



Members, we are grieving with you this morning, sharing your fear, concern, and sadness about the school shooting in Tumbler Ridge, BC. We know that the empathy and heartbreak you are experiencing will absolutely have an impact on your work and your emotional wellbeing.

For many of us, this has been a nightmare that has not been part of the BC or Canadian context. As we collectively learn to understand how the world has changed overnight, please take the time to connect with your friends, families, and students.

We know you have received, and will continue to receive, information about supports for teachers, your colleagues, students, and families. We know you will do your best to respond to your students with patience and kindness at the same time you are living your own sadness, worry, confusion, or fear. Please reach out to one another for support, to your union, and to your support systems as needed, and understand that we are not alone in our efforts to build and protect a strong, safe, responsive, and healthy public education system.

As additional information arises or is released, we expect that members will continue to need to grieve, learn, heal, and find community. We are in discussion with the district, including the provision of support teachers for those on the front line.

Please take care of yourself. As members of a caring profession, it can sometimes be challenging to recognize our needs and ensure we are in a place to care for others. Remember that you have access to sick leave if you are impacted by this tragedy and need to take time to attend to your own wellness, and that the employer and the BCTF have many supports and structures in place.

We will continue to advocate for meaningful communication, support, and school-based interventions to ensure teachers and students are safe in schools, and that appropriate acknowledgment, in-service, and training are provided to all members.

Sincerely,

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