

# Volunteer Firefighters Association of British Columbia

## **Regarding the Tragic Events in Tumbler Ridge**

The Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, first responders, and entire community of Tumbler Ridge following the heartbreaking events that unfolded at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School on February 10, 2026. Reports confirm that multiple students, an educator, and community members lost their lives, and many others sustained injuries in this devastating act of violence.

Our thoughts are with all those directly affected—from the families mourning profound losses to the survivors now facing long and difficult recoveries. We also acknowledge the immense grief felt across British Columbia, where the province has declared a day of mourning and communities are gathering in vigils to honour the victims.

We recognize the bravery and professionalism of the first responders who acted swiftly under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. RCMP members, local emergency crews, educators, and health-care professionals worked tirelessly to protect students, stabilize the injured, evacuate more than 100 people safely, and provide life-saving care. Their actions reflect the highest values of public service, courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to community safety.

As volunteer firefighters ourselves, we share the emotional toll such events take on all emergency personnel. The VFABC stands in solidarity with every responder in Tumbler Ridge who will carry the weight of this tragedy long after the news cameras are gone. We encourage departments to access peer support resources and to look after one another in the days and weeks ahead.

The Tumbler Ridge community has long been known for its strength and tight-knit spirit. That spirit is visible once again as residents come together in vigils, mutual support, and collective mourning. The VFABC is keeping this community close in our hearts and remains ready to support our colleagues and partners in any way we can.

In this painful time, may we all honour the victims by supporting one another, caring for our first responders, and holding together as communities committed to safety, compassion, and resilience.

– **Volunteer Firefighters Association of British Columbia.**