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## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Her Honour the Honourable Wendy Cocchia  
Lieutenant Governor  
at the  
Opening of the Second Session, Forty-third Parliament  
of the Province of British Columbia  
February 12, 2026

Today, I bring this message from the Throne and from the sacred territories of the Lekwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations – with respect, compassion, and sympathy.

Honourable members, we begin this session with heavy hearts following the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge.

Our thoughts are with the victims, their loved ones, and a tight-knit community suffering unimaginable pain. We hold them in our prayers and stand with them in their grief.

Today, the people of Tumbler Ridge are wrapped in the care and compassion of an entire province and a country that mourns alongside them.

We are profoundly grateful to the first responders, health care workers, teachers, and school staff whose courage and swift action helped save lives. Their service reflects the very best of our province.

In times of sorrow, British Columbians come together. May we carry that spirit forward, supporting this community and one another in the days and months ahead.



On a personal note, His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty the Queen, Her Excellency Mary Simon, and I wish to add our own personal message of support and love for the Tumbler Ridge community.

As a mother, it's impossible to comprehend the pain and grief you're experiencing. Nobody thinks when they see their child or loved one, off for the day, they won't be returning.

My heart aches for the families, students and everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the small community of Tumbler Ridge. Please know we are here for you.