

# Letters to the Editor – Vancouver Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May 14, 2018

## Harcourt offers a precedent

The exorbitant so called “school” tax, in reality a wealth tax that has nothing to do with schools, has resulted in a furor in Greater Vancouver and elsewhere in B.C. Mike Harcourt and Glen Clark tried a similar tax in 1993. The taxpayers in B.C. were equally livid. Harcourt is a gentleman. He listened to his constituents and he quickly cancelled the tax. Mr. Horgan, there is a precedent. Cancel this unfair surtax. Do the right thing.

Anne Wachsmuth, Vancouver

## Old advice remains relevant

Re: Tax on high-value homes stirs protest, security concerns

With regard to the “school tax” on pricey homes, the NDP government would be wise to heed the words of the Austrian economist and philosopher Friedrich Hayek, who, in *The Constitution of Liberty*, counsels against the imperiousness of such socialism: “It is the great merit of proportional taxation that it provides a rule which is likely to be agreed upon by those who will pay absolutely more and those who will pay absolutely less and which, once accepted, raises no problem of a separate rule applying only to a minority.”

Consideration should also be given to the words of the 19th century Scottish economist, J.R. McCulloch, who wrote of taxation: “The moment you abandon ... the cardinal principle of exacting from all individuals the same proportion ... of their property, you are at sea without a rudder or compass, and there is no amount of injustice and folly you may not commit.”

Old advice, but no less relevant today.

Bjorn Brown, Oakville, Ont.

## Class warfare in school tax

The B.C. government’s new tax on homes with a market value over \$3 million is another salvo in the NDP’s class war pitting the poor against the rich. The party’s spin doctors advertise it as a tax going to finance education. Dedicating special taxes to pay for special programs is a sham.

If the housing market crashes and many houses become worth less than \$3 million, will the government fire the teachers because the tax revenue has declined?

In fact, the tax is an expansion of the battle field for class warriors whose spin doctors claim that it is fair to tax high-priced homes because their owners did nothing to earn these gains. They simply won a prize in the lottery of home ownership.

Today \$3 million prizes are taxed. Will tomorrow’s be \$500,000? And why not impose taxes on the prizes of charity and other lotteries that also increase the unfairness of the distribution of income and wealth?

Herbert Grubel, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Simon Fraser University

## Seniors have Eby cowering

Re: Safety cited in cancelled town hall, May 2

I went to the rally at Trimble park. About the least violent protest I have ever seen. Then went home and watched David Eby tremble for the cameras and whine about having to cancel his meeting because he was afraid of his constituents.

Especially the old ones.

Robert Angus, Vancouver