



Celebrating 128th Proclamation of Philippine Independence

City of Vancouver to provide interim Filipino community centre



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Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim is delivering on a pledge to provide an interim Filipino community centre space. With Mayor Sim at the raising of the Philippine flag at the Filipino Plaza last June 6 are (from left) his ABC Councillors Lenny Zhou, Lisa Dominato and Sarah Kirby Yung, and park board commissioner Angela Haer.

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Consul General

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At the Filipino Plaza for the annual Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony, officially launching Filipino Heritage Month and Philippine Independence Day celebrations throughout June. In Photo are Mayor Ken Sim of Vancouver, A guest, ConGen Gina A. Jamoralin, Rodolfo Rudy Tuliao, and UFCABC Pres. Arcie Lim.

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Message from Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin on the 128th Proclamation of Philippine Independence



Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin
Consul General



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
VANCOUVER



MESSAGE

On behalf of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, I extend my warmest greetings to the entire Filipino-Canadian community as we celebrate the 128th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

This year's theme, "*Kalayaan. Kinabukasan. Kasaysayan.*" (Freedom. Future. History.), calls on us to look back with profound gratitude at the sacrifices of our heroes, while simultaneously looking forward to the future we are building together.

Here in British Columbia, our vibrant diaspora continues to grow, excel, and deeply enrich the cultural and economic landscape of Canada. Whether through the arts, public service, entrepreneurship, or essential industries, the modern-day *bayanihan* spirit of the Filipino people shines brightly across the Lower Mainland and beyond.

In capturing these vital stories, keeping our community informed, and bridging the distance between our homeland and our adopted home, ethnic media plays an indispensable role. For years, **Philippine Asian News Today** has stood as a premier voice for our community—consistently amplifying Filipino talent, tackling local issues, and fostering a deep sense of cultural heritage.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the publication's owner and publisher, **Mr. Rey Fortaleza**. Mr. Fortaleza's inspiring journey—from representing our motherland on the global stage as a 1976 Olympic boxer to establishing himself as a pillar of community leadership and media entrepreneurship in Canada—truly embodies the resilience, fighting spirit, and excellence of the global Filipino.

As we raise our flags this June, let us remain united in our love for the Philippines, proud of our identity, and committed to uplifting one another.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang komunidad ng Pilipino sa Canada!

DR. GINA A. JAMORALIN
Consul General

10 June 2026, Vancouver, British Columbia

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Filipino Community Celebrates Historic Cultural Exhibition at Surrey City Hall

SURREY, BC — The Filipino community proudly marks a historic milestone as the Mixed Media and Music Artists Society of BC hosts a cultural display booth at Surrey City Hall. This significant achievement highlights the rich heritage, artistic contributions, and growing presence of the Filipino community within the City of Surrey.

Led by President Tony Matias and member Raymon Maliwat, the organization extends its sincere appreciation to the City of Surrey for providing the venue and opportunity to showcase Philippine history, culture, and artwork. The exhibition promotes cultural awareness, inclusivity, and meaningful community engagement while celebrating the diverse cultural fabric of Surrey.

Special recognition is extended to Filipino Canadian community leader Noemi Victorino. Her encouragement and commitment to community development played an important role in helping bring

this initiative to fruition.

The opening day attracted a strong turnout, with numerous visitors attending during the first hour of the exhibition. The enthusiastic response reflected the community's pride and interest in celebrating Filipino heritage and culture.

The organization also acknowledges and thanks several distinguished community leaders and supporters who attended the exhibit, including Rey Fortaleza, Founder and President of Reyfort Media; Randy Bentayen, President of BIBAK; and Ryan Ferrer and Michael Cabal of Inarte Society.

"This milestone represents an important step forward in advancing cultural recognition, artistic expression, and community collaboration," said the organizers. "As the Filipino community continues to grow and thrive in Surrey, we look forward to creating more opportunities to celebrate our heritage, strengthen community connections, and



inspire future generations."

The public is also invited to attend the expanded version of the

gallery exhibition, presented in collaboration with Inarte Society, on Sunday, June 14. (Reyfort Media)



Proclamation at Vancouver City Hall for Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month

By Janice Lozano

VANCOUVER, BC — The Filipino Canadian community gathered at Vancouver City Hall as the City of Vancouver officially proclaimed June 12, 2026, as Philippine Independence Day and recognized June as Filipino Heritage Month, commemorating the 128th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and celebrating the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of Filipino Canadians.

The proclamation was presented by The Honourable Mayor Ken Sim, alongside Deputy Mayor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Councillor Lenny Zhou, and Councillor Pete Fry.

Also in attendance were MLA for Vancouver-Kensington Mable Elmore and Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin, Consul General of the Philippines in Vancouver, who joined community leaders and organizations in celebrating this important occasion.

Representing the Filipino Canadian community were members of the:

- United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC (UFCABC)
- Filipino Legacy Society
- Filipino Seniors Club of BC
- Philippine Nurses Association
- Filipino BC
- Community leaders, volunteers, families, and members of the Filipino

Canadian community

A highlight of the ceremony was a powerful address delivered by Allan Fernandez, Public Relations Officer and representative of UFCABC, who accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Filipino Canadian community.

In his remarks, Fernandez expressed gratitude to the City of Vancouver for recognizing the significance of Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month.

“This proclamation is more than just a document. It is a recognition of the generations of Filipino Canadians who have worked tirelessly to build stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger Canada. It acknowledges our history, our culture, our heritage, and the countless contributions that Filipinos have made and continue to make in Vancouver and across this country.”

Fernandez spoke about the significance of June 12, which marks the historic declaration of Philippine Independence in 1898, and reflected on the courage, resilience, and sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and self-determination.

He also highlighted the remarkable journey of Filipino Canadians—from the pioneers who first arrived in Canada to the thousands of professionals, entrepreneurs, healthcare

workers, caregivers, educators, artists, community leaders, and volunteers who continue to enrich Canadian society today.

“The Filipino community is proud to call Vancouver home. We are grateful for a city that embraces diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism, and for leaders who recognize the importance of ensuring that every community feels seen, valued, and represented.”

The proclamation comes at a time when the Filipino community continues to demonstrate strength, resilience, and unity. Fernandez acknowledged the support shown by the City of Vancouver, Mayor Ken Sim, Council, and community partners during both celebrations and challenges faced by the community.

“This past year has reminded us of the strength of our community. In times of celebration and in times of challenge, we have come together with compassion, unity, and resilience. The support shown by the City of Vancouver, Mayor Ken Sim, Council, and our many community partners has demonstrated what can be achieved when we work together.”

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of preserving Filipino culture and heritage while inspiring future generations to continue

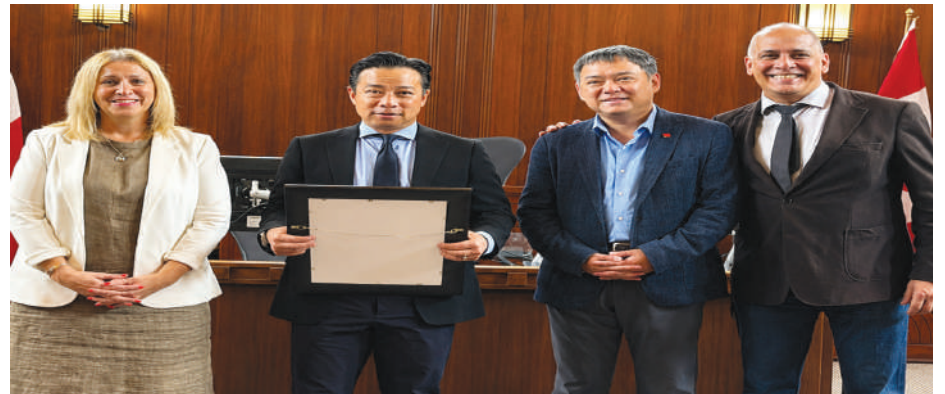
contributing to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Vancouver and Canada.

“Today, we celebrate not only our heritage but also our future. We celebrate the next generation of Filipino Canadians who will continue to share our culture, preserve our traditions, and contribute to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of this great city.”

The proclamation serves as an important recognition of the Filipino Canadian community's lasting contributions to Vancouver and reinforces the City's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism.

As celebrations continue throughout June, Filipino organizations across Metro Vancouver will host cultural events, community gatherings, educational programs, heritage activities, and flag-raising ceremonies in honour of Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month.

UFCABC extended its sincere appreciation to Mayor Ken Sim, Vancouver City Council, and the City of Vancouver for their continued support and recognition of the Filipino Canadian community. Maraming Salamat Po. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Mabuhay ang Filipino Canadian Community. At Mabuhay ang Lungsod ng Vancouver.





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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

Remembering Freedom, Celebrating Identity

June occupies a special place in the hearts of Filipino Canadians. It is a month marked by two significant observances, Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month. Across Canada, communities gather to raise the Philippine flag, showcase cultural traditions, share food and music, and celebrate the rich heritage that connects generations. Beyond the festivities, however, these occasions invite a deeper reflection on identity, history, and the values that continue to define Filipinos wherever they may be.

Philippine Independence Day commemorates a defining moment in the nation's history, the assertion of freedom and self-determination after centuries of colonial rule. It reminds us that the liberties enjoyed today were achieved through courage, sacrifice, and an unwavering belief in the dignity of a people. The legacy of those who struggled for independence continues to inspire Filipinos to value freedom not merely as a right, but as a responsibility to contribute positively to society and uphold the principles of justice, integrity, and service.

Filipino Heritage Month, on the other hand, celebrates the story of a people beyond the boundaries of history. It recognizes the journeys of immigrants, workers, professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, and community leaders who have contributed to Canadian society while preserving their cultural roots. It honors the traditions, languages, values, and family ties that have endured across generations and continents. Heritage is not simply about remembering the past. It is about keeping culture alive in the present.

Together, these two observances create a meaningful narrative

for Filipino Canadians. Independence Day reminds us where our freedoms came from, while Heritage Month reminds us who we are. One honors the sacrifices that shaped a nation, while the other celebrates the culture that sustains it. Both strengthen the connection between history and identity, encouraging Filipinos to remain proud of their roots while embracing their role in a multicultural Canada.

Perhaps the greatest lesson these celebrations offer is the importance of remembrance. A people who understand their history develop a stronger sense of purpose, while a community that values its heritage gains confidence in its place within society. By reflecting on the achievements and struggles of previous generations, Filipino Canadians are reminded that identity is not inherited passively. It is nurtured, preserved, and shared.

These celebrations also serve as a bridge between generations. They allow young Filipino Canadians to discover the stories, values, and traditions that shaped their families, while offering opportunities for others to learn about the Filipino experience. Through these shared moments, the values of resilience, hard work, faith, respect, and compassion continue to be passed on, ensuring that cultural identity remains vibrant and relevant.

Ultimately, Philippine



Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month are more than annual celebrations.

Together, they reflect the enduring spirit of the Filipino people, a people who honor their past, celebrate their culture, and look toward the future with

hope and confidence.

They remind us that freedom gives meaning to identity, heritage gives depth to freedom, and both remain essential to the continuing story of Filipinos in Canada and around the world.
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By Editha Corrales Nelson
Immigration Consultant, Notary
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Off-Title Risks:

E Violations of municipal zoning by-laws

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E Existing work orders

E Lack of legal access to the property

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E Condominiums

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E Leased land

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What is the premium?

Title insurance is available for a low premium that is paid only once at the time of closing.

Coverage is valid for the duration of ownership and the policy coverage amount is generally the amount you paid for your property.

Premium costs are often offset by the savings from the reduced number of required searches your lawyer/notary must complete. Additionally, your title insurance policy can often satisfy the lender's requirement for an up-to-date property survey/RPR/Building Location Certificate, saving you additional costs (typically between \$500 and \$1,200).

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What are some examples?

Our claimants have avoided the hassle and costs associated with correcting title defects and resolving other covered matters. Below are some real-life examples:

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Stewart Title retained counsel to restore the title to its rightful owner.

Lien on Title

After moving into their new condominium, our insureds were informed that they were responsible for paying a special assessment on the condo unit. This special assessment, which did not appear on their Status Certificate when they purchased, was levied by the condominium board after our insureds had signed their Agreement, but before their closing date.

Stewart Title covered the unexpected levy because it would have been revealed by a Status Certificate had one been obtained on the closing date.

Outstanding Building Permit

After purchasing their property, our insureds found several issues with some of the renovations that had been completed prior to their purchase. It was discovered through a search that the previous owners had obtained the proper building permits, but a final inspection had not been completed,

allowing serious issues to remain outstanding. The municipality required that the final inspection be completed and the open permit closed.

Stewart Title covered the costs of remedying the issues revealed by the final inspection that were necessary to close the outstanding building permit.

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

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

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“I never imagined poetry would lead me here”: Renato Gandia wins RBC Bronwen Wallace Award

By Carlito Pablo

The morning after winning the 2026 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers in poetry, Renato Gandia found himself “still trying to find the words”.

“When I immigrated to Canada, I never imagined that one day I would stand in a room filled with writers I admired and hear my name called,” Gandia posted on social media.

“I certainly never imagined that poems about queerness, faith, migration, family, and belonging—poems rooted in my experience as a Filipino-Canadian—would lead me here.”

In a new post the following day, Gandia talked about the same theme: “As someone who came to Canada carrying stories from home and searching for a place within a new country, I never imagined that poetry would lead me here.”

Named after writer Bronwen Wallace, the award was established in 1994 and is administered by the Writers’ Trust of Canada, with the support of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The award grants \$10,000 annually to a writer of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Gandia and fellow winners Julia Cottrelle (fiction) and Graham Slaughter (nonfiction) were named at an event in Toronto on June 1.

Philippine Ambassador to Canada Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga attended the gathering.

“I was also happy to meet other Filipino Canadian writers Patty Rivera, Grace Sanchez MacCall and Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio. Renato joins an increasingly long list of kababayans making their mark on Canadian society,” Chan-Gonzaga posted on social media.

Gandia was one of the contributors in “Magdaragat: An Anthology of Filipino-Canadian Writing”, a 2024 compilation edited by Teodoro Alcuatas, C. E. Gatchalian, and Patria Rivera.



Renato Gandia writes about queerness, faith, migration, family, and belonging. Image from Gandia’s social media.

Gandia came to Canada in 1997 to study in Alberta to become a priest.

Fate had other plans. He became a journalist and wrote for various mainstream Alberta media outlets. He is now in communications.

Based in Calgary, Gandia lives with his husband.

Gandia was named winner in poetry for his collection titled “Psalmody for the Estranged”.

In a May 22, 2026 post on his website after being named a finalist for the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award, the Calgary author explained that the word “psalmody comes from communal singing — the singing of psalms”.

“I was drawn to it because so many of these poems emerged from the language of Catholic ritual and prayer. I grew up believing holiness lived in cathedrals, in incense, in Latin,

in perfectly folded linens and memorized responses. I once believed the sacred required obedience.

“But estrangement became part of my life long before I had language for it.

“Estrangement from the Church. Estrangement from the version of masculinity I inherited. Estrangement from the Philippines after immigrating to Canada. Estrangement even within communities I thought would immediately feel like home. Too gay for some spaces. Too Filipino for others. Not Filipino enough elsewhere. Not quite Canadian enough despite the citizenship certificate folded carefully into a drawer.

“The poems began there, not in certainty, but in the in-between,” Gandia wrote.

Here’s an excerpt from his poem “Eucharist for the Estranged”:

I remember the wafer dissolving on my tongue –
the taste of paper and surrender.
Back then, holiness meant hunger,
the slow miracle of becoming worthy.
Now I know the body is already sacred,
even when it trembles.

On social media the morning after winning the award, Gandia talked about his craft.

“Writing has often felt like an act of faith. Most days, it happens quietly: before work, after work, on weekends, in notebooks, in coffee shops, and in moments stolen from ordinary life. There are far more rejections than successes. There are long stretches when no one is reading. You keep going anyway.”

On his website in his May 22 article titled “A small song for living between two worlds”, Gandia noted that many of the poems in his “Psalmody for the Estranged” portfolio asked the same question about building lives “inside forms that once excluded us”.

Gandia went on, “How does a gay Filipino immigrant remake prayer after estrangement from the Church? How does love survive translation? How do you belong to communities that sometimes hesitate before fully claiming you? How do you carry devotion forward after faith changes shape?

“I do not think the portfolio answers those questions completely. But maybe poems aren’t built for answers. Maybe they’re built for sitting inside the question long enough that it starts to sound like something.

“That may be what this portfolio finally became — a small song for living between worlds, a way of blessing the life I once thought I had to refuse,” Gandia wrote.

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Lumobo na sa 41 ang bilang ng mga nasawi habang mahigit 450 naman ang nasugatan matapos yanigin ng magnitude 7.8 na lindol ang Mindanao, at nagbabala pa ang Office of Civil Defense (OCD) na posibleng madagdagan pa ang bilang ng mga biktima habang nagpapatuloy ang search and rescue operations sa mga apektadong lugar.

Ipagdasal pa po natin mga kapatid sa Mindanao.

Ibinasura ni acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian ang mga suhestiyon ng "power sharing deal" kay Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, na patuloy na ipinipilit na siya pa rin legit na lider ng Senado kahit na naitalagang acting Senate President sa sesyon noong nakaraang Hunyo 3...

Si Win na kinikilala ng Malakanyang at Kamara.

Posible ngang hanggang 2 o 3 pang Senador ang bumitaw na ke Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano at lumipat sa majority bloc ni Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian sa susunod na Senate special session para magkaruon na ulit ng election ang Upper House para maging lehitimo na pagiging Lider ng Senado ang mambabatas ng Valenzuela, na never pang natalo sa anumang laban dahil sa...

Name pa lang, Win na si Gatchalian! Mabuhay ka Sen. Win!

Plano ng Bureau of Customs na ipamahagi ang mga nakumpiska nitong produkto, tulad ng mga damit at sapatos, school supplies, mga tolda at multifunction mobile power supply unit sa mga biktima ng magnitude 7.8 na lindol sa Mindanao kesya mabulok mga ito, ayon sa direktiba si Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno kay Chris Noel Bendijo, deputy chief of staff ng BOC.

Tama lang po, BOC chief, now na.

Ibibigay din umano ng 12 Senador under Senate Pro Tempore & Acting Senate Prexy Win Gatchalian bloc ang kanilang isang buwan sweldo - Ph277K + - sa mga biktima ng magnitude 7.8 lindol sa Sarangani, pero, walang tugon ang 10 Senador na kasama ni Alan Peter Cayetano sa minority group kung sasama mga ito sa pag-donate ng kanilang sweldo.

Mas kailangan yata ng pera nina Cayetano at Marcoleta???

Naghain ng cyber libel at libel complaint sa Office of the Prosecutor sa Maynila noong Martes ng umaga, si Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. laban sa 18 dating bodyguard ni resigned Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Elizalby Co, na tinaguriang 'Maleta Boys', kanilang abogado na si Levito Baligod, at sa DWSI 864, kaugnay ng umano'y nag-deliver sa kaniya ng mga maleta na may lamang pera.

Umpisa na ng 'pighati' ng mga 'Kargador' ni Defensor.

Posible umanong maharap sa marami pang kaso ang mga nagbigay ng "testimony" at iba pang lumahok sa umano'y pekeng Blue Ribbon Committee hearing na pinangunahan ni Sen. Peter Cayetano noong Huwebes ani Sen. Panfilo Lacson, tulad ng...

Usurpation of authority or official functions at cyber libel.

At dahil sa criminal case ang cyber libel sa Pinas, di tulad dito sa Canada na civil case lang ang libel, ay paniguradong baka kulangin pa ang ibinayad umanong tig-5milyon kada isa sa 18 'Kargador' sa...

Kutakot-takot na piyansa sa santambak na kaso nila.

Dugtongpani Sen. Ping Lacson ay walang parliamentary immunity na maaaring gamitin ang mga lumahok sa pagdinig, kabilang ang mga senador mula sa minority bloc, dahil hindi ito opisyal na pagdinig ng Senado, kayat posible ring masamang...

Kasuhan ng cyber libel at usupartion sina Cayetano et al.

Nagpupuyos sa galit ang mga katotong mamamahayag kina APCayetano higit lalo ke Sen. Rodante Marcoleta dahil sa opening statement nito sa ginanap na June 4 Senate Blue committee na "bayaran" ang media...

Kahit walang ipinakitang ebidensiya ni singkong-duling.

Tahasang kinondena ng Senate media si Marcoleta at sinabing layunin nito na sirain ang tiwala ng publiko sa lehitimong pamamahayag kaya't hinamon ng grupo si Marcoleta na magpakita ng ebidensiya at hindi puro dakdak at akusasyon lamang. Alam ni Dante na halos...

Lahat ng DDS Trolls ay me bayad. Ask Jay Sonza, Banat By atbp.

Bukod sa pagbaliktad ni Sen. Chiz Escudero, me isa pa o hanggang 3 Senador na nasa minority group, mukhang pati mainstream media, buwisit na at bumalik ang sikmura sa estilo ng Cayetano bloc, kaya't...

Mag-over-da-bakod na kina Win sina...!!! Abangan...

Muling tiniyak ni Comelec Chairperson George Garcia na matutuloy ang 2028

national elections kasunod ng alegasyon ni Sen. Imee Marcos tungkol sa umano'y "no-election scenario" na ayon din ke...

PBBM - 'Ilusyon' lang ng 'alibughang Manang Biday.'

"No-el2028' will not happen. It's a mandate of the Constitution to have an election in that year... no contingency for a 'No-el' because the election is certain to happen," ani Garcia, na idinagdag pang...

Naghahanda na nga Comelec sa 2028 polls. Ano ka Imee?

SPECIAL NOTES: Happy Father's Day sa lahat Po ng ating mga Katropapeeps na Lolo, Tatay, Itay, Tatang, Papa, Daddy, Dad, Pops, Erpat, Tito, Kuya, Yangku, mga single parents at naway patuloy na bendisyunan tayong lahat ni Lord Jesus Christ sa pag-gabay sa ating mga Apo, Anak, Pamangkin, sa kanilang paglaki na may Respeto sa Magulang, Lolo at Lola, Tito at Tita, Kuya at Ate at higit sa lahat, Takot sa Diyos.

Muli, Maligayang Araw ng mga Ama!!!

SHORT ORDER: Happiest birthday to my very kind 1st coz Lina G-DM-Reyes (June 1) of Malabon City, MM & Jaen, NE from Del Mundo, Gamboa, Esquivel at Datol Fam... Happy birthday to veteran journo Tata Joven Custodio (June 1) of Manila & Ramos, Tarlac ...

Happy birthday to my BFF cum HS mate Mario Cruda (June 5) of Jaen, NE & Tarlac City, greetings also from Cruda, Revillame Fam & SAA Batch '71 HS Grads... God Bless.



"The Great Subscription Trap"

How technology quietly became a monthly bill you never noticed. Technology used to be something we bought once. Now it quietly bills us every month.

Attention, Readers: Be sure to connect with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and **Like** and/or **Follow** our pages so you won't miss our important **Tip/s of the Day**. Send us your questions, we might just make it the main topic of our next issue but if the matter is urgent, text us at (236) 700-6388 and write **HELP** as the first word of your message.

Take a look at your credit/debit card charges this month. You might notice Netflix. Spotify. Microsoft 365. Cloud storage. Antivirus software. Video streaming services. Photo backup plans. Mobile apps. AI subscriptions. Maybe a few charges you don't even remember signing up for.

Sound familiar? Technology has quietly shifted from something we bought once into something we now rent every month. Individually, many subscriptions seem harmless — \$2.99 here, \$9.99 there, \$14.99 somewhere else. But over time, they quietly pile up. This has become what I call **The Subscription Trap**.

Over the last few years, I've helped individuals and families discover they were paying for duplicate services, old trial memberships, unused cloud storage, forgotten apps, and subscriptions they no longer even use. The surprising part? Many people have no idea how much they're spending.

Imagine this common scenario: You subscribe to Netflix. Then Disney+. Then Prime Video. Add music streaming. Extra iCloud or Google storage. Microsoft 365. Antivirus protection. A few mobile apps. Maybe a fitness app. A photo editor. AI tools. Suddenly you're spending hundreds — sometimes thousands — per year without realizing it.

The good news is that this problem is surprisingly easy to attack. Start with a **Subscription Audit**.

Take 20–30 minutes and review:

- ✓ Credit card statements ✓ Apple App Store subscriptions ✓ Google Play subscriptions ✓ PayPal recurring payments
- ✓ Amazon subscriptions ✓ Streaming services ✓ Cloud storage accounts

Then ask three simple questions: **Do I use it? Do I still need it? Am I paying twice for something similar?**

You may discover duplicate photo storage services, multiple antivirus programs, or family members paying separately for services that could be shared. Another useful tip: set calendar reminders one week before annual renewals. Many subscriptions quietly renew because life gets busy.

And beware of "free trials." Companies are counting on us forgetting.

Computer Dean's Simple Rule: If you haven't used it in 90 days, question whether you still need it. Technology should simplify life — not quietly drain your wallet.

Closing Thought: "Small monthly charges have a sneaky way of becoming big yearly expenses."

My shameless plug: If your digital life has become a maze of subscriptions, cloud accounts, passwords, and mystery charges, I'd be happy to help simplify things and review your setup..

Your friendly guide through today's technology maze ~ Computer Dean

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Filipino Community Celebrates 128th Philippine Independence Day and 40th Anniversary of Filipino Plaza at Annual Flag Raising Ceremony

By Janice Lozano

VANCOUVER, BC — June 6, 2026 — Hundreds of community members, leaders, dignitaries, elected officials, cultural organizations, and supporters gathered at Filipino Plaza for the annual Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony, officially launching Filipino Heritage Month and Philippine Independence Day celebrations throughout June.

This year's ceremony was especially meaningful as the Filipino Canadian community celebrated two historic milestones: the 128th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and the 40th Anniversary of Filipino Plaza, the first park in Canada dedicated to the Filipino community.

While the day began under dark clouds and steady rain, the weather did little to dampen the spirit of the celebration. Community members arrived in full force, demonstrating the unity, resilience, and bayanihan spirit that has long defined the Filipino community in British Columbia. As the ceremony progressed, the skies gradually cleared and the sun emerged, almost as if joining the celebration itself. The welcome appearance of sunshine provided a beautiful and symbolic backdrop to a day filled with pride, reflection, and community spirit, reminding everyone that even after the storm, brighter days lie ahead.

The event was emceed by Virgil Hilario and Mylene Lim, who welcomed guests and reflected on the importance of Philippine Independence Day, Filipino Heritage Month, and the enduring legacy of Filipino Plaza. The program began with a Land Acknowledgement delivered by Clifford Belgica and Allan Fernandez, recognizing the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territories the celebration took place.

The ceremony continued with

the singing of Canada's national anthem, O Canada, led by Salv Dayao, followed by the raising of the Philippine flag and the singing of Lupang Hinirang, led by Edz Dularte.

Leading the flag-raising ceremony were UFCABC President Arcie Lim, Consul General Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim, and TransLink Vice President Maria Pontikis.

A special highlight of the day was the presence of UFCABC President Arcie Lim, who welcomed guests while proudly wearing his distinguished Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree regalia, the patriotic degree of the Order. The Fourth Degree has also been referred the night arm of the church.

In his remarks, Lim spoke about the importance of unity among Filipino Canadians and the role of community organizations in preserving Filipino culture while strengthening future generations of leaders. Under his leadership, the United Filipino Canadian Associations in British Columbia (UFCABC) continues to bring together dozens of Filipino organizations throughout the province in a spirit of collaboration and service.

The event was honoured by the presence of numerous distinguished guests, including Premier David Eby, Member of Parliament Don Davies, MLA Mable Elmore, MLA Adrian Dix, Consul General Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin, Vancouver City Councillors Lenny Zhou, Lisa Dominato, and Sarah Kirby-Yung, as well as MLA Terry Yung.

Also in attendance were Angela Haer, Vancouver Park Board Commissioner; Labour Attaché Ma. Natasha Mae Valderama; North Vancouver School Board Trustee Lailani Tumaneng; Dehara Thompson, candidate for Port Coquitlam Council; Lina Vargas, candidate for the Vancouver School Board; Tony Ortega, candidate for Richmond City Council; and many other community leaders,

advocates, and supporters.

One of the most significant announcements of the day came from Mayor Ken Sim, who revealed plans for an interim Filipino Cultural Centre space, drawing enthusiastic applause from the crowd. The announcement marked an important milestone in the community's long-standing efforts to establish a dedicated cultural centre that will serve as a hub for cultural programming, youth engagement, seniors' activities, community gatherings, and the preservation of Filipino heritage.

For many in attendance, the announcement represented years of advocacy and collaboration among community organizations, leaders, and supporters. It was widely viewed as a historic step forward and a testament to the growing recognition of the Filipino community's contributions to Vancouver.

Another emotional highlight was the recognition of the 40th Anniversary of Filipino Plaza and the honouring of one of its founding visionaries, Bert Morelos. As one of the remaining founding leaders behind the creation of Filipino Plaza, Morelos shared the remarkable story of how community members came together in the mid-1980s to create a permanent cultural landmark for Filipino Canadians.

He reminded attendees that when planning began in 1985, there were approximately 17,000 Filipinos living in the Greater Vancouver area. Through the dedication of volunteers, families, organizations, and community leaders, funds were raised to construct Filipino Plaza in time for Expo 86. The plaza officially opened in June 1986 and became the first park in Canada dedicated to Filipino heritage.

At the heart of Filipino Plaza stands the iconic Sarimanok, the mythical bird of the Maranao

people that symbolizes prosperity, good fortune, abundance, and cultural pride. For four decades, the plaza has served as a gathering place where generations of Filipino Canadians have celebrated milestones, cultural traditions, and community achievements.

Throughout the ceremony, speakers reflected on the courage and sacrifices of those who fought for Philippine independence in 1898 and recognized the contributions of Filipino Canadians who continue to enrich the social, economic, cultural, and political fabric of British Columbia and Canada.

Several elected officials addressed the crowd, including Premier David Eby, Mayor Ken Sim, MLA Mable Elmore, MLA Adrian Dix, MP Don Davies, Consul General Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin, and TransLink Vice President Maria Pontikis. Their remarks highlighted the importance of multiculturalism, inclusion, community partnership, and the growing impact of Filipino Canadians across all sectors of society.

The celebration also carried special meaning as many speakers acknowledged the strength and resilience demonstrated by the Filipino community following the tragic events surrounding the Lapu-Lapu Day Festival last year. Messages of healing, solidarity, and hope resonated throughout the ceremony, reinforcing the strong bonds that unite the community.

A special thank you was also extended to Allan Fernandez for generously providing the sound system for the event, helping ensure that the ceremony ran smoothly and that the voices and messages of the day could be heard by all in attendance.

As the Philippine flag waved proudly above Filipino Plaza, attendees reflected on the journey of generations of Filipino Canadians who have worked

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tirelessly to build stronger communities while preserving the values, traditions, and culture that make them proud to be Filipino.

The day concluded with smiles, laughter, food, fellowship, and renewed optimism for the future. Families and friends gathered beneath sunny skies, celebrating not only Filipino Heritage Month and Philippine Independence Day but also forty years of Filipino Plaza's enduring legacy.

The ceremony served as a powerful reminder that whether facing challenges or celebrating achievements, the Filipino community continues to stand

together—united in heritage, strengthened by community, and inspired by the pioneers whose vision continues to guide future generations.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Mabuhay ang Filipino Canadian Community. Happy 128th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. Happy Filipino Heritage Month, and congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of Filipino Plaza.

(Photos by: J. Lozano / S. Didcott)





Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

Migrante Canada Statement on Philippine Heritage Month in Canada

As we mark Philippine Heritage Month in Canada, Migrante Canada joins Filipino communities across the country in celebrating the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Filipinos in Canada and around the world.

For us, heritage is more than food, festivals, and cultural traditions. Heritage is also the collective memory of a people—the sacrifices, struggles, victories, and aspirations passed from one generation to the next.

This month, we honour the generations of Filipinos who fought against colonialism and foreign domination, defended democracy against dictatorship, and struggled for national sovereignty, social justice, and human dignity. We remember those who resisted oppression during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos Sr., as well as the countless workers, peasants, women, youth, Indigenous peoples, church workers, journalists, and human rights advocates who sacrificed so that future generations could enjoy greater freedoms and democratic rights.



Image by Jhamela Eras
Tejome from Pixabay

As overseas Filipinos, we recognize that our own stories are deeply connected to these struggles. The history of migration is not simply a story of individual success. It is also a story of sacrifice, separation, resilience, and the continuing search for a life with dignity. Tens of thousands of Filipinos continue to leave the Philippines every year in search of decent work and opportunities for their families to survive. They contribute their labour and talents to countries around the world but remain strongly connected to the Philippines.

At a time when Filipino communities are often divided by political differences, Philippine Heritage Month in Canada should encourage us to engage critically with our history and reflect on the future we wish to build. We may not agree on every political question, but we share a responsibility to learn from the past, defend democratic rights, oppose injustice, and uphold the dignity of all Filipinos.

As tensions rise in the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and military rivalries

threaten peace and stability, we are reminded that genuine independence remains an unfinished aspiration. The generations who fought for Philippine freedom envisioned a nation where Filipinos could determine their own future, free from foreign domination, poverty, exploitation, and repression.

This Philippine Heritage Month, Migrante Canada reaffirms its commitment to migrant rights, human rights, social justice, peace, and genuine democracy. We honour the sacrifices of those who came before us by continuing the struggle for a future where migration is a choice rather than a necessity, where workers are treated with dignity, and where all Filipinos can live and thrive in a truly sovereign and democratic Philippines.

Our heritage is not only what we inherit. It is what we choose to defend, build, and pass on to future generations.

Makibaka, Huwag
Matakot! Fight! Fear Not!
Mabuhay ang Sambayanang
Pilipino! Long live the Filipino
people!
JUNE 2026

Flag Raising Ceremony - Celebrating 128th Phil. Independence Day

Photo Credits: Jo Ann Belen

ANG BUHAY, BOW!

Mga Kuwento ng Inspirasyon, Katatagan, Tagumpay at Ugnayan sa panulat ni Jo Ann Cordero Belen

(Jo Ann Cordero Belen is an accomplished visual effects compositing supervisor, artist and community advocate based in Vancouver, British Columbia. She writes about arts, culture, film, community initiatives, and the achievements of the Filipino-Canadian community).

On June 6, 2026, despite the heavy rain, the Filipino Canadian community came together for a heartfelt and inspiring Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate the 128th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. This event served as a powerful reminder of the Philippines' rich history, the unyielding spirit of freedom, and the strong cultural bonds that connect Filipinos worldwide. The ceremony united

government officials, community organizations, cultural advocates, and residents in a celebration of heritage, diversity, and the friendship between the Philippines and Canada. Attendees proudly witnessed the raising of the Philippine flag, honoring the sacrifices and achievements of countless Filipinos who fought for independence.

We were privileged to welcome esteemed guests, including Premier David Eby, MP Don Davies, MLA Adrian Dix, Deputy Speaker MLA Mable Elmore, Mayor Ken Sim, Councillor Lenny Zhou, Councillor Liza Dominato, Deputy Mayor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Park Board Commissioner Angela Haer, and Consul General Gina Jamoralin, along with numerous leaders from various organizations, community advocates, and volunteers dedicated to enhancing our communities.

As we celebrate 128 years of Philippine independence, we



honor the sacrifices of those who came before us while envisioning a future built on collaboration, understanding, and shared success.

The event reaffirmed the enduring spirit of the Filipino people and



showcased the vital role the Filipino Canadian community plays in shaping the cultural landscape of our province and nation.

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Statement on National Migrant Workers' Day in the Philippines Migrante Canada | June 7, 2026

As the Philippines marks the 31st National Migrant Workers' Day, recent events in the Middle East have once again exposed the vulnerabilities faced by overseas Filipino workers during times of crisis.

While the Philippine government has highlighted its emergency response mechanisms and the deployment of resources through embassies, Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs), welfare centers, and the Aksyon Fund, many migrant workers continue to report difficulties accessing timely information and assistance.

Too often, support mechanisms are slow, unclear, inaccessible, and poorly communicated to the very workers they are intended to serve. Many of our kababayan remain unaware of available programs or struggle to navigate complicated processes during moments of urgent need.

The true measure of migrant protection is not the amount of funds allocated, but whether assistance reaches workers quickly, effectively, and without unnecessary barriers. Every crisis exposes the same questions: Who receives support? How quickly does it arrive? And what happens to those who fall through the cracks? How do we hold embassy and consular staff

accountable in the performance of their tasks?

National Migrant Workers' Day should therefore be more than a celebration of the sacrifices and remittances of overseas Filipinos.

It should be a moment of accountability and reflection on why millions of Filipinos continue to leave the country in search of work and why they remain vulnerable to wars, economic crises, displacement, exploitation, and sudden changes in immigration policies in their host countries.

Here in Canada, Filipino migrant workers are facing growing uncertainty as immigration rules become more restrictive and pathways to remain in the country become increasingly limited.

Many workers are losing status, facing the prospect of family separation, or being forced to return to the Philippines after years of contributing their labour to Canadian society.

We therefore call on the Philippine embassy and consular offices in Canada to clearly outline what measures are being prepared to support Filipinos who are or may be compelled to return home. What reintegration programs exist? What employment assistance



The campaign to free Mary Jane Veloso from the Women's Correctional continues! Photo credit: Migrante International

will be available? What support will be provided to workers and families whose lives have been disrupted by changing immigration policies? Where is the budget and where is it being spent? These questions demand urgent answers.

Emergency response should not begin only when conflict erupts overseas. Where are the emergency and evacuation plans that need to kick in place to quickly and efficiently help our migrant workers and their families?

Protection must also include proactive support for workers confronting displacement,

job loss, loss of status, and forced return. Filipino migrant workers deserve transparency, accessibility, and meaningful assistance before, during, and after crises occur.

As we mark National Migrant Workers' Day, we honour the contributions and struggles of overseas Filipino workers around the world.

We also reaffirm our commitment to organizing for migrant rights, defending workers facing displacement and uncertainty, and advancing a future where migration is not driven by economic necessity, but by genuine choice.



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



Filipino Canadian Artists Showcase Talent and Creativity at Art Vancouver 2026

Art Vancouver 2026 was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre on May 28 to 31, 2026, it showcased a collection of contemporary artworks, featuring over 60 exhibitors and artists from all around the world.

Among the talented exhibitors were Filipino Canadian artists who proudly shared their works, reflecting the beauty, passion, and creativity of Filipino art and talent.

Contemporary visual artist **Karissa Narukami** showcased her unique artworks at the recent exhibit, celebrating creativity, culture, and individuality.

As a Filipino Canadian artist with autism, Karissa continues to inspire through her passion and artistic expression. For this collection, she explored watercolour, drawing inspiration from the colours of the Philippine flag and the gentle beauty of spring flowers.

Karissa hopes to share her art with more places around the world, including Vienna, Austria, and especially the Philippines—her mother's homeland.

"If I can do it, so can you." - Karissa Narukami

Grace Cuenca, a Chemical Engineer and geometric artist, showed how science and art can work together. Using Computer-Aided Design (CAD), she creates detailed and fascinating geometric artworks. She shared, "When



I started doing things, I just let it flow," reflecting her natural and creative process.

Melanie Payumo, a Kapampangan pride and Filipino Canadian visual artist, continues to impress with her meaningful, colourful, and mystical artworks. A dentist by profession and an artist by passion, she shared, "Whatever I'm doing, it's a reflection of my soul, so I work from my heart. I give everything and I work with love."

Art Vancouver 2026 was not only a celebration of global creativity but also a proud moment for the Filipino Canadian community. It was truly inspiring to see Filipino artistry and talent showcased at the recently concluded Art Gallery 2026.

Source: OMNI News, Bilyonaryo News Channel

Photo Credit: Glen Ong & Ben Tan, Event Volunteers



Melanie Payumo with DIMASALANG Group



Karissa Narukami Family



Karissa ConGen Gina Melanie

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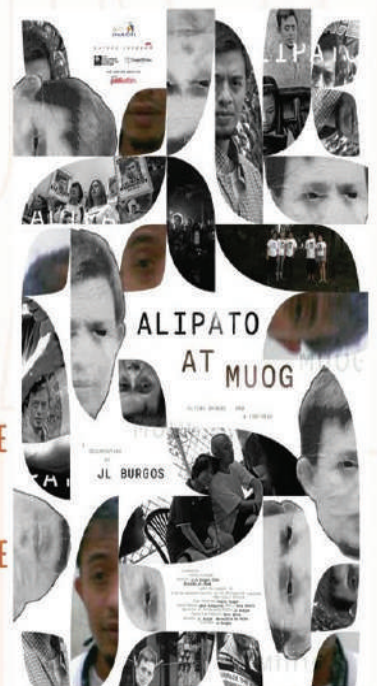
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Jo Ann Cordero Belen in the latest blockbuster A24 film - BACKROOMS

ANG BUHAY, BOW!
Mga Kuwento ng Inspirasyon,
Katatagan, Tagumpay at Ug-
nayan sa panulat ni Jo Ann
Cordero Belen

(Guest writer Jo Ann Cordero Belen is an accomplished visual effects compositing supervisor, artist and community advocate based in Vancouver, British Columbia. She writes about arts, culture, film, community initiatives, and the achievements of the Filipino-Canadian community.)

In an industry where visual effects play a crucial role in shaping the narratives audiences encounter on screen, Jo Ann Belen has established an exceptional career at the leading edge of cinematic storytelling.

The writer has made significant contributions as the In-House Compositing Supervisor for A24's Backrooms, becoming an essential part of the visual effects leadership team behind one of 2026's most unexpected successes. The film has exceeded all expectations, emerging as A24's highest-grossing release to date and becoming one of the year's most talked-about films. In her role, Jo Ann expertly blends multiple layers of visual effects to create seamless cinematic imagery while managing & artists and VFX vendors deliver outstanding work. Her efforts combine artistry, innovation, and technical precision, ensuring that digital elements merge flawlessly with live-action footage, offering immersive experiences for viewers around the globe.

Her journey began in the Philippines and has led her to Canada, exemplifying the determination, talent, and resilience of many immigrants forging careers far from their homeland. Through years of dedication, creative brilliance, and technical expertise, she has advanced through the ranks of the visual effects industry, contributing to some of Hollywood's most ambitious projects.

Throughout her career, she has worked with leading visual effects studios on projects for major entertainment entities, to name a few Marvel Studios, Disney, Warner Bros, Netflix, Apple TV, HBO, Amazon Studios. Her extensive filmography features blockbuster franchises and critically acclaimed works that have captivated audiences worldwide.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Jo Ann is deeply committed to service, mentorship, and community leadership. She actively serves as a Board

Member of the Visual Effects Society (VES), advocating for the advancement of the global visual effects community through professional development, industry engagement, and advocacy.

Within the Filipino-Canadian community, Jo Ann dedicates her time and leadership to organizations that celebrate culture, heritage, and community service. She is actively involved with the Dimasalang III International Artist Group and serves as a board member of the Circulo Pampangueno Association of British Columbia, helping to preserve Filipino traditions while fostering connections among generations of Filipino Canadians.

Whether mentoring emerging artists, supporting cultural organizations, or shaping the future of visual effects through industry leadership, Jo Ann embodies the values of excellence, service, and community engagement.

The success of Backrooms signifies yet another milestone in her already remarkable career. Jo Ann Belen continues to inspire others through her professional accomplishments and her dedication to



with VFX Supervisor Edward Douglas and Compositor Johnny Fann



Jo Ann Belen with Director Kane Parsons

making a meaningful difference. Her journey serves as a powerful reminder that talent, determination, and community spirit can transcend borders, creating opportunities not only for personal success but also for uplifting others along the way.

(Photo Credits: Jo Ann Belen)

Backrooms

A24

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Associate Visual Effects Supervisor	Calvin Romeyn
Visual Effects Coordinator	Julia Kragh
Visual Effects Data Wrangler	Shakila Keyani
Compositing Supervisor	Jo Ann Cordero
Senior Compositor	Patricia Gannon
Compositors	Solène Kerhardy
	Johnny Fan
	Jaewoo Jung
	Jiyoung Song
VFX Artists	Scott Penner
	Daniel Langhjem
	Habib Zargarpour
	Setareh Samandari
Senior Matte Painter	Ian Vicknair
Animator	Kevin Ang
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The organizers would like to thank all the sponsors and people for the support of the event. Competitive Champion Joey Taguaim, Rene Nannagad with emcee Kace Mercado, Heidi Ng and President Armand Perez



Left Photo are Chairman Madz Mercado III Co Chairman Josephine Estrada Fard. Top photo: Champion for Recreational Play are Pinoy Festival Team: Cesar Villamin, Marc Ylagan, Ahmad Fard and Genaro Bhoy Tambogon

Federal Government is 'very seriously' considering youth social media ban



The federal government is "very seriously" considering introducing a social media ban for kids, Culture Minister Marc Miller said Wednesday, days after party members voted in favour of a such a ban at the Liberal party convention.

"I respect and acknowledge the work that's been done and the concern where that policy proposal came from," Miller told

reporters on Parliament Hill.

"The grassroots have spoken. We do have to study that."

In Montreal on Saturday, party members passed a non-binding resolution calling on the government to set 16 as the minimum age for access to social media accounts.

A ban could be an important tool but it's not a solution to the bigger problem of online harms, Miller said.

"I do think it could be an important layer, but it has to be seen as that and not as the answer to everything. Online harms don't end as soon as you turn 15 or 16 or 17," he said.

The government's move to consider age restrictions for social media and chatbots received support from Conserva-

tive and NDP MPs Wednesday. Conservative MP Michael Barrett said it's an important question and a committee study "where we could hear from experts, instead of simply a proclamation from government or from people in the industry about what they think it should look like, is the best way to proceed with it."

NDP parliamentary leader Don Davies said every parent in the country is worried about their kids accessing inappropriate content online, and there is a need for government regulation in this space.

While he said he didn't want to comment specifically on age restrictions, Davies added, "I know some other countries are moving in that direction, so I think it's something Canada should look at."

The government is leaving it to the expert group to weigh in on whether the legislation should also cover access to AI chatbots, Miller said.

"The more these things become prevalent and people have access to them and they are in fact causing harm, then you feel the people that are supporting these platforms or the owners of these chatbots have a responsibility," he said.

On Saturday, the Liberals also adopted a similar non-binding resolution to set age restrictions for AI chatbots. (Youtube)





City of Vancouver to provide interim Filipino community centre

By ReyFort Media



Mayor Ken Sim of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is providing a city-owned space to serve as an interim Filipino community centre.

The provisional centre will serve the various needs of the Filipino community as work continues on the federal, provincial and city levels to deliver a new and purpose-built Filipino community and cultural centre in Vancouver.

The interim space was announced by Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim in his remarks on June 6, 2026 at the Filipino Plaza. The community gathered at the plaza to hoist the Philippine flag as part of the celebration of Filipino Heritage Month this June.

The provision of this space for the Filipino community was in-

cluded in a city council motion by Mayor Sim and Councillor Lenny Zhou to advance the development of a Filipino cultural centre in Vancouver.

Approved by council on December 10, 2025, the motion included the provision of a city-owned or -controlled space to serve as a temporary Filipino community centre.

The motion identified the Filipino Legacy Society (FLS) as the lead group for the permanent community centre to be built from the ground up.

The motion noted that FLS

will work with the following organizations: United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC (UFCABC), the Filipino Seniors Club of British Columbia (FSCBC), Cebuano Society of Canada, Diversity and Inclusion Support Group of BC, Seniors Intercultural Society of BC, One Filipino Cooperative of BC, Fil Cooperative One Housing Society, Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society, North Peace Fil-Can Community Bayanihan Assn, Global Multicultural Affairs Society Canada, Philippine Bagong Pag-Asa of BC, Burnaby Filipino Cultural Society, Dimisilang III International Artist Group, and True North Hinirang Eagles Club.



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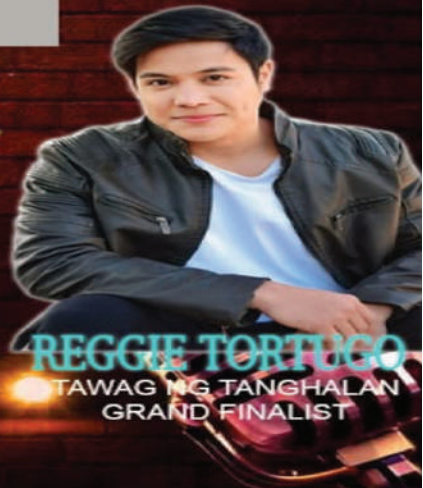
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SPORTS

Tragedy & ecstasy



The late Rene Clert Baterbonia

THE sporting nation is both in mourning and in a celebratory mood. What a surreal mix.

Sadly, two basketball players from Ateneo de Manila University died in a drowning accident just days ago in a beach in Pinakulao, Aurora. They were rookie Rene Clert Baterbonia from Mindanao and import Divine Adili from Nigeria.

Beaches in Aurora teem with angry and roaring waves that is why Baler, the provincial capital, is known as the nation's surfing capital. I should know. I was there only a couple weeks back.

You don't swim there or you risk getting gobbled up by screaming waves as tall as Victor Wembanyama. You surf there, period. Or just enjoy watching waves rushing to the shore. Seated in a director's chair in the sand. Ice-cold beer in hand.

As of this writing, no detailed reports as to how the tragedy happened. The Ateneo basketball team was there reportedly for a team-building activity.

What I know is, swimming is being done in a team-building program using a swimming



The late Divine Adili

pool; it's never done in a beach that is notoriously wave-infested and fit only for surfing.

Whenever deaths like these happen in sports, a part of us, dies, too. The pain just doesn't go away like the blowing wind; it lingers, hurting life's threads to the core.

I deeply condole with the grieving families of Baterbonia, 18, and Adili, 20. I pray for the eternal repose of their souls. And now the good, happy,



Alex Eala

news.

We salute Alex Eala for beating Nikola Bartunkova, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, to win the Lexus Birmingham Open on Sunday at the Edgbaston Priory Club in England.

The win ended Eala's 13-match losing streak against Czech opponents since she turned pro last year—although it pinched Eala's heart a little as Bartunkova was her doubles partner in the same event.

Eala's former Czech tormentors include former Wimbledon champions Barbora Krejickova and Marketa Vondrovova and Karolina Muchova. Muchova beat Eala in the Miami Open last March in the Round of 16. "I would have wanted to win this together (with Nikola)," said Eala, tightly embracing Bartunkova at center court after the match.

Eala and Bartunkova, both 21, lost to the British pair of Dart Harriet and Maia Lumsden 4-6, 6-2, 11-9 in the Round of 16 on June 1.

A big bonus accompanied Eala's June 7 victory as it came exactly nine months after she won her first WTA 125 victory last year.

This was on Sept. 7, 2025, when Eala rallied to defeat Hungary's Panna Udvardy 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 in Guadalajara, Mexico—the first triumph by a Filipino in a WTA event.

But a bigger bonus came Eala's way when her Lexus win in Birmingham fattened her bank account to \$19,700 (roughly P1.21 million)—besides earning 125 more points that would surely improve her 37th WTA

ranking.

"Lifting this trophy only makes me more motivated to keep on working," said Eala. "I'm so really honored to lift this trophy today."

Before beating Bartunkova, Eala's victims were Australia's Priscilla Hon 6-0, 6-2 in the Round of 32; Russia's Alina Charaeva 6-2, 7-5 in the Round of 16; Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew in the quarterfinal 6-3, 6-2; and, Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in the semifinal.

Next tournament is the main draw of the 2026 WTA 500 HSBC Championship in London set from June 8-14 at The Queen's Club in West Kensington.

Go, get 'em, Alex!

THAT'S IT Because it has the momentum, and propped up by Justin Brownlee's bamboozling 41-point effort in a Game 3 victory on Sunday, Barangay Ginebra may yet win again today for a decisive 3-1 lead over TNT in the Philippine Basketball Association's Commissioner's Cup...And in the National Basketball Association, San Antonio bounced back yesterday with a 115-111 win to cut New York's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven Finals. It was a pride-laden win as it came in NY's turf, the famed Madison Square Garden.

Match lasted 2 hours 38 minutes.

Won at Edgbaston Priory Club in England.

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**Wisdom from
the Word**

Ben Berto



PARADISE REGAINED

9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

Not even man's best imagination about heaven, can come up with the best description of the new earth, its beauty, dimensions, topography and inhabitants. So let's just be content with what St Paul wrote. The 27th Seventh-day Adventists Fundamental Beliefs is the following. "On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed, and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is

love, and He shall reign forever. Amen.

WHAT WILL THE NEW PARADISE LOOK LIKE?

"The first two chapters of the Bible tell of God's creation of a perfect world as a home for the human beings He created. The Bible's last two chapters also speak of God's creating a perfect world for humanity—but this time a re-creation, a restoration of the earth from the ravages sin brought." In the first earth, God placed the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil thus the possibility of the first humans to sin. But in the restored earth

where the redeemed will dwell with the Redeemer, God promised that sin will never rear its ugly head again. It has been cleansed by the everlasting fire that consumed Satan and his angels along with the wicked people who chose to follow him. All the things that remind man of sin will be obliterated, and the world will become

new again. This is the Paradise regained. There in that world, the Bible says in Revelation 21: 4 **4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."**

I would like to share what one Christian writer wrote about this regained paradise. **"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of created power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There, the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights**

to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind, and soul and body"

In the new earth, we can build our country homes, and never have to sell them, plant gardens and not be worried about pests eating them. We will know our friends and not forget where we met them, and go on excursions to other worlds where we could meet Enoch, Elijah or Moses. How about that for being saved?

Friends, God invites us to be there. Shall we accept His invitation?

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

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Love and live the Mass

The story is told about a priest who accompanied a convict to the electric chair. What was he to say to console a man about to die? "Goodbye"? "Take care"? "See you later"? All these seemed inappropriate, and he became desperate for the right words to say. Finally, as the convict got to the electric chair, the priest patted him on the head and said, "More power to you!" And in return, he requested the priest: "Father, please hold my hands, and stay with me till the end!"

In the Eucharist, we have a treasure whose depth and value we can never fully understand, but whose power is within our reach and always close at hand. Today, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, let us thank God for giving us the Eucharist. Though we do not, and will not ever fully understand, we believe that we have a treasure given unto us. May we learn to appreciate, love, and avail ourselves of this tremendous gift given to us.

Those who really love the Eucharist end up becoming more obedient to God, and more loving to other people. I know of so many people who claim—and who are pictured—to be lovers of the Eucharist, and yet continue to disobey God, and hurt, steal, and fool people. How come? Because for them the Eucharist is something devotional and emotional, and they forget the fact that it is something actual, dynamic, and real. The Eucharist should not only quiet us. It should also move and disturb us to greater and truer loving.

In the Philippines today, what we see is not only a malnourished but also a bloody body of Christ weighed down by so much poverty and corruption. Because of a privileged few leaders, politicians, and business people, many of our people continue to suffer. All because of a few people whose creed is greed. The Eucharist should

remind us again to give, to share, and to be selfless. As someone beautifully once put it: "If everyone knows how to give, no one will ever be in need."

When Mama could not attend Mass outside anymore, she asked me: "Fr. Jerry, may I request for a kneeler in my room?" She always called me "Fr. Jerry" out of respect for my priesthood. She rarely asked for anything, except for a kneeler because she wanted to kneel whenever it came to the consecration and communion part of the EWTN TV Mass which she attended every day. Such simple, childlike, and humble love and devotion for Jesus in the Eucharist!

As a little boy who preferred playing or watching TV instead of going to Mass on Sundays, I often bargained with Mama that I would just pray three rosaries at home, but her firm reply was always the same: "Jerry, not even 100 rosaries can equal the

value of one Mass." I thank Mama for teaching me the value of the Eucharist at an early age. Dear parents, are you teaching your children, by word and example, the value of the Mass?

I remember a story about a German SVD priest, who spent many years as a missionary in a faraway and isolated town in Mindoro, especially during the rainy season when the rivers were not passable. I remember as a young seminarian listening to his "sharing"—how he, in his loneliest moments, would go inside the dark church, would literally embrace the tabernacle and cry his heart out to his Master, and how he often found strength, courage, and comfort there. The Eucharist is there, given for us, for our nourishment and for our pleasure, but for most of us; it's just there.

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

As representatives of Christ, we priests are to make His presence, not our presence, felt especially at the Mass. And as representatives, let us not become thieves who deprive the laity of their quality time with their God. For one hour in their busy week, people come to hear and experience God. Let us give them the very best of ourselves and of our God.

Everything we do should lead to the Eucharist, and must proceed from the Eucharist. Our partaking of the sacramental Body of Christ should lead us to deeper participation in the life and mission of the ecclesiastical Body of Christ. Communion should lead us to deeper mis-

sion, and mission should lead us to deeper communion. We are not just spiritual gluttons or plain activists. We are disciples in communion with the Lord with a mission.

If the Mass is the highest form of prayer, then let's pray it! Instead of "saying" Mass or "attending" a Mass, why don't we all pray the Mass? And pray it with the heart!

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to love and pray the mass in our hearts and live the mass in our lives.

Amen.

momentwithfrjerry@gmail.com
(Reprinted from inquirer.net)

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“Kalinangan ng Sining” brings cultural groups together

In a vibrant celebration of Philippine Heritage Month, four community organizations are joining forces for a special cultural event at Surrey City Hall on June 14, 2026, showcasing the richness and diversity of Filipino heritage in British Columbia. Kalinangan ng Sining is the first ever collaboration of four organizations that aim to share Philippine culture through art, music, film and education.

The collaboration brings together Filipino-Canadian

Society for Interactive Arts and Events (INaRte), Himig Kabataan Cultural Society (HKCS), the newly formed Fil-Can Educators Association of BC (FCEABC), and Mixed Media and Music Artists Society of BC (M3ASBC) in a dynamic day of art, film, music, and community engagement, with the support of Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke.

Visitors will be treated to a captivating art exhibit featuring the talented artists of M3ASBC,

whose works celebrate Filipino identity, history, and creativity through diverse artistic expressions. Adding a cinematic dimension to the celebration, INaRte will present “Sine Kalinangan” that highlights short films by various Filipino-Canadian filmmakers.

The Filipino stories and voices will offer audiences meaningful reflections on culture and heritage.

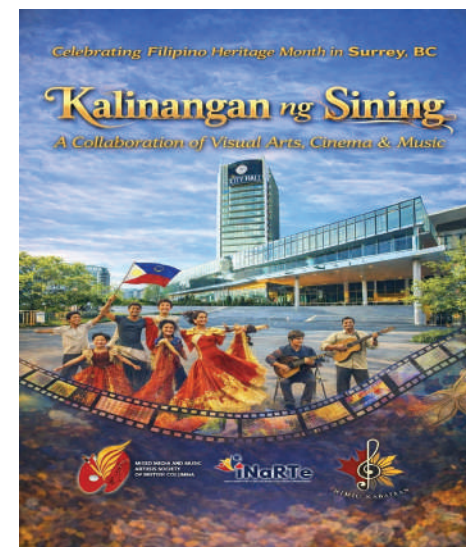
The festivities will culminate in a joyful musical celebration

entitled “Himig Kalinangan” (Melody of Culture) led by the HKCS Himig Choir Concert, filling Surrey City Hall with beloved Filipino melodies and cultural pride.

As a new partner in this collaboration, FCEABC proudly joins the initiative, affirming its commitment to cultural education, community connection, and the sharing of Filipino traditions with the wider public. Together, these organizations demonstrate the power of unity in celebrating the Filipino spirit in Surrey.



(L-R) M3ASBC Vice-Pres. Raymond Maliwat, Pres. Antonio Matias, Rosette Correa, head of Himig Kabataan Cultural Society and Ryan Ferrer of Inarte



Mixed Media and Music Artists Society of British Columbia

M3ASBC, the Mixed Media and Music Artists Society of British Columbia, is an active non-profit organization based in Metro Vancouver. It celebrates culture and community by highlighting the talents of local Filipino and multicultural artists and musicians.

The society regularly organizes art exhibitions, live music performances, and community festivals.

The society is led by Presi-

dent Antonio Matias and Vice President Raymon Maliwat, a noted visual artist and sculptor. Its members include visual artists Dan Siglos and Paul La Rosa, photo artist Noel Trinidad, digital artist Joel Castro, and sculptor Arnold Maliwat. Society also supports emerging artists Jeremy Garcia and Bianca Matias, encouraging them to pursue their talents.

Founded in August 2024, the society has already presented

well-attended exhibits at the Elevate Fashion Show in Vancouver, a five-day exhibit at the converted gallery in Metrotown Banquet Hall, a five-day exhibit at Amica Senior Housing, and curated art exhibits for the Pinoy Festivals. It also hosts events such as on-the-spot painting contests and art workshops designed to foster creativity and cultural connection among young artists.

From June 9 to 19, 2026, the society will present an art exhibi-

it and heritage show at Surrey City Hall to celebrate 128 years of Philippine Independence and 77 years of diplomatic relations with Canada.

The Filipino diaspora has been part of Canada's social fabric since as early as 1861, before Canadian Confederation.

On June 14, 2026, M3ASBC will collaborate with Inarte and Himig Kabataan for a concert and film screenings at Surrey City Hall.

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STOVE

12⁹⁸
EA



ROYAL UMBRELLA
JASMINE RICE
8KG

18⁹⁸
EA



HAPPY TUESDAY

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



HAPPY TUESDAY
3X Reward Points

\$1 = 3 POINTS
SPENT REWARDED