDY**

## **SITUATION TABLE LAUNCH**

Port Hardy – February 13, 2024, The District of Port Hardy is pleased to announce the launch of the Situation Table, a groundbreaking initiative to provide comprehensive support to individuals and families experiencing acutely elevated risk. This transformative project is made possible through generous funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, demonstrating a commitment to community well-being and safety.

The Situation Table is the latest development stemming from the collaborative efforts of the District of Port Hardy, Mental Health and Addictions, and the RCMP building on the success of the Safer Place to Be Pilot Project in Stink Creek Park. This initiative originated from a shared commitment to addressing the needs of individuals in our community who require specialized support.

The District of Port Hardy is working in conjunction with various partners, including local First Nation Communities, service providers, North Island Crisis and Counselling services, the Ministry of Child Family Development, the Salvation Army, School District 85, social assistance agencies, Foundry, Youth Short Term Assessment (Y-STAR) and Island Health. The success of this collaborative effort has laid the foundation for the Situation Table.



The Situation Table will provide a centralized and coordinated approach to address the complex needs of individuals and families facing acute challenges. By integrating various support services, including mental health and addiction resources, law enforcement, community organizations, and health services, the Situation Table aims to create a comprehensive network of assistance, not enforcement.

*“The District of Port Hardy is grateful for the support and collaboration of its partners and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General,”* said Mayor Pat-Corbett-Labatt. *“This initiative represents a significant step forward in the ongoing commitment to the well-being and safety of North Island residents.”*

*“Situation tables empower agencies to work together to provide holistic supports to people and lowers the risk of potential violence or re-offending,”* said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. *“By combining front-line worker’s expertise, the tables are strengthening the ability to respond to community safety challenges, better protecting people, while swiftly connecting them to essential services”.*

*“By bringing together front-line workers from multiple agencies, we are helping make sure people get the supports they need directly from the organizations that provide them,”* said Michele Babchuk, MLA for North Island. *“Working together is the most efficient way to proactively support vulnerable individuals, and this initiative will help in make Port Hardy safer and stronger community.”*

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