



MEDIA RELEASE  
February 19, 2026

## **United Way BC Commits \$100,000 to Tumbler Ridge Recovery** *Funds to support mid to long-term community initiatives*

**Central Office, Burnaby, BC** - In response to the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, United Way BC is committing \$100,000 to support the community's recovery. The funding will help local organizations continue caring for their friends and neighbours long after the immediate response ends.

"Like many across the province, we are heartbroken by the tragic events that have unfolded in Tumbler Ridge. This is an unimaginable loss for a small and close-knit community," says Michael McKnight, President & CEO, United Way BC. "Moments like this remind us how fragile life is – and how deeply communities rely on one another in times of crisis."

We are working with frontline organizations, community leaders, and partners in government, to assess needs as they evolve, and are prepared to respond where gaps appear and where United Way BC's resources and expertise can make the greatest impact in mid to long-term recovery.

As the situation evolves, we will continue connecting with local partners and responding where our involvement can make a meaningful difference. Our commitment is to act with care, humility, and respect for the leadership of those closest to the community – now and in the months and years ahead.

Our Helpline Services, including VictimLinkBC, are supporting any callers affected by this tragedy, ensuring they receive compassionate listening, accurate information, and referrals to appropriate supports. These services remain available to anyone across the province.

Anyone who has been impacted by this traumatic event can call or text VictimLinkBC for free, confidential support 24/7. Dial/Text 1-800-563-0808.

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### **About United Way British Columbia**

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, and food security.

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