

Dear Sirs,

As former Chief Justice of the Province I write to tell you how strongly I disapprove of the Government's plan to displace the Law Courts Inn from the Vancouver Court House and turn the space into gov't offices.

To begin, the Court House is not just another gov't building. It is the centre of legal activity in the Province, and the purpose built home of the Law Courts and the Judiciary. It is a visible and important symbol that the Judiciary is a separate branch of gov't . It is to the administration of justice what the Legislative building in Victoria is to both the legislative and executive branches of gov't. Any step that blurs the line between the separate branches of gov't is a step backwards. The Inn has proven to be a great asset as a place for the legal profession to meet for both business and social purposes. Many meetings are held there every year by both the judiciary and the bar. It's convenient location greatly facilitates many meetings, some of considerable size, that would not be as well attended if those meetings had to be held elsewhere. A place to meet, do business and socialize is important to maintaining the legal profession's tradition of collegiality and cooperation.

In addition to its value to the legal profession, the Inn has also proven to be a much used venue by a variety of organizations, many of which are non-profit. It is an attractive space that should be kept available for use by the public at large.

Finally, I find it impossible to accept that the gov't cannot find other suitable space for whatever offices it now wants to move into the Court House. In the current market there must be myriad other offices that would be much more appropriate.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider, and reverse the gov't's present plan, and find another location that will meet the gov't's needs, and respect the Law Courts , the Judiciary and the legal profession. May I also ask that you draw this letter to the attention of Attorney General Eby. Thank you.

Yours truly,  
The Hon. Lance Finch  
Former Chief Justice of  
British Columbia