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Bishop David Lehmann - [bishop@caledoniaanglican.ca](mailto:bishop@caledoniaanglican.ca)

Marilyn Carroll - [carroll@pris.ca](mailto:carroll@pris.ca)

Chetwynd Shared Ministry

Dear Bishop Lehmann and Marilyn –

I extend my deepest grief and sympathy for Tumbler Ridge, BC.; these senseless murders ripple far beyond the Tumbler Ridge community. I know how close residents in neighbouring communities can be; I trust that the same care and compassion that weaves you together as shared ministries also extends beyond town boundaries.

You, as communities of faith serving nearby this stricken community, must find your own strength, must draw from a deep well of compassion and love, to bring comfort to your towns, residents of which surely also need solace.

Please know that as Moderator, I extend my sympathy to you and the communities in close proximity to Tumbler Ridge on behalf of the whole United Church. I pray that God's loving presence will be a source of strength, comfort and courage during this time.

I continue to pray for those who are in hospital that they might heal, in both body and mind. I also continue to pray for the families who were caught up in this indiscriminate act of violence, for their friends, and for the first responders who brought their skills and compassion into the aftermath.

Acts such as this are contrary to God's intention and view of who we are and how we are expected to live in this world. And it cuts at the very fabric of how we wish to live: in security, respect and openness. Violence of this nature closes us off from one another, imposes fear and anxiety.

My deepest condolences that you face deep loss from such a heinous crime. It is immeasurable, so significant, and so painful. May these words from Psalm 119 offer some comfort to you:

*Let your steadfast love become my comfort  
according to your promise to your servant.  
Let your mercy come to me, that I may live,  
for your law is my delight. (Psalm 119:76–77)*



Please know that you are loved and held in prayer.

In Christian love,

The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Heath', with a horizontal line extending to the right across the end of the signature.

Moderator

The United Church of Canada

Cc: Treena Duncan – Executive Minister, Pacific Mountain Regional Council  
Shannon McCarthy – Executive Minister, Northern Spirit Regional Council