



BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres

BCA AFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2026

Gathering Our Voices' Statement on the Tragic Incident in Tumbler Ridge

VICTORIA, B.C. - The recent violence in Tumbler Ridge has deeply impacted communities across British Columbia. We are holding the families, loved ones, and community members impacted in our hearts during this incredibly difficult time.

The provincial government has declared today, Thursday, February 12, a Day of Mourning. We are moving our workshop sign-up to Wednesday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. (PST) to honour the victims and give our youth delegates time to look after themselves.

Gathering Our Voices is rooted in connection, safety, culture, and community. When something like this happens, it reminds us how important it is to take care of one another, especially our youth. Many young people may be feeling shock, fear, sadness, or confusion. All of those feelings are valid.

We encourage delegates, chaperones, and community members to reach out to trusted adults, Elders, Friendship Centres, or cultural supports if they need someone to talk to. You are not alone.

As a program of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, we remain committed to creating spaces where Indigenous youth feel safe, supported, and connected. Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society and our Elders Council will be available to provide cultural support to anyone who needs it at Gathering Our Voices. In times of grief and uncertainty, community matters more than ever.

We stand with Tumbler Ridge and send our strength and solidarity to everyone affected.

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
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Supports and Resources

This content can be triggering and harmful. Please reach out to the following resources if you are in need:

- [KUU-US Crisis Line Society \(BC\)](#): Provides 24-hour crisis services for Indigenous people in B.C. Youth Line: 250-723-2040. Toll-Free: 1-800-588-8717.
- [Kids Help Phone](#): Offers 24/7, confidential e-mental health support. Indigenous youth can connect with Indigenous volunteer crisis responders by texting FIRSTNATIONS, METIS, or INUIT to 686868.
- [Talk4Healing](#): A culturally safe phone line for Indigenous women, offering services in 14 languages.
- [The Indian Residential School Crisis Line](#): Provides 24-hour crisis support to former Indian Residential School students and their families toll-free at 1-866 925-4419.
- [Hope For Wellness Helpline](#): Professional counsellors who can offer 24-hour culturally appropriate support in English, French, Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut. Available through online chat or phone: 1-855-242-3310 or hopeforwellness.ca.
- [Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society](#): Call their toll-free crisis line at 1-888-403-3123 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- [Suicide Crisis Helpline](#): Call or text 9-8-8 (toll-free) to access 24-hour trauma informed and culturally appropriate suicide prevention crisis support.

Contact

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