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Mga pahayag ng Premier at minister para sa Pink Shirt Day



B.C. Premier David Eby

VICTORIA - Naglabas ng pahayag si Premier David Eby para sa Pink Shirt Day:

“Ngayong araw, habang nagsusuot ng kulay pink ang mga mamamayan sa British Columbia upang tumindig laban sa bullying, kaisa natin itong isinasagawa sa panahon ng matinding pagdadalamhati.

Nakikiramay kami sa mga mag-aaral, guro at pamilya sa Tumbler Ridge habang pasan nila ang matinding pangungulila sa pagmamarka ng araw na ito.

Sa mga ganitong pagkakataon, lalong mas nagiging mahalaga ang pagkakaroon ng mga ligtas, may malasakit at konektadong komunidad sa paaralan.

“Sinimulan ang *Pink Shirt Day* bilang tugon sa karanasan ng isang mag-aaral na nabully dahil sa homophobia at transphobia. Mula noon, naging mas malaking pagkilos na ito para ang mga paaralan at ang ating lipunan ay maging lugar kung saan nadarama ng lahat na sila ay ligtas, sinusupportahan at ipinagdiriwang ang kanilang pagkatao.

“Bilang isang magulang ng mga batang pumapasok sa

paaralan, malapit sa aking puso ang Pink Shirt Day.

Tulad ng napakaraming pamilya, pinag-uusapan namin sa hapag-kainan kung paano magpakita ng kabaitan, paano tumindig para sa kapwa at paano humingi ng tulong kapag hindi maganda ang pakiramdam tungkol sa isang sitwasyon.

“Kahit na mayroon nang progreso, ang bullying ay nananatiling isang seryoso at nagbabagong hamon, lalo na sa digital na mundo. Maaaring sundan ng online harassment at exploitation ang mga kabataan saanman sila magpunta, at nakita natin dito sa B.C. ang ilang nakapanlulumong resulta nito.

“Ito ang dahilan kung bakit nakapokus ang ating pamahalaan para mapanatiling ligtas ang mga bata.

Nagsasagawa kami ng aksiyon upang matugunan ang mga kapahamakan na nagaganap online, mapahusay ang kaligtasan sa mga paaralan, mapatatag ang mga suporta para sa mental health at matiyak na ang ating sistema ng edukasyon ay inklusibo at malugod na tinatanggap ang lahat ng mag-aaral.

“Ang Pink Shirt Day ay isang paalala na ang pagpigil sa bullying ay hindi lamang isang araw - ito ay tungkol sa mga desisyong pinagpapasiyahan natin araw-araw. Ang pagpiling makinig. Ang desisyong magsalita. Ang pagpili na magpakita ng kabaitan, lalo na sa panahong pinakakailangan ito. “Ngayong araw, magsusuot ako at ang aking pamilya ng kulay pink at ipagpapatuloy

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 by Marilyn Senador, RN, RCIC - IRB



Don't Let Paperwork Slow Down Your Canadian Dream

One of the most common delays in Canadian immigration applications comes from incomplete or disorganized documentation.

Whether you are applying for a study permit, work permit, visitor visa, or permanent residency, having your documents organized ahead of time is crucial. Essential documents include valid passports, birth and marriage certificates, educational credentials and transcripts, work experience letters, language test results, and any required police clearances or medical records. Having these ready not only speeds up the process but also helps avoid unnecessary rejections or requests for additional information from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

It's also important to ensure that all documents are properly translated into English or French, if necessary, and certified by recognized authorities. Minor errors or missing information can lead to delays or complications in your application. Furthermore, keeping digital copies of your documents allows you to quickly provide any additional proof that may be requested during the application process.

Another key point is to understand which documents are mandatory for your specific immigration pathway. For example, Express Entry candidates may need language test results and educational credential assessments, whereas certain work permits require employment letters or LMIA approvals. Without proper preparation, applicants often face stress and rushed submissions, increasing the likelihood of mistakes.

By starting early, you give yourself enough time to gather, verify, and organize every requirement. This preparation gives you confidence that your application will be complete and accurate, significantly improving your chances of approval.

The best tip? Consult a licensed Canadian Immigration Consultant. A professional can guide you through the document requirements, review your paperwork, and ensure your application is strong before submission. Contact Marilyn Senador: +1 778-969-0064 (WhatsApp / Viber / Call & Text) | info@senadorglobal.com | senadorglobal.com

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PINK SHIRT DAY ... FROM PAGE 2

ang kombersasyong ito sa aming hapag-kainan. Hinihikayat ko ang lahat sa British Columbia na gawin din ito. Kapag sama-sama tayong tumitindig, naipapahayag natin ang isang makapangyarihang mensahe sa mga bata: ikaw ay mahalaga, sinusupportahan at kabilang sa ating lipunan.”



Pahayag ni Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care:

“Ipinapaalala sa atin ng Pink Shirt Day na sama-sama tayong tumindig laban sa bullying at suportahan ang mga komunidad sa mga paaralan kung saan nararamdaman ng bawat mag-aaral na sila ay ligtas, ginagalang, at kabilang. Ngayong araw, pinipili ng mga mamamayan sa iba’t ibang panig ng British Columbia na magpakita ng kabaitan sa kanilang pananalita at mga aksiyon.

“Kasabay ng araw na ito ang panahon ng matinding kalungkutan para sa marami. Nakikiramay kami sa mga mamamayan sa Tumbler Ridge na ginugunita ang araw na ito habang patuloy na pinoproseso ang hindi masukat na pangungulila. Mananatili sila sa aming mga puso at nakikiisa kami sa kanilang pagdadalamhati.

“Bilang mga magulang at tagapangalaga, nais nating lahat na madama ng mga bata na igtas nilang maipapahayag ang kanilang sarili, maramdaman nilang sila ay kabilang at malaman nilang mahalaga silang bahagi ng

Be kind.



PiNK SHiRT DAY FEB 25²⁰

ating lipunan. Kapag malugod na tinatanggap ang mga mag-aaral at nagbibigay ng suporta ang ating mga paaralan, mas mahusay silang natututo, nagkakaroon ng kumpiyansa sa sarili at bumubuo ng mga positibong ugnayan na buong buhay nilang dadalhin.

“Ipinapaalala rin ng araw na ito na ang pagpigil sa bullying ay

isang patuloy na responsibilidad na pinagsasaluhan nating lahat. Sa pamamagitan ng pakikinig sa boses ng mga mag-aaral, pagsuporta sa isa’t isa at pagsasagawa ng aksiyon araw-araw, patuloy tayong makakabuo ng mga komunidad kung saan nadaramang lahat na sila ay malugod na tinatanggap at pinapahalagahan.”

(news.gov.bc.ca)

Building a Shared Vision, Creating Shared Value CESC 2026 Annual Business Gala Marks a Successful Conclusion

By Reyfort Media

Vancouver, Canada | February 21, 2026 - The Chinese Entrepreneurs Society of Canada (CESC) convened its 2026 Annual General Meeting and Business Networking Gala, themed **“Building a Shared Vision · Creating Shared Value,”** at Vancouver’s Westin Hotel, bringing together prominent leaders and innovators.

The event featured a thematic forum in the afternoon, followed by an evening gala dinner. More than 300 entrepreneurs and community leaders attended. During the Lunar New Year, diplomatic representatives and distinguished guests from diverse backgrounds gathered to celebrate achievements, discuss future opportunities, and strengthen professional networks.

The gala opened with a powerful erhu performance of “Horse Racing” by renowned musician Bian Liunian. The spirited melody and energetic delivery energized the audience.

This opening captured the joyful Lunar New Year spirit of the Year of the Horse and symbolized innovation, vitality, and cross-sector integration, echoing the forum’s central themes. These elements set the tone for an evening focused on connection and collaboration.

The dinner was honoured by the presence of numerous distinguished guests, reflecting its strong international perspective and community influence, including:

- Liang Yanmin – Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver
- Zhang Jinlong – Deputy Consul for Commercial and Technological Affairs, Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver
- Dr. Nicholas Kahwaji – Honorary Consul of Lebanon in Vancouver
- Andrej Krestan – Consular Officer, Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Vancouver
- Joyce Lau – Principal Consultant (Western

- Canada), Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Vancouver)
- Alex Martyniak – Executive Director, EU Chamber of Commerce in Canada (West)
- Hector Castillo, P. Eng. – President, Mexican Business Association of Canada
- Jon Ciobanu – Membership Director, BC Canadian Romanian Chamber of Commerce
- Helen Gardener – Director of Communications, 402G Group Ltd.
- Thomas Holden – Director of Operations, 402G Group Ltd.
- Micah Gardener – Assistant Director of

- Communications, 402G Group Ltd.
- Bhaskar De – CEO/President, Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Dr. Zeny Villamera – Board Director, Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Victor Villamera – Co-founder, Philippine Heritage Society
- Grace Quandahor – Women’s Leader, The Apostolic Church International, Vancouver
- Sianne Zhang – CEO of Whole Tea Ltd.
- Dr. John Bratty
- Mrs. Dominique Robeyns
- Rey Fortaleza – CEO/President, Reyfortaleza Media Group



From left : Dr. Zeny and Victor Villamera, David Tan, Rey Fortaleza, and Alex Martyniak

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



Surrey approves over 10,500 new homes, two years into Housing Action Plan



Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey has approved 10,508 new units in the first two years of its Housing Action Plan. In a Monday report to Council, staff said the City has now achieved more than 80% of its three-year target under the federal Housing Accelerator Fund.

“Every new home we approve brings Surrey residents closer to the housing they need,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “I would like to thank the federal government and the Canada Mortgage and Housing

Corporation for their continued support on delivering more diverse housing options in our city. As we enter the final year of the Housing Accelerator Fund, we are committed to delivering on all initiatives to ensure Surrey remains a place where people can live, work, and build.”

“Our Government is committed to giving local governments the support they need to drive housing supply and bring down housing cost,” said the Honourable Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State, International Development and Member of Parliament for Surrey Centre. “I congratulate the City of Surrey for this outstanding achievement. It demonstrates how the Housing Accelerator Fund is helping municipalities across Canada improve housing options for their residents and will have a positive impact in our community.”

Staff also reported that in 2025, the City added 4,280 housing units and cut

permitting timelines by 75% through more than 20 process improvements.

Launched in 2023 with \$100.7 million in federal funding, Surrey’s Housing Action Plan sets out initiatives to increase housing supply, streamline approvals, and create new opportunities for affordable housing in the community.

Other highlights include:

- Seven out of nine initiatives are on schedule or completed.
- In 2025, the City invested \$35.1 million in housing initiatives and infrastructure, fully funded by grants.
- The City purchased land totalling \$18 million for future affordable housing opportunities.

In the final year of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the City will focus on completing key projects such as the Official Community Plan update and

the introduction of Amenity Cost Charges and bonus density. Staff will also expand online permitting to include digital plan review, adding more permit types to the permitting portal, and simplifying the review process for quicker turnaround times.

For the latest information on the HousingActionPlan, visit surrey.ca/housingaccelerator.

(City of Surrey News)

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CESC CONTINUOUS...



From left : Grace Quandahor (Women’s Leader, The Apostolic Church International, Vancouver), Sianne Zhang (CEO of Whole Tea Ltd.), Dr. Zeny Villamera (Board Director, Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada), Hector Castillo (P. Eng. – President, Mexican Business Association of Canada), David Tan (CEO/President of Sunnlylife Health Ltd.), Victor Villamera (Co-founder, Philippine Heritage Society) and Rey Fortaleza (CEO/President, Reyfortaleza Media Group)

Dr. Zeny concluded, “We achieve more when we come together – sharing ideas, supporting one another, and building connections that go beyond business.”

As we move forward, the theme “Building Strategic Vision, Creating Shared Value” captures what makes this community special.

Together, we’re sharing a future full of possibility – one built on trust, diversity and shared vision.

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From left : Jon Ciobanu (Membership Director of the BC Canadian Romanian Chamber of Commerce), Ms. Helen (Director of Communications, 402G Group Ltd.), Hector Castillo (P.Eng. President, Mexican Business Association of Canada), Alex Martyniak (Executive Director of EU Chamber of Commerce in Canada) and Dr. Zeny Villamera (Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada, Board of Directors)

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Everything Needs Fixing

During my vacation in the Philippines this season, a small problem led me to a lesson I did not expect to learn. The sole of my leather shoe had started to move and was about to come off. The upper leather was still good, but one careless step on a sharp concrete pavement had weakened the attachment. I needed the shoe repaired because I would use it the following day for a special occasion at a hotel function in Manila. Buying a new pair was not practical. The nearest shopping mall was about an hour drive from our place. Someone recommended a small repair stall inside the public market area, only ten minutes away. That was how I came to know Vincent Mallari.

Vincent is forty-two years old, married, and a father of three school aged children. His stall was small, just enough for a wooden bench, a low table, and shelves filled with tools, glue, thread, and pieces of leather and rubber. Outside was the usual noise of the market, vendors calling, tricycles passing, people bargaining. Inside his space, there was calm and quiet concentration. I handed him my shoe and explained that I needed it the next day. He examined it carefully, pressing the sole and checking the part where it had separated. He said it could still be repaired. Vincent does not only fix shoes. He also repairs slippers and bags of different kinds. Around him were items waiting to be restored, worn sandals, school shoes, old bags with broken parts.

He removed the old adhesive and cleaned the surfaces. Then he sanded both parts until they were ready for bonding. He applied fresh glue and waited patiently before pressing the sole back into place. His movements were slow but sure. It was clear that this kind



of work could not be rushed. Watching him, I felt that repair requires patience more than strength.

While working, he shared a little of his past. He used to be a fisherman in Bulacan. For many years he depended on the sea, but storms became stronger and the catch became smaller. One time their boat was badly damaged, submerged and lost. With three young children to raise, he moved to Arayat, Pampanga, where a relative taught him this trade. From catching fish, he learned to repair what people use every day.

He said, there is income daily, even if small. People will always walk. Slippers will tear. Bags will break. Something will always need fixing. His hands may no longer pull fishing nets, but his resolve works hard to provide for his family.

In a time, he handed the shoe back to me. I wore it and walked a few steps to test it. The sole felt firm and secure, as if it had never loosened. My steps were steady again. I felt relieved knowing I could attend the function in Manila without

worry. The amount he charged was modest. I thanked him sincerely. He only smiled and returned to his work, picking up another worn item waiting on his table.

As I walked away through the busy market, I realized that life is very much like the things Vincent repairs. Nothing stays

perfect forever. Time, pressure, and unexpected steps can weaken even what once felt strong. But that does not mean it is beyond repair. Filipino resilience often shows itself in quiet ways. It is found in people who continue working, adapting, and providing despite difficulties. Vincent lost a livelihood at sea, but he found another way to move forward. Instead of giving up, he learned how to mend.

Perhaps that is the deeper value of handwork. It restores not only objects but confidence. It reminds us that broken does not always mean finished. Sometimes what we need is not replacement but repair, not abandonment but patience.

As long as there are hands willing to mend rather than discard, there will always be hope. There will always be a way forward, one careful step at a time, on lives patiently repaired for tomorrow.

(Contact: jblarano@gmail.com)



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Conservative Party of Surrey Unveils Strong City Council Team

Surrey, BC – The Conservative Electors Associations, led by President David Denhoff, Chair Kerry Lynne Findlay, and Vice Chair Elaine Allan, proudly announced the Conservative Party of Surrey’s official city council slate at the Empress Banquet Hall.

The announcement marked a momentous day for Surrey, with the first six official City Council candidates introduced:

Lita Cabal – A dedicated Surrey resident, community volunteer at City Dream Centre, Treasurer of the Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society (FCCHS), and a proud candidate of record, former candidate for the Conservative Party of Canada.

Ricky Bajwa – A long-time

Surrey resident, business manager, international badminton athlete turned certified coach, and a seasoned Conservative campaign organizer committed to community service.

James Yu – Community leader and founder of the Alliance of Chinese Conservatives of Canada, recipient of both the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and King Charles III Coronation Medals, and a driving force against high-risk drug housing projects in South Surrey.

Rasinder Kaur – Entrepreneur, founder of the Norius Group of Companies and the Feminine Fellowship Outreach Society, and an inspiring immigration success story.

Holly Verchere – Retired Air Canada manager with 41 years in aviation safety and operations, former lifeguard and swim instructor, and recent election officer volunteer.

Cheney Cloke – Small business owner, former Vice Chair of the Surrey Police Board during the transition to the Surrey Police Service, former executive with Fraser Health, and a passionate advocate for children in local schools and sports.

The energy in the Empress Banquet Hall was unforgettable, with over 500 attendees — far exceeding the expected 300 — showing strong support for the Conservative Party of Surrey Team.

This announcement is just the beginning. A further unveiling of the Conservative Party’s candidate for Mayor and two additional city council candidates will be made in the coming weeks.

The Conservative Party of Surrey team is ready to bring common-sense leadership to City Hall, focused on safer streets, lower taxes, and putting families first — a vision that resonates with Surrey residents from every corner of the community.

With experienced, committed, and community-driven candidates, the Conservative Party of Surrey is poised to make a meaningful difference for families, businesses, and neighborhoods across the city.



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Six local leaders are stepping up for Surrey! Lita Cabal, Ricky Bajwa, James Yu, Rasinder Kaur, Holly Verchere, and Cheney Cloke have been announced as the first candidates for the Conservative Party of Surrey’s 2026 civic election slate.

With backgrounds in business, community advocacy, and public service, these neighbours are ready to bring practical solutions to City Hall prioritizing safer streets, lower taxes, and families first.

#SurreyBC #LocalElections #CityCouncil2026 #CommunityFirst #SafeStreets #FamilyFirst



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B.C. government takes additional actions on extortion

Province calls on Senate to pass Bill C-12 and invites community engagement



Premier David Eby and Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The B.C. government is urging the federal government to act quickly in passing Bill C-12 to close gaps that are being exploited by organized crime groups involved in extortion.

Nina Krieger, B.C. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has written to Gary Anandasangaree, federal Minister of Public Safety, and to the Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs, urging swift action on the legislation.

Krieger thanked Anandasangaree for his government's introduction of Bill C-12 and for his commitment to ensuring that immigration processes cannot be exploited by those involved in organized crime. The Province is urging federal legislators to move quickly so that these critical reforms are enacted without delay.

"Extortion causes real fear for families and businesses in B.C., and some criminals are attempting to misuse immigration processes to evade justice," Krieger said. "The passage of Bill C-12 would make it harder for criminals who are foreign nationals to seek refugee status to avoid being removed from Canada. These reforms

are needed to disrupt organized crime networks more effectively and keep British Columbians safe."

Law enforcement agencies in B.C. have encountered cases where individuals connected to extortion-related activities may possess expired visas, have pending refugee claims, or non-compliant student visas, while actively participating in or linked to violent offences.

If passed, Bill C-12 would accelerate inadmissibility determinations and removals for individuals with established links to organized criminal networks.

This means those responsible for extortion could be removed from Canada more quickly, and law enforcement would have the tools they need to help stop organized crime.

B.C. is also advocating for strengthened newcomer orientation, to help ensure that those who come to Canada understand Canadian laws, public-safety expectations, and how to avoid being unknowingly recruited or exploited by criminal elements.

Advisory group seeking community engagement on extortion crisis

The Community Advisory Group on extortion (CAG) would like to hear from the community, and members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts online at stopextortion.ca.

The advisory group was established to strengthen communication and trust between law enforcement and communities affected

by ongoing extortion crimes. Since being formed, CAG members have been meeting with police leadership, mayors, community leaders, victims' families and B.C. Extortion Task Force members.

Future meetings will include Crown counsel, Canada Border Services Agency, victim-services organizations and elected officials.

Through the stopextortion.ca website, residents, businesses and community organizations can share perspectives on the extortion crisis through areas such as prevention, victim supports, enhanced communication and community-safety strategies.

"The extortion crisis is deeply troubling for everyone in our communities, and we know people are looking for meaningful ways to be heard and to help shape the path forward," said Paul Dadwal, chair of the Community Advisory Group on extortion.

"Your experiences, concerns and ideas are essential to tackling the extortion crisis. I encourage anyone impacted to reach out to the Community Advisory Group on extortion. Your voice can help us move through this challenging time together."

CAG brings together individuals with backgrounds in:

- senior law enforcement
- the justice sector
- victim advocacy and violence prevention
- business and community leadership

Government will continue to work with all levels of government, law enforcement and members of the community on prevention, and intervention measures to combat extortion.

To submit input to the Community Advisory Group on extortion, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/extortion>

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The Tall Order
By Mon Datol

ICC hearing vs DDU30 inumpisahan na; Bato at Bong Go binanggit na co-perpetrators ni Digong; Higit 50 natabunan sa gumuhong Rizal landfill; Villar, Binay, Poe, Angara itinangi kickbacks sa DPWH fund; VP Sara may ni-recruit nang running mate para sa 2028 elections; Darryl Yap: Iganti mo kami! Tapusin mo sila Inday Sara Duterte!

Inisa-isa ng International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber I ang tatlong crimes against humanity charges laban kay dating Pangulong Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte sa pagsisimula ng confirmation of charges hearing nitong Lunes, Pebrero 23.

Day 1 pa lang pre-trial grabe na drama, talo MMK ni Charo.

Ayon kay ICC Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang, ang mga kasong isinampa ay ang murder as a crime against humanity sa Davao City noong panahon ng pagiging alkalde ni Duterte, na may kabuuan umanong 19 na biktima sa pagitan ng 2013 at Hunyo 2016.

Dito sa unang kaso ng murder binanggit mga kasabwat ni DDU30.

At ang 5 co-perpetrators ni DDU30 nuong Mayoral Period ay sina; Ronald 'Bato' dela Rosa, Chief of Police Davao PD 2012-2013; Vicente Danao, Chief, DCPO 2013-2016; Christopher 'Bong' Go, Aide & Special Asst. Duterte, 1998-2016; Dante Gierran, Davao Regional Director, NBI 2013-2016; Vitaliano Aguirre, lawyer for DDU30 and DDS Members.

Sasabit sina Bato at Bong Go kapag natuloy kaso ke DDU30.

Ikalawa, murder as a crime against humanity ng "high-value targets" sa iba't ibang lokasyon sa Pilipinas noong panahon ng kanyang pagkapanangulo, na may 14 umanong biktima sa pagitan ng Hulyo 2016 at Hulyo 2017.

Dito sa 2nd murder charge umpisa ng EJK at PNP Chief si Bato.

Pangatlo, murder at attempted murder as crime against humanity sa mga barangay clearance operation sa iba't

ibang lugar sa bansa noong panahon ng kanyang pagkapanangulo, na may 45 umanong biktima — 43 murders at dalawang attempted murders — sa pagitan ng Hulyo 2016 at Setyembre 2018.

Libo napatay ng EJK sa 3rd case pero marami di nabalita.

Ang hearing ay bahagi ng proseso ng ICC upang kumpirmahin kung may sapat na ebidensiya upang ituloy ang paglilitis laban ke DDU30 at matatapos pre-trial sa Biyernes, Pebrero 27, at...

60 days pagu-usapan ng ICC kung kakasuhan si Digong.

Hiniling naman ni Nicholas Kaufman, lead defense counsel ni dating Pangulong Digong Duterte, sa ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I na ibalik na sa kanyang pamilya at sa mga Pilipino si "Tatay Digong" at ibasura ang aniya'y "grievously misplaced and politically motivated" na mga kaso laban sa dating pangulo. At ang nangyari ke DDU30 ay...

Isinisisi kina PBBM at then-DOJ Sec. Boying Remulla. Ha? Bakit?

Iginiit din ni Kaufman na ang bilang ng namamatay sa Pilipinas ay patuloy na tataas, mayroon man o wala ang giyera kontra droga ni Duterte, dahil ang bansa aniya ay nasa unique na posisyon upang magsilbing transit hub para sa pagpupuslit ng droga mula sa mga kartel sa Tsina. Pero di binanggit ni Kaufman na...

Libong addicts at pushers pinatay, walang drug lords kinatay.

Pinaniniwalaang mahigit sa 50 katao ang natabunan matapos na gumuho ang isang bahaging ga-bundok na

basura mula sa Rizal Provincial Sanitary Landfill sa Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal noong Biyernes ng tanghali, Pebrero 20.

Nakngdragon Tol Reyfort, 2 garbage landfill na gumuho, a h !

Tatlong kababaihan umano ang nasawi sa insidente, at kabilang sa mga apektado sa insidente ang mga mangangalakal ng basura na nasa loob ng pribadong operator ng Rizal Provincial Sanitary Landfill na International Solid Waste Integrated Management Specialist, Inc. (ISWIMS). Balita kasi na idedemolis na ang komunidad na sakop ng sanitary landfill na kung saan...

1,000 pamilyang umaasa sa pamamasura ang kabuhayan.

Pinanindigan ni Senator Mark Villar na malinis ang kanyang record simula magsilbing Congressman ng Las Piñas City at maitalagang kalihim ng DPWH hanggang ngayon bilang senador.

Di raw siya korap, papikit-pikit lang mga mata.

Umalma rin sina dating Senator at ngayon ay Makati City Mayor Nancy Binay, dating Sen. Grace Poe, at Education Sec. Sonny Angara sa pagbanggit sa kanila ni dating DPWH Usec. Roberto Bernardo sa mga tumatanggap ng "kickbacks." Anila...

Di sila nasangkot sa

anumang korapsyon. Eelibs ba tayo?

Meron na raw ni-recruit si VP Sara Duterte last year pa na kanyang magiging running mate para sa 2028 elections sa pagtakbong Pangulo ng Pinas, na ayaw namang sabihin ang pangalan. Ala naman akong paki kung sino BP ni Inday Sara, eh...

Di ko naman iboboto si Sara, o, kahit sinong Duterte.

Hayagang ibinandera ng kontrobersiyal director na si Darryl Yap ang kanyang pagsuporta sa pagtakbong pangulo ni Sara Duterte sa 2028 at sa pamamagitan ng FB ay sinabi nga ni Direk Darryl ang all-out support niya sa kandidatura ni VP Sara at sinabi pang: "Mahal ka ng bayan! Iganti mo kami! Tapusin mo sila Inday Sara Duterte!"

Anong title ng movie mo, Direk? 'Takbo, gulong, gapang, Inday!'

SHORT ORDER: Happy birthday to Pards veteran Photog Jun Mendoza (Feb. 20) of PhilStar, Manila... Birthday greetings to Jude Turcuato of Manila (Feb. 24)... Happy birthdy to Ms. Myra Fundal (Feb. 24) of Bacolod City, Phil... Happiest birthday to sister Nenita D. Blaza (Feb. 25) of Caloocan City, MM... Happy birthday to Abay Nestor Balagtas (Feb. 26) of Jaen, NE, Phil. Happy birthday to Ms. Maria BC (Feb. 28) of Toronto, ON... **God Bless.**

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AI is making scams look and sound more convincing (voice clips, fake videos, “CEO texts,” fake customer support chats).



Here are 6 practical ways to protect yourself:

1) Use the “pause + verify” rule (always)

If it creates urgency (“act now”) or fear (“account locked”), stop and verify using a trusted method.

2) Don't trust Caller ID or a “verified-looking” profile

Scammers can spoof numbers and clone profiles. Always call back using the official number from the company's website or the back of your card.

3) Use a “family password” for voice/video requests

If someone calls sounding like a friend/relative asking for money or gift cards, ask for a code phrase only your family knows.

4) Never share one-time codes (ever)

If someone asks for a code you received by text/email, that's almost always an account takeover attempt.

5) Turn on 2FA “2-factor authentication” (especially for email)

Your email is the “master key” to password resets. Protect it first, then banking and socials.

6) Watch for “fake support” popups and remote-access requests

Real companies don't randomly pop up warning screens demanding you call a number and install remote tools.

Ask Computer Dean's Simple Rule

If it's asking for money, codes, passwords, remote access, or urgent action — assume it's a scam until proven otherwise.

If you have questions — reach out anytime at askcomputerdean@gmail.com. Let's head into Spring 2026 feeling happy, confident and ready to enjoy the warmer weather.

“Technology may change fast, but good judgment never goes out of style.”

“When in doubt, pause — and ask Computer Dean.”

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NEWS Parliamentary petition seeks review of Philippines-Canada defence pact

By Carlito Pablo

A petition has been filed before the House of Commons for a review of a military agreement between the Philippines and Canada.

Opened for signatures on February 18, 2026, the petition calls for a "transparent" assessment by the Government of Canada of the "human rights, corruption, and governance implications" of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement.

The SOVFA, which was signed by the defence ministers of both nations on November 2, 2025, allows for the presence of military forces in the territory of each country.

The call for a review of SOVFA comes as Canada prepares for a major presence in the annual military exercises between the Philippines and the U.S. called Balikatan.

From an observer country in the Balikatan exercises, Canada will reportedly field the third largest contingent in this year's wargames.

For Balikatan 2026, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman said that Canada plans to deploy more than 600 personnel and assets.

"This year, Canada will be the third largest participant at Balikatan," Hartman said in a February 19, 2026 report by the state-owned Philippine News Agency.

"This is from three and a half years ago, when we didn't even have a resident defense attaché," Hartman also said.

The petition for a parliamentary review of

the SOVFA was filed by Devon Tremain, a resident of Burnaby, B.C. It was authorized by Jenny Kwan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East.

"By entering into the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement, the Government of Canada risks binding our country's reputation to a military establishment accused of corruption and systemic human rights violations including extrajudicial killings of journalists, union members, and Indigenous peoples..." the petition states.

Further, "As of November 2025, the Philippines holds 696 prisoners of conscience who are subjected to human rights violations and inhumane prison conditions."

The petition reminds that Canada has "policies and commitments that uphold the protection of human rights, gender equality, transparency, and accountability, including the Voices at Risk Guidelines and the Feminist International Assistance Policy".

Hence, "Continued Canadian support and cooperation with the Government of the Philippines contributes to more human rights violations which undermines Canada's stated commitments to peace, democracy, and the protection of human rights worldwide." In addition to a review of the SOVFA, the petition also calls on the Canadian government to "suspend or reject the agreement as it cannot guarantee



Canada is expected to be the third largest participant at the 2026 Balikatan wargames between the Philippines and U.S. Photo by Canadian Armed Forces.

accountability, civilian oversight, and compliance with Canada's human rights obligations".

It likewise urges the "immediate release of prisoners of conscience in the Philippines", and an end to the "criminalization of human rights defenders".

The petition will be open for signatures until June 18, 2026.

Canada and the Philippines in recent years have enhanced their military cooperation.

Geopolitical analyst Don McLain Gill wrote in an article for the Vancouver-based think-tank Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) that Ottawa's security cooperation with Manila could serve as a foundation for Canada's strategic plan in the Indo-Pacific region.

Gill is a Filipino and works as a lecturer at the department of international studies of the De La Salle University

in the Philippines.

"When Canada launched its Indo-Pacific Strategy in November 2022, it aimed to bolster its diplomatic presence and contribute to the region's security, sustainability, and growth by co-operating with like-minded partners," Gill wrote.

"One of the strategy's undeniable successes is the exponential growth of Canada's security partnership with the Philippines. It is vital for the newly elected government in Ottawa to invest more in this relationship to better position it as a fulcrum for Canada's Indo-Pacific vision."

APF Canada sought opinions from experts like Gill following the 2025 federal election, which saw the Liberal Party winning a fourth mandate.

In an introductory note to the experts' views published on April 30, 2025, Vina Nadjibulla, vice-president

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for research and strategy with APF Canada, noted that Canada "stands at a pivotal juncture for its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS)".

Going back to Balikatan 2026, the Philippine News Agency in a November 6, 2025 report quoted Canadian envoy Hartman saying that this year's exercises will include more than 500 joint military activities.

The SOVFA, Hartman said in the PNA report, will also pave the way for Canada's sustained participation

in the joint maritime cooperation activities in the West Philippine Sea.

The PNA also reported that the SOVFA will enter into force once endorsed and ratified by the Philippine Senate.

"In our system," Hartman said, "it's already been signed by our Governor General through an order in Council. So, it gets publicized and it'll sit in our public debate for 21 days in our parliament, and then it's in effect from our vantage."

Be kind.

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Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

Buhay ang Diwa ng EDSA People Power!

Matanda na ako. Maputi na ang aking buhok. Testigo at kalahok ako sa unang EDSA People Power Uprising noong Pebrero 22-25, 1986. Mahirap isipin na apat na dekada na ang nagdaan mula ng pinatalsik ng mamamayang Pilipino si diktador Marcos, ang kaniyang asawa at unang ginang na mas kilala sa pag-aari ng sangkatutak na sapatos, ang kanilang mga anak na si Dayunyor, si Imee at si Irene. Mahirap isipin na nakabalik sa Malacanang si Dayunyor! Naisip ko, ano kaya ang nasa isip ni Dayunyor sa araw na ito, ang day of shame, ang araw ng kahihyan ng mga Marcos? Siguro pakapalan na lang ng mukha. (Kasi kung talagang Golden age ang rehimen ng diktador Marcos, bakit sinipa kayo?)

Sa ika-40 na anibersaryo ng EDSA People Power uprising, magmamartsa ang taumbayan sa EDSA. At sa iba't ibang siyudad sa Pilipinas at maging sa maraming siyudad sa labas ng bansa.

Hindi naman naiba ang buhay ng mamamayang Pilipino dahil sa EDSA people power. Alam ko, napahinto ang mga tangke sa kalsada, nagbigayan ng bulaklak, nagkantahan sa EDSA, umulan ang konfeti galing sa mga gusali sa Makati, nagsuotan ng kulay dilaw ang maraming tao at nakilala ang Pinoy sa buong mundo dahil sa EDSA. Naku, ang laki ng pag-asa sa presidenteng Cory Aquino na magkakaroon ng pagbabago sa lipunan, ngunit ang laki rin ng pagbagsak ng ating pag-asa.

Nandoon na ako na talaga namang pinalaya niya ang mga bilanggong pulitikal dahil isa iyon sa mga hiningi ng taumbayan at siyempre, dati ring bilanggong pulitikal ang kaniyang kabiyak na si Ninoy.

Hawak ni Cory Aquino bilang Pangulo dahil sa People Power ang kapangyarihan na ipatupad ang tunay na reporma sa lupa para sa mga magsasaka at gawin niyang halimbawa ang Hacienda Luisita. Pero hindi nangyari ito. Pwede rin sana na pinagwalang bisa niya ang mga unfair treaties na yumuyurak sa soberaniya ng Pilipinas. Maari rin sana niyang kinansela ang mga utang ng diktador Marcos sa mga dayuhang institusyon tulad ng IMF at WB. Hindi rin niya nabuwag ang mga politikal na dinastiya. Walang naparusahan sa mga kasangkot (militar, mga opisyal, warlords, etc.) sa mga krimen sa paglabag sa karapatag pantao, ang mga human rights violators. Naging matapat si Cory Aquino sa kaniyang uring pinagmulan. Ang mga oportunistang naglipana mula sa gobyerno ni Marcos tungo sa

kampo ni Cory Aquino, tulad nina Juan Ponce Enrile at Fidel Ramos dahil tantiya nila na talo na ang laban ni Cory, ang naging mga adviser niya. Kung kaya naman, ang mga kontra-mamamayan na batas at patakaran ng rehimeng Marcos Sr. ay nagpatuloy at ang paggamit ng dahas at pasismo ay nagpatuloy pa rin. Huwag nating kalimutan ang Mendiola massacre noong Enero 22, 1987 na kung saan pinagbabaril ng militar ng estado ang mga magsasaka na nagmartsa sa Mendiola na gusto lang na pakinggan sila ni Cory Aquino. Maraming nasugatan, 13 ang magsasakang namatay. Walang hustisya hanggang ngayon. Ang paggamit ng dahas ng rehimeng Cory Aquino ay walang pinagkaiba sa diktador Marcos! At lalo nang walang pinagkaiba ang lahat ng mga sumunod na mga presidente. Nakakagalit. Nakakalungkot.

Patuloy ang kahirapan. Ang mga tratado at kasunduan sa US at ibang bansa na lalo lamang yayakagin ang Pilipinas sa kanilang mga giyera, at mga conflict, atbp. ay pasan ng taumbayan. Patuloy ang pagdagsa ng mga mining application at mga mining at development project na sisirain ang kabuhayan, lupa, tubig, gubat natin, lalo na ang ating mga indigenous na komunidad. Huwag nating kalimutan na hindi pa naibabalik ang yamang ninakaw ng mga Marcos.

Ang nagbago lamang ay lalong yumaman ang mga bilyonaryo sa Pilipinas habang ang sahod ng manggagawa ay napako na sa sahod na hindi nakabubuhay. At dahil walang kabuhayan pa rin sa atin, halos 7000 na kababayan natin ang umaalis KADA ARAW para makipagsapalaran sa trabaho sa labas ng bansa. Ang Labor Export Policy ni Marcos Sr. ay buhay na buhay pa rin sa sapilitang migrasyon ng ating mga kababayan. Kaya libo libong migranteng manggagawa, mga caregiver, temporary foreign worker, international student ang narito sa Canada.

Pero huwag ka. Ang 1986 EDSA uprising ay patunay na ang lakas ay nasa taumbayan kapag tayo ay nagkaisa at kolektibong kumilos. Patunay rin ito na kailangan panagutin ang mga Marcos, ang mga Duterte, at marami pang iba sa kanilang mga kasalanan, noon at ngayon. Kailangang ilantad natin ang pasismo, ang korapsyon, at ang pagsusunod-sunuran ng rehimeng Marcos sa US, sa dayuhang mga higanteng korporasyon. At sino ang pumirma sa pambansang badyet na naging daan para mangolekta



DADAGUNDONG ANG MGA PROTESTA SA EDSA@40!



Photo Credits: Top: Bagong Alyansang Makabayan FB page; Bottom: L-R :Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas FB Page; Kilusang Mayo Uno FB page

ng pork barrel, kickback, magkaroon ng mga insertion, para magnakaw ang mga nasa poder at ipagwalang bahala ang ating mga mamamayang tinamaan ng baha, kahirapan, at kawalan ng serbisyo? E di ang pangulo, si Dayunyor. Marcos Sr noon, Marcos Jr ngayon, wala pa ring nagbago sa bayan.

Ang mga martsa at pagkilos sa paggunita sa EDSA people power uprising ay para igiit na tuloy ang laban, ang paniningil. Kailangang managot ang mga sangkot, mula sa tuktok. At dapat makulong ang mga iyan. Mula sa tuktok ng "mabahong bundok ng korapsyon" ayon sa Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Magmamartsa tayo para sa pananagutan at tunay na pagbabago hindi lang sa Pebrero kundi lagpas pa sa Pebrero! Kung

pagbabago, sino ang ipapalit dahil lahat sila korap. Tama naman iyan, pero ibahin natin ang tanong, ano ang kaya natin at dapat nating ipalit sa bulok na sistema na iyan? Hindi ang mga pulitiko ang gagawa niyan, kundi ang taumbayan. Hindi magkatugma ang interes ng mga nasa poder, ng mga bilyonaryo sa hangad at interes ng taumbayan.

Buhay ang diwa ng EDSA at dapat mayanig ang mga korap na dapat makulong – dahil matindi ang baha na darating sa EDSA at pagkatapos ng EDSA.

Buhay ang diwa ng EDSA. Buhay ang ating mga pangarap na makamit ang tunay na demokrasya, kalayaan, maginhawang pamumuhay na taumbayan.



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Determine your eligibility – Sponsor your eligible relatives

Some relatives may be eligible to immigrate to Canada as permanent residents.

If you have relatives who want to immigrate to Canada under the Family Class, you must sponsor them. You and your relatives must meet certain requirements.

Your relatives must have medical, criminal and background checks. They may not be allowed to enter Canada if they have a criminal record or are a risk to Canada's security. They may have to get a police certificate from police in their home country. The application kit explains medical, criminal and background checks.

Sponsoring an eligible relative

You can sponsor certain relatives if you are a citizen or permanent resident of Canada and if you are 18 or older.

You may not be able to sponsor a relative if you:

- sponsored another relative in the past and did not meet the terms of the sponsorship agreement,
- are in default of alimony or child support payments,
- got government financial help for reasons other than being disabled,
- were convicted of a violent crime, any offence against a relative or any sexual offence, depending on

- details of the case, such as
 - the type of offence,
 - how long ago it was and
 - whether a record suspension was issued
- did not pay back an immigration loan, made late payments or missed payments,
- are in prison, or
- have declared bankruptcy and have not been released from it yet.

Other things not on this list may stop you from being able to sponsor a relative.

- To be a sponsor you must:
- meet set income guidelines, and
 - agree in writing to give financial support to your relative and any other eligible relatives coming with them for up to 10 years, depending on their age and how you are related. (This time period begins on the date they become a permanent resident.)

The person you sponsor must promise to try to support themselves. Dependent children under age 19 do not have to sign this agreement.

If you live in Quebec, you must also meet Quebec's conditions to be a sponsor after Citizenship and Immigration Canada approves you as a sponsor. For instance, you must sign an "undertaking" with the

province—a contract that binds the sponsorship.

If you are a Canadian citizen who lives abroad and you plan to return to Canada when your relatives immigrate, you may sponsor your spouse, common-law or conjugal partner, or dependent children who have no dependent children.

To sponsor any other eligible relatives, you must live in Canada.

Who you can sponsor

Depending on your circumstances, there are two options for who you can sponsor.

Option 1 – Orphaned close relatives

You can sponsor close relatives, related by blood or adoption, such as brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or grandchildren only if they meet all of the following conditions:

- They are orphaned,
- They are under 18, and
- They do not have a spouse, common law partner, or conjugal partner.

Option 2 – Other relative

You may sponsor one relative, related by blood or adoption, of any age if you meet all of the following conditions:

- you do not have a spouse, common-law partner, or conjugal partner, or one of the following living relatives you could sponsor instead:

1. son or daughter,
 2. parent,
 3. grandparent,
 4. brother or sister,
 5. uncle, aunt,
 6. nephew or niece.
- you do not have any of the above-named relatives who is a:

- Canadian citizen,
- permanent resident, or
- registered Indian under the Indian Act.

If the relative you want to sponsor has a spouse, partner, or dependent children who will come with them to Canada you must include them on the same sponsorship application.

If your relative does not qualify for sponsorship they may still be able to come to Canada as a skilled immigrant through Express Entry. Express Entry manages applications for certain economic immigration programs and selects applicants for their skills, experience and ability to contribute to Canada's economy. Express Entry candidates may be awarded points for having a family member living in Canada. More information is available on the Express Entry web page.

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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 or email: corrales@shaw.ca.



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



Alliance Philippines – Vancouver Filipino Language School welcomes MP Rechie Valdez

Alliance Philippines – Vancouver Filipino Language School welcomed Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism, on February 17 for Salo-Salo Presents: Meryenda with Minister Rechie Valdez.

The gathering brought together Filipino community leaders from across British Columbia, along with youth, educators, and entrepreneurs, for an afternoon of meryenda and conversation focused on identity, women's leadership, and small business.

Minister Valdez reflected on her journey from entrepreneurship to public office, becoming Canada's first Filipina federal Cabinet minister. She spoke about pivoting with purpose and shared how building a Fili-

pino fusion baking business not only launched her entrepreneurial path but also helped her reconnect with her cultural roots.

Ben Luchina, Operations Manager of Alliance Philippines, underscored the importance of representation. "As a 1.5 generation Filipino Canadian youth, seeing her bridge that gap, especially considering the decades of underrepresentation since Rey Pagtakhan is a powerful reminder that representation matters."

Attendees emphasized the value of direct dialogue between federal leaders and grassroots Filipino organizations. The event concluded with networking and continued discussions on leadership, cultural visibility, and strengthening community connections across British Columbia.



Derrick Monasterio, Ashley Ortega, Elle Villanueva heat up afternoons in Apoy sa Dugo

Afternoons are set to blaze as GMA Afternoon Prime unveils its newest drama series, Apoy sa Dugo, premiering this March 2.

Toplining the series are Sparkle stars Derrick Monasterio as Marco, Ashley Ortega as Angel, Elle Villanueva as Vanessa, taking on their boldest and most emotionally charged roles to date.

Vanessa is a noble lawyer, who defends the poor and voiceless people for free. She is also a loving partner to Marco, a gentle and reserved businessman, who chose his own family over his parents' ambition. Together, they appear to have the perfect life until a long-lost family member comes knocking.

The start of their nightmare arrives in the form of Angel, Vanessa's half-sister. Drawn by a desperate longing for love and family, Angel becomes dangerously obsessed with the sister

she never had and will stop at nothing to keep Vanessa to herself.

When Vanessa discovers the terrible things Angel has done 'out of love,' she makes a choice that the latter cannot forgive. Thus, the heated sibling rivalry is ignited.

How far can love go before it turns destructive? When families begin to fracture, does blood truly remain thicker than water, or is it the same blood that fuels the fire?

Adding intensity to the story is a powerhouse cast composed of Ricardo Cepeda and Pinky Amador, together with promising Sparkle artists Thea Tolentino, Patricia Coma, Larkin Castor.

Directed by Ralfh Manuel Malabunga, Apoy sa Dugo is a gripping tale of love pushed to extremes, where obsession ignites betrayal and war follows.

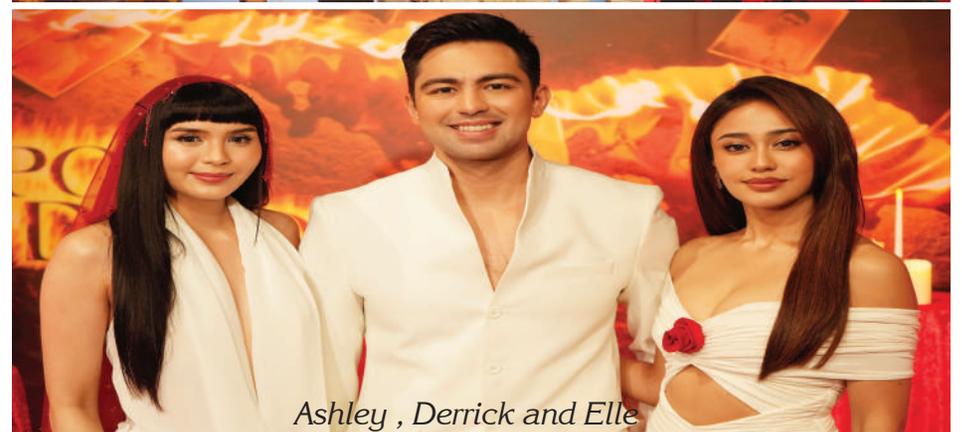
Catch Apoy sa Dugo from Mondays to Fridays at 4:05 p.m. on GMA Afternoon Prime. Global Pinoys can also watch the pro-

gram via GMA Pinoy TV.

For more stories about the Kapuso Network, visit www.GMA-Network.com.



THE CAST OF APOY SA DUGO



Ashley, Derrick and Elle



Columnist Joe Larano Jr. Releases New Book Celebrating Filipino Life Journeys in British Columbia

Vancouver, Canada — Philippine Asian News Today columnist and story-teller Joe Larano Jr. has officially released his latest book,

Snippet of Stories: Life Journeys of Filipinos in British Columbia Canada, a compelling collection of narratives that reflect the lived experiences, struggles, and triumphs of Filipinos who have made British Columbia their home.

The book is a curated compilation of Larano's long-running newspaper column, "Snippet of Stories," originally published in Philippine Asian News Today.

While each article carried its own significance when first published, the author later recognized that together they form a larger, cohesive narrative—one that captures the Filipino migrant journey in all its complexity, marked by sacrifice, perseverance, resilience, and hope.

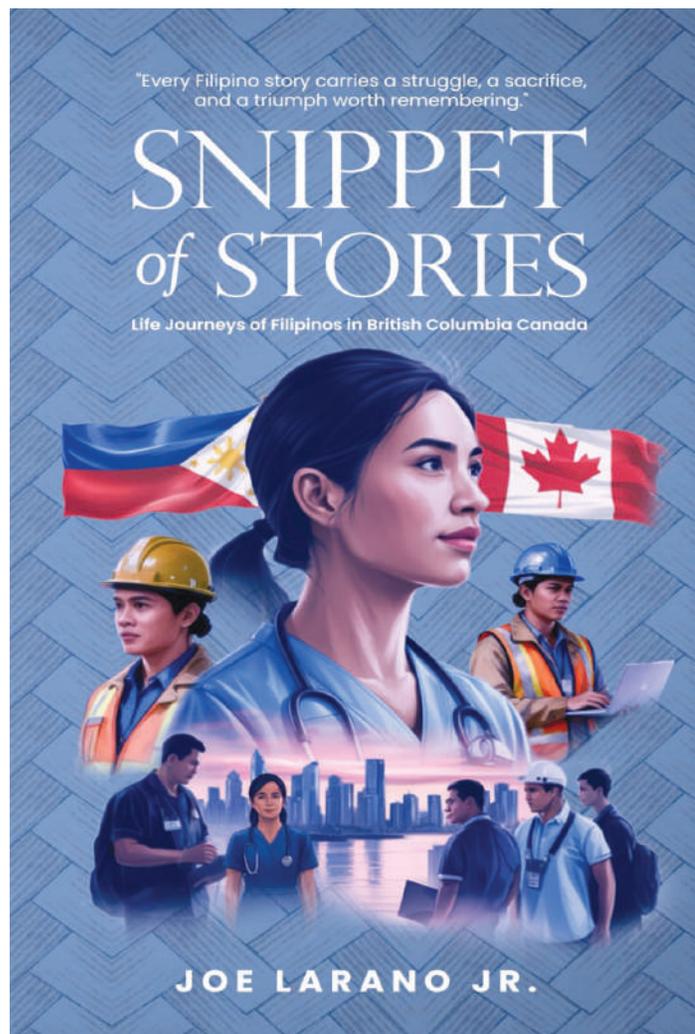
"Many of the most meaningful Filipino stories are often shared quietly—in private conversations, family gatherings, or kept in memory," Larano notes. "This book was born out of a deep sense of responsibility to gather those experiences, preserve them in one volume, and give them voice."

Adding distinction and depth to the publication, the Foreword was written by Honorable Mable Elmore, Deputy Speaker and Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for Vancouver-Kensington, whose own advocacy and leadership underscore the importance of representation, diversity, and inclusion.

The Preface was prepared by Dr. Gina A. Jamorain, Consul General of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, offering a diplomatic and cultural perspective that situates the book within the broader context of the Filipino diaspora and Philippine-Canadian relations.

The book's objectives are threefold.

First, it seeks to encourage and uplift Overseas Filipino Workers and Filipino-Canadians by



affirming that their struggles and successes are shared experiences, shaped by collective courage and sacrifice.

Second, it aims to build bridges of understanding—between generations of Filipinos and between the Filipino community and the wider Canadian society.

Third, it celebrates the invaluable contributions of Filipinos who continue to enrich British Columbia's cultural, social, and professional fabric, from healthcare and education to the arts, trades, and entrepreneurship.

Larano hopes readers will find in these pages' reflections of their own journeys, comfort during difficult times, and a renewed sense of pride in the Filipino identity.

Above all, the book stands as a tribute to the resilience of Filipinos and a reminder that their voices and stories matter.

"In every snippet lies a truth," Larano reflects. "And in every truth, a light. It is that light I hope to pass on, one story at a time."

Snippet of Stories: Life Journeys of Filipinos in British Columbia Canada is a collection of real-life anecdotes drawn from the column of the same name in Philippine Asian News Today, an online and print media Filipino community newspaper circulated in British Columbia, Canada. In these pages are the voices of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and Filipino-Canadians whose lives reflect the struggles and triumphs of building a home away from home.

From tales of sacrifice and separation to moments of resilience and success, this book captures the essence of the Filipino spirit in British Columbia. Each story offers not only a glimpse into the challenges of migration but also the strength, courage, and faith that define our community.

Compiled as a single volume, **Snippet of Stories** serves both as a record of lived experiences and as an encouragement to those who continue their own journeys abroad. Whether you are an OFW, a migrant, a Filipino-Canadian, or simply someone seeking inspiration, these narratives remind us that even in hardship, there is hope; even in struggle, there is triumph.

"Every Filipino story carries a struggle, a sacrifice, and a triumph worth remembering."

TESTIMONIALS

"I'm a regular reader of Mr. Larano's Snippet of Stories column. This book is amazing!" - Jina-ann Gomez

"Stories of Filipinos in diaspora, perseverance and success, nice stories. Commendable!" - Bing Guino-Ruiz

"I can relate to these stories. Narrative reflections of our steadfastness as a people!" - Anghelo Boy Ronales

Contact the Author: jlbaranol@gmail.com

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Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the love, encouragement, and support of the people around me.

First and foremost, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my loving wife, Candie, whose constant support and encouragement carried me through the production of this book. To our three sons, Jarvin, Leon, and Jaihan, now independent and accomplished in their own ways, thank you for your unwavering support. Your genuine interest in my columns and in the making of this book has been a constant source of motivation. My heartfelt appreciation also goes to our daughters-in-law, Kriska and Vanessa, and not to forget our adorable furry babies, Nugget, Jodie, and Duryan, who bring joy and companionship in ways words can hardly capture.

I extend my gratitude to Reyfort Media, publisher of Philippine Asian News Today, where my column "Snippet of Stories" appears twice a month. This platform has given me the privilege of sharing stories and reflections that I hope resonate within our community.

To the loyal readers of my column—OFWs, Filipino residents, and Filipino-Canadians—thank you for your continued support. You are the very heart of these stories, and it is my hope that this collection becomes a source of encouragement, pride, and inspiration for you.

Finally, I also wish to acknowledge my colleagues and friends in the United Architects of the Philippines, British Columbia Chapter (UAP-BC Chapter). Your camaraderie, insights, and encouragement have been invaluable throughout this journey.

To all of you, I owe the completion of this book. Your support and inspiration have given life to these pages.

Snippet of Stories: Life Journeys of Filipinos in British Columbia Canada is available in Kindle, Paperback, and Hardcover editions via Amazon

and other major online bookstores.

Official book launching is set to be held in June 2026.



Congratulations on a Successful Vestry Meeting!

The congregation of St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Church, with the guidance and leadership of its rector Reverend Expedito Farinas, held its successful 2026 Vestry Meeting on February 22, 2026.

The Annual Reports were presented to the congregation by the Rector, the Wardens, the Mothers Union, Sunday School, Altar Guild, Tea & Coffee Group and the Treasurer. All the reports were accepted by the parishioners.

Year 2025 was a full and productive year. St. Mary the Virgin was one of the churches who responded quickly after the horrific tragedy at the Lapu-Lapu Festival to pray for the victims, the injured, those impacted by the tragedy, and for the wider community.

The Most Reverend Archbishop John Stephens, Archbishop of the Diocese of New Westminster and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon described the work of St Mary the Virgin in his visit last September 2025 as "a haven to all who walk through its doors... a place where newcomers to Canada – often migrant workers of some form- find community, belong-

ing and support regardless of where they are in their faith journey. "

For 2025-2026, the parishioners elected their Parish Council, the Board of Trustees, the Heads of the church's various programs and committees, and its Lay Eucharistic administrators.

The church has an active Migrants' Ministry with its Migrante Mass, a joint service of the church and Migrante BC, every third Sunday of the month.

St. Mary the Virgin South Hill is part of the Archdiocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada. Known as the "little church with a big heart", it is an "open & welcoming, celebrating the diversity of all people." All are welcome to come to the Sunday service at 10:30 am and join the fellowship with hot coffee and refreshments after the service. The church is located at 808 East 50th street in East Vancouver. All are truly welcome.



Congregation taking their oath. (Photo credit: St Mary the Virgin South Hill)



Clockwise: Rev. Expedito Farinas, Greja Pinera, Erie Maestro, Marcy Borreta, Cris Ticad, Mildred Colobong. (Photo credit: St Mary the Virgin South Hill)

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SPORTS **Mayweather–Pacquiao II: Boxing's most profitable rivalry gets a sequel**

More than ten years after they staged the most lucrative night in boxing history, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao are stepping back into the spotlight, announcing a rematch set for September 19 at the Las Vegas Sphere — a venue built for spectacle and symbolism.

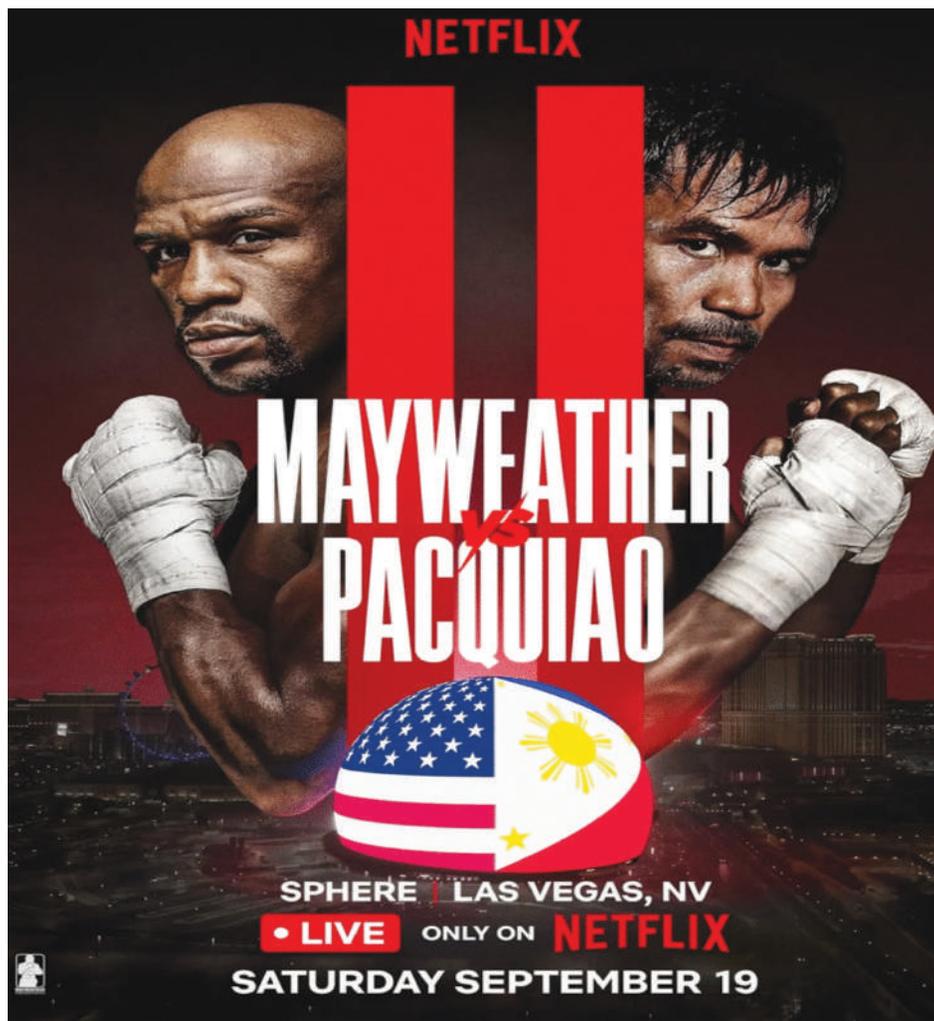
The bout will stream live worldwide on Netflix, marking a decisive shift in how boxing's biggest events are packaged and consumed.

The pairing instantly revives memories of their 2015 "Fight of the Century," a bout that shattered pay-per-view and gate records while unifying welterweight titles under Mayweather's unbeaten résumé. This time, the context is radically different.

Instead of pay-per-view buys and cable carriers, the fight will be delivered to a global streaming audience inside the \$2.3-billion Las Vegas Sphere, an arena designed to blur the line between live sport and cinematic experience.

For Mayweather, the rematch represents both a return and a reinforcement of legacy. Officially 50-0, he has not competed in a sanctioned professional bout since stopping Conor McGregor in 2017, spending recent years in high-profile exhibitions.

Now nearing 50, he insists the



outcome will mirror the first meeting, framing the fight as a reminder of competitive hierarchy rather than nostalgia.

Pacquiao enters with a different motivation.

At 47, the eight-division world champion remains active, having challenged for a welterweight title as recently as

last year. Where Mayweather's aura is built on perfection, Pacquiao's is defined by resilience and reinvention. He has openly described the rematch as unfinished business, a chance to rewrite the final chapter of a rivalry that once divided the boxing world.

Boxing's most famous rivalry is

being reborn not as a traditional pay-per-view blockbuster, but as a streaming-first global event — a calculated bet that star power, legacy narratives, and immersive technology can still command mass attention in an era of fragmented audiences.

Whether the rematch delivers the same competitive drama as its predecessor remains an open question. What is certain is that Mayweather vs. Pacquiao II is less about settling old scores and more about redefining what a "mega-fight" looks like in the modern sports economy — where history, platform, and presentation may matter as much as the punches thrown.

As for the latest update, Pacquiao said TO haunt Floyd Mayweather Jr. by blemishing his pristine 50-0 record.

That is Manny Pacquiao's mission as he faces Mayweather in a welterweight rematch at the Sphere in Las Vegas on Sept. 19 (Sept. 20 in Manila).

"I want Floyd to be forever haunted by the loss on his professional record and always remember who gave it to him," said Pacquiao in a promotional graphic produced by Netflix on Tuesday.

(Malaya Business Insight (MBI) Online Team)

Eala in new territory, faces tougher challenges

AFTER her impressive run in the Dubai Tennis Championships last week, Filipina star Alex Eala entered new territory in her flourishing pro tennis career yesterday, vaulting 16 spots to another all-time best of No. 31 in the newly released Women's Tennis Association world ratings.

This welcome development is credited to her strong campaign in the last WTA 1000 meet in the UAE tourist, commercial and investment capital, playing four matches in the tough main draw at the Dubai Duty Free Stadium.

The highlight of that drive was a stunning 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) upset of Italian No. 8 seed Jasmine Paolini, now No. 7 in the world, in the second round, followed up by a 7-5, 6-4 decision over Romanian veteran Sorana Cirstea

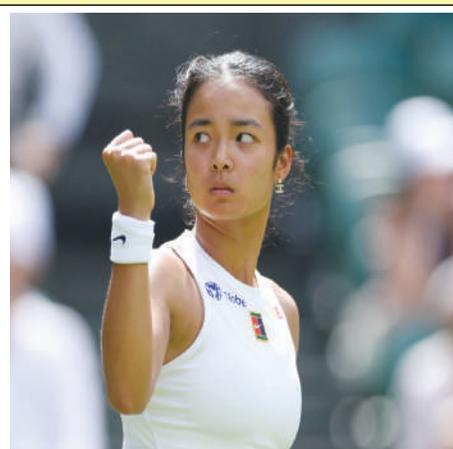
in the round-of-16.

Eala, 20, finally met her match in former Italian Open doubles partner and American No. 4 seed Coco Gauff, No. 4 in the world, who took out the popular player with a lopsided 6-0, 6-2 triumph in the quarterfinals.

Eala's strong performance netted her 209 WTA rankings points, boosting her to the new milestone with a total of 1,432 points, surpassing her previous high of No. 40 last Feb. 9.

She was just six points shy of Chinese Xinyu Wang, who also achieved a career-best No. 30, and 22 points ahead of Greek No. 32 Mariia Sakkari, 30, a former world No. 2 and French and US Open semifinalist in 2021.

Also making inroads in the rank-



ings was Eala's Southeast Asian "sister" and Abu Dhabi Open doubles partner Janice Tjen of Indonesia, who rose 10 spots to a new personal best of No. 36.

Patten noted that against Gauff, "she (Eala) wasn't at her best, that's true, but Gauff highlighted weaknesses in her game that need to

be addressed sooner rather than later. The most notable of which was her physical condition.

"For context, her opponent, Gauff, had played three hours and 50 minutes, just 25 fewer. Eala should have been ready for a battle, but clearly wasn't," he observed.

"Her (Eala's) serve wasn't up to scratch against Gauff, and in all honesty, it never has been. The Filipina's athleticism, intelligence, and shot-making often disguise her serving troubles, but the shot is, by far, the weakest in her arsenal."

He noted that "against Gauff, Eala won 32% of points behind her first serve and 40% behind her second. Those numbers aren't going to get you anywhere against the very best players in women's tennis." (B. Pedralvez/Malaya)



RP NEWS ...AND MORE.....

Bishop urges families to restore dialogue, listening at home



Bishop Cosme Damian Almedilla delivers his homily during a Mass for the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life national conference at a convention center in Butuan City on Feb. 20, 2026. (Photo from the Diocese of Butuan via CBCP News)

A Catholic bishop urged families Friday to restore conversation at home, saying that many households are losing the ability to truly listen to one another.

Speaking during a Mass for a national conference on family and life in Butuan City, Bishop Cosme Damian Almedilla described what he called a growing crisis of dialogue within families.

"People live under the same roof but not in the same heart anymore," Almedilla said. "They speak but they do not listen."

The Butuan bishop said modern family life is increasingly marked by distraction, emotional distance and weakened relationships, even when members remain physically present. He stressed that authentic presence requires attentiveness — particularly the willingness to listen patiently amid disagreements, fatigue and daily pressures.

"Around the family table, we

learn to dialogue," Almedilla said, noting that conversations are often replaced by silence, screens or superficial exchanges.

He warned that the erosion of listening within households has wider consequences, shaping how individuals relate in communities, workplaces and church life.

"If we cannot listen at home, we will not listen in the parish," he said. "If we cannot accompany one another in our families, we can never accompany others." Almedilla described listening as essential to healing and reconciliation, especially when conflicts, misunderstandings and tensions inevitably arise within family relationships.

He encouraged families to view dialogue not as confrontation

but as an expression of love, humility and mutual respect. "Love means, 'I am here with you,'" he said.

Almedilla said rebuilding conversation at home can help counter what he called a deeper poverty affecting many families: loneliness and the feeling of being unheard.

The Mass opened the second day of the four-day conference organized by the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

More than 400 participants, including bishops, priests, consecrated persons and lay leaders from dioceses across the country attended the gathering. (CBCP News)

PNP expecting peaceful protest march, EDSA celebration

PNP director for operations Brig. Gen. Ponce Rogelio Penones on Wednesday said the PNP is expecting the protests against corruption and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the EDSA people power revolt will be peaceful.

In an interview with reporters, Penones said they have not received any threat to undermine the activities as of Wednesday morning.

"We have not received reports on threat," he said, adding that nearly 15,000 policemen were deployed at the People Power Monument and other areas in Metro Manila to ensure peace and order.

He said the PNP is expecting around 30,000 individuals to participate in these activities.

"We're expecting these activities to be peaceful and orderly," said Penones.

Penones said a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) vehicle was deployed at



Various groups gathered at the People Power Monument on February 25 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, with wreath-laying ceremonies and protests against alleged large-scale government corruption. (Photo by: Victor Reyes)

the People Power Monument to house people who might cause trouble.

On groups that may join the rally without a permit, Penones said: "The directive of the chief PNP (Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr) is very clear: Observe maximum tolerance."

Penones said the PNP may allow these groups to join the rally as long as they will not cause trouble.

"We have negotiators on the ground, we have commanders on the ground. We are not going to drive them right away

if they have no permit. We can have dialogue. As we said, our objective is to have an activity that is orderly, without people getting hurt," said Penones.

(V. Reeyes/Malaya)


**Wisdom from
the Word**

Ben Berto



WE SIN, SATAN SMILES; WE PRAY, HE FLEES

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Ephesians 6:16 NRSV

41 Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak." NCV

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4: 7 NRSV

9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9, NRSV

There is nothing more that the Devil or Satan wants

than to cause any one to sin. He scored a great victory when he was able to tempt Adam and Eve to sin, and saw them driven out of the Garden of Eden. He must have been jumping with joy, high-fiving with the other demons, and taunting God and the loyal angels who were watching from heaven. It was a disaster for our first parents. There they were, hiding from God in the bushes, both clad in fig leaves, and shivering with cold. The music in heaven stopped, and sadness was felt in the entire universe.

But all is not lost because the Plan of Salvation was immediately implemented. God told Satan in Genesis 3:15, NCV15 "I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. One of her descendants will crush your head, and you will bite his heel". In the end, Satan and his followers will be burned up in the lake of fire, and he will

cause problems no more.

Satan was largely successful with the Children of Israel, especially after Joshua and the older generation died out. The Bible recorded, 31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel. Joshua 24: 31 NRSV 0

"Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, 12 and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and bowed down

to them, and they provoked the Lord to anger.

13 They abandoned the Lord and served Baal and the Astartes. 14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers who plundered them, and he sold them into the power of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies." Judges 2: 10-14 NRSV

The book of Judges gives us a bird's eye view of the history of the Israelites after Joshua to the Kings of Israel. Satan was able to lead Israel to sin by forsaking the Lord and serving other gods that the Lord told them to destroy.

God tells us in Jeremiah 29: 11-13, 11" For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to

WISDOM TO PAGE 22 ...

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Come back to God's heart

The story is told about a young priest who asked a retired priest: "Father, at your age, do you still worry about avoiding temptations?" The old priest replied: "My son, at my age, my worry is that temptations are beginning to avoid me!"

In today's Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11), we are told that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Even Jesus was not spared. The truth of the matter is that temptations spare no one, and they are never really gone. So, what temptations still come knocking at your door at this time? What have you successfully shut out, and what do you still welcome?

Be vigilant. The evil one is real. He knows when to attack us. We must never underestimate the enemy without and within. So, the first thing to do when dealing with the enemy is to know the enemy. He is an expert in his profession, using all sorts of tricks and decep-

tions to make us fall. Once complacency sets in, that's when the fall begins.

The second thing to do when dealing with the enemy is to pray. Without God's help, we cannot overcome temptations. Willpower is not enough. Prayer is our shield from the heat. Prayer is the available help within our reach. Pray, pray much. Pray.

It all boils down to greed, in all its different forms. Greed, be it low greed, moderate greed, or high greed, causes so much havoc in our lives and in our society. And so it is that we can have a greedy individual, a greedy family, a greedy organization, or even a greedy people. We need to live out the basic message of Christianity, which is love.

"Leaders aren't sinless, but they should sin less." We do not expect leaders to be perfect, but leaders, precisely because of their great power and influence, should sin less because they affect the

lives of so many people. Indeed, "to whom much is given, much is also required." In our modern-day parlance, Uncle Ben from "Spiderman" said something like: "With great power comes great responsibility."

Lent reminds us to go back to our hearts and there find Him. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and everything will be given unto you." (Matthew 6:33) Find time, make time, seize time for God. Allow God to take you by the hand and lead you to still waters once again. Let go of your small screen and let God show you the big picture once again. Work on contact moments with your God.

Lent is the time to be humble to God, admitting that with humble and contrite heart, we are weak, we are sinners, and that we need Him. Stop running away from Him. Get rid of the delusion that you can make it on your own. Let not pride keep you far from your God.

Let go of foolish pride that says, "I'm already muddy; might as well stay in mud." All it takes is a moment to say "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." Take time to go to the "red light district" (confessional) and embrace your God once again.

Lent reminds us that we all will die. "We are dust, and to dust we will return" (Genesis 3: 19). Lent should lead us to reflect on and go back to the basics once again. How long have I been in this world already? What have I done, and what am I doing with my life? What do I want to do for the rest of my life? What is really important to me? What are my values? What have I contributed to this world? What will people remember about me after I am gone? What will God tell me when I finally come before Him face to face?

Fast and listen. One with you in disciplining our bodies, our minds, and our hearts

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



CLASSIFIED ADS

WISDOM from PAGE 21....

prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." And in Ezekiel 18: 23 God says, "23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" and verse 32, For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!"

"When Satan tries to discourage you, hit him with the weapon of praise. It is impossible to sing praises to God and be discouraged at the same time! When the devil tries to pressure you to go against God's Holy Word—fight back with obedience. God will give you the victory---all you need to do is allow Him to fight your battles!

Another powerful weapon is faith! Putting your full faith and trust in God is an amazing defense against the devil's doubt-filled arrows. Equip yourself with the whole armour of Christ and you will win an awesome victory! And don't forget the most effective weapon of all---the ammunition of prayer. Nothing can penetrate your shield of faith if you are directly connected to your heavenly Father! Re-

member God will give you the power to fight the enemy no matter what he throws at you.! So put your spiritual armour on and get ready for the devil's attacks...using the powerful weapons God gave you."

You saw the malice of the devil. In one day, he was able to impoverish Job. His cattle were stolen, sheep burnt up, donkeys and other animals were rustled by raiders, and his 7 children killed by a whirlwind that struck the eldest son's house which collapsed on all of them.

Unable to shake Job's allegiance to God, he got permission from God to touch Job to afflict him with painful boils from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. Still he was not able to make Job to curse God as his wife suggested. At the end God was triumphant over Satan, restored his losses double, have another set of 7 children and live 140 years to see his descendants to the fourth generation. So Satan lost and he will keep on losing if you let God fight your battles for you.

To contact us: Our website is www.abundantlifeadventist.ca. Worship with us every Saturday 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....

from worldly pleasures and concerns this Lenten season so that we can listen to God, to other people, especially to the cry of the suffering and the poor. Let's do them all with love and sacrifice. As St. Augustine put it: "Love makes sacrifice easy, and perfect love makes sacrifices a joy."

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to come back to You, with all our heart.

Amen.

momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com

(Reprinted from inquirer.net)

Be kind.

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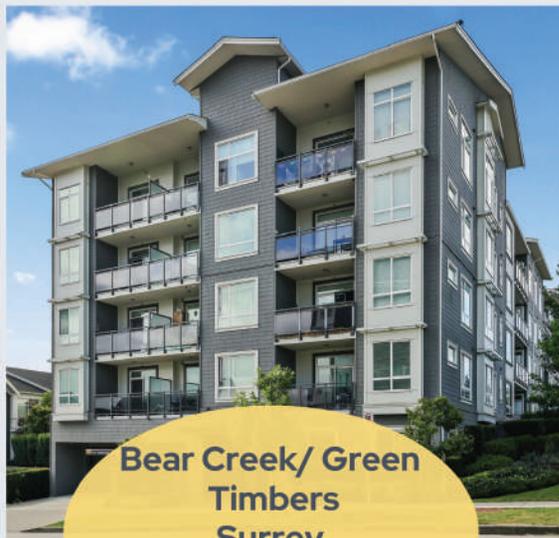
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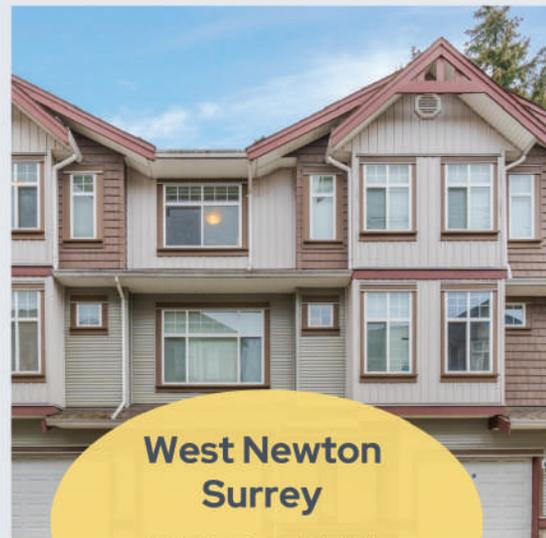
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OFFER VALID WHILE STOCKS LASTS, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES, REFER TO DISPLAYTAGS IN STORE IN CASE OF DISCREPANCY OF PRINTING ERROR IN THIS AD

PRODUCE

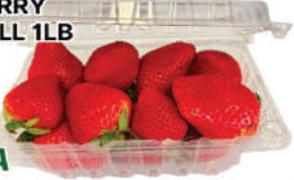
MEAT

MARADOL RED PAPAYA



1⁶⁸ LB

STRAWBERRY CLAMSHELL 1LB



3⁸⁸ EA

FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN CHOPS



3⁸⁸ LB

FRESH CHICKEN WHOLE WING IN BAG



3⁸⁸ LB

BROCCOLI CROWN



2⁴⁸ LB

SPINACH BUNCH



2/3⁴⁸

FRESH GRASS FED CHUCK EYE ROLL ROAST



8⁸⁸ LB

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FROZEN FOOD & COOLER

KIM CHAU PORK PASTE



5⁹⁸ EA

SINCERE ORIENT FOOD FRESH RICE STICK NOODLES 454G



3/7⁰⁰

ASIAN BOY RAW CASSAVA 1KG



3⁹⁸ EA

BULACAN LONGANISA SWEET/HOT 375G



4³⁸ EA

BARRIO FIESTA MILKFISH SMOKED DEBONED 3PCS 400G



7⁹⁸ EA

3FISH CALAMARI TENTACLES 1KG



12⁹⁸ EA

SMART CHOICE BABY CUTTLEFISH 400G



4⁹⁸ EA

BARRIO FIESTA/MAYNILA'S CHOICE MILKFISH DEBONED 400G



6⁹⁸ EA

GROCERY

LIGO SARDINES IN TOMATO REGULAR/CHILI 155G



1¹⁸ EA

AROY-D YOUNG GREEN JACKFRUIT 565G



1⁹⁸ EA

MIKKO FLOUR FOR RICE PANCAKE 500G



2⁴⁸ EA

FOOD EMPIRE CAFE PHO 9X24



2⁹⁸ EA

LUTONG BAHAY SALTED DUCK EGGS COOKED 6PCS



3⁶⁸ EA

MAYNILA'S CHOICE PANCIT CANTON 454G



3⁹⁸ EA

JHC CRAB/SHRIMP PASTE W/ SOYABEAN OIL 200G



4⁴⁸ EA

LEE KUM KEE CHAR SIU SAUCE 320ML



4⁹⁸ EA

FOCO COCONUT WATER 1L



2/5⁰⁰

DOLE PINEAPPLE 100% JUICE 1.36L



5⁴⁸ EA

HUY FONG SRIRACHA CHILI SAUCE 714ML



5⁹⁸ EA

JHC FRESH RICE VERMICELLI AAA 1KG



2/7⁰⁰

NONGSHIM SHIN RAMYUN GOURMET SPICY 4X120G



2/10⁰⁰

KNORR BROTH MIX CHICKEN 1KG



10⁹⁸ EA

LA LUCKY POLOKU MUSHROOM SEASONING 500G



7⁴⁸ EA

SMART CHEF THAI JASMINE RICE 40LB



32⁹⁸ EA

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