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PRESS RELEASE OF RICE PARSONS LEONI & ELLIOTT RE LITIGATING TUMBLER RIDGE CIVIL CLAIMS AGAINST OPENAI IN CALIFORNIA

On February 10, 2026 in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, 18 year old Jesse Van Rootselaar (the “Shooter”) committed one of the worst mass shootings in Canadian history. Eight people died that day, five of whom were children at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School: Ezekiel Schofield (13), Abel Mwansa Jr. (12), Kylie Smith (12), Ticaria Lampert (12), and Zoey Benoit (12) (the “Tumbler Ridge Mass Shooting”). Educator Shannda Aviugana-Durand (39) was murdered in front of her daughter, a student at the school. Two students were shot and survived. Maya Gebala (12) was shot three times at close range, suffering, among other injuries, a severe traumatic brain injury. Paige Hoekstra (19) was shot in the chest. Dozens of students and educators were front-row witnesses to the bloodshed.

On Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026, our American co-counsel at Edelson PC are filing 30 new lawsuits on behalf of injured and traumatized students and educators, alleging that OpenAI's own safety team identified the Shooter as a credible threat of imminent gun violence eight months before the attack, recommended that the company call the RCMP, and were overruled by OpenAI's leadership. These lawsuits are filed against OpenAI and Sam Altman in the Northern District of California.

Said John Rice, K.C., lead Canadian counsel for the complainants:

*These students and teachers were eyewitnesses to gun violence, murder, and emergency life-saving efforts rarely seen outside of a theatre of war, and only in the most lawless of places on earth. **If the allegations of fact are proven true in court**, our clients and their families want justice, and the collective goals of all these lawsuits include:*

1. **A search for the truth** and in particular, the production of all chat-log material between the Shooter and ChatGPT before the Tumbler Ridge Mass Shooting, and all of OpenAI's internal documents showing why corporate actors chose in June 2025 not to alert Canadian authorities that the Shooter was planning an imminent mass casualty event.
2. **Historic compensatory and punitive damages** to penalize OpenAI for its reckless disregard for public safety, deter this company and all tech and AI companies from doing

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the same thing, and to express society's condemnation and outrage over such egregious corporate malfeasance.

3. ***Prevention of another AI-facilitated mass shooting*** through meaningful injunctive relief obliging major platform safety reforms, warnings, and mandatory law enforcement reporting requirements for all foreseeable and imminent acts of violence.

For any further inquiries about the California lawsuits filed against OpenAI arising out of the Tumbler Ridge Mass Shooting, please contact Rice Parsons Leoni & Elliott LLP (jrice@rplelaw.com or mhogan@rplelaw.com) or Edelson PC (kmccann@edelson.com).

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