



# Philippine **ASIAN** News **Today**

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## WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED 2026 !!!



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**A step forward for the Filipino cultural centre**  
Community members celebrated the success of a Vancouver city council motion to advance the development of a Filipino cultural centre. Approved on December 10, 2025, the motion brought forward by Mayor Ken Sim and Councillor Lenny Zhou identified 1940 Main Street as the potential location of the centre. Kababayans gathered at the site on December 28 for a walkthrough and to witness the unveiling of preliminary renderings for the Filipino cultural centre being proposed by the Filipino Legacy Society and Filipino developer Tobi Reyes.



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**PACIFIC COAST DENTAL CENTRE SURREY**  
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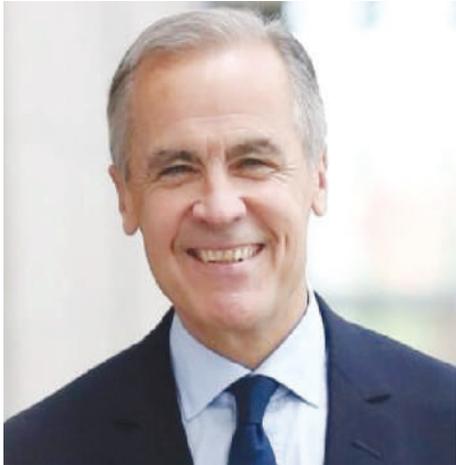


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# HOLIDAY MESSAGES

## Message from Prime Minister Mark Carney



"In a fast-changing, more divided and uncertain world, the holiday season is an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and focus on what really matters.

This is a season of joy for families, and I hope that you find time to rest, reconnect, and celebrate with the people you love most.

For Christians, Christmas holds a special meaning. It is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, to rejoice in the light that he brings, and to recommit to following his example of service, forgiveness, and generosity.

The holidays remind Canadians of all traditions that there can be hope after despair, that light follows darkness.

Although this year has brought more than its share of challenges to our country, we have also been reminded that we are fortunate to be part of one extraordinary, generous, and caring nation.

We're strongest when we are united, when we look out for each other, and when we take care of each other.

*Merry Christmas, Canada, from my family to yours."*

## Message from BC Premier David Eby



"Christmas is a time of joy, giving and togetherness. As people throughout the province put the finishing touches on special gifts, festive meals and holiday decorations,

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for the generosity you have shown this season and wish you a safe, peaceful and memorable holiday.

"Christmas is one of the most cherished days on the Christian calendar, marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians celebrate by attending special church services, gathering with loved ones and reflecting on the Lord's teachings of peace, love, humility and service to others. These values are at the heart of Christianity and inspire people of all backgrounds to embrace the

spirit of the season.

"This year has brought challenges and uncertainty to people here in B.C. and around the world. Yet this holiday season has shown once again that when times are tough, British Columbians are there for one another.

"Throughout the province, people of all ages have been spreading holiday cheer. School communities have contributed to toy drives, filled Christmas hampers and supported local food banks. Neighbours have been shovelling walkways, running errands and checking in on seniors who live alone. And communities big and small have rallied around families facing hardship, to ensure everyone can share in the joy of the season.

"These acts of kindness reflect the true spirit of Christmas – and the true spirit of British Columbia.

"This Christmas, our family will celebrate with friends, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, with gratitude for all of our shared blessings and a commitment to work for a better world at work, school and home in the year to come.

*"From my family to yours, merry Christmas and happy new year!"*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
VANCOUVER



### MESSAGE



As we celebrate the joyful season of Christmas, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to the Filipino community in British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and across Canada.

Christmas is a time of joy, peace, and renewal—a moment to pause, reflect, and embrace the hope that the season brings. Amid the traditions we cherish, may we remember the true meaning of Christmas and give thanks for the friendships, memories, and blessings we have received.

The year 2025 brought both achievements and challenges for our *kababayan*. Despite these, the resilience and compassion of the Filipino community continued to shine. I express my heartfelt appreciation to our community leaders, organizations, and volunteers whose dedication continues to uplift the lives of our *kababayan*. May the spirit of *bayanihan* remain alive in each of us.

In the coming year, the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver will remain committed to serving our community through consular services and Assistance-to-Nationals, ensuring timely support and protection for Filipinos in need. Alongside these services, the Consulate will continue to implement cultural programs and economic diplomacy initiatives that promote Filipino creativity, strengthen community ties, and expand opportunities for trade, investment, and tourism.

As we welcome 2026, may the message of Christmas inspire unity, kindness, and renewed hope. I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, peace, and happiness.

*Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat!*

  
GINA A. JAMORALIN  
Consul General

25 December 2025  
Vancouver, B.C.

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## Thanking those who make Surrey brighter this holiday season



Mayor Brenda Locke  
City of Surrey

delivering food hampers, visiting seniors, or organizing toy drives. These efforts brighten lives and strengthen the fabric of our community. Surrey is showing Canada what a caring and connected community looks like.

Thank you to everyone who helps our city shine this season. Your commitment makes a lasting difference, and your spirit of generosity makes Surrey a better, more joyful place for everyone.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's continue supporting one another, embracing our shared responsibility to uplift our city, and creating a vibrant, welcoming community for everyone.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Together, let's keep building a city where kindness and collaboration flourish, and where the joy of the season inspires us to give, connect, and celebrate.

At this special time of year, I am heartened by all the selfless individuals who give their time, energy, and resources to help those in need. Your consistent acts of generosity bring warmth and light to our community and show what the Spirit of Surrey truly looks like.

Our city thrives because of people who bring purpose, dedication, and care to everything they do – whether it's



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# Mayor Brenda Locke endorses Noemi Victorino for city council

By ReyFort Media

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke has announced that Noemi Victorino will be joining her slate in the October 2026 municipal election.

Victorino, who has an extensive record in government service and nonprofits, will be seeking a seat in city council next year.

Locke told Patrol Abroad in an interview with Patrol Abroad on December 14, 2025 that Filipinos are a major community in Surrey and they need to be represented in council.

"I know that Noemi will do a great job," said Locke, who is looking to secure a second term as city mayor.

The Surrey mayor was interviewed at the sidelines of the Mayor Brenda Locke Cup championship of the Drive and Dish Basketball League held at the Johnston Heights Secondary School gym.

"She's got a wonderful heart for our city," Locke said about Victorino, who was born in the Philippines and moved to Canada when she was a teen.

Locke also noted that in addition to her compassion, Victorino will help steer the city's finances in the right direction.

"She really has the business sense to make responsible fiscal decisions," Locke said.

The Filipino community is rapidly growing in Surrey, a city that will become the biggest in British Columbia in the next few years.

Victorino also spoke with Patrol Abroad at the sidelines of the Mayor Brenda Locke Cup on December 14.

"I'm really looking forward to making a tangible difference," Victorino said about serving in city council.

Victorino said that she was encouraged by Locke to run for council and she agreed because of the mayor's closeness to the community, among other reasons.

"I've seen firsthand her affinity to Filipino Canadians, especially in Surrey," Victorino said.

Victorino previously signed up as a provincial candidate by the B.C. United party last year.

However, her bid to become a member of the B.C. legislative assembly was cut short when her party merged with the B.C. Conservatives.

Reflecting on what she can do in council, Victorino said that city governments are able to effect changes immediately.

"You actually see what you voted for," she said about how city councillors realize programs they support.

Victorino recalled that she had always aspired to serve the public since she was young.

Victorino previously worked with the Canadian Border Services Agency.

In the non-profit sector, she founded Harvest for Hope Society, a group that provides vital support



Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey



Noemi Victorino

to individuals and families in need.

Harvest for Hope works to support communities by addressing food insecurity, promoting equitable

access to resources, and fostering connections.

Victorino also works with the Low Entropy Foundation, a group that promotes personal development and opportunities for growth.



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*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*  
*From,*  
*Dr. Kaori Sato and staff*



*Merry Christmas*

from:

*Vancouver PCG Family*

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## A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR THAT WAS

As I sit down to write my year end article for this column, I do so with a sense of quiet reflection. Writing about the lives and journeys of Filipinos in British Columbia has always meant listening closely to shared experiences, both spoken and unspoken.

This year, those stories felt heavier, shaped by events that tested our resilience while also revealing the depth of our collective strength as a community.

April marked one of the most painful moments of the year with the Lapu-Lapu tragedy. The loss reached far beyond the immediate circle of those affected and was felt deeply across the Filipino community in the province. Yet, amid the grief, compassion rose with quiet strength.

Prayer vigils were organized, fundraising efforts followed, and gestures of care and solidarity flowed naturally toward the victims and their families. In those days of sorrow, bayanihan was not recalled from memory but lived fully, reminding us that unity remains one of our strongest foundations.

The year also brought uncertainty through changes in immigration policies that affected Filipino families and international students hoping to build their future in Canada, particularly in British Columbia.

Long held plans were disrupted, and expectations had to be recalibrated. Anxiety and disappointment were real, especially for those whose dreams were tied to education, family reunification, and stability. Still, the community responded with dialogue, advocacy, and mutual support, choosing to share information and reassurance rather than



withdraw in uncertainty.

Amid these challenges, conversations also emerged that pointed toward hope and continuity, even as they revealed the complexities of moving forward together. Discussions surrounding a Filipino Cultural Center resurfaced with renewed interest, reflecting a shared longing for a space that honors memory, culture, and belonging.

At the same time, differing views among community leaders on how this vision should reach fruition led to moments of misunderstanding and disunity. Despite this, Filipino organizations across the province continued their work quietly and consistently, organizing cultural gatherings, civic forums, and community events that strengthened bonds and affirmed identity.

Our attention was repeatedly drawn back to the Philippines as typhoons and earthquakes

between the diaspora and the homeland remains strong and unwavering.

The year was further marked by troubling reports involving anomalous flood control projects in the Philippines and the investigations now underway.

These developments stirred concern and disappointment among Filipinos who continue to hope for transparency and accountability in public service. At the same time, they reinforced the importance of vigilance, civic responsibility, and continued engagement in shaping the nation's future.

Taken together, the events of the year may appear overwhelming. Yet they reveal something deeply instructive about who we are as a people.

Difficult seasons clarify values and strengthen resolve. As the year comes to a close, there is still much work ahead, but it is through simple unity, a commitment to do what is right, and a shared sense of civic duty that progress begins.

May this year end be remembered not only for its trials, but for how it strengthened our resolve, renewed our purpose, and prepared us for a better and more progressive Philippines. (Contact: jblarano@gmail.com)

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# Year-End Tech Check: The Most Common Computer Problems of 2025

*"Most tech problems aren't complicated—they just need the right person to look at them."*

Ask Computer Dean is helping you end 2025 with a sense of relief and welcome 2026 with a BANG! And remember, we are on FB and IG, too, please Like &/or Follow us so that you don't miss our Daily TECH Tips! Email us with your questions and for urgent ones, please don't hesitate to text message us at (236) 700-6388.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our readers! As we wrap up 2025 and prepare for a brand new year, this is the perfect time to reflect not only on the year behind us, but also on the technology we rely on every single day. Over the past year, based on common Google searches, Reddit discussions, and real world support calls, a few computer and device problems consistently topped the list. The good news?

Most of them are very fixable — especially with the right



guidance.

One of the most common complaints in 2025 was slow computers. Whether Windows or Mac, many systems simply struggled under the weight of aging hardware, too many startup programs, or missed updates. In most cases, routine maintenance — uninstalling unused software, updating the operating system, or upgrading to a solid state drive — dramatically improved performance.

WiFi and internet issues came in a close second. Dropped

connections, slow speeds, or devices refusing to connect were often traced back to outdated routers, poor placement, or overcrowded WiFi channels. A simple reboot, firmware update, or reconfiguring the channels used, repositioning the router away from walls and appliances solved many headaches.

Passwords and account lockouts caused more stress than ever this year. Forgotten logins, two actor authentication confusion, and security alerts left many people locked out of their own accounts. Using a reputable password manager and setting up proper recovery options proved to be lifesavers. Security threats also surged in 2025. Phishing emails, fake delivery notices, and scam texts became more convincing. Staying protected meant keeping antivirus software updated, running regular scans, and learning to pause before clicking suspicious links.

My goto protection: **Malwarebytes Premium!** Let me help you with this

solution! Bad people delivering ransomware, phishing attacks, costly fake links or emails will be totally disappointed when they try & invade you.

Finally, storage and backup issues caught many people off guard. Full phones, cloud warnings, and missing backups highlighted the importance of having both local and cloud backups in place.

If there's one takeaway from 2025, it's this: you don't have to deal with technology problems alone. A trusted computer consultant can save you time, stress, and costly mistakes.

If you have questions — big or small, urgent or confusing — I invite you to reach out anytime at askcomputerdean@gmail.com. Let's head into the new year feeling confident, secure, and in control of our technology.

*"Wishing each and every one of you a wonderful NEW YEAR 2026!!!" ~*

*Computer Dean*

# Season's Greetings!

May this season bring you closer to your Canadian goals and open doors to new opportunities in the year ahead.

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## We got only \$400 from Filipino BC, says sister of Lapu-Lapu fatality

By ReyFort Media

The sister of Jendhel May Sico wants to know one thing from the organizers of the ill-fated Lapu-Lapu festival.

Like many in the community, Maydhel Ann Sico is asking Filipino BC where funds raised for victims of the April 26, 2025 tragedy have gone.

Her sister Jendhel May was one of 11 fatalities in the Vancouver car ramming incident.

"It would be interesting to see where their money is really going and why they aren't able to help as much as they claim," Sico said in an interview with Patrol Abroad.

Sico told journalist Rowena Papasin that her family received the equivalent of only \$400 from Filipino BC since the Vancouver tragedy happened, despite the gravity of their loss for the death of Jendhel May.

Sico was interviewed on December 22 when representatives of the Filipino community in Victoria traveled to Vancouver to hand out cheques to support victims and families.

The Sico family received \$1,000, and Maydhel Ann noted that

this was the first time they ever received a substantial amount of support.

Her mother Jenny De Guzman turned emotional during the Patrol Abroad interview. She was grateful for the support by Filipino community members in Victoria.

The cheques were distributed by Melissa Badua, president of the Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society, and Annette Beech, president of the Victoria Filipino Canadian Caregivers Association, a group that includes temporary foreign workers and international students.

In her report, Papasin noted that Filipino BC has been facing criticisms and questions about how the organization handled donations for Lapu-Lapu victims.

In the interview, Sico noted that it has been "difficult" to ask for help from Filipino BC.

"It makes no sense to us that there's a capacity that they just have to give a small amount to each family when ... it was told that they received so much more than everyone's receiving," Sico said.

Ex-Filipino BC directors Lina Vargas, Concepcion Colobong, Antonio Ortega, and Oscar Bisnar have been pressing Filipino BC to



*Filipino BC, which is led by RJ Aquino and Kristina Moser, are facing questions about where funds for Lapu-Lapu tragedy victims have gone.*

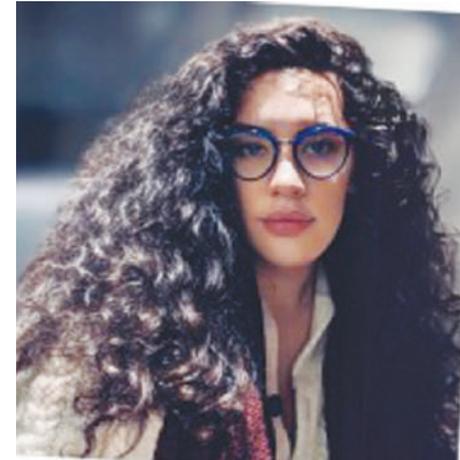
make a full accounting of where the Lapu-Lapu funds went.

Earlier, the United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC (UFCABC) have released a report detailing how much money the alliance raised for victims and how it was spent to support victims and families.

A social media post by the Bayanihan Community Center in Victoria presented a tally of funds raised by the Filipino community in Victoria and how these were allotted.

The Filipino community in Victoria raised around \$15,000.

Out of that total amount, \$1,000



was given to the family of Jendhel Ann Sico.

Jendhel May's cousin AJ Sico was severely injured. He got a \$5,000 cheque from the Filipino community in Victoria.

A cheque of \$3,000 went to Blaine Redblack, Jhendel Ann's fiancé, who survived with serious leg injuries and has been unable to return to work.

Alejandro Samper received \$3,000. He lost his mother, father and sister in the Lapu-Lapu tragedy.

Christie Ann Watkins received \$3,000. She was injured in the incident. Her son sustained emotional trauma.

## LAPU-LAPU FESTIVAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*New organization forms to promote legacy of Lapu-Lapu, will commemorate Vancouver tragedy with community dinner*

**December 29, 2025 VANCOUVER** — A new community organization has been incorporated in honour of and to foster the legacy of Filipino hero Lapu-Lapu.

Called the Lapu-Lapu Festival Society of B.C., the group was established by Filipino Canadians who trace their heritage to the central Philippine province of Cebu.

It was in Cebu where Lapu-Lapu and fellow Indigenous warriors successfully repelled European colonizers in the historic Battle of Mactan on April 27, 1521.



Antonio Ortega

Founding chairperson Antonio Ortega said that the formation of the Lapu-Lapu Festival Society of B.C. represents a continuity in the historical connection by the Filipino diaspora to their heritage.

"We are tending to our roots by reconnecting and reclaiming our cultural heritage," Ortega says. "By rediscovering this tradition, we can better understand our identity and take pride in our shared bonds."

Ortega notes that Filipinos of Cebuano lineage partake an ancestry that traces its origins to the pre-colonial society

led by Lapu-Lapu and other Indigenous forerunners.

"We are on the whole descendants of Lapu-Lapu in an unbroken line of generations that honour his spirit of freedom and self-determination," Ortega says.

Ortega is also the president of the Cebuano Society of Canada, one of the key organizations that spearheaded the 2024 and 2025 Lapu-Lapu festivals in Vancouver.

*NEXT PAGE PLEASE...*



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**LAPU-LAPU FROM LAST PAGE...**

"Lapu-Lapu was our native hero and this is why Cebuano people stepped up in helping put together the festivals," he notes. "This is also why we felt and continue to bear incredible sorrow over the tragedy of April 26, 2025."

To remember the victims and everyone impacted by the tragedy, the Lapu-Lapu Festival Society of B.C. is hosting a commemorative dinner to mark the one-year anniversary of the incident.

- **When:** April 12, 2025
- **Where:** Fraserview Banquet Hall (8240 Fraser Street, Vancouver)

"We want to honour the memory of those who perished and wish healing for their families and friends," Ortega explains. "We look forward to the community coming together in remembrance."

**Contact:**  
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**The Tall Order By  
Mon Datol**

## **PBBM bagsak trust rating sa -3% - SWS; VP Sara kamukha ni 'Chucky' pag galit – Castro; 'No one is above the law' - PBBM; DILG inirekomenda kasuhan 87 sa 'flood control scam' kasama sina Zaldy Co, Martin Romualdez**

**Masaganang 2026 sa Ating Lahat  
at sa Buong Mundo!!!**

Naglabas na naman ng survey ang Social Weather Stations (SWS) na laam ng sambayanan na open-book ang pagka-bias o' sobrang-pabor at dikit sa mga Duterte nuon pang tumakbong Pangulo si DDU30 at siyempre very timing ang inilabas nitong resulta umano ng face-to-face interview sa 1,200 adults na ginawa noon daw November 24-30, at as usual...

*Bagsak ulit si PBBM at angat-angatan na naman si VP Sara.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ayon sa SWS survey na inilabas kahapon, December 26, ay bumagsak ng -3% ang net trust rating ni PBBM (38% much trust minus 41% little trust = -3%) habang umakyat naman ng 31% net trust kay VP Duterte (56% much trust minus 26% little trust = 31%)...

*Nakngdragon Tol Reyfort!*

*1,190 na-interview taga-Davao City!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Never akong nagtiwala sa kahit sino o' anuman survey firm sa Pinas dahil merong personal interest lahat ang mga may-ari ng mga survey agency na yan, dahil, kahit ano pa sabihin ng mga nagpapatakbo ng mga ito na para sa bayan ang ginagawa nila ay...

*Me katapat ang serbisyo mula sa nananalo. Tama o' korek?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Muntik na rin akong napaniwala nitong batang Cong. Leandro Leviste ng Batangas na anak ni Sen. Loren Legarda at dating Gob Leviste ng Batangas dahil ang galing magsalita at mag-project ng sarili sa harap ng camera ar media.

*Ala, eyh, pabida at pa-pogi lang akting, tulad ni 'Meow-Meow'.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Sa latest press con ni Cong. Leviste kahapon (Dec. 27) ay umiiyak-iyak pa siya habang patuloy ang naratiba niyang 'bigay' ng nasirang DPWH (Usec Cabral ang mga dokumentong na tinatawag na 'DPWH Leaks' at patuloy na ginagamit si DPWH Sec Vince Hizon na nagsabing ilabas niya sa media mga dokumentong nagtututro sa 'lahat ng Senador', mga Kongresista, Cabinet secretaries at undersecretaries sa budget insertions sa NEP.

*Ala eyh, ke POC Usec Claire Castro lang ay sadsad na si Leviste.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Tinatanong lang ni Usec Clarie ke Leviste KUNG authenticated ang mga DPWH documents na hawak niya na ibinigay DAW ng nasirang Usec Cabral, pero, laging sagot ng anak ni Sen. Loren ay itanong na lang ni Usec Castro ke DPWH Sec Dizon para malamang tutuo mga files. At dahil naiipit na si Sec. Vince Dizon, ay nagbigay na ito ng statement sa media at sinabing hindi pa niya nakikita dokumentong hawak ng anak ni Sen. Legarda, kayat...

*'DPWH Leaks' hawak ni Leviste hindi authenticated. Paktaylo Leandro aka 'Cong. Ngaw-Ngaw.'*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ikinumpara ni Palace Press Officer at PCO Usec. Atty. Claire Castro si VP Sara Duterte sa manikang si "Chucky" mula sa American horror film na "Child's Play" sa kanyang YT Channel na kung saan nagbigay siya ng reaction sa isang video ni VP Sara nang tanungin kung ano ang mensahe nito kay PBBM ngayong Pasko.

*Pag-galit lang 'Chucky-Face' si Inday Sara, Atty. Ganda, hehehe.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Gaya ng ipinangako ni Pangulong Marcos, Jr. na me makukulong bago mag-Pasko na kasangkot sa pagnanakaw ng multi-bilyong pera ng bayan sa 'flood control project' ng DPWH sa bansa ay...

*Nasa Oblo na mag-asawang Curlee at Sara Discaya. Pramis.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Si Sara Discaya ay sa Lapu-Lapu City Jail inilipat kahapon mula sa Cebu Jail kasama ang 9 pang sinampahan ng kaso dahil sa Ph96Million DPWH 'ghost projects' sa Davao Oriental, samantalang ang asawa niyang si Curlee Discaya ay sa Senate Jail nakakulong nuon pang Oktubre matapos 'i-cite for contempt' sa Senado ng nagsinungaling sa ginagawang 'inquiry' sa 'flood control scam,' kayat...

*Kulong bago mag-Pasko 'King & Queen' Tong-kraktor sa Pinas.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Pero wala pang mga Senador at Congressmen na sinasabing mga balyena o' malalaking isda na nahuhuli at nakukulong at bakit daw hindi kasama si dating Speaker Martin Romualdez sa iniimbestigahan ng ICI at DOJ kahit na dati niyang 'right hand sa Kongreso' si dating AKO Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co na siyang sinasabing 'utak ng bilyong insertions'

sa taunang DPWH budget. Pero sabi nga ni PBBM ay nagu-umpisa pa lang ang pagpuksa sa kurakot sa pera ng bayan at ...

*'No one is above the law' at walang kapamilya sa laban sa kurapyon sa pera ni Juan.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ipinahayag namanni DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon na inirekomenda na ng ahensiya ang pagsasampa ng kasong kriminal at administratibo laban sa 87 indibidwal, kabilang sina dating House Speaker Martin Romualdez, dating Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co kaugnay ng flood control scam.

*Plunder, malversation, antigraft at bribery kaso ng mga 'Butanding.'*

\*\*\*\*\*

Kasama sa malalaking isda at maaaring si Benguet Rep. Eric Yap ang unang miyembro ng Lower House na makukulong dahil sa matinding pagkakasangkot sa 'flood control scam' dahil sa nakitang "conclusive evidence" na nag-uugnay kay Yap kina Sarah at Curlee Discaya, mga ebidensiyang...

*May kinalaman sa multi-bilyong kickback scheme.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Si Eric Yap ay kabilang sa 20 mambabatas na posibleng maaresto dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa flood scam at noong nakaraang linggo lamang ay ipinag-utos ni PBBM ang pag-freeze ng mga ari-arian ni Yap at ang kapatid nitong si ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Edvic Yap, gayundin ang mga kompanyang nauugnay sa kanila, ang Silverwolves Construction Corp. at Sky Yard Aviation Corp. Di kaya...

*Sangkot din ACT-CIS Party-list Cong. Jocelyn Tulfo? Asking lang P o.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ang magkapatid na Yap ay inaakusahang tumanggap ng P70 milyong kickback sa mag-asawang Discaya 'thru an electronic transfer of money,' saad ni Remulla.

*Walang lusot magkapatid na Yap. Huling-huli sa bibig 2 isda.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Si Eric Yap, ay dating chairman ng House Committee on Appropriations noong siya pa ang kinatawan ng ACT-CIS nuong 2019 na ginawang caretaker ng Benguet ni Dating Pres. Digong Duterte at noong 2025 elections, tumakbo siya bilang kongresista ng Benguet sa ilalim ng Lakas-CMD. Si Yap din umano nag-

insert ng Ph51B sa Davao 1st District ng kumpare niyang si Cong Pulong Duterte. Kaya pala...

*Sanggang-dikit sina Cong Yap at Cong Pulong.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Sa mga Honorable Senators naman ay baka raw matapos na ang selebrasyon ng pagpasok ng 2026 posibleng maglabas ng warrant of arrests ang husgado para sa mga sangkot na Senadores ng Bayan dahil sa dumarami pang pumapasok na ebidensiya sa mga maraming mambabatas na tumanggap umano ng kickbacks sa mga kontratista ng flood control scam. Tsaka, dati, 5-6 lang daw Senador sangkot sa kickback, pero...

*Ngayon, lahat na raw ng Senador me 'insertions' sa pondo ng DPWH 2025 projects???*

\*\*\*\*\*

Nauuna sa listahan ng mga Senador na pinakakasuhan ng ICI, DOJ sa Ombudsman sina Jinggoy Estrada, Joel Villanueva, Bong Revilla, Chiz Escudero, Nancy Binay, Grace Poe, Mark Villar, pero sa hawak na bagong listahan ni Batangas Cong. Leandro Leviste na bigay daw ng yumaong dating DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catarina Cabral ay...

*Lahat ng Senador sa 20th Congress ay meron 'insertions' sa 2025 budget.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Inamin din ni Cong. Leviste na mayroon ding insertion ang kanyang ina na si Sen. Loren Legarda sa 2025 budget ng DPWH na Ph1Bilyon batay sa listahang nakuha nito sa yumaong resigned DPWH Undersecretary Catalina Cabral.

*Nakngdragon, Tol Reyfort! Kaya ba ni Cong. Leviste ipakulong Nanay Loren niya!?!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Sina Senador Sonny Angara (now DepEd Sec) (105 projects @ Ph150M/proj); Chiz Escudero (34 proj), Joel Villanueva (28 proj), Peter Cayetano (14 proj) at Imee Marcos (24 proj) ang nag-insert ng may pinaka-malalaking budget sa NEP sa 2025 National Budget. KUNG tutoo ang umano'y SOP 15-25% 'commission' para sa mga 'proponents' ng projects...

**SEE NEXT PAGE ...**



# Banquet of Stories: Roots and Routes



Pat Parungao is the Immediate Past President of the Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration Society (PCHC-MoM), a charitable non-profit society dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and respect among all people, with a focus on Pacific Canada. To learn more please go to <<https://www.pchc-mom.ca/>>. Pat is grateful to the First Peoples for the opportunity to live on the ancestral and unceded territory of the hənqəminəm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples.

Co-Presidents Stan De Mello and Lucy Sun opened the program with an enthusiastic welcome. Director Jasmindra Jawanda then introduced fellow PCHC-MoM Director Taangunaay Grinder of the Haida Nation who shared a Haida prayer that she learned from her Naanaay (grandmother). Cree Elder Curtis Ahenakew followed with a powerful message of unity and respect, welcoming us with a ceremonial song and drumming that resonated deeply with the audience.



**Respected Elder Curtis Ahenakew** < <https://www.pchc-mom.ca/gallery/banquet-of-stories-2025> >

Featured also were moving artistic performances by PCHC-MoM volunteer Javier Tarazona, originally from Venezuela who sang and played guitar. Barbadian poet, author and filmmaker Marlo Browne then shared an emotional poem reflecting the struggles, resilience, and dignity of migrant workers.

A highlight of the banquet was the wide array of food provided by local businesses representing diverse culinary traditions. Broyé Café & Bakery owner Louis Bui served Japanese sweets and signature Vietnamese “creative coffees,” modern fusions blending Asian ingredients such as ube and pandan with Vietnamese coffee. Kulinarya Filipino Eatery, represented by Christina Tamayo for owner Rose Samaniego, offered pancit noodles and spring rolls, sharing how Filipino flavours preserve memories of home while welcoming newcomers to the cuisine.

Mediterranean Specialty Foods – Turkish Market. Ahmet Gurses served hummus, baba ghanoush, red pepper feta spread, and zaatar crackers, while sharing his father’s migration story of arriving in Canada from Turkey with only \$20. Today, their store is widely regarded as the heart of Vancouver’s Turkish diaspora. Merci Beaucoup Café, a family-owned business with roots in Hai

Phong, Vietnam, provided fresh Vietnamese rice paper wraps with shrimp, basil, vermicelli noodles, bean sprouts and peanut sauce. SabaFoodsMiddleEasternYemeni Restaurant owner Al Ogbah, served roast lamb haneeth with rice, hummus, and fava bean dip, highlighting their commitment to authentic Yemeni cuisine using halal, grass-fed ingredients.



**Tariq Malik, Kathy King and Paul Yuen** < <https://www.pchc-mom.ca/gallery/banquet-of-stories-2025> >

PCHC-MoM Director Tariq Malik moderated the panel discussion featuring Kathy King and Paul Yuen who shared their migration stories. Kathy remembers

Thanksgiving meals that blended turkey, rice, chow mein and curry, reflecting her Hong Kong and Mumbai family roots. Since her teen years to the present, Kathy has worked at Ocean Brands and has actively participated in its evolution from a local fish processor to a global company. Kathy is the Vice President of Procurement Strategy at Ocean Brands.

Paul Yuen shared his journey immigrating to Vancouver with his wife Cathy Lee in 1988. Since co-founding Bodwell High School in 1991, it has grown into an internationally recognized, award-winning, boarding school with international and local students, guided by the motto “Strength in Diversity.”

PCHC-MoM is deeply grateful to its sponsors, community partners, donors and MOV staff - Dr. Denise Fong, Urban Curator, and Jasper Berehulke, Indigenous Specialist. PCHC-MoM’s Nafisa Golwala, Ivy Mei, Kevin Nguyen and Ethan Nguyen’s contributions were also significant to create this meaningful celebration of belonging, collaboration and intercultural harmony. Guests departed with uplifted spirits and full hearts—and stomachs.

The Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration (PCHC-MoM) Society held its signature “Banquet of Stories” event last November 30 on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and salilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

at the Museum of Vancouver (MoV) located at scenic Vanier Park.

PCHC-MoM’s Banquet of Stories provide attendees with a safe, welcoming environment where guests sample food from various cultures and learn about cultural significance, ingredients, and preparation methods of the food and migration stories of the people who prepare them.

Guests were warmly greeted by PCHC-MoM, Capilano University and Bodwell High School volunteers. From the wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling windows, attendees enjoyed stunning views of Vanier Park, English Bay, downtown Vancouver, Stanley Park, and the North Shore mountains.



**Co-Masters of Ceremonies and Co-PCHC-MoM Presidents Stan De Mello and Lucy Sun.** Credit: Edison Cai

**TALL ORDER CONTINUOUS... FROM PAGE 10**

*Nakngdragon! Paldo-paldo mga kotongero sa Senado!!!*

\*\*\*\*\*  
Hindi sasantuhin ni PBBM si Cong. Martin Romualdez kapag napatunayang malakas ang ebidensiyang magtuturo na ilegal ang naging pagyaman ng kaniyang pinsang-buo na mambabatas mula Leyte at kahit na si ...

*Manang Imee ay ipakukulong ni PBBM KLING guilty sa kurapsiyon. Pramis.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SHORT ORDER:** Happiest birthday (December 26) to PANT Founder, Outstanding Filipino-Canadian, Montreal Olympic Boxing QF, Devoted Hubby to Wifey Cely & wonderful Dad to 3

beautiful children, Dependable Son & Familyman, Very Generous Friend & Colleague & Surrey Respected Community Leader Bro. Reynaldo 'Reyfort' Fortaleza. More Blessing Pareko!.... **God Bless.**

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# How much money remittances Filipinos in Canada send to the Philippines

By Carlito Pablo

Filipinos in Canada are helping to keep their native country economically afloat with money remittances.

Latest numbers show that cash remittances to the Philippines from overseas Filipinos, including those in Canada, reached US \$29.2 billion in the first 10 months of 2025.

Money transfers from Canada accounted for 3.5 percent of remittances from January to October, or more than \$1 billion.

Data released by the Philippine central bank on December 14, 2025 show that the U.S. remains the top source of cash remittances (40.3 percent), followed by Singapore (7.2 percent) and Saudi Arabia (6.4 percent).

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Japan accounted for 4.9 percent; United Kingdom, 4.7 percent; United Arab Emirates, 4.5 percent; Canada, 3.5 percent; Qatar, 2.9 percent; Taiwan, 2.8 percent; Republic of Korea, 2.5 percent; and others, 20.4 percent.

The BusinessMirror newspaper noted that cash remittances grew by 3.2 percent to \$29.2 billion as of the end of October 2025 from \$28.304 billion in the same period of January to October last year.

The Manila-based paper quoted John Paolo R. Rivera, senior research fellow at the state-run Philippine Institute for Development Studies, saying that the Philippine peso's depreciation motivates Filipinos abroad to send more money back home to take advantage of the greater peso equivalent.

BusinessMirror also cited Jeremiah M. Opiniano, executive director of the Institute for Migration and Development Issues, who said that "cash remittances and overseas work helped stem the tide from a dismal third-quarter economic performance" by the Philippines.

"We have always been like this: making Filipinos abroad the 'steady providers of needed homeland development resources,'" Opiniano also said.

Rivera shared the same opinion, saying, remittance behavior has been seasonal, but remittances have been reliable in keeping the Philippine economy afloat.

Both Opiniano and Ravelas told BusinessMirror that cash remittances are expected to rise in November and December as the peso weakened to its all-time low of P59.22 to US \$1 in December 9.

The paper noted that the Philippine central bank expects total cash remittances for the whole of 2025 to reach \$35.5 billion.

A study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that the Asia-Pacific region remains the largest recipient of international remittances worldwide.

In 2023, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for 38 percent of global remittance inflows, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean.

"In absolute terms, India, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are the largest recipients, which reflects the large numbers of emigrants from these countries relative to the population," stated the report titled "Beyond Borders: How Remittances Are Shaping Asia-Pacific Economies".

Released in January 2025, the UNDP report noted that dependency by Asia-Pacific households on international remittances is "substantial".

"Remittances provide critical financial support, improving millions of families' living standards," healthcare, and education," according to the paper.

The report cited a 2020 study indicating that that 8.4 percent of households in the Philippines were receiving international remittances.



Money remittances from overseas Filipinos are a lifeline for the Philippines. Photo by John McArthur on Unsplash.

In 2020, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada published a paper by Phebe Ferrer about money remittances.

Ferrer cited World Bank data indicating that remittances from Filipinos abroad accounted for 10 percent of the GDP of the Philippines in 2019.

Ferrer also noted the role of Canada in global money remittances.

"As one of the world's major migration hubs, Canada plays an important role in the global exchange of remittances. In 2017, the World Bank estimated that Canadian residents sent C\$32B in remittances abroad, making Canada the sixth largest source of remittances. The top recipients of Canada's remittances are in the Asia Pacific, particularly China, India, and the Philippines."



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## Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

# Dear President Marcos Jr: Release Mary Jane Veloso

The Global Pinoy Diaspora Canada and Malaya Movement Canada initiated a petition and open letter in early December to ask the release of Mary Jane Veloso who continues to be detained at the Correctional Institution for Women. The petition is addressed to Philippines President Marcos, Jr., Acting Secretary Frederick Vida of the Department of Justice, General Gregorio Catapang, Jr. of the Bureau of Corrections and Victor Chan-Gonzaga, the Philippine Ambassador to Canada. There was hope that Mary Jane Veloso would have been released on International Migrants Day (Dec 18) or on Christmas Day but that hope is now focused on the mass releases in the New Year 2026.

Here is the full text of the letter:

“We, the undersigned individuals and organizations of the Filipino community in Canada, respectfully petition the Philippine Government to grant the immediate release of Mary Jane Veloso in the spirit of the Christmas season.

This year marks the 15th year, and counting, since Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipina migrant worker, was arrested in Indonesia in 2010 for alleged drug trafficking, imprisoned, and sentenced to death.

In 2015, Mary Jane was spared from her execution by firing squad with a last-minute reprieve from the Indonesian government. Overwhelming support from the Philippines and around the world helped save her life and she was returned back to death row.

In 2024, the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines signed a transfer agreement to send Mary Jane home to the Philippines. On December 18, 2024, on International Migrants Day, after 14 years in prison, nine years of those on death row, Mary Jane Veloso came home to the Philippines. But instead of freedom and a return home to the embrace of her two sons and her aging parents, she was driven from the airport to the Philippine Women's Correctional Institute where she remains to this day. Mr. President, our appeal for

clemency for Mary Jane Veloso is based on the following grounds:

- 1. Mary Jane Veloso has already served more than sufficient time for a crime she did not commit. She has spent 15 years behind bars and continues to languish in jail. Philippine and International human rights groups, legal advocates, and migrant worker organizations recognize her as a victim of labour trafficking. There is no legal or political basis for Mary Jane Veloso's continued detention in the Philippines. Mary Jane Veloso's traffickers, the two people who illegally recruited her and used her as a drug mule, have already been arrested, found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of illegal recruitment and estafa by the Philippine Supreme Court in January 2020.
- 2. Her continued detention in the Philippines lacks legal, moral and human rights justification. Mary Jane Veloso's family and legal counsel from the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers continue to assert that Veloso's continued confinement is unlawful as she is not convicted under Philippine law. Her lawyers have asked the Supreme Court last November 2025, through a habeas corpus petition, to review the legality of Veloso's continued detention in the Philippines and secure her release.

Mr. President, we respectfully ask that you grant Mary Jane Veloso executive clemency on humanitarian grounds, as is your sole power and privilege as President. Her release, hopefully before or on International Migrants Day, December 18, in time for Christmas Day will be welcomed by Mary Jane, her sons, her elderly parents and the Filipino community, both local and overseas, who have followed Mary Jane Veloso's case for years.

Mary Jane Veloso was 25 years old when she was arrested in Indonesia. She is now 40 years old; her two sons have grown

up without their mother and still under the care of her elderly parents who have worked tirelessly for her release.

Mr. President, in the spirit of the Christmas season, we ask that Mary Jane Veloso be freed.”

The letter /petition was initially signed by 28 organization signatures across BC, Canada

and outside of Canada and 117 individual signatures. It declared that more signatures would follow.

The petition is available here <https://tinyurl.com/christmas4maryjane> and those interested to support the call for the release of Mary Jane Veloso can add their names



We support: Free Mary Jane Veloso! (Photo credits: Treenee Lopez, Fr. Exedito Farinas)



Top and Center Photos: Taize Evening Prayers for International Migrants Day at the St Mary the Virgin South Hill Church with Rev Farinas and church members, Global Pinoy Diaspora Canada, Malaya Canada, Migrante BC and Bayan (Photo credit: Rev. Exedito Farinas)  
Bottom Photo: Treenee Lopez (GPDC) at the Christmas Party of the BISDAK and ORAGON Bicol group December 13, 2025 (Photo credit: Treenee Lopez)



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## OPEN WORK PERMITS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS

Changes to open work permits for family members of temporary residents

The Government of Canada is continuing to strengthen the integrity and quality of our temporary resident programs while supporting the country's economic goals and labour market needs.

As part of the broader measures announced in September 2024, *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* (IRCC) is changing open work permit (OWP) eligibility for family members of international students and foreign workers.

Effective January 21, 2025, only spouses of certain international students and foreign workers will be able to apply for a family OWP.

Family OWPs will be limited to spouses of international

- students who are enrolled in
- master's programs that are 16 months or longer
  - doctoral programs, or
  - *select professional and eligible programs*

Family OWPs will also be limited to spouses of foreign workers who are employed in

- TEER 0 or 1 occupations, or
- select TEER 2 or 3 occupations in sectors with labour shortages or linked to government priorities

These include occupations in the natural and applied sciences, construction, health care, natural resources, education, sports and military sectors. The full list will be available on January 21, 2025.

In addition, the foreign worker must also have at least 16 months remaining on their work permit at the time when their spouse applies for the

OWP. Dependent children of foreign workers will no longer be eligible.

OWPs that were approved under the previous measures and have not expired will remain valid. In situations where students may need more time to complete their program or where family members received a shorter work permit than the principal applicant, in-Canada family members (including spouses and dependent children) can apply to renew their work permit as long as

- they are applying under the same criteria as the current work permit, and
- the requested duration of the renewal matches that of the existing study or work permit of the principal applicant

Spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements and those transitioning to

permanent residence will not be impacted by these changes. Family members who will no longer qualify for a family OWP can apply for any type of work permit they are eligible for under Canada's work permit programs.

Strictly taken from Canada.ca

A Canadian Certified Immigration Consultant, Certified Senior Advisor and a Notary Public in the City of Burnaby, Editha Corrales Nelson's preferred areas of practice are Powers of Attorney, Wills Preparation, International Legal Documents, Name Changes, Affidavits, Letters of Invitation, Statutory Declarations, Drafting of Business Contracts and other notarial services. For an appointment, please call: 604-777-2757.

The following should not be construed as providing legal advice and information in this column is intended only as a general guide and should not be applied to specific circumstances without further consultation. For more information on the subject, contact Editha Corrales Nelson at 604-777-2757.

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# A decade of community celebration at Park Place

Filipino residents at Park Place in Vancouver's Killarney neighbourhood have celebrated 10 years of gathering to welcome the Christmas season.

On December 6, 2025, the neighbours marked a decade of friendship and camaraderie with a well-attended party at the townhouse complex's hall.

Attending as special guest was George Chow, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of British Columbia representing Vancouver-Fraserview, where Park Place is located.

Leading the organizing effort for the party were Cristy Parido, Shirley Bui, Mary Agbayani, Ferdinand and Alice Ariola, Ferdinand Sarmiento, and Carlito Pablo, with support from William Yacyac, Julio Clorion, Renato and Betty Quintana, Minggi Penales, and Jun and Eleanor Dayan.

Ferdinand Sarmiento provided sounds and lights. Dinner was potluck.

The annual Christmas gathering tradition started in 2015 when Pol Go, Waldo Garcia, Ferdinand Ariola, Julio Clorion, and Carlito Pablo initiated a party for and by Filipino residents.

Attendees were in for a pleas-

ant surprise when Shirley Bui read a message from strata president Tung Khang Duong, which stated that residents will have a refund of around \$500 per unit from savings in the recent roofing project.

Under the leadership of Tung Khang Duong, residents were able to use Park Place's community hall with generous support from the strata council.

Former strata president Louise Marphis and ex-resident Dennis Espejo were among the guests in the celebration.



## Adopt a Bear of Hope

Meet the Bear of Hope - an annual Christmas project of Ro-

tary Club of Vancouver Mountainview to remind you that you are never alone. No mat-

ter what you're going through, someone cares about you, and there is always hope for brighter days ahead. Hold this bear close and let it be a symbol of

the love and strength that surrounds you. (Pres. Rene Alcantara of Rotary Club of Vancouver Mountainview)





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## Lita Cabal and Family Host Intimate Filipino-Canadian Conservative Christmas Gathering with Senator Yonah Martin and MP Tako Van Popta

Surrey, BC — Lita Cabal, *Filipino-Canadian community leader and Conservative Candidate of Record*, together with her family, hosted an intimate Filipino-Canadian Conservative Christmas gathering bringing together community members and distinguished guests for an evening of fellowship, dialogue, and shared purpose.

The special guests of the evening included *Senator Yonah Martin*, accompanied by her husband Doug Martin, and *Member of Parliament for Langley Township-Fraser Heights*, Tako Van Popta. The gathering provided a meaningful opportunity for open conversation, community updates, and discussion on how Filipino-Canadians can continue to have their voices heard in Parliament.

Throughout the evening, at-

tendees engaged in thoughtful exchanges on issues important to the community, the role of civic participation, and the importance of representation grounded in shared values, service, and faith. The warm Christmas setting fostered connection, encouragement, and unity among those present.

“This gathering was about listening, learning, and strengthening our collective voice,” said Lita Cabal. “We are grateful for leaders like Senator Yonah Martin and MP Tako Van Popta who continue to engage with our community and affirm the importance of Filipino-Canadian representation in shaping Canada’s future.”

The event reflected the spirit of the Christmas season—bringing people together in gratitude, hope, and a shared commitment to serve the broader community.



## FILCAN HELPING HAND SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Congratulations to the newly formed association, FilCan Helping Hand Society of BC, lead by its President Mirasol Vega.

The group recently held their first Christmas party at Arlene & Bing Nicanor's Residence.

Here are the officers:  
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Vice President: Phebe Jacobsen

Secretary : Vivian Vega  
Dr. Zeny Villamera

Treasurer: Evangeline Alingig

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## SPORTS

## Community of Filipino Pickleball Group Hosts Intercity Tournament at Dink Pickleball Richmond

Richmond, BC — The Community of Filipino Pickleball Group successfully hosted an exciting intercity Pickleball Tournament on December 13 at Dink Pickleball in Richmond, bringing together players and supporters from two cities for a day of friendly competition and community fellowship.

The tournament featured teams from Surrey and Richmond, with matchups between Surrey Men and Women vs. Richmond Men and Women.

Each men's and women's team was composed of eight players, showcasing skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

The tournament was organized through the dedicated efforts of Eleonor Garcia of Surrey and Techie Cruz of Richmond, whose leadership and coordination made the event a great success.

After four back-to-back games, the results were as follows:

- Women's Division Champion: Richmond Women
- Men's Division Champion: Surrey Men

Beyond the competition, the event highlighted the true spirit of pickleball within the Filipino community.

More than just a sport, pickleball has become a place where people gather, build friendships, meet new friends, and play with passion while having fun together.

Congratulations to all the players, organizers, and winners who made this tournament a memorable and meaningful community event.

(Report by Lita Cabal)



## CASH INCENTIVES GALORE

EMERGING as the country's most bemedalled athlete in the just-concluded 33rd Southeast Asian Games, swimmer Kayla Sanchez will get over P1.65 million in cash bonuses for the three golds and five silvers she scooped up at the Aquatic Center of the Huamark Sports Complex in Bangkok, Thailand.

Virtually hoisting the national swimming squad on her broad shoulders, Sanchez anchored the PH squad to an epic victory in the women's 4×100-meter freestyle event on top of individual triumphs in the 100-meter backstroke and freestyle events.

The Fil-Canadian mermaid also had silvers in the women's 50 and 200-meter freestyles, 50-meter backstroke and 4×200-meter freestyle relay events.

With each gold medal worth P300,000 and P150,000 for silver, and P60,000 for bronze, based on Republic Act 10699, the revised incentives law, her total bonanza is P1,650,000 for a yeoman's job in her remarkable SEA Games debut



Kayla Sanchez

since shifting her allegiance to the Philippines in 2021.

She gets the full amount of P150,000 even for the relays based on the revised incentives law since the women's relay squad is composed of only four athletes. RA 10699 awards the full bonus for teams composed of not more than five members.

This meant that her teammates on the gold-medal winning relay squad – Chloe Isleta, Xiandi Chua and Heather White – are also each entitled to an incentive of P300,000.

Chua picks up an additional P300,000 apiece for her silvers in the women's 200-meter backstroke and 4×100-meter medley relay, while White added P60,000 to her kitty for her bronze-medal finish in the women's 50-meter freestyle race.

Also among those getting hefty bonuses of P600,000 each are triathletes Kira Ellis and Raven Alcosoba, members of the triumphant women's team relay and mixed relay events.

Ellis banked an extra P150,000 to her account for placing second in the women's individual race.

Joining them at P600,000 was male triathlete Fer Caseres, a member of the winning men's team and mixed relay squads, on top of P60,000 for securing a bronze in the men's individual event.

Andrew Kim Remolino earned a total of P450,000 for being a member of the victorious men's relay squad as well as a silver in the individual event.

Paris Olympic Games veteran Aleah Finnegan, who ruled the women's vault and placed third in the floor exercise in women's artistic gymnastics, will receive a combined bonus of P450,000.

The sizzling women's beach volleyball team pairs of Sisi Rondina and Bernardeth Pons and Dij Rodriguez and Sunny Villapando, who stunned the eight-time defending champion Thais, will also be entitled to a guaranteed P300,000 cash bonus apiece.

Tennis star Alex Eala and Tokyo Olympic boxer Eumir Felix Marcia, who was the golden survivor of the vaunted PH boxing squad, are netting P300,000 each for topping their events.

On the other hand, members of victorious PH squads in the team sports of basketball, football, softball and baseball are entitled to a 25 percent share of the individual cash incentives based on the provisions of RA 10699. (B. Pedralvez/Malaya)

Wisdom from  
the Word

Ben Berto



## STEWARDSHIP

On December 20, members of 8 Filipino SDA Churches belonging to the Filipino Association of Advent Believers in British Columbia (FAABBC) had their year-end Christmas program at the Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, in Alder-grove.

Over 400 persons attended the Sabbath Service. The churches are Vancouver Filipino SDA church, Burnaby Fil-Can, Surrey Filipino, Fraser Valley, Abundant Life, Agape SDA, and Victoria Filipino SDA churches.

For special spiritual emphasis, the speaker was Pastor Alrick Watson, the vice-president for Administration for the British Columbia-Yukon Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. We extend to our Kababayans our heartfelt Merry Christmas, Maligayang Pasko, Naragsak Nga Pascuayo and Feliz Navidad.

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill towards men. Luke 2: 14 NKJV*

*THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST church as a whole believes in Christmas. However, we should look examine our expenditures and think more of others than ourselves.*

*This is what we call STEWARDSHIP. Our FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS #20 states; We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a*

*privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness.*

### What is a steward?

A steward is a person entrusted with the management of the household or the estate of another. In other words, a "manager" in our present time. "To the Christian, stewardship means, "mans responsibility for and use of everything entrusted to him by God—life, physical being, time, talents and abilities, material possessions, opportunities to be of service to others.

Christians, therefore, serve as managers over God's possessions and view life as a divine opportunity to "learn to be faithful stewards, thereby qualifying for the higher stewardship

of eternal things in the future life." "In larger dimensions, then, stewardship involves the wise and unselfish use of life.

We are told that we do not own our life, so if we destroy it by indulging in the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and by unhealthy health habits, we are acting irresponsibly and eventually destroy will ourselves.

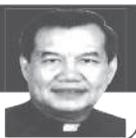
If our doctors tell us not to indulge in alcohol, and we heed that warning, how much more should we do what God has commanded. He said in 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 NIV 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies."

WISDOM TO PAGE 22 ...

## Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



## As we journey on...

The story is told about a man driving up a steep and narrow mountain road when a woman, driving down from the opposite direction, opened her window and shouted, "Pig!" Thinking that she was calling him names, he immediately leaned out his window and angrily shouted back, "You too!" As the man rounded the next corner, he crashed into a pig in the middle of the road. Lesson? If only men would listen!

In today's Gospel (Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23) we hear of Joseph, the man who knew how to truly listen, and who knew how to faithfully obey. Upon the instruction of the angel of the Lord, Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt, and later on took them back to the land of Israel.

There would be more peace in our lives if only we knew how to really listen to the Lord, and faithfully obeyed His instructions.

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. What makes a family holy? It is the presence of God.

What makes a family unholy? It is the absence of God. When God is absent, the vacuum is often filled up with materialism, greed, vices, unfaithfulness, neither of which gives true peace. Are you truly listening to God, are you faithfully obeying God as a family?

*Take note of the three P's we'll need in our journey through 2026.*

*The first P is prayer.* We must keep in touch and be connected with our Lord who knows and sees everything. We must continue to consult Him and listen to Him for directions.

*The second P is patience.* Our journey is not a walk in the park. There will be obstructions, delays and even complete stops. Let us be patient. If we are humble and trusting in God, we can

handle anything that comes our way in stride. No need to complain, to get angry, or be mad. Patience. Patience. Patience.

*The third P is perseverance.* Let us not give up. Just keep moving, and keep on believing that we will reach our goal and accomplish our mission. Let us not be affected by human applause nor condemnation. In the end, it is what God thinks or says that matters.

The dangers, the deprivations, the injustice, and the violence that the Holy Family experienced are still very much with us today.

As we face the New Year, let us fervently pray and work for peace.

As in Jesus' time, so also in our time, it is the children and the innocent ones who suffer and are affected by the selfishness and greed of the rich and the powerful around them. Lord, tame the beasts, and bless the

children. Amen.

A timely message for all of us, as the old year comes to an end, and a new year is about to begin: "Do not look back in anger; do not look forward in fear; look around in anticipation and love."

Another beautiful message we all should say: "To those I have wronged, I ask for forgiveness. To those I may have helped, I wish I did more; to those who have helped me, I want to say thanks!"

A Christmas moment happened when we were eating breakfast on Christmas Day at our community dining room some years ago.

An old woman had just walked in and said: "I'm so hungry. May I come in and eat?" We at the table were stunned for a moment because the dining room was off-limits to "outsiders" and there were rules in the house

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



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### WISDOM from PAGE 21....

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day Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. Genesis 2: 2, 3, Exodus 20: 8-10, Isaiah 58: 13, 14; Isaiah 66: 22, 23; Matthew 5: 17-19; Revelation 22: 14, John 14: 1-3, Rev. 6:6-12, Romans 8: 35-39

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### FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

that had to be kept. After recovering from our initial shock and dilemma, the silence was broken when one by one we stood up, gave her a plate, gave her a glass of water, a cup of coffee and just welcomed her.

Yes, the Lord visited us that Christmas morning and reminded us that our loving must be concrete, and that our service must not be stifled by rules and regulations. Wishing you all a life of love free from fear, distinctions, and calculations. Happy New Year. Happy New You!

Lord, bless all members of

our family, living or dead, present or absent, especially those who need healing, enlightenment, conversion, direction or provisions.

We consecrate to You our family, our country, our people, and our world, our one and only world. Amen.

A moment with the Lord: Lord, as we journey on, help us to really listen to You and faithfully obey You. Amen.

[momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com](mailto:momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com)

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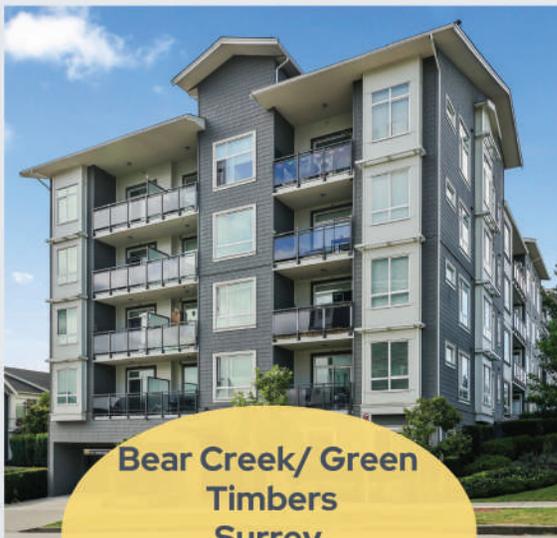
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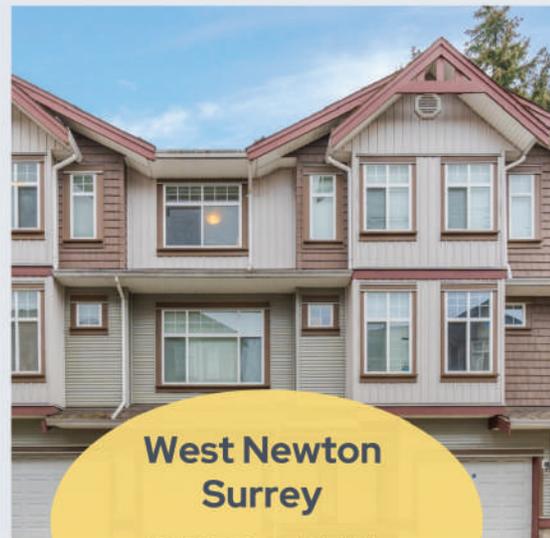
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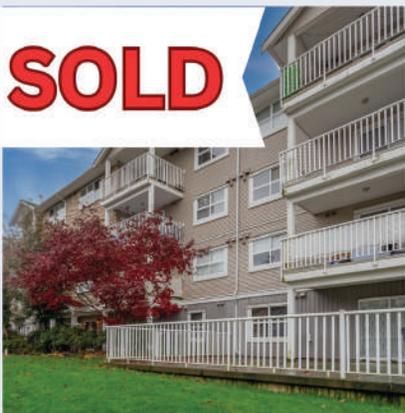
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**JHC SOUR SLICED BAMBOO SHOOT IN BRINE 4LB**



**5<sup>28</sup> EA**

**TRUNG NGUYEN HOUSE BLEND COFFEE 500G**



**6<sup>98</sup> EA**

**SAN MIGUEL MAGNOLIA CHEEZEE BLOCK 440G**



**7<sup>48</sup> EA**

**NONGSHIM SHIN RAMYUN GOURMET SPICY 4X120G**



**2/10<sup>00</sup>**

**3 CRABS VIET HUONG FISH SAUCE 682ML**



**10<sup>48</sup> EA**

**SMART CHEF THAI JASMINE RICE 40LB**



**31<sup>98</sup> EA**

**HAPPY TUESDAY**

Every Tuesday, all year round, shop and you'll be rewarded, instantly!



**HAPPY TUESDAY** 3X Reward Points

**\$1=3** POINTS SPENT REWARDED