



Sheila Malcolmson, MLA
Nanaimo

August 8, 2020

Dear Mayor Krog and Nanaimo City Council;

Working this past year to find solutions for social disorder and petty crime in Nanaimo, I have found a provincial tool that can help conserve police resources and better connect people with social services. I would like to present as a delegation to your council August 31, 2020, on “BC’s Situation Tables and next steps to tackle social disorder” and ask that this letter be included in the agenda package for that date.

As a delegate, I will ask Council to write to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, inviting presentation of the Situation Table model to a meeting of local social service agencies (and/or the Health and Housing Task Force), to inform Council’s consideration of support for Situation Table establishment in Nanaimo. This would be the same presentation I convened in July for the City’s CAO, acting Detachment Commander Nanaimo RCMP, and Island Health.

As described to me by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General:

- “Situation Tables are a proven practice for enabling community safety, health and social service providers to quickly identify and respond to the risks present in the lives of vulnerable people. The Policing and Security Branch of the Ministry is leading the implementation of the Situation Table across BC and provides the necessary funding to municipalities who are interested in onboarding this approach.
- Situation Tables (also known as Hubs) help front line staff from the public safety, health, and social service sectors to identify vulnerable people and collaboratively and rapidly connect them to services before they experience a negative or traumatic event (e.g. victimization, overdose, eviction, etc.).
- Police are the main source of referrals for clients brought to Situation Tables, with the social Ministries leading the majority of the interventions necessary to help vulnerable clients.”

Situation Tables have been established in 10 BC communities from Burnaby to Kelowna to Terrace, where 54% of cases were subsequently transferred from police to more suitable agencies in 2019. Four more communities have recently been funded. None are on Vancouver Island yet. My meetings with leadership in Nanaimo RCMP, Island Health, and the City have been encouraging. To establish a Situation Table in Nanaimo, local RCMP and the local government must be in support.

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Two actions would be necessary to establish a Situation Table:

- The City of Nanaimo organizing a meeting for Ministry staff to present the Situation Table model to the Nanaimo-based agencies and non-profits that might form Nanaimo's Situation Table; and
- If it wished to proceed, Council providing a letter of support for the establishment of a Situation Table in Nanaimo, and for requesting a grant for this purpose.

Homelessness and the fallout of addictions and mental illness is hard on everyone; those living with it, neighbours living next to it, first responders and frontline workers. I'd like the opportunity to talk with Council about a provincial tool to improve community safety and better connect vulnerable people to the services that can prevent crisis and disorder.

Looking forward to acting together on solutions to these unacceptable community problems,

With respect,



Sheila Malcolmson
Member of Legislative Assembly – Nanaimo