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Laurier Centre for Public Safety and Well-Being offers free online 'situation table' training

BRANTFORD – Police services and their community partners now have access to a free 'situation table' learning package, created by Wilfrid Laurier University's Centre for Public Safety and Well-Being.

Comprised of training modules, videos, a manual and additional resources, the learning package is available entirely online. The initiative was made possible through the support of an Ontario Proceeds of Crime grant from the [Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services](#), and with the guidance of the [Ontario Provincial Police](#) (OPP) Community Safety Services.

During a situation table exercise, a strategic alliance of participants – generally representatives from police services and affiliated human service providers – meet and work together to review situations of acutely elevated risk (AER). By employing common principles and processes, situation table participants determine if an individual is at imminent risk of harm and victimization. Appropriate interventions are then coordinated based on that assessment.

The situation table training offered through Laurier's new online program is targeted at police services and their community partners. However, anyone can register online to access the training. Upon registering individuals have 30 days in which to access the resources and complete the situation training package's five learning modules. Each e-module takes approximately 10 minutes and concludes with a summative quiz. Individuals who successfully complete all modules and quizzes qualify to receive a certificate of completion. A companion manual, authored by community justice consultant Hugh Russell, can be downloaded for ongoing reference.

Upon completion of the learning package, participants should have the skills to: demonstrate a broad understanding of the value and use of situation tables; recognize and identify risk factors and protective factors; understand acutely elevated risk and determine when a situation does or does not meet the threshold; recognize privacy legislation, information sharing and limits to confidentiality as it relates to situation tables; and develop knowledge of the processes involved in situation table intervention planning.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this important training resource to police services and their many community partner organizations," said Holly Cox, manager of Laurier's Centre for Public Safety and Well-Being. "Situation tables are becoming an essential tool for communities following the Ontario Mobilization and Engagement Model for Community Policing. This online resource package allows police services and their partners of all sizes and in all locations to access the training needed to ensure best practices are employed."

Additional details on the situation table learning package are available on the Laurier [website](#). For more information, contact Holly Cox or email the centre at CPSW@wlu.ca.