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For Immediate Release

Prairie South Offers Condolences after La Loche Shootings

Prairie South Schools offered prayers of support on Saturday for the students, staff, and community in La Loche after the tragic shootings in that community on Friday. Board Chair Dr. Shawn Davidson said, "on behalf of the Board and staff at Prairie South Schools, I offer condolences to the families of the victims of Friday's shootings. I can't imagine what they must be going through."

Director of Education Tony Baldwin explained that, in addition to offering any support that Prairie South can offer to the Northern Lights School Division, there are several things that happen in Prairie South when a tragic incident occurs in another school division. "Any time there is a tragedy in a school, we examine our own processes to ensure we are doing the best things for students in Prairie South." Baldwin explained that this would not lead to immediate change. "It may be many weeks before we have a clear understanding of what happened in La Loche on Friday," said Baldwin. "We have excellent processes in place to ensure that our schools are safe and engaging spaces to learn and teach, and those processes will not change in the coming days."

Superintendent Lori Meyer explained that supports were available to students or staff who are affected by the tragedy. "We have a variety of division-level supports that will be available to support individuals or groups of students or staff," Meyer said. "Although it is important to understand that the incident on Friday is exceedingly rare in Canada, we know that all schools are affected when a tragedy occurs."

As is the case at all government buildings, flags throughout Prairie South will be at half mast this week as a measure of respect for the victims of Friday's shootings.

Prairie South operates 40 schools in communities from Craik in the north to Coronach and Rockglen in the south. In Moose Jaw, Prairie South operates 8 elementary schools and 3 high schools.

For additional information, please contact Director of Education Tony Baldwin at (306)694-1200.