



School District No. 59 (Peace River South)

Community Update: Tumbler Ridge Secondary School

As we continue to move forward together, we want to share an update on the next steps for Tumbler Ridge Secondary School.

Our hearts remain with the students, families, staff, first responders, and everyone in our community who continue to navigate the aftermath of this devastating tragedy. We know that Tumbler Ridge Secondary School holds deep meaning for many people, and we recognize that the work ahead may bring a range of emotions.

Over the past several months, we have listened to students, families, staff, Indigenous partners, community members, and experts as we considered the best path forward. Based on those conversations, the Peace River South School District requested support from the province to build a new secondary school at a new location in Tumbler Ridge and to remove the existing school using a thoughtful, trauma-informed approach.

Removal of the Existing School

Work to remove the existing school has begun and will continue throughout the summer.

Every effort is being made to carry out this work in a way that respects the significance of the site and minimizes disruption to students, families, and the broader community. To support privacy and reduce impacts, the following steps will be taken:

- Most of the work to remove furniture and other moveable materials will take place inside the building and materials will be removed using covered trucks.
- The building will be carefully dismantled in stages, rather than using more disruptive methods.
- All building materials will be transported to regional landfills. The Tumbler Ridge landfill will not be used.

The removal of the school is expected to be completed this fall. We will continue to share updates if timelines change.

Honouring Tumbler Ridge Secondary School

We know many people would like an opportunity to recognize the important place Tumbler Ridge Secondary School has held in our community. During the week of July 20th, you will notice that the signs will be taken down and the flags will be removed. We

share this information in advance so that those who wish to may reflect and remember in their own way.

Preparing for the New School Year

While work continues at the existing school site, preparations for the upcoming school year are also well underway.

Beginning later this month, the central complex for the Kodiak Campus will begin arriving on site. This facility will include washrooms, offices, staff workspaces, counselling spaces, and a gathering area for students, and will be ready for the start of the school year.

Looking Ahead

Planning for a new Tumbler Ridge Secondary School is also moving forward. In the coming weeks, the school district, in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure, will begin the process of selecting an architect to develop design concepts for the new school. When consultation begins this fall, students, staff, families, and community members will have the opportunity to review these concepts and provide feedback – the first step in creating a school that reflects the needs and aspirations of the Tumbler Ridge community.

Staying Connected

We know many people will have questions as this work progresses. We are committed to keeping you informed and will continue to share updates as the project moves forward.

Thank you for your patience, your compassion, and the care you continue to show one another. Together, we will honour the past while creating a new learning environment that will serve students and families for generations to come.

To learn about the supports available for people affected by the Tumbler Ridge tragedy, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/tumbler-ridge>