

Dear Mr. Dhaliwal,

I am writing to you regarding your ministry's decision not to renew the lease of the Law Courts Inn. I am very disappointed to hear the Law Courts Inn will no longer be occupying its current premises and will effectively be shut down. I respectfully ask you to reconsider this decision and to keep this space for the Law Courts Inn's use and the public's benefit.

This decision affects me in a number of ways; I stand to lose quite a bit if the Law Courts Inn ceases operations.

First, my fiancée and I have booked the Law Courts Inn for our wedding reception. This was initially scheduled for August 15, 2020, but we have had to postpone it until August 21, 2021. No longer having the Law Courts Inn as our wedding venue is a huge blow to us. Although our postponed wedding is slightly more than a year away, finding a suitable replacement venue in Vancouver for next summer is a near-impossible task in light of the heightened demand for next year from COVID postponements. Postponing our wedding has obviously been a difficult and unfortunate task, and losing the Law Courts Inn is—to be frank—salt in the wound.

I am not certain of the number of other weddings booked for next year, but I imagine there are twenty or so other couples now in the same position as us. As I have mentioned, this is very difficult news for us to find out now, particularly in light of all the challenges already posed by COVID-19.

Second, I will be working as a clerk at the BC Supreme Court in Vancouver in September. I was looking forward to having meals in the Law Courts Inn and enjoying that as part of my experience clerking at the Court.

Third, I will soon be a member of the legal profession and so mourn the loss of the Law Courts Inn as a place to eat and meet with colleagues. I am also disappointed as a future employee of Fasken, a firm who has donated generously to help re-start the Law Courts Inn following its financial troubles a few years ago.

Fourth, I am a member of the public and a tax-payer. I am dismayed to hear that such a beautiful venue in such an architecturally unique building will be converted to offices. The Law Courts Inn is a uniquely situated venue in downtown Vancouver, with stunning views of the reflection pond and Art Gallery. Converting this space to offices would frankly be a waste of such a beautiful space.

For these reasons, I ask you to reconsider your decision and renew the lease with the Law Courts Inn.

Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Ferreira