

Times Colonist - Letter to editor

Make schools safe for students, adults

Mike Davey

Times Colonist

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Re: "Putting more pressure on schools," Nov. 2.

This editorial on school buildings and earthquakes missed two points.

Japan has the most stringent seismic building codes in the world. It's not surprising their schools survive an earthquake.

It's also not surprising those schools are then used as shelters. What other large public buildings could be used? Schools are in most communities and are used only part of the day.

Saying we don't know if the school will be in use at the time of an earthquake is no excuse to put children in a possibly dangerous situation. Most vehicles won't get into a crash; does that mean we won't make our children use their seat-belts? Of course not.

Seat-belts are for when our luck runs out. Schools should be seismically safe for both the children and adults who use them and for the refugees who will need them when a major earthquake next hits.

Lastly, many seismic studies have already been done on many schools. What was missing was the funds the B.C. government clawed back that were supposed to upgrade the schools.

Mike Davey,

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