



Philippine **ASIAN** NewsToday

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P. 23

Fil-CAN
CULTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY (FCHS)

Pista NG BAYAN SURREY 2026

AUGUST 8-9 | SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10:00AM - 10:00PM

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Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society (FCHS)

Premier Eby was on World Cup Game's Last Mile walk earlier today, June 24.



Photo from BC gov.ca



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TRUE NORTH HINIRANG EAGLES CLUB AND LADY EAGLES CLUB INDUCT 14 NEW MEMBERS IN VANCOUVER

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Filipino population quadruples in Canada, may reach 2.4 million by 2041

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PACIFIC COAST DENTAL CENTRE SURREY

Dr. Jett Martires
Dr. Wendell Obach
Dr. Anna Ladrado
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SPEAKS TAGALOG, BISAYA, ILONGGO & ENGLISH

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B.C. Premier David Eby and MLAs Mable Elmore, Adrian Dix, Sunita Dhir and Jennifer Whiteside join the Filipino community at the Pinoy Fiesta at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby on June 20, 2026.



(Photo credit Jony.Li@leg.bc.ca)



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Indigenous Murals Unveiled at Surrey Libraries' City Centre branch

Surrey, B.C. – Surrey Libraries and the City of Surrey are proud to celebrate the addition of five new Indigenous murals in the children's area of the City Centre branch, created by Indigenous artists from Katzie, Kwantlen, and Semiahmoo First Nations. The murals honour Indigenous stories, teachings, and cultural presence, while creating a welcoming and inspiring space for children and families at the Library.

The murals were unveiled at a community celebration held at the City Centre branch of Surrey Libraries and reflect Surrey's ongoing commitment to public art, reconciliation, and creating inclusive civic spaces.

"These murals help ensure that Indigenous presence is visible, celebrated, and woven into everyday community life," said Mayor Brenda Locke at the unveiling ceremony. "They provide children and families with a chance to encounter culture, history, and identity in a creative and welcoming way — right here in one of the busiest public spaces in our city."

"These vibrant and meaningful artworks will inspire imagination, spark

curiosity, and create a deeper sense of cultural presence in this space," said Lisa Werring, Chair of the Surrey Libraries Board of Trustees. "Each mural brings forward stories that reflect strength, resilience, wisdom, creativity, and deep connection to land and culture."

About the Murals and Artists

The Gift of Flight by Rain Pierre (Katzie First Nation)
 This mural reflects the importance of Katzie waterways, transforming water into eagle wings to symbolize cultural empowerment, adaptability, and the honouring of women as life-givers.

Storytellers by Natache Gabriel (Kwantlen First Nation)
 Featuring an owl and a bear, this mural represents wisdom, strength, and family, celebrating storytelling as a cornerstone of learning and imagination in the Library.

SKWA WACH: The Sturgeon by Roxanne Charles and Easton Arnouse (Semiahmoo First Nation)
 This collaborative work honours the sturgeon, once a vital food source for the Semiahmoo people, highlighting its cultural significance and its role in

the ecosystem.

Sacred Paint: Flight of the Hummingbirds by Brandon Gabriel Kwelexwelsten (Kwantlen First Nation; with family ties to Shackan, Nlaka'pamux, and St'a'il'es Nations)
 The mural tells the story of the hummingbird, a story about cooperation and perseverance, where small acts inspire collective action to overcome great challenges.

EN, TOEL: Being Together by Joan Williams (Semiahmoo First Nation)
 Depicting children reading together, this piece celebrates storytelling as a way to spark imagination, connection, and a future rooted in knowledge of the past.

The murals join Indigenous artworks at five other Surrey Libraries branches and represent an ongoing effort to honour Indigenous voices and acknowledge the Nations on whose lands Surrey Libraries operates.

The Library invites the public to come see the murals in person to celebrate Indigenous stories and artistic expression.

(Kim.davies@surrey.ca)



Gift of Flight



Storytellers



Gift of Flight



Flight of the Hummingbirds



Being Together



The Notary Corner

By Editha Corrales Nelson
Immigration Consultant, Notary Public, Mediation / Arbitrator

Apostille Convention

The Government of Canada joined the Hague Apostille Convention to give Canadians a cost-effective, streamlined method for getting their Canadian public documents accepted abroad.

The Apostille Convention has come into effect in Canada since January 11, 2024.

What is the Apostille Convention?

As of January 11, 2024, Canadian public documents that have been authenticated will have a certificate called an "apostille" attached to them.

This certificate will allow the documents to be submitted for use in 125 countries that are members of the Convention without the additional step of legalization by a country's consulate or embassy here in Canada. The additional step of legalization may still be necessary for countries

that are not members of the Convention.

In British Columbia, the B.C. Authentication Program is administered by the Order in Council (OIC) Administration Office in the Ministry of Attorney General. They authenticate B.C. public documents for use outside of Canada, and they will continue to be responsible for this service after the Apostille Convention comes into effect in Canada.

Does Apostille change how I request document authentication in B.C.?

The only change is that, as of December 18, 2023, all authentication requests must clearly identify the **destination country for each document** you are submitting. See Submitting your Documents for Authentication for details.

Apostille transition period

To facilitate transition to the Apostille Convention,

documents received for authentication in B.C. between **December 18, 2023 and January 11, 2024** will be processed on or after January 11, 2024.

If you are able to wait until **after January 11, 2024** to submit your documents for authentication,

- the total cost for your authenticated documents may be reduced, and
- you will give yourself the best chance of your authenticated documents being valid in the destination country.

If you need your authenticated documents for submission to the destination country before January 11, 2024, please make sure that your authentication request form:

- clearly shows that you are requesting **urgent** authentication, and
- identifies the **destination country for each document** you are submitting.

Be sure to check with the consulate or embassy of the destination country to determine what documents you need and what other steps you may need to take before and after submission to the B.C. Authentication Program. If you have any questions or concerns, please email BCAuthentication@gov.bc.ca.

Strictly taken from www2.gov.bc.ca

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.

Happy Father's Day!

On Father's Day, we take time to honour the fathers, (great) grandfathers, and father figures whose love, guidance, and sacrifice have helped shape our families, communities, and country.

Today is also an opportunity to remember those fathers who answered a call to serve. We pay special tribute to the brave Canadian Veterans of the Korean War, many of whom left behind young families and uncertain futures in defence of freedom, democracy, and peace. We remember with gratitude the fathers who returned home carrying the burdens of war, and we solemnly honour those who never returned to their loved ones. Their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of the families who waited for them, will never be forgotten.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the fathers currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. Whether at home or deployed abroad, they continue to make extraordinary sacrifices in service to Canada, often spending precious time away

from their families to protect the values we cherish.

Father's Day reminds us that strength is often found in quiet acts of devotion, responsibility, and service. The fathers we honour today, past and present, have helped build a safer, stronger, and more compassionate Canada.

On behalf of my family and Office, I wish you a happy and meaningful Father's Day!



The Honourable Yonah Martin

<http://yonahmartin.sencanada.ca>

Adding languages to B.C. Newcomers' Guide Expanded access helps newcomers settle more easily in province

VICTORIA, BC - The B.C. government is publishing the 2025 B.C. Newcomers' Guide in six languages in addition to English, to help people coming from other countries access essential information more easily. Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, French, Spanish, Arabic and Tagalog will be included in the refreshed 2025 English printed edition and available for order now. The guide will be available for download online, or printed copies can be ordered at <https://www.welcomebc.ca/start-your-life-in-bc/bc-newcomers-guide>.

Expanding language access

With more language options, newcomers can more easily understand important information about health care, housing, education, employment, driver's licences and other services that help them get settled in B.C.

Two hundred and forty-nine other languages are also available through online translation at <https://www.welcomebc.ca/start-your-life-in-bc/bc-newcomers-guide>, including traditional Chinese, Dari, Farsi, Russian and Ukrainian.

Supporting newcomers,

strengthening B.C.'s economy

* The updated guide is part of government's work to support newcomers, strengthen B.C.'s workforce, and grow the economy.

* This includes improving international credential recognition, making systems more transparent and removing barriers that prevent skilled newcomers from accessing good jobs.

* B.C. has a long history of welcoming newcomers. People from around the world help fill labour market gaps, grow B.C.'s workforce and strengthen the province's economy.

* Newcomers are a valuable addition to communities throughout B.C. They share their cultures, experiences and perspectives, helping to grow British Columbia and making it an even more vibrant place to live.

Learn More:

* Find information on programs and services here: <https://www.welcomebc.ca/start-your-life-in-bc/bc-newcomers-guide>





Mayor Brenda Locke Joins Successful 8th Annual Ceremonial Review Chaired and led by Proud Filipino Mary Jamero

SURREY, BC – The 8th Annual Ceremonial Review of 278 Cormorant Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron was celebrated with great success and pride as community leaders, families, cadets, and distinguished guests gathered to recognize the achievements, discipline, and dedication of young cadets serving the community.

The event was honored by the presence of Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey, who served as the Reviewing Officer. Mayor Locke commended the cadets for their commitment to leadership, citizenship, and community service, emphasizing the important role that youth programs play in shaping future leaders.

One of the highlights of the event was the outstanding leadership of Mary Jamero, Chairperson of

the 278 Cormorant Squadron Sponsoring Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada and a proud Filipino-Canadian. Working closely with Commanding Officer Capt Amar Tiwana of the Canadian Armed Forces, she has helped make the Annual Ceremonial Review a successful and meaningful event. Having served as a Director of the Sponsoring Committee for the past three years, she brought valuable experience and a deep commitment to supporting the cadet program. Her efforts contributed to the strong community support that continues to make the Annual Ceremonial Review one of Surrey's most anticipated cadet events.

Mary Jamero expressed her gratitude to the cadets, parents, officers, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who contributed to the success of

the program. She emphasized that the achievements of the cadets are a reflection of teamwork, dedication, and the unwavering support of families and the community.

"The cadet program provides our youth with valuable life skills, including leadership, discipline, respect, and responsibility," said Jamero. "Seeing these young people develop confidence and character is truly rewarding."

The ceremonial review featured military-style inspections, drills, presentations, awards, and demonstrations showcasing the cadets' accomplishments throughout the training year. Family members and supporters proudly watched as the cadets displayed their skills and professionalism.

Mayor Locke also acknowledged the positive contributions of the Filipino community in Surrey, recognizing leaders such as Mary Jamero for their commitment to youth development and community building.

The event concluded on a high note with presentations, recognition of outstanding

cadets, and a renewed commitment to supporting programs that inspire young people to become productive and responsible citizens.

The 8th Annual Ceremonial Review once again demonstrated the strength of community partnerships and the dedication of volunteers who work tirelessly to provide meaningful opportunities for Surrey's youth. The event served as a proud reminder that through leadership, mentorship, and community support, the next generation is well prepared to meet future challenges and opportunities.

About 278 Cormorant Squadron

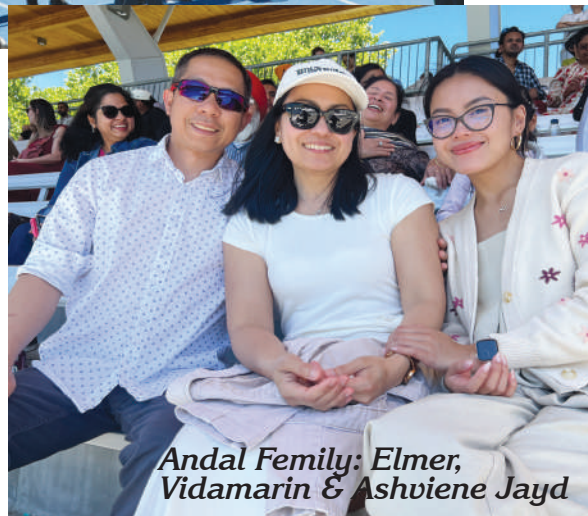
278 Cormorant Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron is among the largest Air Cadet squadrons in Canada, with one of the highest registered cadet enrollments in the country. Based in Surrey, British Columbia, the squadron is committed to developing confident, responsible, and engaged youth through leadership training, citizenship activities, physical fitness, and aviation education.



Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey and Chair Mary Jamero



278 ACR Band



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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

Beyond Survival

Rita San Diego arrived in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia more than a decade ago with her husband and two young children, carrying little more than determination and a belief that hard work would eventually open doors. Like many newcomers, her early years in Canada were defined by uncertainty.

Professional experience from her home country was not immediately recognized, and she had to accept survival jobs that were far removed from her background and aspirations.

She worked in cleaning services, food preparation, and warehouse support roles, often moving from one short-term contract to another. The instability was difficult, not only financially but emotionally, as she balanced long working hours with family responsibilities.

There were moments when opportunities seemed to pass her by, especially when job applications in her field received no response. Yet, she remained persistent, quietly observing how systems worked in her new environment and slowly identifying a path forward.

A turning point came when she enrolled in part-time courses at a local technical institution in the Lower Mainland, focusing on construction technology and project fundamentals. Managing studies, work, and family life was not easy. On several occasions, she considered pausing her studies due to fatigue and financial pressure. However, encouragement from her family and her own commitment to long-term stability kept her moving forward. Soon after, she secured an apprenticeship with a mid-sized construction company, marking her first step back into her professional field.

The apprenticeship phase was demanding. She was often assigned to assist on-site estimators and quantity surveyors, working long hours on construction sites across Metro Vancouver—ranging from residential developments in Surrey to commercial projects in Burnaby. At times, she faced hesitation from colleagues who underestimated her technical capability due to her background. Instead of being discouraged, she used these moments to strengthen her accuracy, attention to detail, and understanding of Canadian construction standards and codes. Gradually, her work began to speak for itself.

Her consistency and reliability led to a permanent position as a junior estimator. From there, she steadily progressed—first as estimator, then senior estimator, and eventually stepping into supervisory responsibilities. One notable project challenge involved a complex cost overrun issue on a multi-unit residential development, where her recalibration of material estimates and subcontractor coordination helped recover both timeline and budget stability. That moment became a quiet but significant recognition of her capability.

Years of steady performance eventually led to her promotion as manager of the construction department, where she now oversees estimation and quantity surveying for multiple



projects across the Lower Mainland. In her role, she mentors younger professionals, including newcomers who face the same challenges she once encountered. Her journey reflects not sudden success, but sustained discipline—built on adaptation, continuous learning, and resilience in the face of repeated uncertainty.

that professional identity is not lost through transition; it is rebuilt through persistence. In a demanding industry and a competitive environment, she proved that progress is rarely linear, but with diligence and steady effort, even the most difficult beginnings can lead to meaningful and lasting achievement.

Rita's story stands as a reminder (Contact: jblarano@gmail.com)

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"The 30-Second Habit That Can Save You Hours of Stress"

A simple checklist before you leave home, work or travel.

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.

Have you ever driven halfway home before realizing your phone was still sitting on a restaurant table or worse, the roof of your car? Or arrived at the airport only to discover your charger was plugged into a wall outlet back at the hotel? Perhaps you've spent 20 frantic minutes searching for your wallet, keys, glasses, or purse, only to find them exactly where you left them. If so, you're definitely not alone.

One of the simplest habits I've developed over the years is what I call the 30-Second Final Scan. It takes less than half a minute, costs nothing, and can save hours of frustration, inconvenience, and sometimes even expense.



Before leaving a restaurant, coffee shop, meeting room, hotel room, taxi, rideshare vehicle, workplace, or even a friend's house, stop for just a moment and ask yourself a simple question: **Do I have everything?** My personal checklist is straightforward:

Phone / Wallet or Purse / Bag, Backpack or Briefcase / Keys / Glasses / Medications / Laptop or Tablet / Chargers and Cables / Headphones or Earbuds

The reason this habit is more important than ever is because today's devices contain far more than hardware. Losing a phone isn't just losing a phone anymore. For many people, a smartphone contains banking apps, family photos, email accounts, contacts, passwords, authentication codes, travel information, and access to countless online services.

In many ways, losing your phone can feel like losing a part of your digital life. Fortunately, technology can help. Apple's Find My feature, Android's Find My Device, Apple AirTags, Samsung

SmartTags, and other tracking devices can often help locate misplaced belongings. I highly recommend using them, especially for frequently misplaced items. However, these tools should be viewed as a backup plan, not a replacement for awareness. A simple final scan before leaving can prevent the vast majority of lost-item situations before they happen.

As we become busier and more dependent on technology, developing small habits like this can make a surprisingly big difference. So before you walk away from your next table, seat, office, or hotel room, take 30 seconds and do a quick check. Your future self will thank you.

Computer Dean's Simple Rule: "Before you leave, stop, look, and check."

Closing Thought: "The best way to find something you've lost is not to lose it in the first place."

My shameless plug: If you need help organizing your digital life, securing your devices, setting up tracking tools, or simply making technology easier to manage, I'd be happy to help.

Your friendly tech guide for everyday users. ~ Computer Dean



TRUE NORTH HINIRANG EAGLES CLUB AND LADY EAGLES CLUB INDUCT 14 NEW MEMBERS IN VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada – June 13, 2026 — The True North Hinirang Eagles Club and the True North Hinirang Lady Eagles Club successfully conducted their **Induction of Additional New Members** on June 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Penney Auto Body Shop and Glass Dance Hall, located at 8225 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5X 3L7, Canada.

The event was spearheaded by Eagle James Mark C. Villamayor, President of the True North Hinirang Eagles Club, and Lady Eagle Rose Mary Ranes-Villamayor, President of the True North Hinirang Lady Eagles Club. The ceremony was attended by Eagles and Lady Eagles members, guests, supporters, and community leaders from across British Columbia.

A total of **14 new members** were formally inducted into the organization, consisting of **8 Eagles and 6 Lady Eagles**.

The newly inducted Eagles were:

	MEMBER NAME
1.	Eagle Precioso S. Bas Jr.
2.	Eagle Jasper Tablate
3.	Eagle Jesswille G. Idaba
4.	Eagle Diego C. Consuelo
5.	Eagle Absolon C. Baccay
6.	Eagle Bersan Ranoso
7.	Eagle Franklin R. Carambas
8.	Eagle Pedro T. Rillera

The newly inducted Lady Eagles were:

	MEMBER NAME
1.	Lady Eagle Dolorosa S. Aquino
2.	Lady Eagle Claire Anne S. Gaspar
3.	Lady Eagle Julieta G. Idaba
4.	Lady Eagle Paulina L. Carambas
5.	Lady Eagle Alona A. Aguilar
6.	Lady Eagle Kryzelle Anne Marie B. Peralta

The True North Hinirang Eagles Club and True North Hinirang Lady Eagles Club are affiliated with **The Fraternal Order of Eagles – Philippine**



Eagles, headed by **National President Eagle Jason Masa**, and are under the jurisdiction of **Central Luzon Region XIV**, led by **Governor Marvin A. Esguerra**.

The induction ceremony was officiated by **Governor Marvin A. Esguerra**, who administered the oath of membership and welcomed the new Eagles and Lady Eagles into the organization. In his message, Governor Esguerra emphasized the values of leadership, brotherhood, service, and patriotism that define Eagleism.

The program was further highlighted by the presence of distinguished keynote speakers **Lady Eagle Mable Elmore, MLA**, and **Eagle Reynaldo M. Fortaleza**, who delivered inspiring messages on community service, civic responsibility, and the importance of unity among Filipinos in Canada.

Lady Eagle Elmore commended the organization for its dedication to volunteerism and community engagement, while Eagle Fortaleza encouraged the newly inducted members to become active contributors to the organization's mission of public service and humanitarian work.

Following the induction ceremony, members and

guests gathered for a fellowship dinner and social program, fostering camaraderie and strengthening the bonds of friendship among Eagles and Lady Eagles members.

The successful induction of fourteen new members marks another milestone for the True North Hinirang Eagles Club and True North Hinirang Lady Eagles Club as they continue to grow and expand their reach within the Filipino-Canadian community.

The evening concluded with expressions of gratitude to all officers, members, sponsors, and supporters whose contributions helped make the event a memorable and meaningful success.

Through its continuing growth and dedication to service, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to the Eagles' guiding principle: **"Service Through Strong Brotherhood."** (JAMES MARK C. VILLAMAYOR)





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*The Tall Order
By Mon Datol*

Ang “masamang damo, matagal mamatay” ni VP Sara ay para sa Ama; Baguhin na ang ‘Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act’; Emman, anak ni Pacquiao, olat; PBBM napauwi 24 Pinoys na nakulong sa Russia; Ligwak na ‘Banal na Aso...’

Pinagtawanan ng netizens, kasama na mga DDS, ang komento ni VP Sara Duterte kahapon tungkol sa ‘ang masamang damo, matagal mamatay’ ay patungkol sa Tatay Digong niya na umabot daw ng 80 at buhay pa hanggang ngayon! Natigilan lang ang Bise ng mapagtanto na...

Sablay ang komento at isinama na naman si BBM sa wento.

Nuon pa namang hindi ginawang Defense Secretary ni PBBM si VP Sara matapos silang manalo sa 2022 presidential election ay sumobra na galit ng anak ni Digong sa Pangulo dahil hindi raw tumupad si BongBong sa kanilang usapan na hati sila sa korona at pamamahala sa bansa. Kaya pala 2 taon palang nakaupo sa Palasyo si PBBM ay...

‘Resign Marcos’ na agad sigaw ni Sara at DDS. Nakngdragon!!!

Hanggang ngayon ay patuloy ang ‘Resign Marcos’ movement ng mga Duterte at patuloy ang paninira at pagpapalabas ng mga ‘fake news’ ng mga bayarang trolls na agad pinaniniwalaan ng mga ...

DDS handang mag-rally kahit saan, basta OK tsibog at bayaran.

At hindi titigil sina VP Sara at mga kapatid na sina Cong Pulong, Yorme Baste at KittyD sa paninira ke PBBM at administrasyong Marcos hanggat di ito umaalis sa Malacanang at para ...

Iganti Tatay Digong nila na ipinakulong ni PBBM sa The Hague.

Sa July 6 na umpisa ng impeachment trial si VP Sara at handa na umano ang Senado para dinggin ng 22 Senador - 24 dapat, pero, nagtatago si Sen. Bato at nakakulong na si Sen. Jinggoy - ang umabot na ng

mahigit 100 ang ebidensiyang tinanggap ng Senado kontra Inday Sara.

Handang-handa na rin ba ang Prosecution Team ng Kamara?

Gustong ibaba ni Sen. Robin Padilla sa 10 taon mula sa 15 taon ang Juvenile Delinquent Law ng Pinas para managot as adult sa mga ginawang heinous crimes ang mga kabataang 10 taon pababa dahil ani Binoe ay...

Hindi na isip-bata ang pagpatay ng kapwa.

Ang suhestiyon ni PBBM ay 12-taon pababa, tulad ng panukala ng PNP at ng maraming Senador at Kongresmeyn, ang dapat gawing pagbabago sa Juvenile Delinquent Law at dapat gawin ito agad ng Kongreso na...

Dapat nuon pang Estrada admin naganap, pero, nahinto.

Exempted umano sa criminal liability ang 14-anyos na namaril sa San Jose National High School sa Tacloban, Leyte sa ilalim ng Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, ngunit isasailalim ito sa intervention program ng City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO). Sa madaling salita ay...

‘House arrest’ ang bata, eh, di naman pulitikong kurakot to?

Ang 15-anyos naman ay sasailalim sa assessment upang matukoy kung kumilos ito nang may discernment o kaalaman kung tama o mali ang gagawing aksyon, at, kapag napatunayan ito, maaari itong sampahan ng kaukulang kaso alinsunod sa umiiral na batas para sa children in conflict with the law, at...

Kalaboso agad ito ‘matapos mag-piyano’ sa presinto, alang bail.

Ang dami-dami talagang ‘batang-kalye’ ngayon sa Pinas at halos araw-araw ay may mapapanuod ka sa newsfeed sa TV at internet ng mga rambulan ng mga menor-de-edad sa ibat-ibang kalye sa Manila at iba pang bayan at lunsod sa Pinas, at kapag me nahuli ang Pulis at dinala sa Presinto ay pinapauwi agad-agad dahil...

Me dalang birth certificates na under-14 mga lukes na bata!

Kaya dapat ng gawing priority bill ni PBBM ang Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act para maaksiyunan agad ng Kamara at ma-apurbahan ng Senado at PBBM at ng...

Di na maulit pamamaril ng mga menor-de-edad sa eskwelahan.

Hindi tsamba ang pagpapabagsak ni boxer Rodelyn Perez kay Eman Bacosa Pacquiao nuong maglaban ang dalawa nitong nagdaang Linggo, June 21, sa DRP Sports Complex, Muntinlupa City, para sa Philippine Boxing Federation lightweight title. Pinanuod ko laban.

Olat talaga anak ni Pacman. Di kasi nanuod bespren ni Eman.

Ang sama ng laro ni Eman, pulos asta at porma lang ginawa at di ko nakita yong ‘lateral movement’ na naituro na nuon sa kaniya ng Dad Manny niya at nagamit na ng batang Pacquiao sa ilang laban niyang nanalo siya, pero, nuong Linggo...

Walang asim ang galaw at boxing skills ni Eman. Sayang.

Itinanghal na kampeon si Rodelyn via majority decision ng mga hurado na tatlong beses pinabagsak si Eman – isa sa second round at dalawa sa third round - pero, kung gumalaw

lang ng todo at nagpakawala ng mas maraming kumbinasyon si Eman, ay...

Baka kampeon na Anak ni Kumander, err, Pacquiao pala, hehe.

Nasa 24 na mga Pinoy na nakulong sa Irkutsk, Siberia ng walang kaso sa nakalipas na siyam na buwan ang pinalaya ni Russian President Vladimir Putin matapos umapela at bumisita sa Russia si Pangulong Bongbong Marcos, Jr. kamakailan.

Nasa Pinas na 24 Pinoy Linggo pa ‘From Russia with Love.’

Tulad ng ibinalandra ko sa aking YT broadcast nuon na susundan si Sen. Chiz Escudero at lilipat bakod si Sen. Joel Villanueva para maka-13 boto ang grupo nina Tito Sen at SenPing at maging ligal ng Senate President si Win Gatchalian at masibak ng lider ng Senado na si AP Cayetano na...

23 Araw na umaktong “Banal na Aso, Santong Kabayo!”

Kayang ma-convict si VP Sara matapos ang 6 na buwang trial ng impeachment case ng anak ni DU30 kahit na 13 pa lamang ang members ng grupo ni Senate President Win Gatchalian dahil 16 na Senador nga ang kailangan bumoto na guilty ang Bise Presidente, at nakikita kong...

May 3 Senador pa ililigwak ang VP matapos makita ang lahat ng ebidensiya kontra Inday Sara. Pramis.

SHORT ORDER: Happiest birthday to sister Rose Fortaleza of Surrey, BC. (June 2026) greetings from the whole Fortaleza Clan of Leveriza, Ermita, Manila !!! ..Happiest

SEE NEXT PAGE ...



Filipino Heritage Month: June 12, Fathers' Day, Free Mary Jane!

By St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Church

A big Philippine flag framed the entrance to the St. Mary the Virgin South Hill church on Sunday, June 14 which marked the church's commemoration of the 168th anniversary of the Philippine independence.

From coast to coast, Filipino communities, organizations, social clubs, churches, and schools mark the whole month of June as Filipino Heritage Month in Canada with events like Filipino flag-raising ceremonies, festivals, parades, masses, potlucks, forums and webinars, concerts, and many more. St. Mary's celebrated this anniversary as part of its annual tradition.

The congregation sang the Philippine national anthem Lupang Hinirang and O Canada, the anthem of Canada at the end of the service. The predominantly Filipino congregation, including the young children, wore their Filipiniana, Philippine-inspired clothing, and the Philippine colours of red, blue and yellow. Even the fellowship hall sported the Philippine colours. The ties of overseas Filipinos, with strong Filipino pride, remain solid, regardless of how long they have been away and regardless of the thousands of miles that separate them from the Philippines.

On June 21, St. Mary's celebrated Fathers' Day, honouring all kinds of fathers for their role and continuing contribution as fathers, role models, parents in families, churches, organizations, etc. Special mention was made for Tatay Cesar, the elderly father of Mary Jane Veloso, who continues to campaign to free his daughter Mary Jane. Fathers' Day also



Marking Philippine Independence Day at St. Mary's church!



Rev. Expedito Farinas announcing the winning bids!

featured a plant auction and raffle with gorgeous plants going to new homes and gardens.

St. Mary's the Virgin Church has been a long supporter of the campaign to free Mary Jane Veloso, Filipina migrant worker who continues to be behind bars

at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong. With her years of imprisonment in Indonesia, Mary Jane has been behind bars for 16 years, and counting. Rev. Expedito Farinas and the congregation showed their solidarity for Mary Jane after she testified against her illegal

recruiters. The congregation of the "little church with a big heart" held their signs and chanted "Clemency for Mary Jane!" "Free Mary Jane!" St. Mary's continues their prayers, solidarity and support for Mary Jane Veloso.

All photos credited to St Mary the Virgin Church



Proud and happy fathers, including grandfathers, uncles, father figures, and father of St Mary's!



Clemency for Mary Jane: Free Mary Jane!

MON DATOL.. FROM LAST PAGE ...

birthday to Justin Pablo Briones (June 21) of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada & Jaen, NE, RP..Happy birthday to Kabayang Consorcio Dayno (June 22) of Jaen, NE, RP.. Happy birthday to Pare Jazz A of ASIN Band (June 20) greetings from ASIN Band Members.... Happy birthday to Pre Jimmy Liwag of FSDC (June 20) MBtC Pardes... Happy birthday to sportsjourn colleague & former Valderrama, Antique Mayor Ray T. "Rayroq" Roquero (June 24) MBtC Cong. Rayroq!!!...Happy birthday to former PBA star Choy Estrada (June 25) MBtC

Pards Choy!!!... Happiest birthday greetings to 1992 Barcelona Bronze Medalist & National Boxing Coach Roel Velasco (June 26). MBtC Parekoy!!!...Happy birthday (June 25) to Kabayan Litto Lagasca, Pageant Producer of Toronto & Jaen, NE...God Bless.



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Filipino population quadruples in Canada, may reach 2.4 million by 2041

By Carlito Pablo

Filipinos have exploded in numbers in Canada, a country they have come to cherish as their own.

A recent study by Statistics Canada reveals that the Filipino population quadrupled from 1996 to 2021, largely due to immigration.

In 2021, Filipinos in Canada numbered 967,355, a four-fold increase from 234,195 in 1996.

Citing population projections and growth scenarios, the study noted that the Filipino population is projected by 2041 to reach 1.7 million to 2.4 million people.

With these numbers, Filipinos will make up four percent to 4.6 percent of the total population in Canada by 2041.

Based on the same projections, Filipinos would remain the fourth-largest racialized group in Canada in 2041, after South Asian, Chinese and Black populations, the paper stated.

The Statistics Canada study is titled "Portrait of the Filipino populations in Canada: A Sociodemographic and Socioeconomic Analysis".

Released on June 2, 2026, the in-depth report was authored by analyst Sajjad Taghizadeh Imani.

Statistics Canada also released two related information materials in the same week and in time for the 2026 celebration of Filipino Heritage Month in June.

Although Filipinos in Canada were mostly born in the Philippines, the study noted that they are



Filipinos have a stronger sense of belonging to Canada than the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population. Image by Statistics Canada.

"more likely than the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population to report a strong sense of belonging to Canada".

"Social inclusion is a process that ensures that all members of society, regardless of their ethnocultural origin, have access to the opportunities and resources they need to participate in economic, social and political life without any barriers," the study explained.

"A key indicator of social inclusion is a sense of belonging. This refers to how strongly individuals feel connected and attached to their local community, their town or city, their province, and Canada. In this regard, Filipino populations in Canada reported a stronger sense of belonging to Canada than the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population."

In detail, the study noted that in 2020, 92 percent of Filipinos had a strong sense of belonging to Canada,

with 38 percent of Filipinos (363,650).

Alberta had the second-largest share of the Filipino population, with 22.6 percent (216,710 people).

British Columbia follows at third, with 18.2 percent (174,280).

Manitoba had 9.9 percent (94,315); and Saskatchewan, 4.6 percent (43,760 people).

Overall, the majority or 55.3 percent of Filipinos lived in the four Western provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, according to the study.

Quebec recorded 4.7 percent of Filipinos (44,880).

Among the Atlantic provinces, the study stated, Nova Scotia had the largest share of the Filipino population, with 0.7 percent (6,615), followed by New Brunswick at 0.5 percent (5,190), Newfoundland and Labrador at 0.2 percent (2,270), and Prince Edward Island at 0.2 percent (1,760).

The study noted that Filipinos account for the largest share of racialized populations in the territories.

In 2021, 0.2 percent of Filipinos lived in Yukon (1,945), 0.2 percent in the Northwest Territories (1,665) and less than 0.1 percent in Nunavut (315).

Overall, the Statistics Canada study stated, 0.4 percent of the Filipino

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population in Canada (3,925) resided in the territories.

Across the territories, Filipinos accounted for 3.4 percent of the total population, according to the paper.

Citing archival census records, the study noted that the earliest documented Filipino immigrant in Canada was Benson Flores, who reported arriving in 1861. He was enumerated on Bowen Island, British Columbia in the 1911 Census.

"Census records from

1901 also indicate the presence of other people who immigrated from the Philippines and were living on Bowen Island; one of them reported arriving in British Columbia in 1870," the paper stated.

Before immigration to Canada from Asian countries expanded in the late 1960s, immigration was limited.

The study noted as an example that based on the 1971 Census, fewer than 100 people who immigrated from the Philippines had arrived in Canada before 1931.





Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

MARY JANE VELOSO WILL BE FREE!

Many people thought that Filipina migrant worker Mary Jane Veloso was freed after she was spared from execution in Indonesia. Not true. Many people thought she was finally released from prison when she was flown back to the Philippines from Indonesia. Not true, either.

This year marks the 16th year, and counting, since Mary Jane was arrested and imprisoned in Indonesia in 2010 on drug trafficking charges, sent to death row in 2015, sentenced to die by firing squad but spared with a last-minute reprieve, flown to the Philippines in 2024 only to be kept behind bars at the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong where she is still detained. This is the truth

Migrante Canada, the alliance of Filipino migrant organizations in Canada, and a member of Migrate International, continues to support the campaign to Free Mary Jane. We stand united with Mary Jane and her fight for clemency and immediate release.

On Friday, June 19, the Philippine court in Nueva Ecija will hear Mary Jane's testimony for the first time since she was arrested 16 years ago.

Mary Jane is the last state witness in the case against her recruiters Kristina Sergio and Julio Lacanilao. Instead of appearing in person at the Regional Trial Court in Nueva Ecija, Mary Jane will testify from the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW). This gives Mary Jane the space to speak truth to power, hold her traffickers accountable, and secure her long-denied freedom that the Philippine government has seemingly ignored.

In interviews and statements made by Edre Olalia, lead counsel of Mary Jane and a member of the National Union of People's

Lawyers (NUPL), Olalia reiterated that President Marcos, Jr take "the principled position", i.e., exercise his absolute prerogative as President to pardon Mary Jane and set her free. This presidential prerogative is his alone, not based on legal grounds, not based on any study or expert opinion, but on humanitarian considerations. This statement by Veloso's legal team bears repeating: "Indonesia has explicitly said repeatedly that it is now our (Philippines) call if we give her clemency and that they will respect that decision to do so."

Migrante Canada calls on the Philippine government to do the right thing, genuinely and swiftly demonstrate that it upholds Mary Jane's right to justice and protection as a victim of human trafficking and grant her clemency and immediate and unconditional release.

Mary Jane is a survivor of human trafficking and has already endured 16 years of imprisonment for a crime she did not commit, accused of a crime of which she herself is the victim. The arrest of the traffickers and illegal recruiters Sergio and Lacanilao in 2020 is "testament to Mary Jane's story that she was not a drug courier but an unwitting victim of the same illegal recruiters."

Mary Jane is the face of human and labour trafficking. Mary Jane's case has captured international attention and support as a powerful example of the vulnerability of migrant workers who leave their homes in search of work, only to become targets of traffickers and illegal recruiters.

From Joanna Concepcion, Chairperson of Migrante International, "For as long as the Philippine government continues its labor export policy, there will be more Mary Janes. The cases of human trafficking and labor



exploitation will not go away." Mary Jane is also the face of resistance and hope. Concepcion said, "For us, Mary Jane is a symbol and inspiration of hope for many of those who are afraid to stand up for themselves, the many who are scared to speak out and fight for their rights. Mary Jane's whole family and Mary Jane herself have fought and continue to fight for their rights."

Ang pamilyang lumalaban. No one can bring back the years taken from Mary Jane and her family. Her two sons have grown up largely without their mother. Her elderly parents have marched on the streets, rallied and picketed wherever they can shout Freedom for Mary Jane, submitted petitions and appeals, made the long trips to visit Mary Jane at the CIW, fought alongside Mary Jane in the campaign to bring her home to the loving embrace of her sons, parents, siblings and the many communities, local and overseas, that have always kept the faith in her innocence and that justice will come.

Eni Lestari, chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, summed up Mary Jane's story of arrest and continuing incarceration. "Mary Jane's life is just like the life of an ordinary migrant. A woman who has to

leave, to work abroad. I know what it means for her to leave her children. **The only crime of Mary Jane is being poor.**"

Migrante Canada reiterates that true justice requires addressing the conditions that force millions of Filipinos to seek work abroad under precarious circumstances. As long as poverty, unemployment, and labour export remain government policy, migrant workers will continue to face heightened risks of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. The struggle for Mary Jane's freedom is therefore also a struggle for migrant justice.

More than ever, as overseas Filipinos and migrant workers, we need to continue the strong, sustained, and loud international pressure on the Marcos Jr. government – from marches, pickets, noise barrage, artwork, statements, songs and poems, delegations, letters, and other creative forms – to free Mary Jane, expose the plight of migrant workers across the globe, but also highlight the resistance and organizing of migrants against the exploitation and oppression of migrants, and against the Philippine labor export policy. (Migrante Canada | June 18, 2026/ Photo from Migrante International)

Community Launch of Filipino Canadian Studies In, On, and Through British Columbia

By NPC3

Vancouver, June 20, 2026. – The National Filipino Canadian Cultural Centre (NPC3) successfully hosted the community launch of the special issue of the British Columbian Quarterly Studies (BC Studies), "Filipino Canadian Studies In, On, and Through British Columbia," co-edited by Dr. JP Catungal and Dr. May Farrales.

The special issue brings together work that centres Filipino Canadian voices exploring diaspora, belonging, and collective histories across BC.

The launch also announced that the annual 2025 BC Studies Prize was awarded to JP Catungal and May Farrales for their article "The Race to Indigeneity: Three Vexations in Filipinx Diasporic Politics," published in the special

issue of BC Studies no. 227 (Autumn 2025).

James Infante and Phebe Ferrer, Chair and Vice-Chair of NPC respectively, co-emceed the launch.

The community launch featured presentations and a discussion with contributors to the issue, including Dr. Catungal, Dr. Farrales, Karla Comanda, James

Pangilinan, Clarissa Cecilia "Issa" Mijares, Dr. Dennis Gupa, and Alvin Erasga Tolentino. It also showcased performances by Filipinx Canadian artists, including poetry by Sol Diana, dance by Clarissa Cecilia "Issa" Mijares, and drag by Margaux Rita.

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COMMUNITY LAUNCH... FROM LAST PAGE.....

UBC Prof. Nora Angeles congratulated the NPC3 for a very successful community launch of the BC Studies special issue on Filipinx in BC. She also added that "James and Phebe did a phenomenal job organizing the event with the rest of the board and other volunteers. The venue was packed and attendance was even more impressive considering the ongoing many events in the community!" Around 65 people attended the launch.

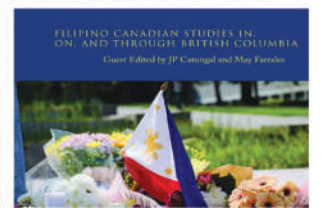
NPC3 is grateful to host this event with support from the David Lam Centre at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the Centre for Asian Canadian Research and Engagement (ACRE) at the

University of British Columbia (UBC).

Photos by Michael Y.C. Tseng.



Top: L-R: James Infante, Phebe Ferrer, Dr. JP Catungal, Dr. May Farrales. Bottom: Discussion with several contributor in the special issue



Clockwise: Margaux Rita, Sol Diana, Front cover of BC Studies No. 227, Group photo, Clarissa Cecilia Mijares

RP NEWS

House probe sought into Tacloban shooting, stabbings in 2 Cavite schools

MANILA — A lawmaker has filed a resolution calling for a House inquiry into the school shooting in Tacloban City and into stabbing incidents in two schools in Cavite.

Manila 2nd District Rep. Rolando Valeriano filed House Resolution 1146 for a probe on "strengthening school safety and security measures, enhancing guidance and mental health programs, and improving mechanisms for the prevention of violence among learners."

He said that recent incidents of violence "have generated widespread public concern regarding the safety and security of students within educational institutions, and the adequacy of existing preventive and intervention measures."

He said in his resolution that the

House must identify policy gaps and come up with measures to "strengthen school safety, protect learners, improve crisis intervention systems, and prevent future acts of violence in educational institutions nationwide."

In a separate statement, Valeriano said the licenses of the owners of the guns used in the Tacloban shooting must be suspended immediately. He also said they should be charged for their "gross negligence and reckless imprudence" as gun owners.

He also said parents and guardians "are criminally and civilly liable and responsible for the conduct and behavior of the suspects".

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List Rep. Brian Poe, meanwhile, filed House Resolution 1147, also

calling for a House inquiry into the implementation of laws and policies on school safety, anti-bullying, learner mental health and well being, emergency preparedness, and child protection in light of the Tacloban City shooting.

"Mayroon tayong mga batas na idinisenyo upang protektahan ang ating mga anak. Ang tanong ngayon ay kung tunay bang naipadama at naipatupad ang mga proteksiyong ito sa mga paaralan kung kailan sila higit na kinakailangan," the lawmaker said in a statement.

AGE OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY
Kabataan Party-List Rep. Renee Co and Gabriela Party List Rep. Sarah Elago on Wednesday also rejected proposals to lower the age of criminal responsibility.

She added that the Juvenile Justice and Welfare cannot be dismissed as a bad law since it has not been fully implemented or funded.

"Children are not criminals. The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act recognizes that children in conflict with the law require intervention, rehabilitation, and support—not punishment as if they were fully mature adults," Elago said in a separate statement.

On Tuesday night, Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez paid his respects at the wake services of students killed in the shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. He offered his condolences to the victims' families and visited those who were injured in the incident. (V. Gulla/abs-cbn)



Book Launch Celebrates Filipino Stories, Heritage, and Community in British Columbia



RICHMOND, BC — Filipino Canadian author and community leader Jose Larano successfully launched his latest book, *Snippet of Stories: Life Journeys of Filipinos in British Columbia, Canada*, during a special gathering attended by community members, cultural advocates,

and distinguished guests from across the Lower Mainland.

The event was graced by Hon. Mable Elmore, MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway, Hon. Consul Andre Peter Estanislao of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, Mr. Rey Fortaleza of Rey Fort Media Group, and

several prominent leaders of the Filipino Canadian community. The celebration also featured a Philippine flag-raising ceremony, coinciding with the observance of Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month, adding a deeper sense of pride, identity, and cultural significance to the

occasion.

The newly launched book presents a collection of inspiring narratives that chronicle the experiences, struggles, achievements, and aspirations of Filipinos who have made British Columbia their home.

Through personal stories and reflections, *Snippet of Stories* captures the resilience, determination, and enduring spirit of immigrants who have contributed to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Canadian society while preserving their Filipino heritage.

More than a compilation of life journeys, the book serves as a tribute to the Filipino Canadian experience and a valuable record of community history for future generations.



RP NEWS ICC orders Duterte to attend Sept 7 hearing

THE Trial Chamber III of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has ordered detained former president Rodrigo Duterte to attend the **September 7, 2026** status conference on the crimes against humanity charges filed against him.

Presiding Judge Joanna Korner told Duterte's lead defense counsel, Peter Haynes, that the tribunal expects Duterte to be present at the proceeding unless there is a medical reason preventing his attendance.

"Mr. Haynes, we would expect Mr.



Duterte to be here (on September 7) unless there is some medical issue," Korner said.

The elderly Duterte was allowed to waive his appearance in Tuesday's second status conference, with the chamber noting that the proceeding was "relatively short."

The former president also waived his appearance during the first status conference on May 27 and did not attend the week-long confirmation of charges hearing last February.

Korner said medical experts

tasked to assess Duterte's fitness to stand trial are expected to submit their findings by August 18, after which the prosecution, defense, and legal representatives of the victims have until August 31 to respond to the report.

Aside from the September 7 session, the trial chamber has scheduled additional status conferences on July 14, October 13, and November 2.

The court has set the start of the trial for November 30, 2026. (A. Hachero/ Malaya)



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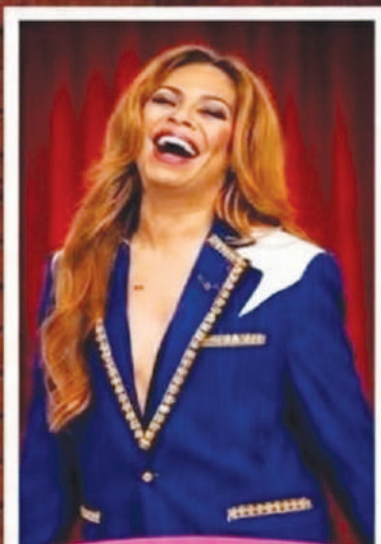
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BERT MORELOS - Designer, Community Leader and Visionary Behind the Filipino Plaza

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 Honor of the 40th Anniversary of Filipino Plaza Celebrating Philippine Heritage Month and the 128th Philippine Independence Day

As Vancouver celebrates Philippine Heritage Month and commemorates the 128th Philippine Independence Day, one landmark continues to stand as a powerful symbol of Filipino pride, unity, and cultural identity: Filipino Plaza. Located on Vanness Avenue, just west of Nanaimo SkyTrain Station in Vancouver, British Columbia, Filipino Plaza is a beautifully landscaped linear park situated beneath the SkyTrain Expo Line. Established in 1986 as part of BC Transit's Parkway Program, the plaza forms part of a 26-kilometre network of cultural parks that reflect the diverse communities that helped shape Metro Vancouver. For four decades, Filipino Plaza has served as a gathering place and enduring testament to the contributions of Filipino Canadians.

At the heart of this achievement is architect and community leader Bert Morelos, whose vision, talent, and dedication helped transform a dream into a lasting cultural landmark.

Designing a Legacy

Filipino Plaza was designed by Bert Morelos, a Registered Architect in the Philippines whose work combined cultural symbolism with community pride. The plaza features a distinctive wooden arch, the colorful Sarimanok emblem, and two commemorative walls constructed from 2,000 red bricks donated by Filipino Canadians. Each brick represents the generosity and commitment of community pioneers who believed in creating a permanent space that celebrated Filipino heritage in Canada.

The project was built through the spirit of bayanihan—the Filipino



tradition of collective cooperation and community support. Under the leadership of the Filipino Plaza Committee of 1985, volunteers, families, organizations, and community leaders came together to raise funds and mobilize resources. Their shared efforts ensured that the plaza would be completed in time for Expo 86, one of Vancouver's most significant international events.

When Filipino Plaza officially opened in June 1986, it became the first park in British Columbia dedicated to Filipino heritage, marking a historic milestone for the growing Filipino Canadian community. A Distinguished Architectural Career Bert Morelos brought extensive professional expertise to the project. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from the University of the Philippines in 1969–1970 and later obtained a Certificate in Planning Practice and Plan Implementation in 1973. He became a Registered Architect in the Philippines in 1971 before immigrating to Vancouver in 1974.

Over the course of a remarkable career spanning more than four decades, Morelos worked in architecture, urban planning, design, and project management across Canada, the United States, Australia, the Middle East, China, and the Philippines. Following 13 years of architectural practice and collaboration with leading architects, he spent the next 31 years working with major development companies, including Concord Pacific Ltd., United Properties Ltd., and Westmana Development Inc.

His professional journey allowed him to oversee numerous large-scale projects while contributing to the growth and development of cities throughout North America. Yet despite his international accomplishments, he remained

deeply committed to serving his local Filipino community.

Community Leadership Beyond Architecture

Retirement did not diminish Bert Morelos's passion for community engagement. Instead, it opened new opportunities to pursue his interests in travel, photography, and visual arts. An accomplished painter, he remains active with the Dimasalang III International Artist Group and continues to support community initiatives as a board member of the Filipino Seniors Club of British Columbia (FSCBC).

His dedication to preserving Filipino culture and history has remained steadfast throughout the years. In 2010, a new Filipino Plaza Committee was established to guide proposed enhancements to the site and ensure its continued relevance for future generations.

Honoring a Founding Visionary

As Filipino Plaza marks its 40th anniversary, Bert Morelos stands among the remaining founding visionaries whose leadership helped bring the project to life. Reflecting on the efforts of the mid-1980s, he recalls the determination of a growing Filipino community that sought to create a lasting symbol of identity and belonging.

By 1985, thousands of Filipinos had already made Greater Vancouver their home. Through perseverance, volunteerism, and a shared vision, the community successfully raised the funds needed to build Filipino Plaza.



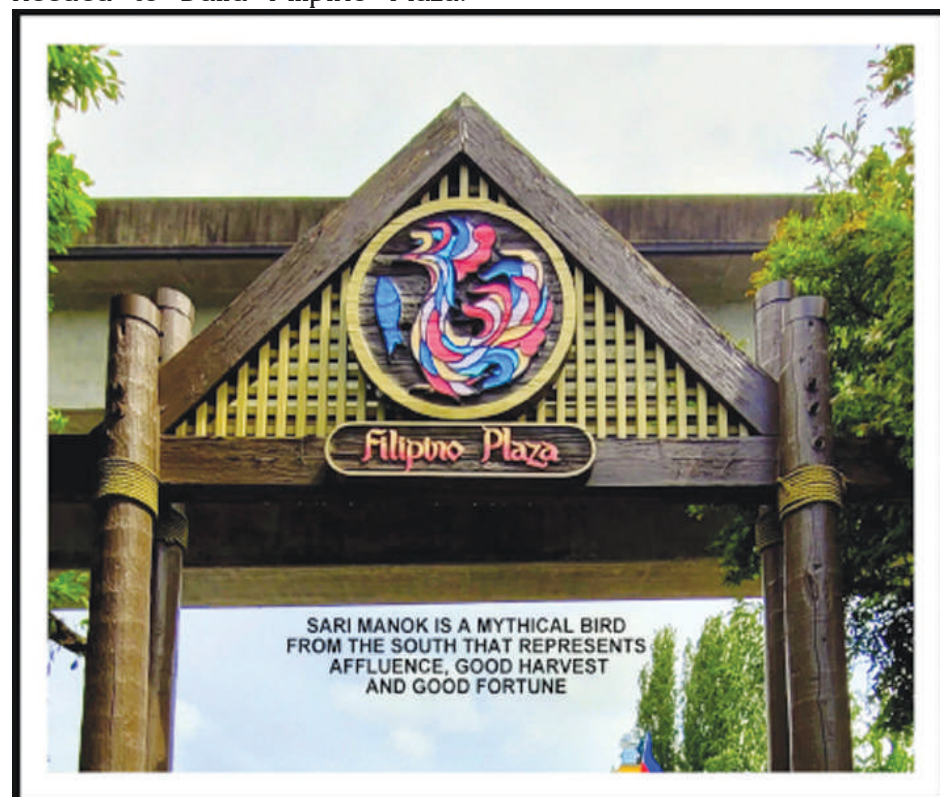
Their achievement created more than a public space—it established a cultural landmark that continues to educate, inspire, and unite generations of Filipino Canadians.

Today, Filipino Plaza remains a living reminder of the values that shaped its creation: community, cultural pride, and the spirit of bayanihan. As visitors walk beneath its archway, admire the Sarimanok, or pause to reflect beside its commemorative walls, they are reminded of the vision and dedication of leaders like Bert Morelos.

Forty years later, his legacy endures—not only in the design of Filipino Plaza but also in the strengthened sense of identity and belonging it continues to foster within the Filipino Canadian community.

Maraming salamat, Bert Morelos, for your vision, leadership, and lasting contribution to the Filipino Canadian story.

Photo Credits: Bert Morelos





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SPORTS

'Magnificent 7' in Sports Hall of Fame

TEARS of joy marked the enshrinement of seven athletes to the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame last weekend at the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) hosted by PSC Chairman Pato Gregorio, resplendently clad in a crisp Barong Tagalog just like Sen. Bong Go, the guest of honor.

Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco shed the most tears while recalling his boyhood days in his extemporaneous speech, saying he became a boxer to escape hunger and poverty in his native Bago City, Negros Occidental.

"I am the youngest in a brood of nine (7 boys and 2 girls)," he said in Filipino. "Without boxing, I wouldn't be where I am now."

He won a boxing silver in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, earning him a much-coveted Hall of Fame award like Bea Lucero (gymnastics and taekwondo), Adeline Dumapong (paralympian power lifter), Isidro del Prado (400-meter marvel), Cecile Mamiit (tennis), Eddie Pacheco (posthumous in football/basketball) and Ramon Fernandez (basketball).

Dubbed the "Magnificent Seven" by Gregorio in the glittering awards emceed brilliantly by Dyan Castillejo and Quitino Henson, each of the recipients delivered speeches that tugged at the heart, eliciting lusty cheers.

I am deeply honored, too, that I was with Quinito in the Selection & Review Committee of the Hall of Fame Awards, together with Ignacio Dee of Manila Daily Shimbun, Dodo Catacutan of Spin.ph and Jun Lomibao of Business Mirror.

Worth extolling was the speech of Ramon Fernandez. Here:

"First of all, my heartfelt gratitude to the Philippine Sports Commission led by Chairman Patrick Gregorio, the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee, the Philippine Olympic Committee led by President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, our friends from the media who have faithfully chronicled and shared the stories of Philippine sports through the years, and everyone who deemed me worthy of this extraordinary honor.

"To be enshrined in the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame is something I never imagined when I first picked up a basketball as a young boy from Maasin, Southern Leyte, carrying nothing more than a dream and a love for the game.

"For any athlete, this is the summit. To stand here tonight among the greatest names in Philippine sports is both humbling and deeply meaningful.

"This recognition is not simply about championships, trophies, records or awards. It is a reminder that the years of hard work, sacrifice, discipline, perseverance and service to the game truly mattered.

"No athlete reaches this stage alone. I share this honor with the coaches who guided me, the teammates who battled beside me, the opponents who challenged me, the fans who supported me, and the many friends and family members who stood by me throughout my journey.

"Most especially, I dedicate this recognition to my wife, Karla, my number one supporter,

who is here with me tonight. Thank you for your unwavering love, encouragement and faith in me. Whatever legacy I leave behind has become richer and more meaningful because you have shared your life and the rest of this journey with me.

"To the young athletes of today, allow me to leave you with a simple message: Talent may open the door. But character, discipline, humility and consistency will determine how far you go. Respect the game. Respect the people who help you. Never stop learning and never take shortcuts.

"Excellence is not built in one great performance. It is built in the choices you make every single day. If my story proves anything, it is that a young probinsyano can dream big, work hard, honor God, stay the course and make it.

"Over the years, basketball gave me more than I ever dreamed possible. It gave me the privilege of wearing Numbers 10 and 19. It gave me championships, lifelong friendships and names that fans generously bestowed upon me...The Franchise, El Presidente and Don Ramon.

"But as meaningful as those honors are, the greatest gift basketball gave me was the opportunity to inspire others and serve the Filipino people through sports.

"Today, I accept this honor with a grateful heart. Tomorrow, I can happily return home to Cebu, play a little golf, cast a fishing line, tend to the farm and enjoy life's simple blessings, knowing that I gave the game everything I had and that the game gave me far more in

return.

"Yet my journey in sports does not end here. I will continue supporting and advocating for the development of young Filipino athletes because the true legacy of sports is not measured by the trophies we win but by the lives we inspire.

"A PROBINSYANO MADE IT!!!"

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to be part of Philippine sports history.

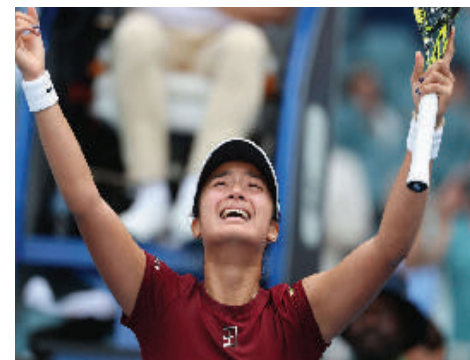
"Daghang salamat, Pilipinas!

"Mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

"Mabuhay tayong lahat!"

THAT'S IT: It is still on to Wimbledon for Alex Eala despite yielding a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Belgium's Elise Mertens yesterday in the Homburg Open in Germany. Wimbledon has always been Eala's ultimate goal while playing in several grass courts in Europe in preparation for the year's third tennis major that begins June 29 and ends July 12 in London. Go, get 'em, Alex!

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Wisdom from the Word

Ben Berto



Land of Song? Where is it?

But you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities.

25 "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43: 24, 25

Years ago, when I was young, we used to sing this song, "Where is the land of song, where's the land of lasting rapture?" Perhaps one of you could remember snatches of the tune. In Paradise Regained, the theme of the Saviour's love will be the constant theme of the saved and of the angels. Just as when God created the world, He asked Job where he was, the exact words He said were, "Who is this that obscures My plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell Me,, if you understand. 7. while the morning stars sang together

and all the angels[a] shouted for joy? Job; 38:2,4, 7

So heaven will be a happy land, because in there, there will be no more sickness, suffering or death. The Bible says that God will wipe away the tears from our eyes. We could all be musicians because we will all be given golden harps and golden voices. No one would be out of tune there, no "silang" voices.

However, you can make a heaven on earth if you follow this Prescription for Joy. Brenda Walsh, in her devotional book STRENGTH FOR TODAY, June 23, 2026 she says, "Too often people hold on to hurt, pain, and anger as if that was somehow going to make them feel better. They tell the first person who will stop long enough to listen, and endlessly share all the intimate details of how they were mistreated. The bad thing about that is every time they talk about it, the pain just gets deeper and the pain more bitter. AS long as you are carrying around an an-

chor of pain, you cannot possibly be happy. And even worse—unless you forgive, God won't forgive you!!!

The Bible says in Matthew 6: 15 (NIV), "But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Missing out on eternity is a pretty hefty price for holding on to pain! Even those who think they have forgiven, sometimes they fall into the Poor me trap and keep dredging up the pain, but as long as you insist on regurgitating all the bad things that have happened to you, you will not heal!!! It's like having surgery, then ripping out your stitches over and over again---all the while clueless as to why you can't seem to get well!!!

The PRESCRIPTION FOR JOY is this: forgive, forget and move on with Jesus!!!! It is really that simple!!! Write that prescription down and put it on your fridge, on your Bible, on a sticky note stuck to the dash of your car, etc. and keep it there until it finally sinks in---Jesus is the only

Healer of hearts!!!

Yes, Jesus is the joy of living, and He lives in the land of Song. He won't remember your sins no more after He has forgiven it, thrown it into the depth of the sea, and posted a "No Fishing" sign on it.

He invites all who are willing to accept His invitation in Revelation 22: 12-14, NKJV. 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the [a]Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 14 Blessed are those who [b]do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

To contact us: Our website is www.abundantlifeadventist.ca. Worship with us every Saturday Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. Genesis 2: 2, 3, Exodus 20: 8-10, Isaiah 58: 13, 14; Isaiah 66: 22, 23; Matthew 5: 17-19; Revelation 22: 14 John 14: 1-3

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



'Truth decay' and 'truth control'

A dentist friend of mine said to me that the greatest problem in our country today is "truth decay." And an engineer friend of mine added "truth control!"

In today's Gospel (Matthew 10:26-33) Jesus tells His disciples not to be afraid for "nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, no secret that will not be known." More than ever, let these words of Jesus ring out loud and clear to the Filipino people that truth shall prevail in the end. On the other hand, let Jesus' words be a warning to those who hide, manipulate, or block truth for their own interest and agenda in order that their wickedness will not be made known.

Someone once said that truth is tough. It can be kicked, slammed, hidden or beaten black and blue, but it cannot be broken. It will stay. It will surface. A lie, on the other hand, is fragile, for it has to sustain its previous lies. It has to remember, and

it has to be always on guard. Consequently, he or she who holds the truth is at peace. He or she may have to suffer for it, because truth hurts, but he or she is free. But he or she who lies suffers more, because he or she is never at peace and is imprisoned by the very lies he or she has woven.

It is scary to stand for the truth, and to stand by the truthful, but the assurance is that God is on the side of the truth and of the truthful. Unfortunately, the truthful side is not a comfortable side because it is often laden with persecution, harassment, intimidation, and even death. But the bottom line is: Did I stand for the truth? Did I stand by the truthful? Ultimately, did I stand for Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life?

In these very uncertain times, anything can happen. Anyone of us who stands for the truth can be persecuted

by those who are desperately trying to preserve their lies. We take courage in Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." So be it. Let it play. Thy will be done, Lord. Our only consolation is that we stood for the truth, we stood by the truthful, and we did not deny Jesus Himself who is the way, the truth, and the life!

The words "Be not afraid" occur in the Bible more than 365 times. Jesus addresses the three basic fears we face as adults: fear of truth, fear of death, and fear of our unworthiness. On all counts, Jesus is telling us: Do not be afraid to face and tell the truth for I am with you; do not be afraid to face death, for I am with you; do not be afraid of your unworthiness, because I love you. It is His presence then that casts away all our fears. I was right then when, as a little boy, I ran to His presence whenever I was afraid.

I've quoted it before, and I quote it again: "Face the light, and the shadow is behind you. Turn your back to the light, and the shadow is in front of you." Do you have any fear lurking in your life right now? Face it, and 50 percent of the problem will already be solved. As long as you continue to deny, postpone and procrastinate in facing your fears and shadows, you will always be anxious and fearful.

Happy Father's Day! I remember our Papa. He was a simple man. He did not have the three G's of guns, goons, and gold, but he taught us by his words and life example, the three G's of God, goodness, and guts. He always told us that if we have God and goodness, we will have the guts to face the world and whatever lies ahead. Parents, teach your children not to

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

lean on worldly powers and riches, but to hold on to God and goodness. They will be okay long after you are gone if you teach them to hold on to God.

Remember this song? "Be brave little one, make a wish for each sad little tear. Hold your head up, though no one is near, someone's waiting for you. Don't cry little one, there'll be a smile where a frown used to be. You'll be part of that life that you see, someone's waiting for you. Always keep a little prayer in your pocket and you're sure to see the light, soon there'll be joy and happiness, and your little world will be brighter. Have faith little one, till your hopes and your wishes come true. You must try to be brave little one, someone's waiting for you." ("Someone's Waiting for You" by Shelby Flint) Sing it to yourself, sing it to your loved ones, and let God sing this song to you today to cast away your shadows and

fears.

As a priest, I have been at the deathbed of so many people through the years, and I have seen fear written in the faces of each one of them. Some more, some less. More for those who lived a sinful life. Less for those who lived a simple life. Minimize your greed, and you minimize your fears.

Think about it: "The earth weighs 6.6 septillion tons. Don't make it heavier by carrying a heavier heart!" Today, please find time to surrender and unload to God the burdens, especially the fears in your heart. It is time to "delete" all the negatives from your "inbox." Pray. It helps. It works.

A moment with the Lord: Lord, help me not to be involved in "truth decay," and "truth control." Amen.

momentwithfrjerry@gmail.com
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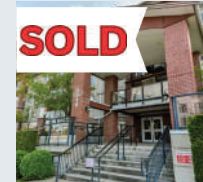
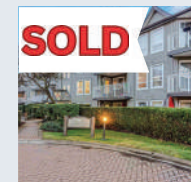
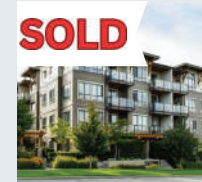
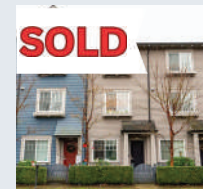
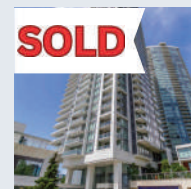
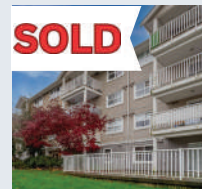
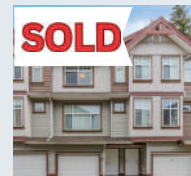


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Pagkakaisa, Pamana at Kinabukasan: Why Surrey Needs Pista Ng Bayan 2026

In a time when communities everywhere are pulled in different directions—by uncertainty, rising costs, and the everyday pressures of life—there is something profoundly necessary about gathering with purpose. Not simply to be entertained, but to remember who we are, to honour what we've endured, and to recommit ourselves to the future we're building together.

This is why Pista Ng Bayan Surrey 2026 matters.

On August 8–9, 2026, the Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society invites everyone—Filipino-Canadian families, friends of the community, and our multicultural neighbours—to Surrey Civic Plaza (13450 104 Ave., Surrey, BC) for a two-day celebration under the theme: Pagkakaisa, Pamana at Kinabukasan (Unity, Heritage and Future).

This is more than a festival. It is a community statement.

A festival rooted in heritage—and open to all Metro Vancouver has long been home to vibrant Filipino celebrations, where food, music, dance, faith, and family life intersect in ways that bring joy not only to Filipinos, but to the broader public. Pista Ng Bayan Surrey continues that tradition—drawing inspiration from beloved Filipino festivals—while reflecting Surrey's own identity: youthful, diverse, energetic, and proud of its many cultures.

Expect the sights and sounds that make Filipino gatherings unforgettable:

- Cultural performances and community showcases
- Tinikling and traditional dances
- Cultural fashion show
- Food fairs and Filipino food vendors
- Filipino Business Expo
- Multicultural friendship showcase
- Community Unity Wall
- Family activities, vendors, and raffle draws

And because a true fiesta celebrates everyone, the weekend will also feature crowd favourites that bring generations to-

gether:

- Zumba
- Karaoke Singing Idol Competition
- Dance competition and ballroom dancing
- Search for Ms. Pista Ng Bayan Surrey 2026
- Ms. Gay competition

Honouring resilience: A tribute to Lapu-Lapu survivors and families

Pista Ng Bayan Surrey 2026 will also serve as a tribute to Lapu-Lapu Survivors and Families. In Filipino culture, remembrance is not separate from celebration—it is part of it. We honour those who carry loss and those who carry on, by showing up as a community: present, supportive, and united.

Sports, pride, and community spirit: Mayor's Cup Amateur Boxing (Day 2)

Filipinos have always understood that sport can be a language of hope—discipline, courage, and heart. On Day 2, the festival will feature the Mayor's Cup Amateur Boxing Match adding a powerful community-centered highlight to the weekend. It is the kind of event that pulls people together—not just to watch, but to cheer for young athletes and local pride.

Why your presence matters

Unity isn't a slogan—it's a practice. It happens when we show up for each other, support local businesses, encourage our youth, and share our culture proudly while welcoming others in.

Pista Ng Bayan Surrey 2026 is a place for:

- Families to make memories
- Youth to see their identity celebrated
- Small businesses to be discovered and supported
- Neighbours to experience Filipino hospitality
- Surrey to witness multicultural unity in action

Join us—bring your family, friends, and your appetite Mark your calendar: August 8–9, 2026

SURREY CIVIC PLAZA, 13450 104 Ave., Surrey, BC

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AUGUST 8-9 | SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10:00AM – 10:00PM

Pagkakaisa, Pamana at Kinabukasan
(UNITY, HERITAGE AND FUTURE)

A celebration of Filipino Heritage, family, community, sports, food, music and multicultural unity.

A TRIBUTE TO LAPU LAPU SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES

 CULTURAL PERFORMANCES Showcasing our rich Filipino arts and traditions	 FOOD FAIRS Delicious Filipino cuisine and international food	 TINIKLING Experience our traditional dance up close	 VENDORS Shop unique products and handmade goods	 FAMILY ACTIVITIES Fun for kids and the whole family!	 COMMUNITY SHOWCASES Celebrating local groups and talents	 KARAOKE IDOL COMPETITION Be the next Pista ng Bayan Karaoke Idol!
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 MAYOR'S CUP AMATEUR BOXING MATCH SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 ACTION - SPIRIT - COMMUNITY SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BOXERS!	 FILIPINO BUSINESS EXPO Support and connect with Filipino-owned businesses	 COMMUNITY UNITY WALL Share your message. Build unity. Inspire the future.	 SPORTS DEMONSTRATIONS Promoting health, teamwork and community spirit	 INFO BOOTHS & SERVICES Community resources, organizations and more	 AND MANY MORE EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!
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SURREY CIVIC PLAZA
13450 104 Ave., Surrey, BC

FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS OF TENTS AND AS SPONSORS, PLEASE CONTACT:
JOHN - 778.822.4966 • REY - 778.895.6667

FREE ADMISSION
EVERYONE WELCOME!
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society (FCCHS)

88 SUPERMARKET
Where shopping is truly rewarding

**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

PROUDLY CANADIAN
OWNED AND OPERATED

Happy
Canada Day

**Customer
APPRECIATION
感恩大回饋 Day**

ALL 88 SUPERMARKET STORES 所有門市

JUNE 30th
06月30日 2026
11 AM-2 PM

* While quantities last

POPCORN!
爆米花

1.49 (100g) or 1.99 (200g)

FREE

HOT DOGS!
热狗

1.49 (100g) or 1.99 (200g)

FREE

* Offers may vary by location
* Available while supplies last
* One hotdog/popcorn per person

WHOLE WEEK DEALS: JUN 25 TO JUL 01

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

SPECIALTY LYCHEE
FEI XI ZIAO

1⁹⁸
LB



LARGE WHITE
NECTARINE

2⁴⁸
LB



LARGE
SIZE

H.H. BEEFSTEAK
TOMATO B.C.

1⁴⁸
LB



L.E. CUCUMBER
B.C.

2/1⁶⁸



MADE IN CANADA
GROWN IN CANADA

MEAT

FRESH BACK RIBS TAIL
PORK FAMILY PACK

3⁸⁸
LB



FRESH CHICKEN WHOLE
WING IN BAG

3⁸⁸
LB



FRESH BEEF OXTAIL

10⁸⁸
LB



SCAN FOR MORE WEEKLY DEALS!



f FACEBOOK



@ INSTAGRAM



WEBSITE

FROZEN FOOD & COOLER

BAMBOO DELIGHT
PASSIONFRUIT/KUMQUAT
JUICE 312-340ML

2⁹⁸
EA



AA1 TULINGAN
BULLET TUNA 680G

3⁹⁸
EA



MAYNILA'S CHOICE
SKIPJACK TUNA

3⁹⁸
LB



BARRIO FIESTA SLICED
MILKFISH 400G

5⁹⁸
EA



BARRIO FIESTA
MILKFISH DEBONED
400G

6⁹⁸
EA



TALLEY'S GREENSHELL
MUSSELS HALF SHELL
454G

6⁹⁸
EA



SAN MIGUEL GOLD
LABEL ICE CREAM
ASSORTED 1.5L

8⁸⁸
EA



PARADISE STEAMED
BANANA 454G

3/10⁰⁰



PUREFOODS TENDER
JUICY HOTDOG JUMBO
1.13KG

19⁸⁸
EA



GROCERY

SUN SHINE ROCK
SUGAR 400G

1³⁸
EA



T.A.S/TASCO
COCONUT WATER
500ML

1³⁸
EA



VIFON SOUP POWDER
BOT CANH 200G

2/1⁵⁰



D.D.P COCONUT
MILK/CREAM

1⁵⁸
EA



EAGLE COIN GRASS
JELLY 530G

1⁶⁸
EA



CHIN SU CHILI
SAUCE 235ML

1⁷⁸
EA



GOLDEN MOUNTAIN
SEASONING SAUCE
600ML

2⁶⁸
EA



SQUID FISH SAUCE
GLASS 725ML

2⁶⁸
EA



ASIAN BOY RICE
VERMICELLI 1.8MM
800G

3⁴⁸
EA



AROY-D COCONUT
MILK UHT 1L

3⁴⁸
EA



UFC SPAGHETTI
SAUCE SWEET
FILIPINO STYLE 1KG

3⁶⁸
EA



MAYNILA'S CHOICE
PANCIT CANTON/
WHEAT NOODLE
454G

3⁹⁸
EA



PHO XUA
HIMALAYAN SALT
COFFEE 10X20G

4⁹⁸
EA



M.Y.SAN SKYFLAKES
CRACKERS TUB 800G

5⁸⁸
EA



BARRIO FIESTA SAUTEED
SHRIMP PASTE
ASSORTED 500G

8²⁸
EA



QUOC VIET SOUP
BASE ASSORTED
283-284G

9³⁸
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