



Yuuluʔilʔatḥ Government Support Services

November 10, 2025

ʔuhʔaʕhasuu Citizens and Residents of hitaču,

In February 2025, Pacific Rim School District (SD70) teacher Michael Rhodes was disciplined by the B.C. Commissioner for Teacher Regulation for engaging in “inappropriate physical contact” with students while he taught Physical Education from 2014 to 2019.

This information was widely shared through social media and news outlets. Information like this can trigger people by bringing up their own experiences, and it can trigger people who may have been impacted by someone else’s experiences.

Yuuluʔilʔatḥ Government (YG) has raised concerns to SD70 about the impacts of Mr. Rhodes’ teaching on Yuuluʔilʔatḥ students. The school district has confirmed that Mr. Rhodes remains on long-term leave. To be clear, YG does not support the return of Mr. Rhodes in any role within the education system.

Although the infractions occurred several years ago, YG acknowledges that those who were impacted—either directly or indirectly—may not have had a chance to heal.

As a commitment to the wellbeing, safety, and healing of all community members and citizens, YG would like to offer a variety of services to support those who have been impacted by the inappropriate behaviour of SD70 teacher Michael Rhodes. These supports are meant for any Yuuluʔilʔatḥ citizens and/or community members, whether they were impacted directly by the actions or indirectly impacted by the actions or by the subsequent news coverage.

The services will be provided by **Hulitan Family and Community Services** (<http://www.hulitan.ca>), an accredited Indigenous organization with more than 25 years of experience working in community. The team will be joining us for initial support from **November 23 to November 26, 2025**, being offered as follows:

- A **community dinner** at the Cixʷatin Centre on November 23 at 5:00pm to meet members of the team, ask questions and share a meal.
- A **two-day workshop** on November 24 and November 25 called “A Journey to Healing Workshop” provided by Gerald Kiesman ([Restoring Balance Consulting](#)). The workshop will provide the participants with a clear understanding of trauma and will include healing exercises and a Trauma Stress Release Exercise to manage triggers and release the stress/emotional residue in the body from the trauma, using western and traditional practices, exercises, and ceremony. This will take place from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day, with snacks and lunch provided. No registration is required for this workshop.



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· **Counselling support:** From November 24-26, two qualified therapists (one male, one female, with a combined experience of more than 25 years in trauma counselling and EMDR) will be available for one-to-one sessions. To book a session, call (250) 726-7343 or email moa@ufn.ca.

· **Access to a healer:** Riley McKenzie and Ann Marshall will provide eagle feather brushings, debriefing sessions, and a ceremony for letting go from November 23-26.

· A **follow-up workshop and check-in** that will take place in mid-January, 2026

Hulitan will also be available to provide ongoing supports after the workshop is over. Please call (250) 726-7343 or email moa@ufn.ca to make an appointment.

If the information provided here has brought up difficult feelings for you or anyone you care about, the following helplines and resources are available year-round:

310 Mental Health Support

- For emotional support, info and resources specific to mental health in B.C.
- Call: 310-6789 (no area code needed)

Crisis Centre BC

- Distress Line: 1-866-661-3311
- For those who are or know someone having suicidal thoughts: 1-800-784-2433

Amber Severinson

- YG counsellor, available by appointment
- (236) 544-0464

Westcoast Community Resources Society

- Call 250-726-2020 or text 250-266-0187

First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line - 24 HOUR

- 1-855-242-3310



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KUU-US Crisis Line - 24 HOUR

- Adult/Elder Crisis Line: 250-723-4050
- Child/Youth Crisis Line: 250-723-2040
- BC Wide Toll Free: 1-800-588-8717

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419

Tsow-Tun Le Lum Counseling, Culture Support

- 1-888-403-3123

Nurses Hotline - 24 HOUR

- 811

Emergency - 24 HOUR

- 911

If any community member has concerns or wishes to file a complaint related to Michael Rhodes, please contact Asya Touchie Director of HUUHTAKŠIIHIN?AALA (we are always learning) - Education and Youth for information about the formal complaint process and available support resources.

Phone: 250-726-7342 | Cell: 250.726.6910 | Email: asya.touchie@ufn.ca.

Sincerely,

Yuułu?if?ath Government – Ucluelet First Nation