

LETTER OF THE DAY

Keep school lands

VSB made right decision not to sell properties

Re: Surplus school board sites will be saved, Oct. 16

The Vancouver school board has made the correct decision re: "surplus schools."

Local governments should never be selling these lands for short term gain, but rather leasing them.

This results in a constant, albeit small, revenue stream, but holds the lands for possible future uses.

It appears that wooden buildings are replaced about every 50 years or so; the existing buildings could be renovated and rented/leased, or removed and the land leased to developers for

say 50 years, then reverting to the VSB.

Minister of Education Mike Bernier is misguided when he states: "Other districts with declining enrolment have closed schools and sold the properties to the benefit of students." It might benefit the students of tomorrow, or five years from now, but not their children or grandchildren. He should be thinking long-term, not just the next two to three years.

Don't sell school lands; keep them for future generations.

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