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The interim Filipino cultural centre is anticipated to open around mid-September this year. Community members visited the City of Vancouver-owned space for a look at the more than 1,500-square-foot site at the atrium of the central branch of the Vancouver Public Library in Downtown Vancouver.

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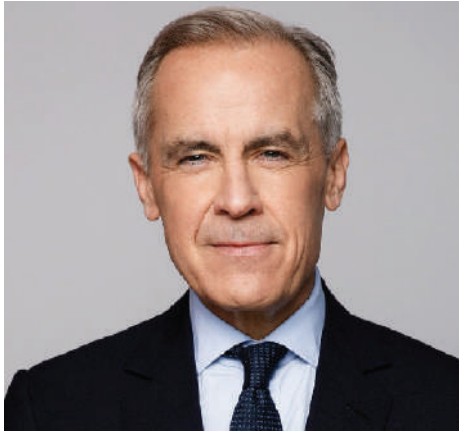


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Canada-U.S. Tariff Dispute

Statement by Prime Minister Carney on Canada-U.S. trade negotiations



August 21, 2026 – Ottawa, Ontario

“Over the past 18 months, Canada’s new government has focused on building our strength at home, diversifying our partnerships abroad, and striking a fair deal with the United States.

Our objectives in our trade negotiations have been to:

- Preserve tariff-free access to the U.S. for the vast majority of Canadian business;
- Provide greater stability to our trade relationship;
- Significantly reduce U.S. tariffs on our key strategic industries, so that Canadian businesses in these sectors would have the best access of any in the world;
- Protect our small and medium-sized businesses –

the lifeblood of our economy – including by removing the imminent threat of new tariffs; and

- Maintain our flexibility, independence, and sovereignty so we can keep building the Canada we want.

We have recognised from the beginning that America has changed, and that we will not return to our old relationship. Our government understood, before many, that America is altering all its trade relationships. Putting tariffs on its closest allies and charging for access to its vast market.

We have worked in that context. To strike a fair deal that would provide the best access to the U.S. market and greater certainty to Canadian businesses and workers. Throughout, our goal has been to secure the best deal for Canadians, never a deal at any price or on any deadline.

In recent weeks, we made important progress toward improving Canada’s position as having the best deal in the world with the U.S.

However, that progress has not been enough to meet our objectives for Canadians. As

a result, this evening, I have decided to suspend trade negotiations with the U.S. and have directed Canada’s negotiators to return to Ottawa. They have worked hard, in good faith, to defend the interests of Canadians throughout these negotiations up until the very last minute. However, last-minute changes in the U.S. proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal.

At midnight tonight, the U.S. intends to impose a 50% tariff on roughly \$28 billion of Canadian goods. **Canada will match those tariffs dollar for dollar to protect our workers and businesses.**

In the coming days, the government will introduce additional measures to support Canadian workers and businesses, building on the nearly \$25 billion in support provided over the past 18 months.

These actions complement Canada’s core economic strategy. From day one, we have been focused on building our strength at home and diversifying our partnerships abroad.

That strategy is working. We are

advancing nearly \$500 billion in major infrastructure projects. In parallel, we are unlocking new export markets for Canadian businesses. Our existing free trade deals already provide Canada with preferential access to 1.5 billion consumers, and we are on track to double that market access by the end of this year.

Canadian economic growth is accelerating, and we are on course to have the second-fastest growth in the G7 over the next two years. Our economy is creating jobs at four times the rate of the United States. Our exports to non-U.S. markets are on track to double over the next decade. Foreign direct investment in Canada is at its highest level in two decades, running at twice the rate of our nearest G7 competitor. Canada now ranks as the most attractive country in the world for infrastructure investment.

Canada has what the world wants. And we will not allow any nation to determine our future. We will set our own course to keep building Canada strong for all.”
(Prime Minister of Canada website)

See Premier Eby’s response in support of this tariff issue - PAGE 7

Statement from the Mayor of Surrey: Canada-U.S. trade



Mayor Brenda Locke of Surrey

Surrey stands firmly with the Prime Minister and Team Canada in response to the latest developments in the Canada-U.S. trade relationship.

The Prime Minister was right to reject an unfair agreement that would have harmed Canada’s economy and weakened our independence. Canada negotiated in good faith, but no deadline and no threat of tariffs should force our country to accept a bad deal.

Canada must decide its own future, and Canadians must stand together to defend it.

The United States’ decision to impose 50 per cent tariffs on billions of dollars in Canadian goods is unfair and will hurt workers, businesses and families on both sides of the border. Surrey supports the

federal government’s strong response and its commitment to protect Canadian jobs and industries.

Canada will not be intimidated, divided or pressured into giving up control of its future.

Surrey has an important role to play as one of Canada’s largest and fastest-growing cities, and home to major industries, businesses and trade routes. I have asked staff to look closely at our procurement processes and identify opportunities to support Canadian businesses, products and workers wherever possible.

We will work closely with our federal and provincial partners. We will also stand with Surrey’s business community and the people whose jobs and livelihoods are at risk.

We value a strong and fair relationship with the United States, but that relationship must be based on fairness, trust and respect for Canada’s independence. Surrey’s position is clear: we stand with our workers, we stand with our businesses, and we stand with Canada.

Mayor Brenda Locke
City of Surrey



ConGen's Corner

News and Updates from the desk
of the Philippine Consul General



Coming Soon: Philippine Fresh Mangoes in Vancouver!

Vancouverites, prepare to welcome the world's carabao mangoes from the Philippines.

During her recent trip to the Philippines, Ms. Tina Lee - CEO of T&T Supermarket which is the largest Asian supermarket chain in Canada - so loved our carabao mangoes that she vowed to bring them to Canada. CEO Tina Lee rightfully described them as the best mangoes she has ever tasted; after all, The Guinness World Records in 1999 acknowledged Philippine mangoes as the sweetest in the world for its incredibly sweet taste and delicious buttery texture.

For its Vancouver stores, T&T has recently ordered from Ontario-based importer TSI Tropicals for one hundred (100) cases of Philippine carabao mangoes. TSI Tropicals is coordinating with PH-based Castillo Import Export Ventures to source the mangoes from farms accredited with Taguig-based Hi-Las Marketing Corporation. The said mangoes will be flown in by the country's flag carrier, Philippine Airlines.

It may be recalled that it was in Toronto when the first commercial export of

fresh Philippine mangoes arrived in Canada on 4 June 2026. Flown in via Philippine Airlines,

the said shipment was made possible through the coordinated public-private efforts of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade & Industry, Department of Agriculture, Hi-Las Marketing, Castillo Import Export Ventures, and TSI Tropicals.

This initiative advances the Philippines' broader goal of diversifying markets for its exports, expanding the global footprint of PH agricultural products, and increasing the visibility of premium Filipino products in the Canadian market. Philippine dried mangoes have long been a staple in major supermarkets across Canada. The addition of fresh Philippine mangoes to Canadian shelves would further strengthen the presence of Philippine mango products in the market and provide Canadian consumers with greater access to one of the Philippines' flagship agricultural exports.

The actual date when the said Philippine mangoes will be ready for sale in T&T supermarkets is still to be announced. In the

meantime, rest assured that the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver will continue to promote world-

class Philippine products that the Filipino-Canadian community has long been waiting for.

The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver invites our kababayan in British Columbia, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories to register in the upcoming

Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS)

for Filipino Temporary Foreign Workers, International Students,
and other Filipino newcomers to Canada

29 August 2026, Saturday

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With a Life of Service and Community Leadership, Lina Vargas runs for Vancouver school board

By ReyFort Media



Lina Vargas is running for Vancouver school board with the ABC team of Mayor Ken Sim.

Lina Vargas is seeking a seat on the Vancouver School Board as part of Mayor Ken Sim's ABC Vancouver team in the October 17, 2026 municipal election.

A mother, community leader, businesswoman, and social services worker, Vargas has devoted many years to helping people improve their lives through education, opportunity, advocacy, and community service.

Her journey reflects her strong belief in lifelong learning. From becoming a registered midwife in the Philippines to working as an aesthetician, healthcare worker, entrepreneur, and social services professional in Canada, Vargas has consistently pursued education and professional development throughout her life.

That experience has helped shape her interest in public education. She believes every child deserves a safe, respectful, and supportive classroom where students can learn, grow, and reach their full potential. She supports strong academics complemented by opportunities in the arts, music, and sports, and believes that families, teachers, staff, and schools must work together with student success as their common goal.

As a mother who raised a child with special needs, Vargas also brings a personal perspective to her advocacy for safe and

inclusive schools. She believes every student deserves to learn in a secure environment free from bullying and discrimination, with appropriate support for children of different abilities and backgrounds.

Beyond education, Vargas has spent years building connections among Vancouver's diverse communities. She is the founding president of the Diversity and Inclusion Support Group of B.C. (DISG), a nonprofit organization that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of migrants, healthcare workers, caregivers, volunteers, community leaders, and organizations representing diverse backgrounds.

Through DISG, Vargas has also supported people and families during times of need. The organization has partnered for many years with Canadian Blood Services in promoting blood donation campaigns and encouraging community members to help save lives.

Vargas's own Canadian journey began in 2004, when she arrived in Vancouver as a caregiver. She reunited with her family in 2010 and continued building a life centered on family, work, education, and service to the community.

Originally trained as a registered midwife in the Philippines, Vargas has earned multiple certifications and diplomas in Canada, including training as a healthcare aide, cosmetologist, entrepreneur, impact leader, and social services worker.

Her professional experience has included work in acute care and as a community support worker, care aide, and community living counsellor. She is also an entrepreneur and owns Care Cut Mobile Salon, which specializes in providing services to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Vargas has been an active community volunteer since 2016. Among her charitable activities was fundraising for Balding for Dollars, an initiative supporting children with cancer through BC Children's Hospital.



Lina's family: Husband Noli Villanueva, Vargas Eldest Son, Noli Howell Youngest Son, Henrik Johan and adopted daughter Tonette Polvorosa lives in Germany as a nurse.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped serve meals to people experiencing homelessness through Union Gospel Mission. She has also provided haircuts for seniors at Collingwood Neighbourhood House and Mount Pleasant Community Centre, as well as occasional haircut services at housing facilities.

Her community involvement has earned her several recognitions. In 2021, Vargas was recognized as an Outstanding Woman by the United Global Chinese Women's Association of Canada. In 2024, she was nominated for a B.C. Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Award.

She also received an Active Community Leader Award in Vancouver in 2024 from the Filipino Migrants International Affairs Society of Canada and was recognized among the Most Outstanding Filipinos Award 2024 honourees through the 35th anniversary celebration of Binibining Pilipinas of the World in Toronto, Ontario.

Vargas has also volunteered in support of Mable Elmore, the first MLA of Filipino heritage elected to the Legislative

Assembly of British Columbia.

From 2023 to 2025, Vargas served on the board of directors of the Metro Vancouver Alliance, an organization that brings together community groups to advocate on issues affecting residents, including affordable housing.

Now, Vargas hopes to bring her experience as a mother, caregiver, social services professional, entrepreneur, advocate, and community builder to the Vancouver School Board.

For Vargas, education is more than what happens inside the classroom. It is about giving young people the opportunity, confidence, support, and sense of belonging they need to build their future.

Her story—from arriving in Vancouver as a caregiver to becoming an entrepreneur and community leader—is one of perseverance, continuing education, and service. As she seeks to become a Vancouver school trustee, Vargas hopes to use those experiences to help strengthen relationships among students, families, educators, and the wider community.

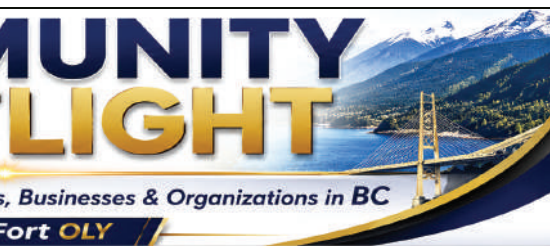


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By ReyFort Media



Lailani Tumaneng is the first Filipino to be elected in the City of North Vancouver.

Lailani Tumaneng, a longtime nurse and historic Filipino-Canadian elected official, seeks to bring her experience, compassion and collaborative leadership to city council in North Vancouver.

For more than three decades, Tumaneng has called North Vancouver home. It is where she built her career, raised her family, served her community, and eventually made history in public service.

Now, after years of caring for others as a registered nurse and serving as an elected school trustee, Tumaneng is taking another step in her journey of community service: she is running for councillor in the City of North Vancouver.

Her story is one familiar to many Filipino immigrants: a story of starting over, working hard, serving others, and eventually finding ways to give back to the community that became home.

Tumaneng completed her bachelor's degree in nursing at Mary Chiles College in the Philippines, where she also met the man who would become her husband 38 years ago.

From caring for patients to school board, Lailani Tumaneng eyes seat on North Vancouver council

After immigrating to Canada, she discovered firsthand that beginning a new life in another country was not easy. Before becoming licensed as a registered nurse in Canada, she worked as a companion with Shylo Nursing Services, caring for seniors in their homes, preparing their meals and helping them with their everyday needs.

It was humble but meaningful work—and an early reflection of the caring profession that would define much of her life.

In 1996, Tumaneng passed her registered nurse licensure examination and went on to work in long-term care. Over the course of 26 years as a registered nurse with Vancouver Coastal Health, she dedicated herself to caring for patients while advocating for their health, dignity and well-being.

Her leadership eventually extended beyond bedside nursing.

As a steward with the British Columbia Nurses' Union, Tumaneng became involved in occupational health and safety at Evergreen House in North Vancouver. She also served for three years as a Coastal Mountain lobbyist and took on the responsibility of Interim Chair for the Coastal Mountain Region.

These experiences strengthened her belief that leadership begins with listening.

Tumaneng's commitment to North Vancouver extends well beyond her professional career.

Over the years, she has volunteered in schools, churches, Filipino organizations, community events and community dinner programs in Vancouver and



North Vancouver, including activities involving The Door Is Open and Carson Graham Secondary School.

She has also volunteered in community activities involving MLAs Bowinn Ma, Mable Elmore and Susie Chant, experiences that gave her further exposure to civic engagement and public service.

A major milestone came in October 2022, when Tumaneng was elected as a school trustee for the City of North Vancouver.

Her election was particularly meaningful to the Filipino community as she became the first person of Philippine heritage elected to public office in the City of North Vancouver.

But for Tumaneng, making history also brought responsibility.

Serving as a trustee taught her valuable lessons in leadership, collaborative diplomacy, managing boundaries and making decisions collectively even when people around the table did not always agree.

Those lessons are now part of what she hopes to bring to City Council.

Tumaneng says her decision to seek a Councillor position comes from her belief that effective local government must reflect the needs and aspirations of the people it serves.

LAILANI TUMANENG
For Councillor
City Of North Vancouver
October 17, 2026
Accountability & Service
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If elected, she wants to focus on several issues affecting North Vancouver residents, including community safety, climate change and sustainability, affordable housing, and equitable governance.

Affordable housing is particularly important as families, seniors and younger generations face increasing challenges in finding a place they can afford to call home.

At the same time, Tumaneng believes decisions made at City Hall should reflect the diversity of North Vancouver and should be approached with transparency and accountability.

Her philosophy remains closely connected to the profession in which she spent much of her life: caring for people.

Whether beside a patient, representing nurses, sitting at the school board table or volunteering in the community, Tumaneng says service has always been about listening first and working with others toward solutions.

"I am proud to stand for transparency, accountability and service. Because WE ARE North Vancouver."

From an immigrant working as a companion caring for seniors, to a registered nurse with decades of service, to becoming a historic Filipino-Canadian elected school trustee, Tumaneng's journey reflects perseverance, compassion and a commitment to community.

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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

The Other Side of the Rain

For the past week, Jun Nazareno had been going to work in Abbotsford with his body in the factory and his mind somewhere across the Pacific. He worked as an industrial machine operator in a manufacturing plant, a job that required concentration and precision. But lately, every vibration of the machinery seemed to remind him of something else. His phone was always in his pocket, and during every break he would check it for messages from Manila. A typhoon had brought days of relentless rain, flooding streets and forcing families to move their belongings to higher places. His wife sent short messages whenever the internet returned. The water is already inside the house. Hours later came another: Don't worry. We're okay for now. It was the last sentence that worried Jun the most.

Jun had been in British Columbia for four years. Like many Filipino immigrants, he had come to Canada with the promise of building a better future for his family. Every payday, a portion of his earnings went home. He had become good at dividing his salary before it even reached his bank account: rent, groceries, transportation, savings and remittance. Whatever remained was for himself. His wife and two children were still in Manila, waiting for the day when circumstances would allow them to be together in Canada. Until then, Jun had learned to measure distance not in kilometers, but in missed birthdays, video calls and the number of times he said, Soon, we will be together. The typhoon made that distance unbearable.

One evening, Jun received a message from his twelve-year-old daughter. Papa, the rain won't stop. A photograph followed. The street near their house had disappeared beneath brown floodwater. His wife had placed appliances on chairs and tables. Important documents were sealed in plastic bags. His

elderly mother, who lived nearby, had been moved to a relative's second floor. Jun stared at the photograph for a long time. He wanted to leave work, buy a ticket and fly home immediately. But he knew he could not simply walk away from his job and the life he had built in Canada. For the first time, he felt the painful contradiction of being an overseas Filipino worker. He had left home to protect his family, yet when they were in danger, distance made him feel helpless. That night, he called home. The connection kept breaking, but his wife finally said, "Jun, you are not abandoning us. You are there because you are taking care of us." The words stayed with him.

The next morning, Jun contacted relatives, sent what money he could and arranged for additional help. At the factory, his Filipino co-workers noticed that something was wrong. Without asking many questions, they quietly collected money among themselves. One brought groceries for Jun. Another offered to drive him home after work. Someone simply said, "If you need anything, just call." Back in Manila, the family also found help. Neighbors shared food, checked on elderly residents and helped one another move belongings to safer places. By the end of the week, the rain weakened and the floodwaters slowly receded. The damage was painful, but Jun's family was safe. His daughter sent him another photograph. This time she was standing outside the house holding a broom, with her mother beside her. The caption read, We are cleaning, Papa. Jun looked at the photograph and smiled through tired eyes. It reminded him that Filipinos have always known how to face difficult days. We may bend under the weight of hardship, but somehow, we find the strength to stand together.

On Monday morning, Jun returned to the factory. The



machines were running again. He put on his safety equipment, checked his station and began his shift. Nothing around him had changed, yet something inside him had. During his break, he looked at his phone. There was another message from his daughter: Papa, the sun is out today. Four simple words, but they felt like a blessing. Jun looked through the factory window at the pale Abbotsford sky. He knew there would be other storms, other typhoons and other moments when being

far from home would hurt. But he also understood that being far away did not mean being powerless. Every dollar sent home, every call made, every sacrifice endured and every helping hand extended to another Filipino was a thread connecting families across oceans. We may live on different shores, but we carry home with us. And whenever the storms come, we remind one another that no Filipino should have to face the rain alone.

(Contact: jblarano@gmail.com)

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Eby Urges Canadians to Avoid U.S. Travel, Buy Canadian Amid Trade Tensions

B.C. premier calls for Canadians to support local workers and reduce reliance on the United States

VANCOUVER, B.C. — British Columbia Premier David Eby is urging Canadians to reconsider travel to the United States and to choose Canadian-made products whenever possible as trade tensions between Canada and the U.S. continue to escalate.

Speaking in Vancouver, Eby delivered a strong response to the latest developments in the Canada-U.S. tariff dispute, calling on British Columbians to use their purchasing and travel decisions to support Canadian workers and businesses.

"If you have a choice, please don't travel to the United States. Choose another place to do your tourism," Eby said.

The premier also encouraged consumers to look for Canadian alternatives when shopping.

"If you can choose a Canadian product instead of an American one, please choose it," he said.

Eby said the appeal is about protecting Canadian jobs and industries affected by steep U.S. tariffs. With tariffs of as much as 50 per cent affecting some Canadian products, he argued that Canadians can help strengthen the domestic economy by becoming their own "best customer."

His comments come at a time when cross-border travel from Canada to the United States has become increasingly tied to the wider political and economic



BC Premier David Eby (Photo credit: bc gov.ca)

relationship between the two countries.

Communities south of the B.C. border are already feeling the impact of fewer Canadian visitors. Bellingham and other communities in Washington state have traditionally depended heavily on British Columbians for shopping, dining and tourism.

A report from the Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Border Policy Research Institute indicated that businesses have been significantly affected by the decline in Canadian visitors. Food and beverage businesses were among those reporting

some of the greatest concerns.

Eby also welcomed Prime Minister Mark Carney's commitment to supporting Canadian workers for as long as necessary during the trade dispute.

"The best thing that we can do to respond to these tariffs is to build up our workers, build up our trade infrastructure, and be less dependent on the United States," Eby said.

The B.C. premier was particularly critical of U.S. President Donald Trump, questioning whether any trade agreement with the current administration could provide

lasting certainty for Canada.

Eby characterized Trump as a "thug and a bully" and suggested that even a newly negotiated agreement could quickly be challenged or reversed by the U.S. president.

For British Columbia, the dispute carries particular significance because of the province's extensive economic and geographic ties with the United States. Washington state has long been a popular destination for B.C. residents, while cross-border commerce supports businesses and workers on both sides of the boundary.

Eby's message, however, is that Canadians now have an opportunity to respond through everyday choices: vacationing in Canada or other destinations, supporting Canadian businesses and purchasing Canadian-made goods.

As uncertainty over tariffs continues, the premier says Canada must use the dispute as an opportunity to strengthen its own economy, expand international trade relationships and become less vulnerable to decisions made south of the border.

For Eby, the message is simple: when Canadians have a choice, choose Canada.

— *Philippine Asian News Today (PANT)*

Canada announces targeted countermeasures and substantive support in response to U.S. tariffs

August 25, 2026 – Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

The Government of Canada has negotiated intensively and in good faith with the United States (U.S.) toward a fair and comprehensive trade agreement that would protect Canadian workers and their families, strengthen the economy, provide greater certainty for businesses, and respect Canada's sovereignty.

In recent days, however, the U.S. proposed new terms that were not in Canada's best interest, basically, asking too much of Canada, and offering too little in return. Canada therefore suspended negotiations rather than accepting a bad deal that would undermine Canadian

workers, businesses, strategic sectors, and our national interest. Canada did not choose this trade conflict, but we need to respond to provide a level playing field to our businesses.

Today, the Minister of Finance and National Revenue, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, the Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, the Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, the Honourable Evan Solomon, and the Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the

Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, announced measures to protect and support Canadian workers and businesses during this period of uncertainty and volatility.

Following the U.S. decision to impose a 50 per cent tariff on \$27.6 billion of Canadian goods **effective August 22**, Minister Champagne confirmed today that Canada will match the new U.S. tariffs dollar for dollar, rate for rate, with additional Canadian tariffs on U.S. goods.

Effective September 8, Canada will impose counter-tariffs of 15, 25 and 50 per cent on products drawn from those targeted by

U.S. Section 338 and Section 232 tariffs, with the rate for each product matching the corresponding U.S. rate.

In addition, to support Canadian workers and businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs, the government is also introducing a \$7.5 billion package of new and enhanced measures that deliver fast, simple and agile supports to Canadian workers and businesses, building on the nearly \$25 billion in supports the government has provided since the implementation of the U.S. unjustified tariffs.

(For complete report go to Department of Finance Canada website)



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We carry our smartphones almost everywhere. They take our pictures, deliver our messages, give us directions and keep us connected with family and friends. But your phone can do something much more important:

It could help you during an emergency. Unfortunately, many people have never taken a few minutes to set up the emergency features already built into their phones.

One of the first things I recommend is adding your emergency contacts and important medical information. Both iPhones and Android phones provide ways to make certain emergency information available from the lock screen. This can help someone identify you or contact a family member without needing your passcode.

Next, learn how your phone's Emergency SOS feature works before you need it. Depending on your phone, pressing or holding certain buttons can quickly call emergency services and, with appropriate settings enabled, notify designated contacts.

Don't wait for an emergency to figure this out!

Another feature worth setting up is device location. Apple's Find My and Google's Find Hub can help locate a missing phone. Location-sharing features can also be useful when travelling, hiking, meeting someone or simply letting a trusted family member know where you are.

And here's something decidedly low-tech: keep your phone charged. A phone with every emergency feature imaginable isn't particularly useful with a dead battery. When travelling or spending a long day away from home, carrying a small charged power bank and the correct cable can be an inexpensive form of insurance.

While you're at it, check that your important contacts are current. Is the person listed as your emergency contact still the person you would want called today? Does your spouse, partner, child or trusted friend have your current number?

Technology changes, but so do our lives.

Computer Dean's 5-Minute Phone Safety Check

Take five minutes today to: 1. Add or review your emergency contacts. 2. Set up your Medical ID or emergency information. 3. Learn how Emergency SOS works on your particular phone. 4. Make sure your phone's location-finding feature is enabled. 5. Keep a charging cable or power bank handy when you're away from home.

One important reminder: these smartphone features are helpful tools, not substitutes for emergency services, professional medical assistance or good judgment.

Computer Dean's Simple Rule: Don't wait for an emergency to learn what your phone can do in an emergency.

Spend a few minutes setting things up now. Hopefully you'll never need these features—but if that day ever comes, you'll be glad they're ready. Not sure where these settings are hiding on your iPhone or Android? That's exactly the kind of everyday technology question **Computer Dean** is here to help with. *Making everyday technology safer, simpler and easier to understand.. ~ Computer Dean*





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The Tall Order
By Mon Datol

DOJ sinusuri pa US request sa extradition ni Quiboloy; COA sinita P158B halaga ng DPWH 2026 projects; Ban ng Facebook, online games ok sa Palasyo; Pinas, No. 1 retirement destination sa 2026; 3 Minority Senators bumalik na raw ke VP Sara.

Masusi pang pinaga-aralan ng DOJ ang extradition request ng US kay Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy para mapadala na sa Amerika ang founder g KOJC Mnistry at kung mayroong "double criminality," o kung ang mga kasong kinakaharap ni Quiboloy sa USA ay mga paglabag din sa batas na may katumbas na parusa sa Pilipinas. Naniniwala akong ninipis din ang super-kapal at bulto-bultong dokumento na isinumite sa DOJ at...

Mae-extradite sa US si PACQu, kahit bumagyo pa ulit.

Grabe rin ang 'fake news' na pinakakalat ng mga PACQu supporters at mga trolls at DDS, at ilan ang nagiging viral sa mga online apps tulad ng: 'Uwi na sa Pinas si Digong AT Ibinasura na ng Korte sa Amerika mga kaso ni Quiboloy!' Buti na lang...

'Tol Reyfort, iilang butil na lang DDS at PACQu believers.

Kinuwestiyon ng COA ang mahigit P158 bilyong halaga ng mga proyekto ng DPWH ngayong 2026 dahil sa iba't ibang isyu. At dahil sa ilang trilyong piso national budget pa na kailangang suriin ng mga auditors natin, eh, kailangang mag-hire ng dagdag 146 pre-audit teams ang ahensiya upang mapalakas pa ang kakayahan nitong magsuri ng mga transaksyon ng gobyerno. Pero, siyempre...

Kailangan ng dagdag-budget sa COA, diba Chair G. Cordoba?

Pinaga-aralan na umano ng mga nakapaligid ke PBBM sa Palasyo ang ideyang ipagbawal na ang ang anumang gaming o social media platform na nakakasira sa kabataan at sa bansa, lalo na kung hindi ito

nagpapakita ng accountability at mabagal umakasyon sa mga pakiusap ng gobyerno upang maproteksyunan ang publiko.

Ano yon? Iba-ban ang Facebook sa Pinas?

Ayon kay PCO Usec Claire Castro, panahon na para pag-aralan kung nakabubuti pa ba sa bansa ang Facebook o nakakadagdag lamang ito sa paglaganap ng fake news at dahil na rin sa sunud-sunod na insidente ng karahasan sa mga eskuwelahan. Nakowwww, delikading yan pag 'sinibak ang FB sa Pinas'...

Walang mintis, magrally mga Marites, Marisol at Seniors.

Nakikita umano ng gobyerno na ang sobrang pagkahumaling sa online games ay nagdudulot ng agresyon, pagkakahimalay sa reyalidad, at minsan ay nauuwi sa karahasan at ang Facebook, bilang No. 1 social media platform, ay madalas na pinagmumulan ng pekeng balita na nakakaapekto sa pananaw ng publiko. At giit ng Palasyo ay...

Mabagal aksyon ng FB na protektahan mga mamamayan.

Kinilala ang Pilipinas ng Retirement Abroad Index 2026 ng Expatriate Group, bilang nangungunang retirement destination para sa 2026, kasabay ng patuloy na paglago ng sektor ng turismo na nakapagtala ng P3.26 trilyong domestic tourism expenditure at 7.7 milyong trabaho.

Ano ngayon sinasabi ng DDS na bagsak imahe Pinas abroad?

Ayon kay Tourism Sec. Dita Angara-Mathay, patunay ang

pagkilalang ito sa pagsisikap ng Pinas na maging mas ligtas, accessible, at kaaya-ayang destinasyon para sa mga turista at dayuhang retirado at dahil dito, minamadali ng Bureau of Immigration ang modernisasyon ng border systems upang mapanatili ang seguridad habang tinatanggap ang pagdagsa ng mga dayuhang residente.

Magaling kasing Pangulo si BBM, pulos trabaho, di biyahero.

Batay sa RAI 2026, nanguna ang Pilipinas sa 20 bansa matapos makakuha ng 78 puntos dahil sa abot-kayang pamumuhay, accessible na visa requirements, healthcare system, at matatag na expat communities.

Retiradong Korean elders ang No. 1 residente sa Pinas ngayon.

Sinabi ni PRA Pres. Roberto Zozobrado na malaking ambag sa ekonomiya ang mga foreign retirees dahil nakatutulong sila sa retail, hospitality, at tourism sectors at pagsapit nga nuong Hunyo 2026, umabot sa 86,292 foreign retirees mula sa mahigit 150 bansa ang pumili sa Pilipinas bilang kanilang ikalawang tahanan, kabilang ang humigit-kumulang 62,000 aktibong Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) holders.

Ganyan na kamahal ng mga bansa ang Pinas under PBBM.

Latest balita sakín ng ating dating kasama sa hanapbuhay sa Palasyo, ay, may 3 minority Senators ang 'bumalik na raw sa majority group' nina Tito Sen, Ping at Win, kayat...

13 + 3 = 16 Senators na Majority Group. Todas na si Inday.

SHORT ORDER: Happy birthday (Aug 24) to dear friend Ellen Galenport of Scarborough, ON from her partner & daughter, Fam & friends Tita Agnes Miranda, Cecille Araneta & Ed Que, Mitch Fernandez & this corner.... Happy Birthday (Aug. 24) to family friend Tina Velasco-Serrano from Velasco Family & FARH Family of Richmond Hill, ON, Canada....

Happy birthday (Aug. 25) to bro Tina Fabros of Camiling, Tarlac from wifey Pearl Bachini & 2 Sons, Bachini, Datol, Labrador Families... Happy birthday (Aug. 25) to my nephew Jet Datol of Angono, Rizal, from his wifey & children plus apo...

Happy Birthday (Aug. 25) to Kabayan Myrna Javaluyas of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, RP from Hubby & Children & Apos & Javaluyas Fam...

Cheers to dear Friend Sir Joey Romasanta (Aug. 26) of Gintong Alay & PSC!!! Greetings from Rp Sports community! Mabuhay Ka Sir Joey!!!!...

Happy Birthday (Aug 26) to my friend cum super PBA Manager Danny Espiritu of Paranaque, MM. Greetings from PBA Sportswriters Association... **God Bless.**

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Top Five Reasons People Under 55 Need a Will

BC Notaries support the Province of B.C.'s proclamation declaring April 7 to 13, 2019 "Make-a-Will Week" and encourage the majority of British Columbian adult who don't have a current Will to prepare one.

It is after Make A Will Week but it is always a good time to prepare a Will.

A survey by Ipsos for the BC Notaries Association found that while 67% of people aged 55 and older have a Will in place, 62% of people aged 35 to 54 and 77% of people aged 18 to 34 do not have a Will regardless of whether they own a home, have dependant children or other important considerations.

"A legal Will ensures that those you love and care about will be provided for, in accordance with your wishes, around the distribution of your estate," said Daniel Boisvert, a Notary in Delta and President of BC Notaries Association. "A Will takes the guesswork and pressure off of family members or other loved ones and provides you with peace of mind that your estate will transition smoothly, whether it be assets or the custody of a child."

BC Notaries remind British Columbians of five key reasons people under the age of 55 should have a Will:

1. You have children under age 18.
2. You own a home.
3. You are separated, divorced or living in a common-law relationship.
4. You have pets.
5. You want peace of mind about your family's future.

The 2018 Ipsos survey found that only 34% of parents with children age 18 and under have a Will. If there is no Will in place, or the Will is not properly prepared, custody of any underage children may not be assigned as you intended. Further, if the Public Guardian and Trustee is brought in to administer the estate, the Province may then decide on the future of dependent children and distribution of assets.

"We can't emphasize enough how important it is for parents to have a Will," said Kristy Martin, a Notary in Langford. "A legal Will gives clear direction as to the guardianship of the children, rather than this important decision being made by the courts or government. This is particularly important if children are orphaned or if there is a complicated family situation, because it creates certainty for all families."

Another concern may be the welfare of a pet and ensuring it will be looked after by a friend or family member if you are no longer able to do so.

Overall only 44% of B.C. adults have a Will in place and only 57% of homeowners have a current Will, according to the survey.

"When serving clients who are first-time home buyers we help them understand the purchasing process, as well as other types of documentation they may want to put in place such as a Will, now that they own a significant asset," said Tarja McLean, a Notary in Kelowna. "This may be a particular concern if only one person's name is on the title."

For most people, creating a Will doesn't take as much time as they expect. A good way to start the process is to think about who you would want to care for your children, inherit your home and any other assets, and then visit a local Notary, who can assist you in preparing a legal Will. Notaries have extensive experience creating Wills that meet their clients' specific needs.

"Creating a Will can typically be done in two short meetings," said David Watts, a Notary in Vancouver. "During the first meeting, we will discuss a general overview of your assets and your intentions for their distribution. The second meeting finalizes your plan and your paperwork."

About BC Notaries:

BC Notaries are a select

group of legal professionals commissioned by the Supreme Court of British Columbia. For nearly 100 years these highly trained legal advisors have provided non-contentious services, including land law, real estate transactions and all the important personal planning tools available to the people of our province: Wills, Powers of Attorney, Representation Agreements and Advance Directives. Throughout history, Notaries have been recognized as individuals of impeccable integrity practicing in a Tradition of Trust. A Notary's word, signature, and red Notary Seal are time-honoured testaments to the character and skill of these caring professionals.

The BC Notaries Association promotes and supports British Columbia Notaries Public in all communities of the Province and advances the standing of its members and awareness of their services to the public.

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

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

Cardinal Tagle: Families, not phones, must guide children



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle delivers his homily during Mass at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice in Diliman, Quezon City on Aug. 19, 2026. SCREEN GRAB/DIOCESE OF CUBAO

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle on Wednesday urged parents and grandparents to nurture their children with compassion, saying families must strengthen human connection in the wake of a deadly

school shooting in southern Philippines.

Speaking during Mass at the Parish Church of the Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines Diliman, he asked what could drive a child to commit such violence and called on families to reflect on how values are formed at home.

"For grandparents and parents, please show children a heart that is humane," Tagle said in his homily to mark the feast of St. John Eudes.

His appeal came a day after a high school student at Ateneo de Zamboanga University shot and killed a fellow student before killing himself, authorities said.

It was the second fatal school

shooting in the Philippines in about two months, following a June attack in Tacloban City that also killed students.

Tagle warned that families can be physically together but emotionally distant when attention is fixed on phones instead of each other.

"But if at your dinner table, all of you — husband and wife and children — are looking at your cellphones instead of at one another, then nothing, (missing word here?)" he said.

He also cautioned against letting video games and artificial intelligence shape children's thinking and behavior, saying technology cannot replace human guidance.

"AI has no heart, games have no heart. Only human beings have hearts," he added.

Tagle did not directly blame technology for the Zamboanga shooting but used the tragedy to raise broader questions about how children are raised.

The pro-prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization called on families to examine what "heart" guides their words and actions, and urged Catholics to stay close to the heart of Jesus so Christ's love reaches the poor and struggling.

"Before we speak, before we act, let us ask: What kind of heart is urging me to do this?" he said. (CBCP news)

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Philippines-Canada military cooperation enters "new era"

By Carlito Pablo

The defence partnership between the Philippines and Canada is "entering a new era". This is according to The Maple Leaf, a Canadian government publication about the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Department of National Defence.

The online source noted in an August 17, 2026 report that military cooperation between the Philippines and Canada is "quickly becoming one of the strongest examples of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy delivering real action where it matters most".

Major Christopher Daniel, a senior public affairs officer, wrote the report following the concurrence on August 11 this year of the Philippine Senate of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and Canada (SOVFA).

"This is the first and only bilateral SOVFA Canada has in the Indo-Pacific region," Daniel noted.

The SOVFA allows the Canadian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to work together in joint and multinational operations and exercises in each other's territories.

The Embassy of Canada in the Philippines welcomed the passage of Senate Resolution No. 548, which expresses the Philippine Senate's concurrence of the agreement.

"The Embassy extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Senate leadership for the timely process, with special recognition to Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senator Erwin Tulfo for co-sponsoring this



Image from The Maple Leaf publication.

significant measure and championing our defence partnership," the embassy declared in a statement on the same day of the Senate's 19-0-0 vote for the resolution.

"This historic milestone is another indicator of our Strategic Partnership that reflects our mutual trust, and reinforces our shared, long-standing commitment to defence cooperation, regional stability, and upholding respect for international law," the embassy also stated.

In The Maple Leaf report, Major Daniel noted that the defence partnership between the Philippines and Canada has been "building steadily over the last two years".

The officer recalled that both countries signed a Defence Cooperation/Memorandum of Understanding in January 2024, which was followed by the SOVFA in November 2025.

"With the Philippine Senate's concurrence in its (SOVFA) ratification in August 2026, the agreement provides a clear legal framework for cooperative activities between the CAF and AFP, including training and exercises,

while strengthening interoperability, military coordination and knowledge transfer," Daniel wrote.

Daniel also described as a "milestone" the June 11, 2026 visit to Ottawa by Philippines Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr., the "first-ever official visit to Canada by someone in that role". During Teodoro's visit, the two countries signed new arrangements that "further deepened an already fast-growing partnership".

One is a Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA), which will allow the CAF and AFP to support one another during exercises, deployments, and operations.

The second is a Statement of Intent on Strengthening Defence Cooperation, which Daniel explained will set the "stage for expanded collaboration in maritime security, regional defence cooperation, and future joint activities".

In the article, Daniel quoted Lieutenant-Colonel Jason King, Canadian Defence Attaché to the Philippines. "Canada and the Philippines are building a defence partnership grounded in

trust, shared values, and a common understanding that regional security depends on strong and reliable partners," King said in the report.

In another significant move in its military engagement with the Philippines and the Indo-Pacific region, Canada made its inaugural active participation in the 2026 Balikatan (English translation: shoulder-to-shoulder) wargames led by the Philippines and the U.S.

Held from April 20 to May 8 this year, the drills saw the involvement of a broad range of Canadian armed forces personnel and assets.

Canada was an observer nation in previous Balikatan exercises.

When Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in Vancouver on July 2, 2026, the two leaders cited the SOVFA and MLSA as among the "milestones" in the deepening relationship between their countries. Marcos and Carney also announced that they are elevating bilateral ties to the level of a "strategic partnership".

In their joint statement on July 2, Marcos and Carney "committed to advancing defence partnership" by having their respective armed forces "train, exercise and operate together more effectively and with enhanced interoperability through various combined military exercises".

The two leaders also indicated that they "look forward to the entry into force of SOVFA and the entry into effect of the MLSA".

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Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

Bakit "Get the Pax Out of the Philippines!"



No to Pax Silica Campaign Network Unites Sectors for Coordinated National Campaign -BAYAN, Aug 24 2026 (Photo credit: BAYAN)

Nagtatanong at nagbabasa pa rin sa usaping ito. Para maintindihan at hindi maloko. Malakas at masigasig ang protesta ng mamamayan, mga magsasaka, katutubong komunidad tulad ng mga Aeta, mga environmental defender, mga people's organization, mga guro, kabataan at estudyante, at iba pang mga sektor sa inisyatibang Pax Silica, ang kontrobersyal na proyekto ng US at 23 pang ibang bansa. Nitong Abril 16, 2026, sumama na sa proyektong ito ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas.

Maganda ang pangalan ng inisyatibang ito. Gamit ang salitang Latin "Pax" na ibig sabihin peace at pag may peace, meron ring prosperity, at ang "Silica" naman aypatungkol sa silicon, isang susing elemento sa paggawa ng mga semiconductor na kailangan sa artificial intelligence (AI) na teknolohiya sa Pax Silica.

The government and the BCDA speak confidently of the Pax Silica Industrial Hub because according to the occupant in Malacanang, "it will bring quality jobs to our people, accelerate our industrial competitiveness and revitalize our economy."

Pero huwag ka, para namang walang peaceful or prosperous with Pax Silica.

Saan itatayo ang Pax Silica sa Pilipinas? Ang Pax Silica Industrial Hub ay sasakop sa mahigit na 1,620 ektarya (4,000 acres) sa New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac at ito ay sa pangangasiwa ng Bases Conversion & Development Authority (BCDA). Gaano kalaki ito? Imagine the size of 2,200 football fields or simply imagine the size of a city. Hindi small-time ito. Within this giant Hub, there will be data centres,

semiconductor production facilities, and the extraction and mineral processing of nickel, copper, cobalt and other strategic minerals.

Galit at balisa ang mga komunidad sa Capas, mga residente, mga magsasaka at mga Aeta. Pinaalis na ang mga residente ng mga BCDA para maitayo ang mga data centre. Walang konsultasyon. Pamilyar ang kalakaran na ito. Takutin, itaboy, o kung may nakatira sa lupa, bilhin at baratin. Pero ang tanong, sa mga residente at magsasaka na naninirahan sa lupang masasagasaan, saan sila lilikas? Dekada-dekada na ang paninirahan ng mga residente rito.

These data centres need water and electricity 24/7. Lots of it. Kaya nga, tinawag na "Takaw tubig at takaw kuryente." Ang tantiya, ang gamit nito sa kuryente ay katumbas ng konsumo ng mga 50-100 na household. Sa tubig naman, and konsumo ng isang facility ay limang (5) milyong galon, ARAW-ARAW. Huhugutin pihado ng mga data centre sa mga residente, magsasaka, at pamayanan ang rekisitong tubig at kuryente.

Hirap na nga ang bayan sa kuryente at garantisadong brown out lagi. Hirap na rin sa tubig lalo na ang magsasaka na kailangan ito para sa kanilang sakahan. Lalo na kapag may drought o tag-tuyo. Hindi pa rin masagot ng mahusay ng gobyerno ang mga tanong tungkol sa usapin ng tubig at kung anong sistema ang ipapatupad. Sa usapin ng trabaho, iba't ibang numero ang sinasabi. Milyon daw. Libo-libo daw. Walang katapusang trabaho daw. Parang narinig na ng taumbayan iyang mga

pangakong iyan.

Saan kukunin ang mga rekursong mineral na kailangan para rito? Ang Pilipinas ay may malaking reserba ng nikel, at mga deposito ng cobalt at copper, mga mineral na kailangan sa semiconductor manufacturing at produksyon ng gamit militar. Malinaw na kailangan ng US ang Pilipinas. Ang Pilipinas ang second highest producer ng nikel sa mundo. At number one sa pagbebenta ng nickel ore sa mundo. At kapag pinag-usapan ang kritikal na mga mineral, papasok na ang usapin ng mining sa ilalim ng mga lupa sa Pilipinas. At alam naman natin ang track rekord ng mga dambuhalang mining company kasabwat ang ahensiya ng gobyerno. Ito ang track rekord ng pagyurak sa karapatang pantao, ang pagsira sa kalikasan, ang pagtaboy sa mga katutubong komunidad, at ang pagwalang bahala sa soberaniya ng Pilipinas.

Ibibigay na ng gobyerno ang lupa sa Pax Silica para tayuan ng Hub. Kasama na ang mineral sa ilalim ng lupa natin. Isama na ang kuryente at tubig natin. Sa industriya ng semi-conductor, talino at lakas paggawa ng manggagawang Pilipino. Aba, parang pinapasok natin sa bahay ang Pax Silica, may lupa na, garantisado pa ang ilaw at tubig, ginawa pa tayong alila, ninakaw pa ang ating mga mineral, at pinalayas pa ang ilang nakatira sa bahay! Ang saklap naman.

Isa rin na dapat hindi natin makalimutan. Ang produksyon ng semiconductor ay kailangan para sa produksyon ng military hardware tulad ng mga US missile, drone at iba pang mga bahagi ng military supply chain ng US. Ang sabi ng mga kritiko ng Pax Silica ay gagamitin ang Pilipinas bilang isang platform para sa dayuhang interes sa ekonomiya at militar habang ang kagalingan at soberaniya ng taumbayan ay isinasantabi. As Migrante Canada said in its statement on Pax Silica last June 2026, "Stripped of the verbiage, the hype, and spinning on so-called modernization, innovation, and economic growth used extensively by the US and the Philippines, Pax Silica is but the US aggressive response to its technological

rivalry with China, and the US determination to win over China. The Philippines must not be transformed into a launching pad for US military escalation, technological warfare, and great-power conflict."

"In reality, it is another sad chapter in the Philippines' long history of foreign domination. We will continue to witness land dispossession and displacement of communities, especially indigenous peoples, expanded mineral extraction, environmental destruction, the conversion of productive agricultural lands in favor of Pax Silica, and the iron fist of state repression because people will fight and defend their lands, life and rights."

Sino ang nakikinabang sa Pax Silica? Iyan ang tanong. Hindi naman tayo bulag sa ating kasaysayan, sa matagal ng pagkontrol sa kabuhayan, pulitika, ekonomiya ng US sa Pilipinas.

Bilang mga migrante at Pilipinong nasa labas ng bansa, batid natin ang koneksyon ng Pax Silica at mga proyektong tulad nito sa mga kondisyon na patuloy na tumutulak sa pag-alis ng libo-libong kababayan para mag-trabaho sa ibayong dagat.

Isip ko: Kung ang proyekto ay itatayo sa pagnakaw ng lupa, ang pagtaboy sa mga mamamayan at katutubo, sa pagsira ng kalikasan, sa pagnakaw ng mga mineral, tubig, sa paggamit sa lakas paggawa ng mamamayan, para kanino itong Pax Silica? Aber?

Breaking news: Kababasa ko lamang ng press release No to Pax Silica Campaign Network Unites Sectors for Coordinated National Campaign! Pormal na launching ng Network ay sa Agost 31, National Heroes Day sa Pilipinas. Malaking alyansa sa loob at labas ng bansa. Wow! Nagkaisa na para tutulan ang Pax Silica na nagmistulang Impaxto sa buhay ng mamamayang Pilipino.

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Happy 116th anniversary, St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Church!

Vancouver, August 16, 2026.— St. Mary the Virgin South Hill – Anglican church celebrated its 116th anniversary, a “super-centenarian” milestone as a living, growing church. St. Mary the Virgin is the little church with a big heart that sits on the corner of East 50th Avenue and Prince Albert Street in Vancouver’s southeast neighbourhood. Father Expedito Farinas is the rector of St. Mary the Virgin Church.

It is popularly known as St. Mary the Virgin South Hill or St. Mary’s South Hill. But the older members of the church remember it by its more formal name, the Bishop Hills Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin, named after and dedicated to Bishop George Hills, the first Bishop and longest serving Bishop in British Columbia.

The church is a busy and growing church, faithfully serving the community since 1910 with events, masses, and gatherings for everyone. This year’s 116th anniversary celebration also welcomed back the children and Sunday school volunteers who participated at the Camp Artaban youth camp the day before.

To mark this year’s anniversary, Mable Elmore, the MLA for Vancouver Kensington, sent its certificates of greetings to the church and to its rector, Rev. Expedito Farinas, who continues to guide and lead the church in its welcoming and diverse ministry. MLA Elmore extended her “best wishes to another year of faith, hope and love” to St. Mary the Virgin church and congregation.

She also commended Rev. Farinas on “his steadfast leadership of the church and the congregation in its growth and community involvement” and thanked him for “using his voice to speak out against injustice, defend the rights of the poor and migrants, and bring hope and healing to those who are hurting.”

The food and fellowship normally held at the church upper hall was held outside of the church to invite everyone to the celebration. Friends, guests and parishioners lined up along the tables laden with hotdogs and hamburger patties off the grill, corn on the cob, chicken, salad, chips, fruits, ice-cream and a huge cake, juice and non-alcoholic punch. The weather was perfect.

St. Mary the Virgin Church, the super-centenarian church, looks forward to more growth as a relevant, diverse and welcoming church. Happy anniversary!



Day Trip at Camp Artaban (Aug 15, 2026)

Photo credits: St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Church





COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



AAABC Elects New Officers

The Ateneo Alumni Association of British Columbia (AAABC) has elected a new board of directors, ushering in a new chapter of leadership focused on strengthening the Ateneo community in British Columbia and fostering greater fellowship among alumni.

Leading the newly elected board is **Heidi Ng**, who has been elected **President**, with **Amado Mercado III** serving as **Vice President**.

The new leadership team brings together Ateneans committed to continuing the association's tradition of friendship, service and community involvement while creating more opportunities for alumni to reconnect and support one another.

Under Ng's leadership, the association is expected to build on its growing presence within the Filipino-Canadian community and strengthen its programs and activities for Atene-

ans across British Columbia. The AAABC has been active in bringing alumni together through social, cultural and community events, including its participation in major Filipino-Canadian gatherings and celebrations.

Ng, who has been actively involved in the Ateneo community in British Columbia, has emphasized the importance of bringing Ateneans together in the spirit of being "men and women for others." Her leadership is expected to place particular emphasis on fellowship, community engagement and creating meaningful opportunities for alumni to reconnect with one another.

Joining Ng and Mercado on the new board are **Maria Poe, Neil Galang, Kriza Sy, Ryan Ferrer, Emir Bautista, Renzy Azcueta, Art Calapatia, Rammy Rodrigo, Jon Sarino, Analou Lagman, Ayo Su-**

pangco, Caro Alcuaz, Karen Dandasan, Basille Uy, Luis Dapat, Hilda Gonzales, Rex del Mundo, Marlowe Mercado, Gregorio Angelo de Guzman.

Together, the new board will oversee the association's activities and initiatives for the coming term, with the goal of making the AAABC an even stronger network for Ateneans living and working in British Columbia.

The election comes at a time when the Ateneo alumni community in the province continues to grow and actively participate in the wider Filipino-Canadian community. Recent AAABC activities have brought together alumni and supporters for fellowship, including the association's collaboration with University of the Philippines.

For many Ateneans, the alum-

ni association represents more than an organization. It serves as a bridge connecting graduates to their shared experiences at Ateneo and providing a venue to build friendships, contribute to the community and carry forward the values of their alma mater.

With Ng and Mercado at the helm, the new leadership is poised to bring renewed energy to the association while continuing the tradition of service and excellence that has long characterized the Ateneo spirit. The new board is expected to announce its upcoming programs and activities in the coming months, giving Ateneans throughout British Columbia more opportunities to come together and keep the spirit of **Ad majorem Dei gloriam**, a Latin phrase that means "For the greater glory of God" alive.

Credits to Eugene Piezas for Photos.



Past Presidents from the Left Ricky Cruz, Alya Manansala, Don Alinea, Robert Afan, Mike Calingo, Tony Pena, Gabe Pedrosa Gigi Francisco, Heidi Ng, Madz Mercado, Gigi Ricarsi, Gus Narcisco, Dax Tanjuaco, Ito Ramirez.



Cherishing the Moments of Mom's Visit to British Columbia



The final evening of Mom's memorable two-week visit was spent sharing one last dinner together on a rooftop in Squamish Desiree & Atlas place, surrounded by beautiful mountain and lake views. Together with daughter Ronna & Desmond, granddaughter Desiree & son Atlas, and son Christian, we enjoyed a wonderful Japanese dinner filled with laugh-

ter, great family stories, and quiet, priceless family moments.

Mom's two-week visit was spent with going to beautiful places, different local restaurants offering delicious food, laughter, adventures, and precious quality time with family. At 90 years old, she checked another item off her bucket list - climbing mountains and exploring places she had only ever read about in magazines. Seeing her enjoying these adventures with excitement, courage, and being with family was truly exceptional and inspiring.

During her stay in British Columbia, Mom visited Sp'akw'us Feather Park, Squamish Canyon, Porteau Cove, Shannon Falls, Whistler Olympic Village, Stanley park and Gastown in Vancouver, and Steveston Fisherman's Wharf in Richmond, accompanied by Ronna & Desmond, De-



siree & Atlas, and Christian. Every destination gave her another beautiful memory to bring home.

Mom spent most of her time in Squamish with daughter Ronna & Desmond, granddaughter Desiree, and great-grandson Atlas, enjoying precious family moments

and the beauty of Desiree & Atlas's newly acquired, beautifully built home. From the beautiful places of Squamish, Whistler, Vancouver, and Richmond to mountain adventures, breathtaking views, delicious meals, and endless laughter-every moment became a memory to treasure.





Pres. Chris Loreda

RCVM Picnic for EREY



On August 16, 2026, the Rotary Club of Vancouver Mountainview (RCVM) held its Picnic for EREY held and hosted by Dr. Gloria Samosa and Pacifico Alegro, who welcomed RCVM members to their home for an afternoon and evening of fellowship.

From 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM, members enjoyed a relaxed potluck gathering, sharing food and good company.

The picnic highlighted RCVM's continued support for Every

Rotarian, Every Year (EREY), an initiative of The Rotary Foundation that encourages Rotarians to contribute to the Foundation's Annual Fund each year. As part of the initiative, each RCVM members contributed \$35.00 for EREY.

The successful gathering was a wonderful reminder that Rotary is not only about service, but also about fellowship, generosity, and making a difference together.

(By Pres. Chris Loreda)



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REYFORT MEDIA



28th Batangueño Open Invitational Crowns Golf Champions



The **28th Batangueño Open Invitational** was held on August 16, 2026, at Country Meadows Golf Course, bringing together golfers and friends for another memorable edition of the long-running tournament.

Congratulations to **Renato Gusi**, who captured the **Low**

Gross Championship, and **Norma De Chavez**, who was crowned the **Low Net Champion**. The two champions proudly display their trophies following the tournament, marking another successful year for the Batangueño Open Invitational.

MS. PNT

Birthday: September 13

Place of Birth: Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines

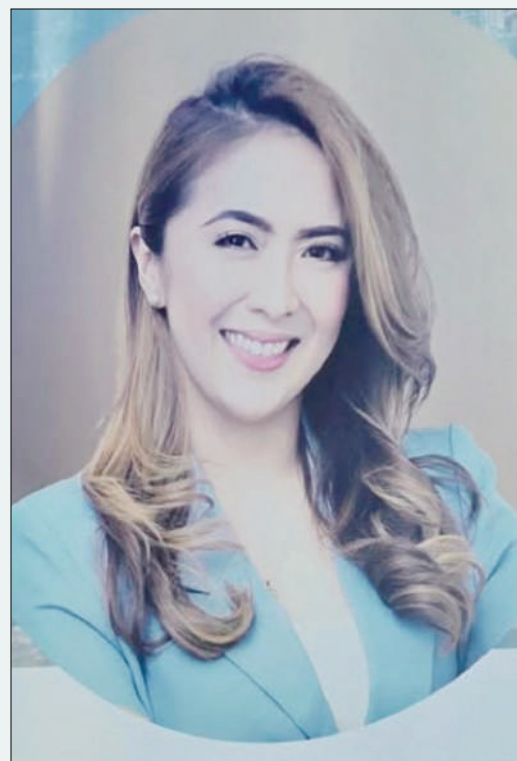
Present City: North Delta, British Columbia, Canada

Dream Job: I'm living it now — I'm a Realtor po!

Something I Love About Myself: My resilience

Role Models: My parents

Favourite Quote: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5-6



Angel Garcia



GOLF TIME

BY: Ferdie Lontok



PILIPINO GOLF ASSOCIATION OF BC FORT LANGLEY GOLF COURSE August 23, 2026

CLASS A: CHAMPION Art Cordero

PGABC TOUR WINS 2026

APRIL : 🏆
JUNE : 🏆
JULY : 🏆
AUGUST : 🏆



CHAMPION
Class A
Art Cordero

CLASS B: CHAMPION Celso Holgado

PGABC TOUR WINS 2026
August : 🏆



CHAMPION
Class B
Boy Holgado

KP Winners

Hole # 3:
Ron Santos



Hole # 8:
Adrian Pareja



Hole # 15 :
Clint Angala

Hole # 5:
Anil Dutt



Hole # 17 :
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Fort Langley GC , August 23, 2026
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VIFF ANNOUNCES 2026 FESTIVAL LINEUP

45th Vancouver International Film Festival October 1–11, 2026

VANCOUVER, BC (AUGUST 26, 2026) *Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF)* presents its 45th edition this fall. One of North America's largest and most dynamic film festivals, VIFF's 2026 program offers a unique balance of narrative, documentary, and short films; live cinematic performances; and artist development programs, situated in one of the continent's most productive film and television hubs. With an expected audience of 110,000 attendees, VIFF is a celebration of the year's best cinema, with more than 160 features showcased, an expanded VIFF Live program that runs the duration of the festival, new initiatives through the recently established Institute for the Moving Image, and a number of special events.

"This year marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Vancouver International Film Festival," says Kyle Fostner, Executive Director. "With our Institute for the Moving Image launched, our largest program of Live performances ever offered, and an exciting slate of the best contemporary cinema, VIFF is quickly becoming the archetype of the modern film festival. This year's film program holds a balance between the established cinematic greats and a new generation of powerful voices emerging from around the world. With the Institute nurturing filmmakers and Live performances enhancing the cinematic experience, VIFF has taken on an exciting new shape. It's an ecosystem of creativity, curiosity, and humanist art that is gaining VIFF a reputation internationally as a place for talent discovery and innovation."

VIFF will officially open with *Jesse Eisenberg's The Debut* (presented by National Bank), which sees meek Mona (Julianne Moore) landing a part in a local musical and falling under the sway of Jerry (Paul Giamatti), the exacting "biggest name in New Jersey community theatre." Eisenberg's utterly outlandish yet emotionally honest comedy sets up the self-importance of the theatre world, while genuinely celebrating the self-actualization that can only occur under the spotlight's glow.

The festival will close with *Martin McDonagh's Wild Horse Nine*. Shortly before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (John Malkovich) and Lee (Sam Rockwell) are dispatched from Santiago to Easter Island by their bureau chief, MJ (Steve Buscemi). Amongst the Island's iconic statues, and as the longtime partners wrestle with their dark pasts and present conspiracies, Chris's newfound bond

with a pair of rebellious students (Mariana di Girolamo and Ailín Salas) threatens to send everyone's trip to this remote paradise sideways.

VIFF's 45th edition will present 162 features, including 12 world premieres, 6 international premieres, 15 North American premieres, and 49 Canadian premieres. Accompanying these features in the selection are 91 short films and two episodic series. All told, 76 nations are represented in this year's lineup.

Several of the year's most acclaimed and highly anticipated films will receive their Canadian Premiere at VIFF, including *Tony Gilroy's Behemoth!*, *Alex Huston Fischer and Eleanor Wilson's Wicker*, *Alain Gomis' Dao*, *Ali Asgari's A Bit of Light*, *Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson's Mouse*, *Lance Hammer's Queen at Sea* and *Clio Barnard's I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning*. They join the previously announced *Markus Schleinzer's Rose (Best Performance at Berlin)* and *Hong Sangsoo's Nowhere to Lay My Eyes* (Best Direction, Best Performance at Locarno) amongst the celebrated features that will receive their Canadian premiere at VIFF.

"Every film in this year's lineup embodies the culturally engaged, progressively minded, and emotionally resonant storytelling that we seek to champion at VIFF," says Curtis Woloschuk, Director of Programming. "These films not only speak to where cinema is at, they also reflect the tumultuous times that we're living in. And while many of these films may challenge us, they also extol the virtues of love and care, be it within family or community."

This year's Focus on *New German Cinema: Extreme Tension*, presented in collaboration with German Films, showcases notable premieres of six features from rising talents who bring new perspectives to a national cinema that's psychologically complex, visually striking, and socially engaged. Selections include *Christoph Otto's The Ballad From Wednesday to Thursday (Canadian premiere)*, *Ella Cieslinski and Nina Wesemann's Dear Future Self (international premiere)*, *Kilian Armand Friedrich's I Understand Your Displeasure (Canadian*

premiere), *Faraz Shariat's Prosecution (Canadian premiere)*, *Daniela Magnani Hüller's Sometimes, I Imagine Them All at a Party (North American premiere)*, and *Kai Stänicke's Trial of Hein (Canadian premiere)*.

With more than 50 nonfiction features in its lineup, VIFF is effectively the country's second-largest documentary festival. British Columbian productions are well-represented in this space, including the world premieres of *First Comes Love: Nakabingwit* by Vancouver-based Joella Cabalu and *Relax, Open Your Eyes* by David Ehrenreich. Additional documentaries of note highlight Canadian icons: *Ladies and Gentlemen*, Brian Mulroney — the latest fever dream from Matthew Rankin; *Run Terry Run* — a look at Terry Fox's legacy through archival footage by Sean Menard; and *Man in Motion: The Rick Hansen Story* — a portrait of a remarkable athlete and accessibility advocate by Adrian Buitenhuis.

Among the most celebrated voices in this year's program is Métis/Dene filmmaker *Marie Clements*, whose presence at the festival is particularly significant — she brings both *How We Stand* and the world premiere of the first three episodes of *Reclaim My Skin*, her forthcoming Knowledge Network three-part limited documentary series. Animation also boasts a strong presence this year, with *Fernanda Salgado's Ana, En Passant* making history as the first animated film to compete in VIFF's Vanguard program and *Leah Nelson's* deeply affecting *Tangles* demonstrating the potential of Vancouver's powerhouse animation industry.

This year, the VIFF Industry program will feature internationally renowned guests, including *Matiss Kaža* (co-writer and producer of *Flow*), *Evelyn Rack* (editor of *Sound of Falling*), and *Pamela Biénzobas* (Programmer, Locarno Film Festival). VIFF Amp, one of the world's few film festival programs dedicated to strengthening the connection between music and the moving image, will feature dozens of influential labels, music supervisors, and composers as well as national and international film and music agencies, including SOCAN, SODEC, and Sounds Australia. Feature Amp guests include *Meg Remy* (U.S. Girls), *Peter Peter* (composer

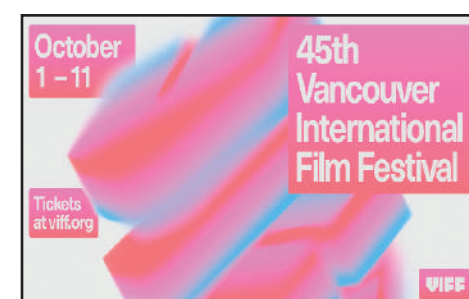
of *Heated Rivalry*), and *Matthew Rogers* (The Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer).

"We see cinema as a living, evolving art form, built from fragments of visions and voices, where creators come together to explore what is possible and to give form to what has yet to be seen," says Ana Belén Asfura, Director of the Institute for the Moving Image. "With that vision at its core, VIFF's Institute is a hub for connection, collaboration, and career development within the screen sector. We create a global stage where local talent can connect with national and international communities, helping creators turn ideas into opportunities."

A special late addition, *An Evening with Mark Mothersbaugh*, will round out the previously announced, significantly expanded VIFF Live program. The prolific film composer and DEVO frontman takes the stage for an exclusive, one-night-only concert, joined by a 16-piece ensemble to bring his celebrated scores to life. The evening features work from Mark's legendary career as a composer, likely to include music from *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Rushmore*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *The LEGO Movie*, *A Minecraft Movie*, and more.

VIFF Board Chair *Am Johal* adds: "The magic of VIFF doesn't just happen on screen, it is built from the ground up through the tireless energy, vision, and heart of hundreds of passionate individuals. VIFF truly is a cinema lovers' festival. It's a testament to what we can accomplish when a community unites around the transformative power of storytelling, particularly in these fraught, disorienting times."

Tickets are on sale now to VIFF+ Members at viff.org, and on sale to the public from Aug. 27 at 12pm (noon) PT. Single tickets are \$22 for regular screenings and Special Presentations. Ticket packs are available in six and 10-packs. VIFF+ Members enjoy discounts on all VIFF tickets and the free U25 membership offers further discounts to youth between 19 and 25 years of age.





That's All

A.I.S. Mendoza



Eala now a certified world superstar

SPORTS

ALEX Eala has practically hit the big time, indeed. Proof of that once more is the fact that she's been included in the mixed doubles event of the 2026 US Open now underway with the qualifying matches being completed in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York.

Seemingly, only the tennis elite are highlighted in mixed-doubles play, making Eala a certified world superstar this early in her career.

That is really something to crow about as Eala is not even a Grand Slam winner yet. And she has yet to crash into the Top 10 world rankings.

But she's slowly inching her way up. Only last Monday, August 24, she was upgraded to No. 18 from No. 20, another huge hop that should auger well for the 21-year-old Filipino superstar, morale-wise.

With her new ranking, Eala officially becomes the first Southeast Asian to achieve that plateau—another feather to her cap going into the last Grand Slam of the season.

It's a shame that Eala's mixed-doubles debut was scheduled at 10 p.m. last night, Aug. 25 Philippine time—or hours away before I had to finish this piece in time for deadline.

But whatever the result is, Eala deserves our absolute applause in her team-up with Felix Auger-Aliassime, the world No. 4 from Canada.

We can only pray and hope that they did well against the husband-and-wife team of Ukraine's world No. 9 Elina Svitolina and France's Gael Monfils.

Svitolina is the same player that

Eala beat earlier this year during the Filipina's winning streak against several of the Top 10 campaigners in the world.

It was that streak, fashioned across the globe before wildly cheering Filipino crowds, that helped carve Eala's glory-rich niche now sweeping the global tennis landscape.

Should Eala-Aliassime get past Svitolina-Monfils in the Round of 16 of the Top Draw, they'd meet the winner of the match between Aryna Sabalenka-Novak Djokovic and Leylah Fernandez-Frances Tiafoe.

Sabalenka, of course, is the world No. 1 from Belarus while Serbia's Djokovic holds the all-time record of 24 Grand Slams in a tie with Virginia Wade.

The duo are heavily favored over the Fil-Canadian Fernandez and American journeyman Tiafoe.

The 23-time major winner Serena Williams is paired with four-time Slam champ Carlos Alcaraz, the Spanish star who is returning from a four-month hiatus after hurting his right wrist.

Their opponents will be qualifiers, and should they pull through, they will face the winners of the match between Belinda Bencic-Flavio Cobolli and Taylor Townsend-Alexander Zverev.

Eala's first singles foe this year will be known possibly on Friday, August 28 Philippine time. This will be Eala's second US Open appearance, advancing to the second round last year with a 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 win over Denmark's Clara Tauson before losing to Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-4, 6-3.

The US Open dangles the biggest winner's purse of \$5.5 million (roughly 116 million pesos) in both the men's and women's divisions among all four majors.

Yes, Virginia, we are in the wrong racket.

THAT'S IT By just showing up and playing her first match in the US Open, Alex Eala will earn \$190,000—win or lose.

If she reaches the Round of 16,

she gets \$480,000; a quarter-final stint is worth \$780,000, semifinal \$1.450 million and runner-up \$2.8 million.

If Eala remains healthy and active in the next 10 years, she'd be a billionaire by age 31—easily.

Tennis is where the money is.

Like golf.

(Author authorizes reprint of his column)

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Wisdom from
the Word

Ben Berto



WE SIN, SATAN SMILES; WE PRAY, HE FLEES

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

Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak. Matthew 26: 41 CEV

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

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

There is nothing more that the Devil or Satan wants than to cause any one to sin. He scored a great victory when

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

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

cause problems no more.

Satan was largely successful with the Children of Israel, especially after Joshua and the older generation died out. The Bible recorded, 31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel. Joshua 24: 31 NRSV 0 "Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

11 Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, 12 and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples

who were all around them and bowed down to them, and they provoked the Lord to anger.

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

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

God tells us in Jeremiah 29:

WISDOM TO PAGE 22 ...

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Stay true

Try this: While sitting, lift your right foot and move it in clockwise circles. While doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Result? Your right foot's movement will change direction—from clockwise to counterclockwise.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 16:13-20), Jesus showed us that He was not one who would go round and round in circles and who would change directions. Jesus was straight and straightforward. He was one who was not afraid to ask the truth. ("Who do people say that I am?") Neither was He afraid to find out the truth. ("Who do you say that I am?") Truth was on His side and He had nothing to hide. As the Desiderata says: "Speak your truth quietly and clearly."

It is very consoling to hear from Jesus today that those who tell the truth are blessed. Truthful people will be rewarded. Let us take heart and not be dismayed when liars prosper. Their kind of prosperity is temporary.

There is no greater pain than to lie every night with one's enemy, and that is, oneself. There is no real rest for cheaters and liars. They will keep on seeing the shadows of their lies even after they have put off the lights when they sleep at night, if they get to sleep at all, that is. Yes, truth itself is its own reward.

As Jesus built His Church on rock, so too must our country build on solid ground, not on sand. What we are seeing here in our land is the erosion of the basic values on which our Constitution is founded. We must not let fleeting leaders destroy our hopes and dreams, we must not allow our culture to be contaminated with dishonesty, violence, cheating, corruption, and manipulations. Leaders come and go. Wanted: Leaders who truly serve and stay true.

Every once in a while, we hear from the media about some people who would climb up a tall building or a tower to call attention to themselves or to their cause. Some of them

may be mentally or emotionally disturbed, but the message is clear: "I am here. I am a person. I desperately need to be heard and listened to!" Make sure that no one in your life is about to climb up a building or a tower, just because you are not listening. Like Jesus, may we always remember that every person is worth stopping for.

Did you hear the story about two professional killers waiting in ambush in a dark alley? When their target did not show up at the expected time, the first professional killer said: "He is supposed to pass this way. How come he is not yet here?" The second killer, in a very concerned voice said, "I hope nothing bad happened to him..." This story shows that no matter how professional you are (or you think you are), there is still a part of you that will always be personal. By all means, be professional. But don't forget to be personal. Be personal, but likewise, don't forget to be professional. In other words, be a pro, but also be a person. Be pro-per. Proper!

I know of a father who has become so professional even in his relationship with his family. He has gone up the corporate ladder, but in his old age he is lonely and alone up there. His real friends are not there. Even his children are not there. Don't end up like him. Don't lose your "personal touch." Remember, before, after, over and above, and beyond your profession and function, you are a person. Magpakatao ka!

Likewise, let us be careful of pharisaisms and legalism in our religion. All our prayers and worship can end up as mere rituals and lip service if there is no personal relationship with God. Furthermore, all our serving and ministry can end up as mere functions if we do not put heart and conviction into it. May we be remembered not just as someone who did this and did that, and who had this and who had that. Rather, may we be

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FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

remembered as someone who really was a father, a brother, a sister, a friend, or simply, a someone who was there. Be a real someone, not some somebody.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, amidst all the confusions and temptations, help us to stay true to You, through You, and with You. Amen.

momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com

WISDOM from PAGE 21....

11-13, 11" For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." And in Ezekiel 18: 23 God says, "23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" and verse 32, For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!"

How about Satan? We see his true nature after he and his angels were cast out of heaven for rebelling against God. What is our defense against him? "Powerful Weapons" is yesterday's devotional by Brenda Walsh gives us this formula for our battle against Satan in Ephesians 6: 16 "Take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one." "Just as God has a special plan for your life, don't forget that Satan has one too. In fact the Bible says in John 10: 10 NKJV,

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy." The devil's plan is downright lethal, which is why God gave you powerful weapons of mass destruction to strike down the enemy. "When Satan tries to discourage you, hit him with the weapon of praise. It is impossible to sing praises to God and be discouraged at the same time! When the devil tries to pressure you to go against God's Holy Word—fight back with obedience.

God will give you the victory---all you need to do is allow Him to fight your battles! Another powerful weapon is faith! Putting your full faith and trust in God is an amazing defense against the devil's doubt-filled arrows. Equip yourself with the whole

armour of Christ and you will win an awesome victory! And don't forget the most effective weapon of all---the ammunition of prayer. Nothing can penetrate your shield of faith if you are directly connected to your heavenly Father! Remember God will give you the power to fight the enemy no matter what he throws at you! So put your spiritual armour on and get ready for the devil's attacks...using the powerful weapons God gave you."

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

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

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

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