

Dear Ministers,

I'm writing to ask you to reconsider your recently-announced decision to convert the Law Courts Inn (at the Vancouver law courts) into office space. The Law Courts Inn has been a meeting place for lawyers, judges and others since 1980. It is part of the legal history of British Columbia.

Particularly given the current pandemic, it seems to me that what is needed is not more office spaces but more large, public meeting spaces where we can join together—at a safe distance, if needed—to be with each other. For lawyers and judges, that is what the Law Courts Inn has always been.

At the very least, it seems to me this decision should be put on hold while the Government reassesses how much office space it really needs, and can sustainably support, as Covid-19 continues to transform our society. Many of the workers you may be considering housing in these new office spaces may prefer to continue working remotely from home even after the pandemic has passed.

Yours truly,

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