



Fil-Am Makes History As 1st Woman To Win Best Oscar Cinematography For 'Sinners'

PAGE 3

CANADA NEWS

Immigration Shift Cuts Canada's Population Growth To Zero: Report

PAGE 12-13



Vilma Santos No Longer Has Plans To Make A Movie

PAGE 6

BC NEWS

Hundreds Of U.S. Health-Care Professionals Are Serving People In B.C.

PAGE 4

LOCAL NEWS

Young Changemakers Share Ideas And Initiatives At Surrey Steps Up

PAGE 9

From FantaSerye King To Superhero

PAGE 16

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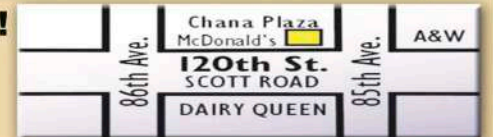
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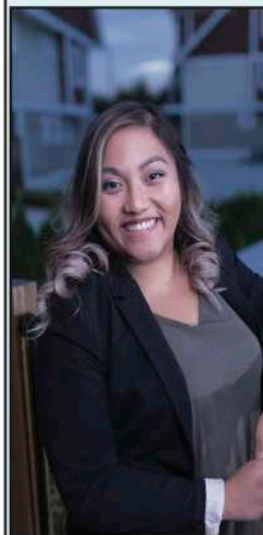
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Fil-Am Makes History As 1st Woman To Win Best Oscar Cinematography For 'Sinners'

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino-American cinematographer Autumn Durald Arkapaw is the first woman to win Best Cinematography for her work on Michael B. Jordan-starrer period vampire film "Sinners."

Arkapaw picked up the award after Ryan Coogler, who also directed the film, won Best Original Screenplay. Arkapaw and Coogler collaborated on another hit, the Marvel movie "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

"I really want all the women in the room to stand up because I feel like I don't get here without you guys," Arkapaw said during her speech.

Arkapaw is Filipino from her mother's side and African American Creole on her father's side. She is also just the fourth woman nominated for



Autumn Durald Arkapaw, winner of the Best Cinematography Award for "Sinners", poses in the press room during the 98th Oscars at Dolby Theatre on March 15, 2026 in Hollywood California.

the cinematography Oscar after Rachel Morrison in 2018 for "Mudbound," Ari Wegner in 2021 for "The Power of the Dog," and Mandy Walker the following year for "Elvis." All the category's winners have been men.

"Sinners" scored a whopping 16 nominations for this year's Academy Awards.(K.A. Llemit.Philstar)

One Year Update: Hundreds Of U.S. Health- Care Professionals Are Serving People In B.C.

More than 400 U.S. health-care professionals making B.C. home

Summary

- As of January 2026, more than 400 U.S.-trained health professionals have accepted job offers throughout the province, including rural and remote regions, nearly triple the last update
- B.C. has received more than 2,750 job applications as of March 2026 from U.S. doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals as a result of targeted recruitment efforts
- More than 1,300 U.S. trained doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners have registered to practise in B.C., indicating growing interest to work in the province since pathways were streamlined for U.S. credential recognition in 2025

One year after the B.C. government launched a targeted campaign to recruit U.S.-trained health-care workers, more than 400 professionals have signed on to work in B.C. communities.

It is nearly triple the number since the previous update in September 2025.

“British Columbia is not only a great place to live, it’s also a great place to work and grow your career,” said Premier David Eby. “Our public health-care system values science, respects reproductive rights and provides great care. We can’t wait to welcome more U.S.-trained doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health providers to our amazing province.”

Strengthening B.C.’s health workforce

Globally, health-care workers are in high demand, including in British Columbia. Government launched recruitment efforts to attract more health-care professionals from the U.S. in March 2025. The marketing campaign started in June 2025, targeting the states of Washington and Oregon, as well as select cities in California.

As of January 2026, more than 400 U.S. doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals have accepted job offers within B.C.’s public health-care system. They include 89 doctors, 260 nurses, 42 nurse practitioners and 23 allied health professionals.

“In less than a year, we’ve successfully recruited hundreds of U.S. health-care professionals who are already helping strengthen B.C.’s public health-care system,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. “They include doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health providers who are joining teams in hospitals and communities across the province. This is just the beginning – U.S. health professionals are enthusiastic about the opportunity to work in B.C., and we will continue welcoming them and connecting them with opportunities throughout the province.”

These doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals are joining hospitals and clinics in the following regions in B.C.:

- Fraser Health - 105 health-care professionals
- Interior Health - 83
- Island Health - 97
- Northern Health - 31
- Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health - 72
- First Nations Health Authority - 4
- Provincial Health Services Authority - 22

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19



Survivors And Community Say ‘No’ To Filipino BC’s Lapu-Lapu 2026



Survivors of the April 26, 2025 festival tragedy in Vancouver and the wider community are opposed to the plan by event organizer Filipino BC to bring back the fair this year.

Amid demands from families and community members for immediate and full financial transparency from Filipino BC regarding funds received in the aftermath of the ill-fated festival, the organization has announced that it will stage Lapu-Lapu 2026.

Based on Filipino BC’s own report, over \$2 million were collected in donations.

Out of this total, the single biggest allocation of \$451,570 or nearly a quarter of the funds was earmarked for Filipino BC. Val De La Cruz attended the 2025 festival with his wife and their two toddlers, a girl and a boy. He and his spouse and their boy were injured at the car-ramping attack.

De La Cruz believes that the plan by Filipino BC to stage Lapu-Lapu 2026 at the Italian Cultural Centre on April 19 is not appropriate.

“My family and I have not healed. We continue to deal with the horror we experienced. Another Lapu-Lapu Day is not what we need,” De La Cruz said. De La Cruz also noted that his family has not received adequate support from Filipino BC despite the huge amount of donations that came in.

The community is rallying behind De La Cruz and his family and the other victims and survivors who are opposing Filipino BC’s Lapu-Lapu 2026.

On the forefront is the United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC (UFCABC), the biggest alliance of Filipino community organizations in the province numbering 65 associations.

UFCABC president Arcie Lim says the community has come together to support victims and their families.

“We are standing in solidarity with victims and survivors. The wounds are still fresh. The trauma has not gone away. There is a time for everything and it’s simply not the time to hold another Lapu-Lapu event,” Lim said.

Lim also stated that the top priority should be the welfare and well-being of victims and their families.

“This is why UFCABC is also calling for the release of any or all unspent donations being held by Filipino BC to meet the needs of survivors and their loved ones,” Lim said.

It can be recalled that four individuals left the board of Filipino BC in 2025 after their questions about funds were not answered. They are Antonio Ortega, Lina Vargas, Concepcion Colobong, and Oscar Bisnar.

In separate letters dated December 3 and December 16, 2025, the four ex-directors called on Filipino BC, to fulfill its obligations for

financial transparency under the Societies Act.

Ortega, Vargas, Colobong and Bisnar demanded, among others:

- Full disclosure of all disbursements, identifying recipients and support provided.
- Complete disclosure of salaries and fees paid to Filipino BC staff, board members, contractors, and consultants.
- Confirmation that no portion of the funds were diverted for personal benefit, including disproportionate salaries and honoraria

In line with the wishes of survivors and families of victims for a solemn commemoration of 2025 tragedy, the community will gather for a remembrance dinner at the Fraserview Banquet Hall (8240 Fraser Street, Vancouver) on April 12, 2026, starting at 5 p.m.

The dinner is being organized by the Lapu-Lapu Society of BC.

Lapu-Lapu Society president Antonio Ortega says the community intends to honour the memories of those who perished and recognize the journey of those whose lives were impacted by the tragedy.

“At the heart of the community dinner is reflection, remembrance and compassion. Let’s mark the first-year anniversary of the tragedy in utmost respect and with collective healing,” Ortega said.

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Vilma Santos No Longer Has Plans To Make A Movie

MANILA -- Vilma Santos revealed she has put a pin on her plans to make another film while still serving her term as governor of Batangas.

The veteran actress previously expressed she hopes Batangueños will allow her to make one movie following her Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Uninvited."

"Yung sinabi ko sana in three years pinagkatiwalaan ako ng Batangueño—sana payagan ako gumawa kahit isa. Kaya lang at this point in time ang dami natin challenges. Medyo second o third priority na lang," she said during the special screening of "Ekstra" held in Manila City on Sunday.

According to Vilma Santos, acting will take a backseat as she does not want to divide her attention from her constituents.

"The challenges we are facing now, I am the mother of Batangas, yun muna priority ko. Kailangan magabayang pangangailangan nila. yung ang first priority ko," she explained.

Santos, however, said she will revisit her plans in the future and will also be looking into making another independent film, following "Ekstra," which is her first and only indie project to date.

"Nag-usap kami ni Direk Jeff, may hinahanap siya na script for me. Just in case meron ulit, I do not mind doing an indie film. Sa haba ng career ko, isang indie lang nagawa ko," she said.

The screening of "Ekstra" was led by The National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Film Development Council of the Philippines in celebration of Women's Month.

During the talkback session, Santos revealed she was "definitely not happy" with Quezon City Representative Bong Suintay's viral lewd remarks about Anne Curtis.

"We have been talking about women empowerment—you should treat women with respect. Ang sinasabi nila babae lang naka sunod lang sa lalaki—not anymore. We truly respect men, but remember marami kami kaya gawin. Hindi ka babae lang—babae kami. Do not underestimate us, do not say bad words against us, kahit papano—aalma kami. Bago ka magsalita ng hindi maganda, tingnan mo sarili mo," she said.

She also disagreed with those who justified the remarks based on what women wear. (A. Cerezo/abs-cbn)

Eman Bacosa Pacquiao Joining Jillian Ward On 'Never Say Die' — Report

MANILA, Philippines — Young boxer and Sparkle artist Eman Bacosa Pacquiao is all set for his acting debut in the GMA action series "Never Say Die".

The project will have Eman acting opposite the show's lead stars David Licaucó and Jillian Ward, the latter whom the son of boxing legend Manny Pacquiao has been associated with the past few months.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Eman Bacosa Pacquiao and Jillian Ward



Actress and Batangas governor Vilma Santos. Anna Cerezo, ABS-CBN News

'Pinoy Big Brother' May Change Houses In The Future — Producer



MANILA, Philippines — Reality competition show "Pinoy Big Brother" and the iconic Bahay ni Kuya have been staples of Filipino pop culture for the last two decades, but some big changes may be seen in future seasons.

One of the show's longtime hosts Bianca Gonzalez uploaded the second part of her video interview with the show's Business Unit Head Marcus Vinuya ahead of the "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0," continuing to answer questions about the beloved series.

The very last question Bianca brought up was related to a remark by ABS-CBN executive Laurenti Dyogi during a house tour before the previous season about that edition possibly being the last one to be shot in the famous house found along Eugenio Lopez Jr. Drive in Quezon City.

The statement had fans wondering if there were plans to move to a new house for future seasons of "Pinoy Big Brother", something Vinuya confirmed.

Bianca recalled when the Bahay ni Kuya extension was demolished to make way for construction for another reality series "Pinoy Dream Academy", that and at the time, she already felt sentimental.

The host also noted the "Pinoy Big Brother" team has constantly been quipping that each season may be the last inside the house, something Vinuya also keeps telling his staff.

"Definitely it will happen, it will come to a point that we need to find a new house," Vinuya reiterated.

The two agreed that a new venue may be exciting for both viewers and contestants as everyone who enters the Bahay ni Kuya instantly connect locations inside the house with iconic moments from the show.

Vinuya added that the house's current layout has been the same since "Pinoy Big Brother: Otso" — which ended in 2019 after becoming the third-longest season of "Big Brother" ever — and that only the interior has changed since.

"Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0" ended with Caprice Cayetano and Lella Ford being voted as the Big winners.(K. Purnell/Philstar)

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Miss Grand International 2025 Emma Tiglao (Images courtesy of Facebook)

Miss Grand International 2025 Emma Tiglao Puts Restaurant On Blast Over Rude Waiter

Reigning Miss Grand International Emma Tiglao has called on the management of a restaurant after her family encountered a rude waiter while having lunch on Saturday.

Later, the restaurant management issued an apology to Emma. It seems that the international beauty queen accepted the apology after encouraging her fans to move on from the incident. Emma's full post:

"I don't usually rant online, but I believe this experience is worth sharing so others can be aware of it and, hopefully, we can all learn from it.

"Earlier today, my family and I had lunch at Crabs N Crack (Infinity Branch). Seafood is actually one of our favorites, so we were excited and ordered

Bundles A and B with chili-garlic, Cajun, and butter-garlic sauce.

"When the food arrived, the order was different from what we had requested. Instead of chili garlic, it came with two Cajun and one butter garlic. We politely mentioned the mistake, but we were told it could no longer be changed because it had already been prepared. Since we didn't want to make things complicated, we simply asked if we could have a little chili garlic sauce on the side instead.

"To their credit, the staff acknowledged the mistake and gave the sauce as a complimentary request. We appreciated that gesture.

"However, while we were preparing to have the food packed for takeout, the waiter who handled our order said, "ANG KAPAL NG MUKHA." I heard it from behind (pero alam mong pinarinig sa inyo).

"At that moment, my heart started racing and my hands turned cold. I'm not someone who looks for conflict, but I also believe that respect should never be optional.

"As a business owner myself, we always remind our team that no matter how busy or stressful the day gets, we must always treat customers with kindness and professionalism.

A single moment of disrespect can stay with someone longer than we think.

"To the waiter who said those words, I genuinely hope this becomes a lesson not just for you, but for all of us in the service industry.

We are all human, and we all deserve to be treated with dignity.

"CUSTOMER KA RIN KUYA AT FOR SURE AYAW MO RIN NA GAWIN SAYO YUNG GINAWA MO SA AKIN.

"I also want to acknowledge the assistant manager's apology for the waiter's manner, which we appreciate.

"Let's all choose patience, kindness, and respect in every interaction."

(R. Requintina/ mb.com.ph)

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LOCAL NEWS

Young Changemakers Share Ideas And Initiatives At Surrey Steps Up



Surrey, B.C. – Young leaders from across Surrey gathered at City Hall on Friday to share ideas, creativity and community action at the Surrey Steps Up Youth Showcase.

The celebration featured interactive displays and presentations from 39 youth-led projects, including Artlift, a youth-led nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and uplifting young artists through accessible, community-driven programming, and Storykeepers, a youth-led civic engagement initiative that connects generations by collecting and preserving stories from seniors in our community.

“Surrey has one of the largest youth populations in B.C.,” said Mayor Brenda Locke. “From innovative scientists to intergenerational storytellers, our youth are strengthening their schools, neighbourhoods and communities. On behalf of City Council, I would like to thank each participant for inspiring us all.”

A collaboration between the City of Surrey, Surrey Police Service, Surrey School District and a Surrey Steps Up Youth Planning Team, Surrey Steps Up is the marquee event of a larger initiative encouraging youth to take action and share ideas that shape their communities. “It’s always a highlight to see youth across the city come together,” said Arielle Patterson, the City’s youth services functional manager.

“I’m continually impressed by the high quality of submissions and the impact our youth are having. I’m honoured to celebrate these leaders of tomorrow.”

For more information about Surrey Steps Up, visit our website.



Bridging Cultures, Building Communities: Filipino and Chinese Societies Unite in Canada

By: Columnist Dr. Zeny S. Villamera Special to Wanxiang Media Group

Canada’s multicultural identity is more than a mosaic of traditions—it’s a living, evolving story of communities coming together, learning from one another, and forging new paths of cooperation.

A recent visit between the Philippine Cultural Heritage Society of Canada, the Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society, and the Chinese Enterprises Society of Canada (CESC) stands as a testament to this ongoing narrative of connection and shared vision.

The meeting, filled with warmth and purpose, brought together Filipino and Chinese community leaders for meaningful discussions on cultural heritage, community collaborations, and economic opportunities. In the heart of

Vancouver, the spirit of teamwork was evident, serving as a reminder that diversity is one of Canada’s greatest strengths.

“We have always endeavoured to promote Filipino culture, traditions, and sports on a broader international stage,” said Dr. Zeny Villamera, Co-founder of the Philippine Cultural Heritage Society of Canada and Board Member of the Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada.

She spoke passionately about the society’s mission to foster cultural pride and unity among Filipino Canadians, while encouraging wider community involvement.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16



Rolly Fortaleza, Victor Villamera, David Tan (Executive President), Lenny Li (President of CESC), Rey Fortaleza, Tony Wu, Deputy Secretary of CESC, Belinda Fortaleza, Jessie Xiao (Executive President of CESC), Dr. Zeny Villamera





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AI takeover: The Job Crisis No One Saw Coming



RDR Business Solutions Inc. founder Reymond delos Reyes (2nd from left) joins the media conference during the premiere of RDR Films and RDR Stories, held at TNC Group in Quezon City. Joining him are officials of RDR Films and RDR Stories.

Adapt or disappear.

Sad but true, many people will lose their jobs due to artificial intelligence, according to RDR Business Solutions Inc. founder Reymond delos Reyes during the premiere of RDR Films and RDR Stories, held at TNC Group in Quezon City.

"Unfortunately, marami talaga ang mawawalan ng trabaho because of artificial intelligence. Actually, hindi naman sila mawawalan ng trabaho kundi maiiba lang ang trabaho nila para sa mga kayang mag-adapt. (Many people will lose their jobs because of artificial intelligence. Actually, they won't lose their jobs, but they will be displaced if they cannot adapt)," said Reymond when asked about AI taking people's tasks.

Reymond added, "We have no choice. Even in the medical field, there may be artificial intelligence in robotics na rin. In engineering, meron na rin.

In all industries, you can utilize AI. Sa lahat ng bagay, ginagamit ang artificial intelligence. Either you use it, or you will be left behind. (Even in the medical field, there may be artificial intelligence in robotics as well. In engineering, there is also. In all industries, you can utilize AI. In everything, artificial intelligence is used.)"

To be relevant, people said they need to adapt to the times, said Reymond.

In the past, people saw the internet as just one tool. Ngayon, marami na ang nanonood kaysa sa mainstream. So ganyan din ang mangyayari.

To be relevant, we have to adapt. The susi po ngayon ay adaptability. Sa lahat ng nakakapanood nito, especially the BPO industry, two years ago, sinabi ko na maraming mawawalan ng trabaho dahil sa AI.

In other countries, AI na rin ang sumasagot ng tawag at AI na rin ang nagko-callback sa mga client. (Now, more people are watching than the mainstream. So that's what's going to happen.

To be relevant, we have to adapt. The key now is adaptability. To everyone watching this, especially in the BPO industry, two years ago, I said that many people would lose their jobs because of AI. In other countries, AI is also answering calls and calling back to clients)," he said.

On models and stars being replaced by AI actors, Reymond said, "We can onboard you and create films and advertisements using AI, so hindi mo na kailangan magtrabaho."

The film producer also urged lawmakers to enact laws to protect stars and others from abuse by unscrupulous netizens. "Wala pa tayong batas sa Pilipinas, kaya maraming tao na ginawan nila ng AI yung mukha ng ibang tao. Inaabuso na.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18

Lawmakers, Producers Discuss Issues In Movie Ticket Pricing

MANILA — Hoping to bring more Filipinos back to cinemas, lawmakers and producers discussed movie ticket pricing in a House Committee on Creative Industries meeting on Monday with lawmakers opposing an increase and producers mentioning high production expenses. Cavite 2nd District Representative Lani Mercado-Revilla was among members of the House against a spike in ticket prices.

"I do agree with the representative of CEAP that an additional P2 over and above the tickets being sold in the box office would entail another problem. Instead of promoting more Filipino films to be watched, mas bumibigat po para sa balsa ng ating manonood," Mercado-Revilla said. Perci Intalan of the Film Producers Guild of the Philippines said there are not enough programs to support the return of filmgoers, adding ticket pricing remains a "big issue" for the health of the film industry.



Intalan told lawmakers that the distribution of free movie passes for senior citizens or for events such as the Metro Manila Film Festival encourage people to appreciate films, but not necessarily support the industry.

"The price of the ticket is a big, big issue because ultimately, for the health of this industry, we want people to go back to cinemas. And I think we don't have enough programs that support that," Intalan said.

"For example, right now, for instance, when we joined the Metro Manila Film Festival, there are a lot of movie passes being given out. Those movie passes are not compensated back to the producers or to the cinemas. They're just given away for free. I mean, that's loss of income already," he added.

"When Mondays, Tuesdays, there are days when senior citizens get to watch movies for free. There's no compensation for our side, right?"

So, the health of the industry— we're actually encouraging people to watch for free.

We're encouraging people to appreciate our films but not necessarily telling them, 'Go to the cinema, buy a ticket, support the industry.'"

Intalan added that not many producers can afford decreasing the prices of movie tickets, due to high production costs.

"Not many producers were able to go down that low because some productions are just too expensive. You won't be able to recover it. So there is also that factor. What I think I was noting just earlier was that the ticket price is one thing that is, I think, where all the pressure is now on for us because that's the only way that we can recover," he explained.

Intalan brought up the possibility of establishing programs to help producers cover losses from senior citizen discounts and free movie passes so they could lower ticket pricing for all.

"So if there are programs that will help us, say, cover for whatever— movie passes, senior discounts, or anything then it will be easier for us to go lower because there's another way to compensate," Intalan added.

The movie industry is yet to reach half its gross earnings prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Cinema Exhibitors Association of the Philippines' (CEAP) Bing Advincula.

"Before pandemic— [in] 2019, the movie industry grossed around almost P13 billion. So, when it came back 2022, the gross was P4.5 billion. Then 2023, P6.5 billion. [In] 2024, it's P6.1 billion. Then 2025, P6.7 [billion]," said Advincula.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

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Immigration Shift Cuts Canada's Population Growth To Zero: Report

By Carlito Pablo



In 2014, a government report warned that because of low births and aging, Canada's population growth could be "close to zero within 20 years" without immigration.

That's happening now.

In a February 26, 2026 study, the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) noted that the country's population is projected to be "flat" this year because of changes to the federal government's immigration policy.

Further, 2026 could be the second year in a row wherein population growth will be zero because of the reduction of the number of newcomers, specifically non-permanent residents. NPRs are mostly international students and temporary foreign workers.

The PBO, which supports Parliament with economic and financial analysis, based its projection on the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan (ILP) by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

"With continued net outflows of NPRs offsetting growth in the permanent population, Canada's total population in 2026 is projected to see flat growth for the second consecutive year and pick up only modestly to 0.3 per cent in 2027," the study stated.

In the paper titled "Demographic Implications of the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan", the PBO related that Canada's population between 1972 and 2015 grew at a steady rate, averaging 1.1 per cent per year.

"Over time, however, the sources of this growth have shifted," the study noted.

"In recent years," it continued, "population growth has been driven almost entirely by net immigration, while natural increase (births minus deaths) has made only a small—and shrinking—contribution due to low fertility rates and an aging population." The 2014 report referenced earlier was done by Statistics Canada and is titled "Population growth: Migratory increase overtakes natural increase".

The agency noted that migration to Canada has been the "major engine of population growth since 1999".

"Population growth caused by natural increase began falling in the late 1960s as a result of two factors. The first was a rapid decrease in fertility in the late 1960s and 1970s, which has remained at a fairly constant level since then. By 1976, fertility had fallen to fewer than 1.8 children per woman.

"The second factor was a steady rise in the number of deaths, partly due to population aging. As a consequence, migratory increase has taken on an increasingly important role in recent population growth," Statistics Canada explained.

Hence, "Without a sustained level of immigration, Canada's population growth could be close to zero within 20 years." Statistics Canada provided reasons for the decline of fertility in Canada in a January 1, 2026 report titled "Fertility and intentions: Socioeconomic factors".

"Increased educational levels, greater participation in the labour market, changing social norms and the widespread use of contraception have contributed to diversifying life paths, notably in terms of childbearing," the agency noted.

According to Statistics Canada, this reality is directly related to the sharp decline in fertility. "In 2024, Canada became part of the group of countries with 'ultra-low fertility,' with a total fertility rate of 1.25 children per woman. This strong decline in fertility is due not only to a decreased birth rate, but also to an increase in the number of women who do not have children either by choice, by circumstance or because they are delaying motherhood."

As well, the average age of mothers at the birth of their child has been increasing for decades. In 2024, Statistics Canada noted, it "reached an all-time high of 31.8 years". Following the release of the February 26, 2026 PBO report, CTV News interviewed Michael Haan, professor and director of the Statistics Canada Research Data Centre at Western University in Ontario.

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"In the 1950s, the average fertility rate was 5.6 children per woman, and now it's 1.3," Haan said in the news agency's February 28 report. This rate would only "ensure broadly stable population figures, not real growth", the report explained.

"One of the reasons for that is the child that would have been raised in the 1950s was so much cheaper than the child we want to raise today," the academic also said.

Haan also said in the CTV News report that Canada's current fertility rate of around 1.3 children per

woman would have to nearly double to reach the replacement-level birthrate of 2.1 children per woman. "If you want to see population growth, you've got to go above 2.1 and I just don't see it coming," Haan said.

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BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



An invitation to the community for an inspiring afternoon—the Alapaap: Filipino Youth Summit this Saturday March 21, 2026.

Capitol Hill Community Hall

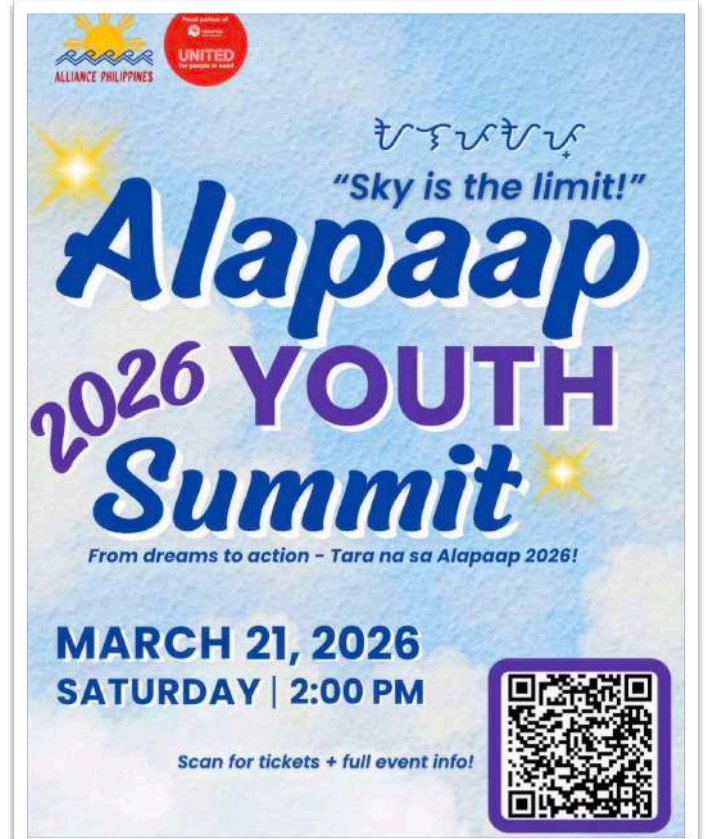
Address: 361 Howard Ave, Burnaby BC V5B 3P7 , a meaningful event dedicated to empowering Filipino youth. Hosted by Alliance Philippines, this gathering will bring together youth, families, and Filipino-led organizations united in their commitment to support and uplift the next generation.

An inspiring afternoon awaits as the Alapaap: Filipino Youth Summit brings together young voices, leaders, and community organizations dedicated to uplifting Filipino youth in British Columbia. Hosted by Alliance Philippines, this vibrant gathering creates a welcoming space for celebration, meaningful connection, and personal growth.

Attendees can look forward to engaging youth performances, a dynamic panel discussion featuring community leaders, and live band entertainment that will energize the crowd. More than just an event, Alapaap offers an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, build lasting relationships, and strengthen community ties.

Be part of this empowering experience and help shape the future of Filipino youth. Time: Doors open at 1:00 PM for the Community Social Mixer.

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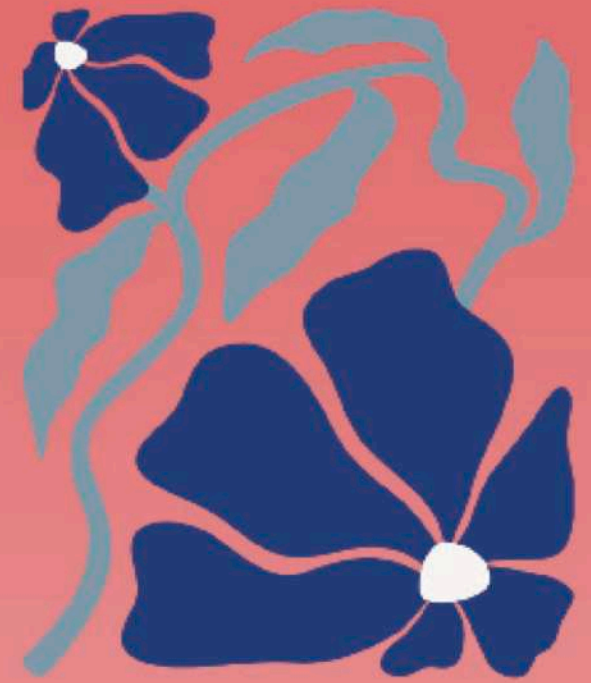
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Raymond Gutierrez during a parade. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

ACTOR Richard Gutierrez has worn many crowns — from Fantaserye King to superhero to one of the country's most bankable action stars. Yet through it all, one thing remains constant: he never shies away from a challenge.

Born a scion of showbiz royalty as the son of veteran actor Eddie Gutierrez and talent manager Annabelle Rama, Richard grew up under the spotlight. Starting as a child actor, he has built a career defined by reinvention — hosting reality shows, leading dramas and even donning a superhero cape.

His success in fantasy series earned him the moniker “Fantaserye King,” reflecting his dominance in the genre during the 2000s.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9 (Bridging Cultures)

“Through events and active participation, we help our kababayan not only celebrate their roots but also share the special charm of Filipino culture with all Canadians.”

The Chinese Enterprises Society of Canada, led by Executive President Xiao Jiawen and other leaders (Lenny Li, President of CESC; David Tan, Executive President of CESC and CEO of Sunnlyfe Health; and Tony Wu, Deputy Secretary of CESC), expressed similar sentiments.

They praised the Filipino community's dedication to cultural preservation and highlighted notable similarities between Filipino and Chinese values—entrepreneurial spirit, strong family ties, and a tradition of mutual support. These shared qualities, they noted, form a foundation for closer cooperation in the future.

Action All The Way: From FantaSerye King To Superhero

At 42, Richard is firmly in another chapter of his career — an actor determined to push the action genre forward. In recent years, he has headlined the hard-hitting series “The Iron Heart” and “Incognito,” both of which showcase a more mature approach to storytelling.

“Tuloy-tuloy ‘yung action as long as I am able to tell stories that people can relate to — not just men but the entire family,” he shared. “Marami na akong ginawang action before, but this time we really try to make the storylines more relatable and more mature. We think it's a good time for action now.”

Filming action scenes is as much about endurance as it is about performance, he said.

“Sa taping namin very physical — it's really like a workout. It's also endurance because we have long taping hours. We really have to stay fit and active. My preparation has always been the same whenever I have a show. I really try to prepare and stay as fit as possible.”

The momentum continues with his upcoming Netflix and ABS-CBN project “Blood vs Glory,” starring alongside Gerald Anderson.

But beyond improving his craft, Richard keeps the bigger picture in mind. With audiences now accessing global content through platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, he believes local productions must continue raising the bar.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21

It wasn't just talk. The visit included a tour of local industries—wine production facilities among them—and an authentic Chinese hot pot meal that brought everyone together around the table. Sharing bread (or dipping noodles), the attendees discovered that food, like culture, is a universal language.

Adding a different dimension to the day, Rey Fortaleza, founder and CEO of Reyfort Media Group and a former Olympic boxer, directed his media team in interviewing CESC leaders. His unique journey— from the boxing ring to the newsroom— embodies the

Filipino spirit of adaptability and excellence. The conversations captured by Reyfort Media, Philippine Asian News Today, and Philippine News Canada highlighted the importance of cross-cultural collaboration and the promising opportunities for partnerships between Chinese and Filipino entrepreneurs.

The gathering concluded not only with new friendships but also with a renewed commitment to collaborate—whether through cultural events, youth exchanges, or business initiatives. In a world often divided, this meeting served as a powerful reminder that unity and shared opportunities are attainable when communities connect.

As Canada continues to grow as a multicultural nation, these moments of connection—based on mutual respect and a shared desire to build something greater—are fundamental to a stronger, more vibrant society. The bridges formed between the Filipino and Chinese communities will undoubtedly inspire others to follow, ensuring that the Canadian story remains one of collaboration, celebration, and hope.

Reported by Wanxiang Media Group, Vancouver

Geneva Cruz Almost Skipped Her Graduation After Finally Finishing Her Degree

Actress-singer Geneva Cruz shared that she almost did not attend her college graduation after finishing her degree 33 years after she stopped schooling to work.

On Friday, March 13, the showbiz personality shared her graduation photo and proudly proclaimed that she is now a college graduate after previously dropping out of school to work in show business.

“As I approach my golden age in less than a month, I realize that some of my dreams are still coming true. Thirty-three years in the making, but I finally did it! Look, ma, I’m now a college graduate!!!” the actress wrote on Facebook.

“This is for nineteen-year-old Gen, who had to grow up fast and work hard after choosing to become a young mom. Thank you for being brave and for finally learning to love yourself,” Geneva added.

She also thanked those who congratulated her in the comments section.

“Thank you very much to my family, former classmates, close friends, and Facebook friends! I read all your comments, and they truly touched my heart,” Geneva commented.

“Congratulations to all who also went back to school and finished and to those who can’t, it’s okay too. Kaya rin ako ‘di bumalik at nakatapos agad kasi kailangan ko din mag-trabaho. ‘Di nasusukat sa diploma ang husay tao, nasa sipag

ito at tiyaga. Thank you!” she added.

The actress also shared a video of herself at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), where the graduation ceremony was held.

She admitted that she almost did not attend because she felt “a bit ‘dyahe’ to march.”

“Dyahe” is an expression that means “awkward” and is used to describe an uncomfortable situation or feeling. The term is also said to have originated from the reversed word “hiya,” which means “shame.”

the reversed word “hiya,” which means “shame.”

“Thank you all for your comments and messages. I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. I almost didn’t go to the graduation because I felt like college was already over anyway, so why still attend, and I was a bit ‘dyahe’ to march,” Geneva said in another post.

“My boyfriend @deanroxasbjj was the one who gave me a reason to go — because my angel mama would have wanted me to; and so would my papa. He was right, and I’m so glad I went because it was worth the wait! Thank you, my love, for your unconditional love, inspiration, and encouragement to keep growing,” she added, referring to Dean Roxas.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21



Screengrabs from a video posted by Geneva Cruz on Facebook (genevacruzofficial via Facebook)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10 (AI Takeover)

I suggest sa ating mga lawmaker na gumawa na ng mga batas para hindi maabuso ang ating mga artista o ibang tao. (We don't have a law in the Philippines on artificial intelligence yet. So it's being abused. I suggest that our lawmakers enact laws to ensure that our artists and others are not abused)," said Reymond.

He believes that the mainstream media will not be immediately replaced by AI. "But I have to admit that many people are still watching the mainstream. It's just that our company is focused on storytelling. Yan kasi ang algorithm na pinanood ng mga tao sa social media."

The event attracted a full house, drawing entrepreneurs, content creators, media partners, film enthusiasts, and AI enthusiasts. Guests gathered to witness the first-ever showcase of AI-powered Filipino stories produced by the RDR Business Solutions Inc. team. The launch signaled a significant leap in the integration of technology, storytelling, and entrepreneurship,

unveiling a novel approach to producing films and digital content using artificial intelligence.

"RDR Films is dedicated to telling compelling Filipino stories, while RDR Stories spotlights the inspiring journeys of entrepreneurs and individuals striving for success in life and business," shared Reymond.

Both projects are AI-powered productions developed by Filipinos, showcasing how artificial intelligence can enhance creativity and storytelling in contemporary filmmaking.

According to the RDR team, their mission is to inspire Filipinos to embrace technology, create opportunities, build businesses, and share meaningful stories with the world.

The team also introduced its AI Filmmaking Production Service to help elevate the stories of entrepreneurs and fellow Filipinos.

A highlight of the event was the first public

screening of the life story of RDR Business Solutions Inc.'s founder.

Reymond is also recognized as the host of RDR Talks, a podcast that features stories of entrepreneurship, mindset, and personal growth.

During the screening, the audience discovered how Reymond began with humble origins, initially creating content manually for a small audience. Despite trying various business ventures and facing numerous challenges, he persevered in producing content and sharing insights on business and life.

Today, his platforms have grown exponentially, amassing millions—if not billions—of views across digital channels and impacting countless individuals both online and through live events and communities.

The RDR team shared that their content and events are designed to empower various groups of Filipinos, including: OFWs who want to return and build businesses in the Philippines, Gen Z individuals who want to create their own opportunities, employees transitioning into entrepreneurship, and experienced entrepreneurs who want to adopt AI in their businesses.

Through storytelling, podcasts, and community events,

the team aims to inspire more Filipinos to embrace innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology.

The event also unveiled Kontrabida Talks, a new podcast featuring veteran actress Jean Garcia, renowned for her iconic "kontrabida" roles in Filipino TV and film.

In this podcast, Jean interviews fellow actors famous for playing villain roles in Filipino productions. The program aims to reveal the true personalities and stories behind these characters, offering audiences a more personal and nuanced perspective.

The premiere concluded on a high note, with organizers expressing gratitude to the entrepreneurs, media partners, creators, and supporters who attended the launch.

For the RDR team, this event marks only the beginning of a broader movement to bring AI-powered filmmaking and storytelling to the Philippines, opening new opportunities for creators, entrepreneurs, and innovators in the digital age. (R.Requinta/mb.com.ph)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 (One Year Update...)

The progress update is part of the Province's Team B.C. approach in which health authorities, regulatory colleges, local government and communities work together to recruit more health-care professionals from the U.S. British Columbia is an attractive destination for U.S. health-care professionals.

In addition to an evidence-based approach to public health, support for reproductive rights and strong public health-care system, B.C. has a high standard of living, with free public health care and K-12 education, subsidized licensed child care, top-ranking universities and diverse, safe communities. From March 2025 until January 2026, B.C. received more than 2,750 job applications from U.S. health-care professionals.

More U.S.-trained medical professionals on the way.

The Province is seeing strong, continued interest from American health-care professionals wanting to move to B.C., with more than 1,300 nurses, nurse practitioners and doctors showing their interest by getting registered to practise in B.C. Before applying for jobs in B.C., many U.S. health professionals choose to start by registering with the regulatory colleges to get licensed and ensure their credentials will be recognized.

1,038 U.S.-trained nurses and nurse practitioners have registered to work in B.C. since the BC College of Nurses and Midwives streamlined the credential-recognition process for U.S.-trained nurses in April 2025, up more than eight times from the year before. In all of 2024, 127 U.S. nurses had registered and 112 were registered in 2023.

From March 1, 2025, until Jan. 31, 2026, more than 210 U.S.-trained and certified physicians have registered in B.C. This is 145% more than the same period the previous year. This is supported by a new pathway that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC implemented in July 2025 to make it easier for U.S.-trained doctors to register in B.C.

Removing barriers for internationally trained health professionals to practise in B.C.

The Province, in collaboration with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, has made it easier for internationally trained health professionals to practise in B.C. Actions taken include:

introducing a new, expedited credential recognition process for U.S.-trained and certified nurses making it easier for U.S.-trained and certified doctors to practise in B.C. without the need for further assessment, examination or training removing the requirement to hold the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada or Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination Part 1 for doctors trained outside of Canada and the U.S., and who are applying for registration and licensure in B.C.

By welcoming more U.S. doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals, B.C. is building on the expertise of its health-care workforce to strengthen public health care, strengthen services for people and build healthy communities.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 (Lawmakers, Producers)

"So meaning wala pa ho tayo doon sa even kalahati before pandemic. Because pandemic— iniba talaga nito 'yung behavior ng mga customers natin. So we really need all the help that we can get from the government and from the other stakeholders."

Meanwhile, actress and producer Bela Padilla appeared at the hearing to express support for a bill on the creation of the Philippine Film Commission, citing the need to protect Filipino filmmakers and natural resources.

"I do think it's very important that we have film commission already— a one-stop shop for foreigners also who are coming in, filmmakers who are coming in who want to shoot and to film in the Philippines. Not only for them to be able to shoot more efficiently, but to protect also Philippine filmmakers, to protect our natural resources, and to, I guess, give them the best of what we have," Padilla said.

"There are so many creative Filipino talents. We have amazing actors, directors, writers, but right now we're not seeing amazing actors, directors, writers, but right now we're not seeing, I guess, what the government can do for us also." (A. Gregorio/ abs-cbn)



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By Robert Waldman

LONE SAMURAI (PG)



Guided by some happy go lucky kids the marooned soldier comes face to face with a cult of savages put to make min 'em eat of their new found prey. You get the picture.

It's one man against a thousand in this rock em sock em adventure flick pitching one master swordsman against a cult of cannibals. All in all it's great fun if you can stomach it.

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THE THINGS YOU KILL (PG)



DANGER POINT!

Deep divides haunt a troubled man in the high stakes drama The Things You Kill. Presented by Mongrel Media this haunting tale will resonate with all onlookers at the VIFF Centre in Vancouver.

Set in the muddled world of the backward Middle East American educated Ali seems to have his head on straight. Ah, but looks can be deceiving as actor Elon Koc so masterfully displays. Quite the lady's man the popular prof of literature at the local

Turkish university shows a caring attitude as a momma's boy.

When a routine visit to check in on his aging mother becomes steeped in intrigue it sets off all sorts of warning bells. As if that isn't enough on his plate Ali has percolating friction with his wife. How it all turns out shows the layers of pain a family must endure as old values and masculinity issues wreck havoc on loved ones .

One must remember values in many Arabic counties are totally different than those common in the West and steeped in history and tradition. With pride also coming into play The Things You Kill is quite the ordeal to watch and very revealing. It's the type of film that keeps you guessing which is a good thing.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16
(Action All The Way...)

“That’s a conscious effort for me,” he said. “As an actor, I try to challenge myself and push myself to deliver something new and something better. I also seek that from my team: my director and my producers. We want to be on the same page to elevate the industry and the quality.”

Yet if there is one title he values above all others, it is being a dad. His sons, Zion and Kai, are growing up fast, each with distinct personalities.

“Magkaiba,” he said. “Zion is more quiet. I wouldn’t say introvert, but he’s not as outgoing as Kai. Kai is outgoing, emotional. I think Zion is more of the intellectual, the mind and Kai is more expressive.”

The boys are already curious about acting.

“Pinapanood din nila ‘yung mga ginawa ng dad ko, mga old movies,” Richard shared. “So parang curious sila about filmmaking and being an actor. When the time comes that they want to do it, let’s see. Papayagan ko naman sila sa tamang panahon.”

The actor said he knows raising children today comes with navigating a world filled with uncertainties.

“There’s a feeling of unrest and worry... But we just have to stay vigilant, stay aware and pray. We try to continue living our lives in the best way we can.”

Last Wednesday, Richard added another milestone. He was introduced as the first endorser of King.ph at the Blue Leaf Pavilion. Brand president Mark Gamboa praised Richard for embodying the platform’s qualities of strength, confidence and credibility.

“Richard’s presence resonates with millions of Filipinos and he inspires audiences through his work,” Gamboa said.

Richard said he chose the partnership because of King.ph’s commitment to responsible gaming.

“I think one of the deciding factors is really that king.ph is committed to promoting responsible gaming. That’s something I’m passionate about as well. It’s not only about innovating the entertainment landscape but also about creating a balanced entertainment platform.”

For Richard Gutierrez, this is just another chapter in a career that continues to evolve — balancing action-packed roles, family life and a growing desire to push the local entertainment industry forward. (G. Trilliana/ Malaya)



(genevacruzofficial via Facebook)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17
(Geneva Cruz...)

“Thank you, my love, for your unconditional love, inspiration, and encouragement to keep growing. I dedicate this diploma to my loving parents, my wonderful children, and to all the single moms and dads out there who had to make the hard choice of stopping school to support their families by earning a living,” the actress said.

“There’s indeed a perfect time for everything, and it’s never too late to finish what you already started... no matter how long it takes,” she concluded.

Geneva graduated from the Philippine Christian University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

In 2024, she initially enrolled in AB Literature at the University of Santo Tomas but had to pause her studies to prioritize motherhood. (J.Malasig/Interaksyon)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 (Eman Bacosa...)

Last February 28, Jillian attended one of Eman's boxing matches in Bohol and even shot several videos with, him prompting assumptions by fans that the two are an item.

Jillian did admit when she signed a new contract with Sparkle that she was open to working with a supportive person like Eman if it meant seeing him more often.

Jillian did admit when she signed a new contract with Sparkle that she was open to working with a supportive person like Eman if it meant seeing him more often.

According to Pep.ph, Eman will begin production on "Never Say Die" next week, March 16, although his role remains under wraps.

Also joining the series is young actor Heath Jornales, who recently finished as the runner-up on "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0" alongside Krystal Mejes. He finished behind Caprice Cayetano and Lella Ford.

Jornales is no stranger to action as his father, Michael Roy Jornales, is an actor, fight director and stunt choreographer.

The project also reunited Jornales with Jillian, having appeared together as siblings on last year's "Mga Batang Riles". (K. PURNELL/Philstar)



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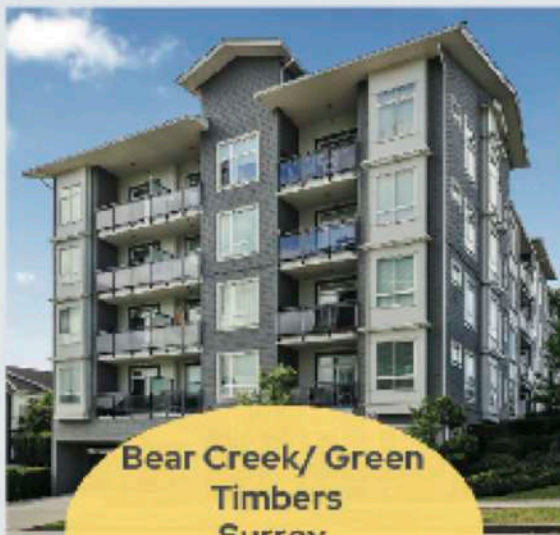
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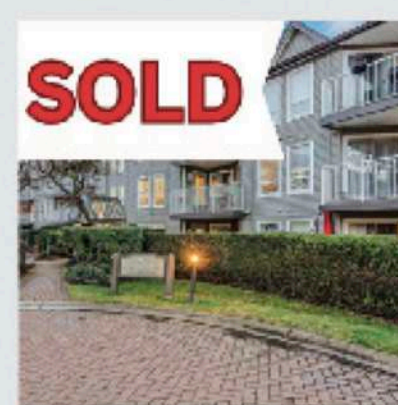
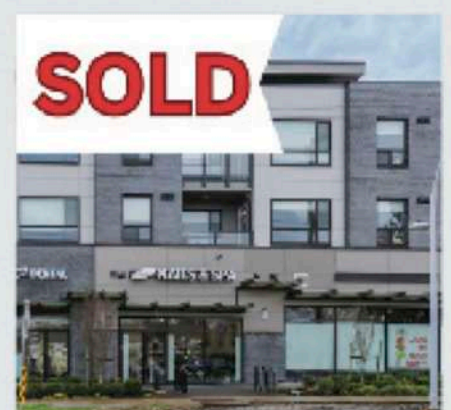
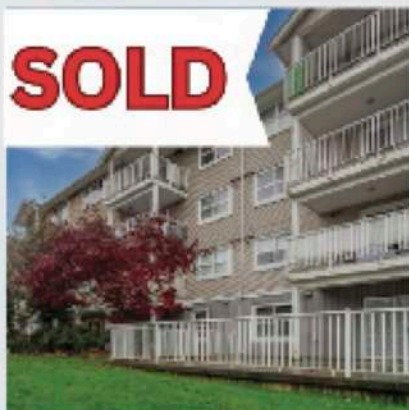
Email: rfortaleza@sutton.com



Our Latest Listings:



Bear Creek/ Green
Timbers
Surrey
2 BED
774 SQFT





888 SUPERMARKET
Where shopping is truly rewarding

PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED AND OPERATED

STORE OPERATING HOURS: 8:30AM - 10:00 PM everyday

DIVERSE SELECTIONS FOR FILIPINO

Victoria Store: 4801 Victoria Dr, Vancouver, BC
Killarney Store: 2611 E 49th Ave, Vancouver, BC
Richmond Store: #110 - 4591 Garden City Rd, Richmond, BC

Starts March 1st and ends July 7th, 2026 at 11:00AM (PDT).

MEGA GIVEAWAY

Shop-to-Win: Spend \$88 or more (before tax) in a single transaction at any participating location to receive an entry ballot.

Enter-to-Win ONLINE: No purchase is required. Simply scan the QR code or visit our website (<http://www.888supermarket.ca/contest/>) to register an account and use your 888 point card & subscribe to our newsletter for a chance to win the \$100 Shopping Spree Grand Prize, along with monthly draws for \$88 Gift Cards.

Grand Draw on July 7th

MITSUBISHI RVR 2026
Fully Loaded MSRP \$27,498

Win a CBIO 4-Stage Air Purifier with WiFi and PlasmaWave Technology
April 1st

Win a Samsung Galaxy Tab A11 + 11inch 128GB
May 1st

Win a Dyson V8 Origin (Red) Cordless Vacuum
June 1st

PLUS 6x\$88 Gift Cards (2 Gift Cards per location!)

8 Bi-weekly Draws* (24x\$88 Gift Cards)

WHOLE WEEK DEALS: MAR 19 TO MAR 25 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

<p>LARGE NAVEL ORANGE BLUE JAY</p>  <p>1¹⁸ LB</p>	<p>ATAULFO MANGO</p>  <p>2⁸⁸ LB</p>
<p>BROCCOLI CROWN</p>  <p>1⁹⁸ LB</p>	<p>GREEN LEAF LETTUCE</p>  <p>2/2⁶⁸</p>

MEAT

<p>FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CHOPS</p>  <p>3⁶⁸ LB</p>	<p>FRESH PORK CONICAL MUSCLE</p>  <p>4¹⁸ LB</p>
<p>FRESH BEEF SIRLOIN TIP ROAST AA</p>  <p>8⁸⁸ LB</p>	<p>SCAN FOR MORE WEEKLY DEALS!</p> 

FROZEN FOOD & COOLER

<p>AA-1 TULINGAN LITTLE TUNA 680G</p>  <p>3⁹⁸ EA</p>	<p>TALLEY GREENSHELL MUSSELS 454G</p>  <p>6⁸⁸ EA</p>	<p>KAO SHAN TUN MIXED VEGETABLES 454G</p>  <p>4/5⁰⁰</p>	<p>SEARAY FROG LEGS 340G</p>  <p>5⁶⁸ EA</p>
<p>MAYNILA'S CHOICE MILKFISH DEBONED 450G</p>  <p>6⁹⁸ EA</p>	<p>MEKENI FISH BALLS/ KIKIAM FISH CAKE 1KG</p>  <p>11⁸⁸ EA</p>	<p>BAMBOO DELIGHT CRAB NOODLE SOUP 360G</p>  <p>6⁸⁸ EA</p>	<p>3FISH CALAMARI TENTACLES 1KG</p>  <p>12⁹⁸ EA</p>

GROCERY

<p>PHILIPPINE CONDENSED CREAMER BUKO PANDAN/UBE 300ML</p>  <p>1⁵⁸ EA</p>	<p>BUENAS ANCHOVY SAUCE 340ML</p>  <p>2⁴⁸ EA</p>	<p>S&D YOUNG COCONUT JUICE W/PULP 500ML</p>  <p>1³⁸ EA</p>	<p>CHIN SU CHILI SAUCE 235ML</p>  <p>1⁷⁸ EA</p>
<p>S&W SPAGHETTI SAUCE FILIPINO STYLE 1L</p>  <p>3⁴⁸ EA</p>	<p>UFC PANCIT CANTON NOODLES 454G</p>  <p>3⁹⁸ EA</p>	<p>GOLDEN SWALLOW DONGGUAN RICE VERMICELLI 400G</p>  <p>2/2⁶⁸</p>	<p>SQUID FISH SAUCE 725ML</p>  <p>2⁶⁸ EA</p>
<p>WAI WAI BIHOON RICE VERMICELLI 10X50G</p>  <p>2/5⁰⁰</p>	<p>MAMA SITA'S BARBECUE MARINADE 680G</p>  <p>5⁹⁸ EA</p>	<p>CHORIPDONG ROASTED SEAWEED 3 FLAVORS 12X5G</p>  <p>3⁴⁸ EA</p>	<p>VIFON DRIED RICE NOODLES 500G</p>  <p>3⁴⁸ EA</p>
<p>NONGSHIM SHIN RAMYUN GOURMET SPICY 4X120G</p>  <p>2/10⁰⁰</p>	<p>KNORR CHICKEN BROTH MIX 1KG</p>  <p>11⁹⁸ EA</p>	<p>LOTUS MUSHROOM SEASONING 500G</p>  <p>4¹⁸ EA</p>	<p>GOLDEN PHOENIX THAI JASMINE RICE 18LB</p>  <p>18⁹⁸ EA</p>

HAPPY TUESDAY Every Tuesday, all year round, shop and you'll be rewarded, instantly! **888 SUPERMARKET** **HAPPY TUESDAY 3X Reward Points** **\$1=3 POINTS SPENT REWARDED**