



September 14, 2026

Commissioner Michael Duheme
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2
Via email: Michael.Duheme@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Re: Public Safety Requires Transparency from RCMP re Firearms Used in Tumbler Ridge Mass Shooting

Dear Commissioner Duheme,

Seven months have passed since the mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia — a tragedy that took the lives of six children at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School and two more at a nearby home, devastating the community and leaving families across Canada to wonder whether such violence could happen in their own schools and neighbourhoods.

As a new school year begins, students, parents, educators and communities deserve more than condolences. They deserve verified information that can help Canada identify and address failures in gun control law and/or its enforcement before another mass shooting occurs.

In a mass murder investigation like the one at Tumbler Ridge, operational secrecy and public accountability can coexist.

Police should operate on a principle of maximum transparency and minimum secrecy to maintain public trust, prevent misinformation and allow informed debates about potential policy changes to increase public safety from gun violence. Indeed, many of these subjects are part of an ongoing political debate as well as a federal consultation [announced](#) last December 2025 – one that is still waiting to be launched.

No responsible person or party is asking police to release operational details, witness accounts, investigative tactics or material that could prejudice a legal process. But Canadians have a right to know how our gun control system worked – or failed to work – when multiple children are shot and killed in a matter of minutes.

The RCMP has already confirmed it seized firearms at the school and at a residence, including a long gun and a modified rifle. It has said the main firearm believed to have been used at the school had never previously been seized and that its origin was unknown at the time. [Court documents](#) later showed investigators sought to trace four firearms, including two shotguns and a rifle, though identifying details remain redacted.

These limited disclosures raise urgent questions — and make transparent updates more important, not less. After all this time, the public still lacks basic and essential information about the tools used to quickly produce such human carnage.

There is no rational excuse to force the public and especially victims' families to wait years for an inquest, a trial or a final report to be completed, before learning straightforward facts that could reveal preventable gaps in Canada's firearms law and its enforcement.

We therefore call on the RCMP to provide a public update and to disclose, as soon as it is verified and can be released without compromising the investigation, the following information:

- 1) The **make, model, type and classification of every firearm involved** in the Tumbler Ridge killings (including what year any one was prohibited).
- 2) **Which firearms were used at the school, and which were used at the residence.**
- 3) The **legal status of each firearm**, including whether one or more was registered where required.
- 4) Whether **magazines, prohibited devices, particular ammunition or other accessories** played a role in the scale of harm, and their source.
- 5) **Whether a firearm or an accessory was modified**, as well as the nature and legality of any modification, and whether it changed the firearm's classification, firing capability, concealability, ammunition capacity or lethality.
- 6) The **known provenance of each firearm**: whether it was legally purchased, privately transferred, inherited, borrowed, stolen, obtained through an illegal source or acquired by another means.
- 7) Who the **legal owner of each firearm** was, and **who had access**.
- 8) Whether any of the firearms had been **reported lost or stolen, previously seized by police, returned with or without a court process**, or otherwise come to the attention of police or firearms authorities.
- 9) **On what basis were firearms removed** from the shooter's household, and **on what basis were they returned**.
- 10) Whether the firearms were **stored in accordance with Canadian law and regulations**, and whether any storage, access-control or supervision failure contributed to the shooter's access.
- 11) A clear explanation, where disclosure must still be delayed, of the **specific category of information being withheld** and the anticipated point at which the RCMP will be able to provide an update.

We also ask for the RCMP to make a public commitment to regularly update the public on their investigation until it has released a full account of what can safely be disclosed regarding the firearms used. The RCMP has [previously said](#) it is committed to providing answers as official information becomes available. Canadians now need that commitment translated into a transparent and regular disclosure process.

All this information is central to preventing future mass shootings, gun violence victims, and devastated families and communities. Different acquisition routes may point to different prevention failures, including gaps in enforcement. Canada cannot properly assess its laws, policing practices and

public-safety systems without a clearer account of how these weapons came to be available to the shooter.

Lessons from the Tumbler Ridge school shooting must not be deferred until public attention fades. They must be identified while policymakers, police services, schools and communities can act on them to prevent future mass shootings.

Every student returning to a classroom this fall deserves to know that Canada is willing to confront the conditions that allow firearms capable of catastrophic harm to reach schools. Every parent deserves confidence that authorities will hasten to learn from this tragedy, rather than ask the public to wait indefinitely for answers.

We urge you to ensure the RCMP releases the firearms information that can safely be made public now, establishes a timetable for further disclosures, and treats transparency as an essential part of preventing the next mass shooting.

Respectfully,

[Signature removed for publication]

Heidi Rathjen, **PolySeSouvient**

with

Brian Sweeney, **Angies Angels**

Dr Najma Ahmed, **Canadian Doctors for Protection Against Guns**

Ken Price, **Danforth Families for Safe Communities**

Boufeldja Benabdallah, **Quebec Mosque**

c.c.: The Right Honourable Mark Carney
 The Hon. Gary Anandasangaree
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Jacques Ramsay
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister Rachel Bendayan
 Secretary of State (Nature) Nathalie Provost
 B.C. Premier David Eby
 Member of Parliament Bob Zimmer