



“My daughter lost four friends that day. I’ve been crying all day. Dennis Campbell, Tumbler Ridge resident

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

POSTMEDIA

# HOW A DAY OF HORROR UNFOLDED



Cia Edmonds shared a photo of her 12-year old daughter Maya, severely injured in the Tumbler Ridge shooting, in B.C. Children's Hospital. CIA EDMONDS/FACEBOOK

## From ‘normal as normal could be’ to grief and shock

**LORI CULBERT, GLENDA LUYMES, STEPHANIE IP, TIFFANY CRAWFORD AND JOSEPH RUTTLE**

Tumbler Ridge resident Dennis Campbell dropped his 12-year-old daughter Quinn off at school on Tuesday, while his son Seth, 15, walked to class.

“Everything was good. We were having a great day. As normal as normal could be,” said Campbell, president of the Tumbler Ridge Minor Hockey Association.

Indeed, Feb. 10 started just like

every other day for most families in this northeastern B.C. town. Teachers went to work, parents kissed their children goodbye.

But Campbell and the rest of this tight-knit community of 2,500 people would face unimaginable tragedy by day’s end.

Eight people were killed by 18-year-old Jesse Van Rootselaar, who had a history of mental health interactions with police.

The transgender woman began transitioning six years ago and dropped out of school four years ago, said RCMP Deputy Commis-

sioner Dwayne McDonald.

The victims include a female teacher, 39, and five students inside Tumbler Ridge Secondary, three girls and two boys all 12 or 13 years old. Van Rootselaar’s mother, 39, and 11-year-old stepbrother had been shot dead inside the family home earlier that day.

It was one of the worst mass shootings in Canadian history.

Although Campbell is grateful his own children survived, he is grieving for the other victims who he knew through hockey or other sports in the community.

“My daughter lost four friends that day,” the distraught man said. “I’ve been crying all day.”

Shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday, Campbell received a call from his daughter Quinn, who is in Grade 7. She told her dad “there were shots fired in the school” but then the call abruptly ended.

The frantic father would later learn Quinn ran into the gym, where she hid in the equipment room with Grade 10 and 11 students. Campbell praised a teacher for checking in on the students to ensure they were OK throughout

the tense situation.

On Tuesday just after 1 p.m., the RCMP were alerted to an active shooting situation at the high school. Upon entering the building, police found six individuals who had been killed.

Two others were airlifted for critical care, while a third was initially believed to have died en route to hospital. Police confirmed Wednesday that the individual has survived. Another 25 individuals at the school were assessed and treated on-site for injuries.

SEE SHOOTING ON **A4**

### TOWN

Shocked populace silent and sombre after tragedy **A2**

### REACTIONS

Sympathies pour in from across the world **A3**

### PERPETRATOR

Piecing together what we know about the shooter **A5**

### ANALYSIS

Examining mass killing cases to better understand them **A6**

### OPINION

The challenge of dealing with feelings of ultimate loss **A7**

Activate your ePaper – it’s included with your subscription. Scan the QR code or visit [epaper.vancouversun.com](http://epaper.vancouversun.com)



0 57040 10035 1  
\$3.33 plus GST  
\$4.29 minimum in outlying areas

**SPORTS**  
**OLYMPICS**  
MacKinnon demanding of himself, teammates **NP11**



**NP**  
**UKRAINE**  
Drone attack in Kharkiv region kills father, 3 children **NP3**