

Van Sun Letter

Quake prevention device

Crossed fingers

Letter

Thursday, August 05, 2004

Although my kids get tired of me slathering on the sunscreen, insisting they wear hats, forbidding them to swim without an adult present, reminding them to buckle up in the car and wear life jackets in the dingy, at least I can do all those things to reduce their risk of being injured, or even killed, during summertime.

But once they go back to school, all I can I do to protect them if an earthquake strikes during school hours is cross my fingers.

Thank you to APEG's Andy Mill and Tracy Monk from Families for School Seismic Safety for raising the alarm about this unacceptable risk faced by too many of our school children. Let's not wait for disaster to strike before taking action. Those in our provincial government who are responsible for this disgraceful situation must commit funding that is dedicated to school seismic upgrades now, not after the next election.

Patti Bacchus

Province letter

Quake risk for schools called shocking

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Province columnist Mike Roberts did a great job of explaining the appalling earthquake risk faced by far too many B.C. schoolchildren -- including my own.

Former student activists like Nathan Lusignan and his group, Families for School Seismic Safety, along with professionals like engineer Andy Mill, have done a tremendous job of researching and raising awareness of this disaster waiting to happen. But, our politicians have dragged their feet when it comes to providing the level of funding required to ensure our kids can attend schools without the risk of buildings collapsing.

This situation is truly outrageous and unacceptable for a developed and relatively wealthy society. It simply isn't good enough to promise funding after the next election -- pay now so our kids don't have to pay with their lives.

Patti Bacchus,

Vancouver