

## **Statement from Ben Sabic, Kids Help Phone National Youth Council Chair**

In the past several years, I have written nearly four dozen speeches and statements.

No amount of media training or briefings can prepare you to write a statement such as this one. After each sentence of this statement was completed, I paused for a brief few seconds – and reached for a tissue. This is without a doubt, one of the most difficult statements I have written.

As an individual who is active in the amateur sports community, I myself have travelled on a team bus on more than a few occasions. For that reason and others, the news of this accident has hit close to home.

On behalf of the Kids Help Phone organization and Kids Help Phone's National Youth Council, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the SJHL's Humboldt Broncos and the City of Humboldt.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers, STARS Air Ambulance flight crew and paramedics, Provincial Response Team, and other first responders and medical professionals who treated – and continue to treat the victims of this horrific accident.

Kids Help Phone is proud to have fostered relationships with professional and amateur hockey league teams from around Canada, which has included participation in the annual #HockeyTalks campaign and #BellLetsTalk Day.

We are committed to providing support to young hockey players who possess a strong passion for our national sport.

Hockey is far more than just a sport – it is a way of life in Canada, a symbol of Canadian culture. Following the first organized ice hockey game on March 3, 1875, hockey has become a cornerstone of importance in our nation's identity.

The Canadian hockey community is a tight-knit one, consisting of lifelong friendships and sibling-like bonds. The news of this tragic event has sent shockwaves throughout the community, and messages of support have been pouring in from coast to coast.

# Kids Help Phone

Over the next several days, I will be personally reaching out to the Saskatchewan hockey community and the families of the Humboldt Broncos players to offer support and my sincerest sympathies.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, please call Kids Help Phone's anonymous counselling helpline at 1-800-668-6868; or text TALK to 68-68-68, and you'll be connected to a trained Crisis Responder to help you with any issues – big or small. Both services are free, confidential, and available 24/7/365.

To the Province of Saskatchewan – we are here for you.

Tonight, we are all Broncos.

Sincerely,

*Ben Sabic*

Ben Sabic  
Chair, National Youth Council  
Kids Help Phone

**#PrayersForHumboldt**