

Dear Minister Kang and Attorney General Eby,

I write regarding the recent decision by the Ministry of Citizens' Services not to renew the lease of the Lawyers' Inn Society respecting the Law Courts Inn, located at the Vancouver Courthouse. I was dismayed to learn that this decision was made without consultation with many stakeholders and users, including the Vancouver legal community.

I am a lawyer in good standing with the Law Society, and my practice focuses on family and estate litigation. I am a regular user and visitor to the Law Courts Inn. Since completing my legal education in 2012, I have had many occasions to attend functions at the Law Courts Inn, including:

- As a law clerk with the B.C. Court of Appeal, lunches with my judges, and the annual clerk's dinner, attended by past and current clerks, and the judiciary;
- Annual General Meetings for WLEAF, a social justice organization that advocates for equality for all British Columbians pursuant to s. 15 of the *Charter*;
- As a student in the Inns of Court program, where young litigation counsel have the opportunity to learn from senior litigators and judges, and socialize with them. The purpose of that program is to encourage ethical practice and mentoring within the legal profession. My understanding is that it has been held exclusively at the Law Courts Inn;
- For innumerable CBABC subsections meetings and events;
- For receptions to celebrate members of the bench and bar, and other events that advance camaraderie within the legal profession;
- For meals and a quiet place to sit and review my materials during lunch breaks while attending in court.

The loss of the Law Courts Inn as a space for the legal profession to meet and socialize will undoubtedly have a profound impact on the Vancouver bar. In particular, at a time when our profession is facing increased isolation due to stay-at-home orders and measures designed to keep the current COVID-19 virus at bay, it is disheartening to know that I may never again have a chance to meet with my colleagues at the Law Courts Inn to learn and socialize together.

I urge you to reconsider your decision, and look forward to news that you have.

Kind regards,

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