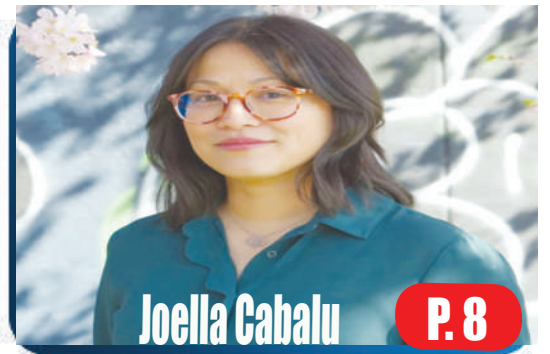




Philippine **ASIAN** News**Today**

BRIDGING FILIPINOS AND ASIANS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA



Joella Cabalu

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Vol.28 no. 17 September 1 - 20, 2026



Interim Filipino Cultural Centre (IFCC) opens in Vancouver

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The community celebrates at the preview of the Interim Filipino Cultural Centre in Vancouver. Photo by William Orsua.

RISEING SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHAMPIONS & TALENTS



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One million people
connected to primary
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2018

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



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Ovvian Hill

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Projects promoting anti-racism, multiculturalism eligible for new grants

The application period for the 2026-27 B.C. Inclusive Communities Grants is now open

VICTORIA, BC – Grassroots organizations throughout British Columbia can now apply for as much as \$5,000 in one-time grants to fund projects that create stronger, more inclusive communities by promoting anti-racism, inclusivity and multiculturalism.

The Province is accepting applications for the revamped BC Inclusive Communities Grants (BC-ICG) program between Sept. 15 and Oct. 19, 2026.

Each project can receive a one-time grant of as much as \$5,000. In total, the Province will be distributing approximately \$300,000 to support about 60 projects. To be eligible, projects must begin on or after April 1, 2027, and be completed by March 31, 2028.

Supporting more efficient community building throughout B.C.
The BC-ICG supports projects

that encourage participation, connection and understanding among people from diverse backgrounds, while helping address racism and discrimination.

This is a refreshed version of the previous B.C. Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grants program, which operated from 2015 until 2025.

The program underwent an independent evaluation in 2025, informed by extensive community input, which identified areas for improvement built into the BC-ICG, such as:

- providing clearer guidelines and simplifying the application process
- enhancing support for grassroots, Indigenous and racialized community-led organizations
- expanding access to non-profit societies serving people who experience racialization as a result of their faith, in addition to those serving

racialized and Indigenous communities

• introducing separate urban and rural funding streams

Assuch, the new grants program features two funding pathways: one for urban communities, such as Metro Vancouver and Greater Victoria, and one for rural and remote regions, including the Interior, northern B.C., the Kootenays and coastal communities. This will help address inequities by supporting rural organizations that face isolation and resource constraints.

The BC-ICG will also prioritize smaller non-profits to support grassroots projects that are community-led and community-serving. To select more targeted initiatives, the BC-ICG will use data collected under the Anti-Racism Act, the Anti-Racism Data Act and the Racist Incident Helpline.

Advancing a more inclusive province

The BC-ICG program is part of the Province's efforts to build inclusive, welcoming and equitable communities throughout B.C. Other government anti-racism initiatives include the Racist Incident Helpline, which connects people who have experienced racism with community support and resources, and the Province's first Anti-Racism Action Plan, published in June 2026.

The plan lays out commitments core ministries are making to remove racist barriers that inhibit Indigenous and racialized people's access to government programs and services.

Learn More:

- To apply for a 2026-27 BC Inclusive Communities Grant, visit:
<https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/multiculturalism-anti-racism/multiculturalism/bc-icg>
(news.gov.bc.ca)



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AUTHORIZED BY SARJ DHALIWAL, FINANCIAL AGENT (INFO@SURREY-CONNECT.CA)



Interim Filipino Cultural Centre (IFCC) opens in Vancouver



Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim (centre) are among the guests at the soft opening of the Interim Filipino Cultural Centre. Photo by William Orsua.

The Filipino Legacy Society (FLS) on September 13, 2026 held a preview of the Interim Filipino Cultural Centre (FCC) as part of its long-term plan to establish a permanent FCC in the city.

Located at a City of Vancouver-owned site in the atrium of the central branch of the Vancouver Public Library (205-345 Robson Street), the more than 1,500-square-foot space will serve as a temporary centre for the Filipino community.

"While Filipino Canadians are a core part of Vancouver's diverse fabric, until now, we have not had a cultural home in our city. For decades, we have had to gather in borrowed spaces. With this interim space at Library Square, an iconic location in Vancouver, the Filipino community will have a place we can proudly call home, for now," FLS Chair Warren Flandez said.

Through a unanimous vote by Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim and members of council on July 29, 2026, the City granted the space to FLS under a nominal lease for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

In the meantime, FLS will continue to work with municipal, provincial and federal levels of government to develop a purpose-built, permanent FCC in Vancouver.

"FLS looks forward to the operational opening of the interim space soon, allowing Filipino groups to celebrate, share and showcase our heritage with the wider community, and for community-based organizations to meet and consult about programs and services needed in a permanent Filipino Cultural Centre," Flandez said.

The IFCC is still undergoing renovations and is not yet available for use.

An official inauguration will be announced in the weeks ahead.

The provision of the space for the Interim FCC followed the historic December 10, 2025, approval by city council of a joint motion by Mayor Sim and Councillor Lenny Zhou to advance the creation of a Filipino Cultural Centre.

The Sim-Zhou motion provided that FLS will work in coordination with organizations such as, but not limited to, the United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC (UFCABC), the Filipino Seniors Club of British Columbia (FSCBC), Cebuano Society of Canada, Diversity and Inclusion Support Group of BC, and the Seniors Intercultural Society of BC.

In addition, the FLS will also work with these organizations in delivering a Filipino cultural centre: One Filipino Cooperative of BC,

Fil Cooperative One Housing Society, Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society (FCCHS), NorthPeaceFil-Can Community Bayanihan Association, Global Multicultural Affairs Society Canada, Philippine Bagong Pag-Asa of BC, Burnaby Filipino Cultural Society, Dimasalang III International Artist Group, and True North Hinirang Eagles Club.

Previously, in 2023, Councillor Zhou principally authored a successful motion supporting a future Filipino centre in the city.

In addition, the B.C. and federal governments have made separate commitments to help deliver the project.

"We are grateful to all three levels of government in championing the decades-long dream of the Filipino community for a cultural home," Flandez said.



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WILLY SINCONEGUE BRINGS FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TO RICHMOND SCHOOL BOARD RACE

By ReyFort Media



Longtime finance professional and Filipino community leader Willy Sinconegue is seeking a position on the Richmond School Board in the 2026 municipal election, bringing decades of professional experience and a strong record of community service.

Sinconegue is running as part of the Advance Richmond School

Board team. His campaign focuses on student wellness, greater parental involvement, youth mentorship and stronger cooperation between schools and community organizations.

With 47 years of experience in the financing industry, Sinconegue has held numerous leadership and operational positions during his career. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting, and became a Certified Public Accountant in the Philippines.

His professional journey also took him to Milan, Italy, where he served as managing director of a financing institution. In that position, he helped strengthen financial operations, improve client services and support the organization's overall performance.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Sinconegue has remained actively involved

in serving the community. He is the incumbent president of the Richmond Bayanihan Society of BC, a non-profit charitable organization he has led for the past six years.

Under his leadership, the organization has expanded programs supporting underprivileged students, encouraging multiculturalism and developing stronger community-support networks throughout Richmond. His service reflects his commitment to fairness, cultural pride and helping families in need.

Sinconegue is also an active member of Couples for Christ and the Knights of Columbus. Through his involvement with faith-based and community organizations, he has worked with families, educators and local groups to help create safer and more supportive environments for young people.

If elected as a Richmond school

trustee, Sinconegue hopes to strengthen student wellness programs and promote a safe, welcoming and inclusive culture within local schools. He also wants to encourage parents to become more involved in their children's education and expand mentorship opportunities that can guide young people away from high-risk behaviour and toward leadership, personal growth and future success.

Sinconegue believes schools achieve better results when trustees, educators, parents and community organizations work together. His candidacy brings together extensive financial knowledge, organizational leadership and many years of dedicated community involvement.

As Richmond voters prepare for the 2026 election, Sinconegue hopes to offer an experienced, collaborative and community-centred voice focused on the well-being and success of every student.

HIMIG NG TAGUMPAY

By Bea Correa

On September 6, 2026, Himig Kabataan Cultural Society returned to the Main Stage at the Surrey Arts Centre for their third season-end show, "HIMIG NG TAGUMPAY" ("Melody of Victory").

The concert celebrated the global Filipino community and Filipino excellence, highlighting the achievements of **HKCS in the past year—expanding the society to 4 unique groups, global outreach, and HIMIG's monumental win at the 2026 World Peace Choral Festival.**

"HIMIG NG TAGUMPAY" showcased a variety of the collective's talents with HIMIG's choral music, INDAK's nostalgic and Pinoy-inspired hip-hop, TUGTOG's take on Filipino jazz, and LIKHA's opening short film that reflected members' perspectives on victory.

"HIMIG NG TAGUMPAY" honoured the global Filipino community and encouraged appreciation for the Filipino



experience. Preparing for this show provided an opportunity to deepen the society's members' understanding of the heritage that connects them to their ancestors. Through every rehearsal, song, and dance, our youth explored the many ways culture is preserved, shared, and reimagined by each new generation.

The concert was well received by its enthusiastic supporters; many shared that their enjoyment of the show "inspired a new love for being Filipino" and "re-ignited their Pinoy pride". HKCS anticipates many performances to come, including their annual Christmas concert in December.



Opening remarks from Mayor Brenda Locke and Noemi Victorino





OVVIAN HILL: Bringing a Fresh Perspective to Fort St. John

By ReyFort Media



FORT ST. JOHN, B.C. — *Filipino-Canadian community advocate, artist, writer and filmmaker Ovvian Hill is taking her years of community involvement to a new level as she seeks a seat on Fort St. John City Council in the October 17, 2026 municipal election.*

Alongtime Fort St. John resident, Hill has built strong connections within the community through volunteerism, settlement and integration work, arts and culture, and initiatives that bring people from different backgrounds together.

The City of Fort St. John says she has volunteered in the community since 2009 and has worked in the settlement and integration sector for seven years.

Originally from the Philippines, Hill is an artist and sculptor who found a new home in northern British Columbia. Her own experience as an immigrant later inspired her to help newcomers establish their lives in Fort St. John through settlement and integration services.

Her community involvement

extends well beyond her professional work. Hill serves as a director with the North Peace Filipino Canadian Association and is involved with arts organizations at the local, regional and provincial levels, including the Fort St. John Community Arts Council, Arts North East and ArtsBC.

Creativity has also been central to Hill's contribution to the city. Her public art has been featured in Fort St. John, including her interactive installation "Drum of Concordia," which was designed to symbolize harmony among the different cultures that make up the community.

As a candidate, Hill is campaigning under the message "Fresh Perspectives." Her stated priorities include strengthening community connections, supporting economic growth, ensuring more voices are

represented in civic decision-making, and developing Fort St. John as a stronger northern B.C. hub. She has also emphasized arts, culture, creative industries and tourism as potential areas of community and economic development.

Hill has said she wants to represent sectors of the community that she believes are not currently being heard at council and to encourage greater participation in local government.

Her candidacy adds another Filipino-Canadian voice to the 2026 municipal election and reflects the growing civic participation of Filipino Canadians in communities across British Columbia.

Election Day: October 17, 2026

Maples to Mangoes

By Bea Correa

This August, the Commission of Filipinos Overseas and its Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD) program launched its collaboration with the Filipino-Canadian community. Aptly titled **"Maples to Mangoes"** for its participants, this two-week cultural immersion program in the Philippines intended for Filipino-Canadian youth who were born abroad or migrated at an early age, such that they are not very familiar with the Philippines.

The program sought to help participants discover themselves and their identities as half- or part-Filipinos that they may have had growing up. I, a participant, got a taste of all things Filipino—seeking audience with government representatives, exploring the Philippines' biodiversity and learning about the Indigenous peoples, and going to museums to appreciate the work of Filipino artisans.

In those two weeks, I saw parts of the Philippines that I

never would have if not for this program. The experiences were meaningful, as I was given the chance to be immersed in the culture and history I have only ever spoke of since beginning my work with Himig Kabataan Cultural Society.

The highlight of this trip was the people I met and the conversations we had. I felt very seen, sharing my project as a Filipino-Canadian aiming to preserve Filipino culture among youth like myself, so that it is not lost to future generations.

This is an experience that I want other young people to experience, not only being able to voice their thoughts, but to also learn about Filipino culture through immersion as I think there truly is no better way. This journey with YouLeaD has changed my life, and I am happy to say that the sum of these experiences has given me a new meaning of what it means to be Filipino.

Many thanks to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and their hard work, and I hope that this program is the first of many!





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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

The Envelope in the Lunchroom

Every Friday morning, someone left an envelope on the table beside the microwave in the lunchroom of a manufacturing plant in Surrey. There was never a name on it, only a handwritten note: "For whoever needs it most." Sometimes it contained twenty dollars, sometimes fifty. Nobody knew who was leaving them. The Filipino workers had their theories, but no one really cared to investigate.

They simply knew that the envelopes had helped several people. A newcomer whose first pay cheque was delayed had used one. A single mother had taken another when her child needed medicine. Ramon, who had worked at the plant for seven years, never paid much attention to the mystery. Like many Filipino workers in British Columbia, he worked steadily, sent money home and tried to make whatever remained of his pay cheque last until the next one.

Then one Friday morning, Ramon found an envelope waiting on the table. The message was different: "For the man who is afraid to call home." He froze. That very morning, his younger brother in the Philippines had been hospitalized, and his family needed money. Ramon had already sent most of his pay cheque home and had spent the previous night staring at his bank balance, wondering what he could do.

He picked up the envelope but did not open it. After a long moment, he put it back and returned to work. During lunch, it was gone. Beside the microwave was another note: Thank you. Ramon became curious. He asked around and learned that the envelopes had been appearing for almost a year. Nobody knew who had started them. Finally, he asked his supervisor if they could

check the security camera.

The footage revealed something nobody expected. Every Friday, before the workers arrived, an elderly Filipino maintenance worker named Mang Tony would quietly enter the lunchroom carrying a small paper bag. Ramon knew him well. Tony had retired several months earlier. When Ramon called him, the old man finally explained. Years ago, when he had first arrived in Canada, Tony had worked nights cleaning offices.

One morning, he found an envelope containing fifty dollars in his locker. There was no name and no explanation. He never discovered who had left it. "I was too proud to ask for help," Tony told Ramon. "But that envelope helped me survive that month. More than the money, it taught me that somebody cared." When Tony finally had enough to give back, he decided not to look for the stranger who had helped him. Instead, he would help someone else.

The following Friday, Ramon arrived early. He placed an envelope on the same lunchroom table. Inside was twenty dollars, the most he could spare. On the outside, he wrote: "For whoever needs it most." Then he added, "Someone helped me once. I don't know who. So, I'm helping you."

He walked away before anyone arrived. That evening, his family called from Manila. His brother was improving, and relatives had managed to help with the immediate expenses. Ramon sat quietly after the call, thinking about the envelope he had refused to take. He realized that the money had never been the real miracle. It was the kindness behind it, passed quietly from one person to another.



Perhaps this is one of the things that makes the Filipino immigrant experience different.

We leave home searching for a better life, carrying our dreams in one hand and our responsibilities in the other. We work, send money home, worry about our families and sometimes wonder who will help us when our own strength runs low. But somewhere along the way, someone reminds us

that we are not alone. A little kindness can cross oceans. It can survive years, change hands and continue long after the person who started it is forgotten.

We may not always be able to solve another person's problems, but we can make their burden a little lighter. And sometimes, that is enough to keep someone going.

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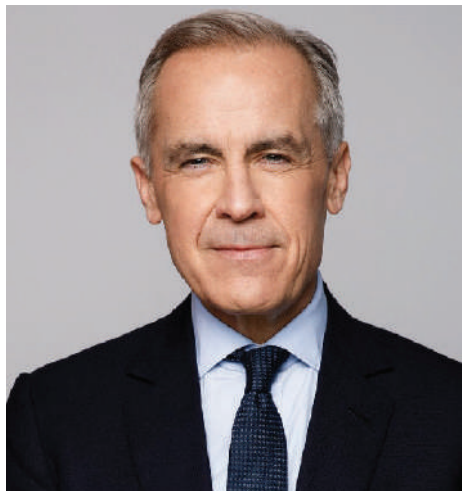
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Prime Minister Carney meets with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Andy Burnham



Mark Carney,
Prime Minister of Canada

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-The Prime Minister, Mark

Carney, met with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), Andy Burnham, during his visit to the UK.

Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Burnham underscored the close relationship between Canada and the UK, rooted in historic ties and shared values. They noted the deep and growing defence and security partnership between the two countries and discussed opportunities to further strengthen these efforts.

To that end, Prime Minister Carney announced that Canada has formally applied to join the Joint Expeditionary Force and

welcomed the UK's support for Canada's participation in this important initiative.

Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Burnham also discussed opportunities for defence industrial cooperation through the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), which Canada joined as an observer in July 2026.

Canada and the UK continue to work toward a new permanent arrangement to modernise British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) through the BATUS Future Project. The Project will showcase CFB Suffield as a world-class facility

for the development and testing of new equipment and cutting-edge technology.

Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Burnham also emphasised the importance of strengthening economic cooperation.

Looking forward, the prime ministers agreed to deepen cooperation on frontier technologies, including advancing the safe and responsible development and use of artificial intelligence. Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Burnham agreed to remain in close contact. (PM website)

One million people connected to primary care in B.C. since 2018 1,400 new family doctors, triple the nurse practitioners now caring for British Columbians

SURREY -One million people in British Columbia are now connected to a family doctor or nurse practitioner since 2018.

That is the year government launched actions to make it easier and faster for people to access primary care closer to home.

"Having a family doctor or nurse practitioner is one of the most important foundations of good health," said Premier David Eby. "It means having someone who knows you, understands your medical history, and can help you stay healthy throughout your life. Connecting one million more people to primary care shows that our plan is working, but we know there is more to do. We won't stop until every British Columbian who wants a family doctor or nurse practitioner has one."

Connecting more people to a primary care provider

Government's efforts to ensure more people have access to primary care are getting results. Overall, approximately 80% of B.C.'s population now have a family doctor or nurse practitioner. This represents 4.47 million people. Over the past three years, more than 700,000 people have been connected to a primary care provider.

"Connecting one million people to a family doctor or nurse practitioner is a significant milestone in our work to build a public health-care system that works better for people," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Health. "We are working hard and fast to make sure that everyone gets the

high-quality care they need, when they need it and closer to home." Connecting more people to a primary care provider is part of government's efforts to strengthen B.C.'s health-care system.

The Province launched a system in 2023 to get a comprehensive picture of matches to primary care providers in the province. This includes the Health Connect Registry, where people can sign up if they are seeking a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

"When you have a doctor or nurse practitioner who knows you, it makes such a difference in how you treat your own health care and, most importantly, the support you get when something changes with your health," said Stephanie Higginson, parliamentary secretary for primary care access. "We're focused on making sure more people have that trusted relationship and the confidence that comes with knowing where to turn."

Training, recruiting, retaining more primary care providers

Through the Health Human Resources Strategy, launched in 2022, the Province is training, recruiting and retaining more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. While B.C.'s population increased by 15% between 2017 and 2025, the number of longitudinal family doctors has increased by 33%, and the number of nurse practitioners has tripled.

As well, the first cohort of 48 students has started class at B.C.'s new medical school, the Simon

Fraser University Stephens Family School of Medicine in Surrey. As enrolment grows in phases to 120 students annually, more people will have the opportunity to train closer to home for careers in medicine, while helping meet

the province's growing need for doctors.

Learn More: * To learn more about B.C.'s actions to strengthen health care, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/health-care> (Premier.Media@gov.bc.ca)

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Filmmaker Joella Cabalu zooms in on love and race in *First Comes Love: Nakabingwit*

By Carlito Pablo



Joella Cabalu is a Vancouver-based filmmaker. Photo by Clare Yow on Cabalu's website.

True love transcends race, but mixed unions can also come with challenges.

Cultural differences, traditional expectations, and contrary views about how to raise a family are some of issues that cause tension between partners.

Sincere dialogue is a way of overcoming these difficulties, which is something Vancouver-based filmmaker Joella Cabalu hopes couples do, and especially after watching her first feature documentary.

Titled *First Comes Love: Nakabingwit*, the rom-com style documentary is making its world premier at the 2026 Vancouver International Film Festival.

"It kind of uses the rom-com aesthetic in a documentary form to follow three Filipino women and their white romantic partners, and how they navigate conversations about race, class and privilege," Cabalu explains in a VIFF promotional video clip.

Produced by the National Film

Board of Canada, the 65-minute film also features a peek into Cabalu's own love life with partner Luka.

In the NFB's press kit for *First Comes Love: Nakabingwit*, Cabalu unpacks the Tagalog term "nakabingwit", which literally means having caught a fish with a hook and line.

Colloquially, the Vancouver filmmaker explained, it means one caught a rich and white husband. "When I talked to other Filipino Canadians, I discovered that this word carries both pride and shame. It's a way to name this complex feeling. When I learned about the term nakabingwit, I felt like I finally had a name for what I had been feeling all those years after that fateful night when my friend told me I was 'winning' because I was dating a white guy!" Cabalu said.

As a filmmaker, Cabalu has an enduring fascination about themes of identity and inclusion.

Born in California to parents originally from the Philippines, Cabalu grew up in Brunei, and was six years old when the family came to settle in Canada.

Her 2016 mid-length documentary, *It Runs in the Family*, features her gay brother and artist Jay, and the film project saw the two siblings travelling to the old country to meet and talk with other queer Filipino relatives.

In the lead-up to the exhibition of *It Runs in the Family*, Cabalu spoke with *Ricepaper Magazine*, and she recalled often being asked where she came from.

"Being a woman of colour and having a diverse background has shaped how I understand the world to view me and simply

saying 'I'm Canadian' doesn't seem to satisfy that question. So I've become more interested in exploring questions of identity and belonging in my work because I believe many non-white Canadians and immigrants struggle with similar issues and they are often not heard," Cabalu told the publication.

A Statistics Canada briefing paper titled *Mixed Unions in Canada* has noted the rising prevalence of interracial relationships.

Using data from its 2011 national household survey, the agency reported that while mixed unions account for a small proportion of all married and common-law couples, the numbers have gradually increased in recent decades as Canada's population has become more diverse.

Statistics Canada stated that data from the 2011 survey showed about 360,045 couples, or 4.6 percent of all married and common-law couples in Canada, were in mixed unions.

Of that number, the agency continued, 305,075, or 3.9 percent of all couples, were composed of one person who was a member of a visible minority and one who was not.

Meanwhile, 54,970 couples or 0.7 percent of all couples involved two persons from different visible minority groups.

The briefing paper went on to note that some visible minority groups have a greater tendency to be in mixed unions than others.

In 2011, Statistics Canada reported, people of Japanese heritage were by far the most likely to be in a conjugal relationship with a person from another group.



Specifically, of the 32,800 couples in which at least one person was Japanese, 78.7 percent involved a spouse or partner who was not Japanese.

Moreover, Latin Americans (48.2 percent) and Blacks (40.2 percent) were the second and third most likely visible minority groups to form mixed unions, according to Statistics Canada.

How about people of Filipino descent?

Filipinos came in fourth at 29.8 percent.

Arabs are fifth at 25.4 percent; Korean, 22.5 percent; Southeast Asian, 21.9 percent; West Asian, 19.5 percent; Chinese, 19.4 percent; and South Asian, 13 percent.

***First Comes Love: Nakabingwit* screens October 3 at 5:45 p.m. (SFU Woodward's, 149 West Hastings Street); October 7, 1:30 p.m. (International Village, 88 West Pender Street); and October 10, 3:45 p.m. (Alliance Francaise, 6161 Cambie Street).**

Mayor Brenda Locke Comments on Two High-Risk Offenders Released in Surrey



A second high-risk offender has been released into Surrey in just two days.

According to public warnings issued by the Surrey Police Service, both Jonathon Anders Muzychka and Skylar Wayne Pelletier, designated high-risk

offenders with histories of serious violent offences, will be residing in our community.

The fact that both individuals are subject to extensive court-ordered conditions, electronic monitoring, curfews and ongoing police oversight underscores the risk authorities believe they pose.

This is completely unacceptable and we need to do better.

Surrey is home to more than 700,000 people, including families, children and seniors. Yet

once again, our city is being forced to accommodate individuals who present a significant risk to public safety.

While I support rehabilitation and recognize that successful reintegration must be part of our justice system, communities should not be expected to bear an unfair burden when it comes to housing offenders who pose a significant risk to the public. Muzychka and Pelletier are not welcome in Surrey.

Residents have every right to

question why Surrey continues to be selected for these placements. Responsibility for managing high-risk offenders must be shared fairly across jurisdictions, rather than concentrated in a single community.

I am calling on the federal Minister of Justice to deliver concrete action to strengthen public protections and ensure communities like Surrey do not bear an undue burden in managing high-risk offenders. Surrey residents deserve accountability and results. Their safety must be the overriding priority.



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*The Tall Order
By Mon Datol*

Kapitan ng lumubog na MV June Aster hinahanting; QC Court iniliban 'arraignment' ni VP Sara; Romualdez, inilipat na sa PGH matapos humirit ng hospital arrest; Mag-inang Loren Legarda at Leandro Leviste sinisipat asylum sa France

Patuloy pa ang paghahanap sa nawawalang kapitan ng lumubog na barko sa Coron, Palawan na MV June Aster na si Captain Roel Sarmiento na pinaniniwalaang buhay at hindi kabilang sa 43 survivor, upang maimbestigahan sa trahedyang sinapit na nag-iwan ng 35 patay, at 54 pa ang nawawala.

Nakngdragon! Kapitan pa unang tumalon ng sumabog, nasunog at lumubog ang barko na tinitimon??? Ano yon!!!

Ang barko ay may kapasidad umano na 306 pasahero. Nasa manifesto ang 117 pasahero at 17 tripulante, habang ang dalawa ay kumpirmado hindi nakasakay. Isang pagsabog umano ang narinig sa cargo deck ng barko bago ang sunog. Kawawa talaga sinapit mga 'nasunog' sa barko, namatay ng walang kalaban-laban. Kaya naman...

Lumutang ka na Kapitan, bigyang-hustisya mo mga namatay. At baka si PBBM na naman SISIHING ng mga DDS sa Trahedyang yan.

Ipinagpaliban ng QC Regional Trial Court Branch 98 ang 'arraignment' o pagbasa ng 3 kaso ng 'grave threats' ke VP Sara Duterte na nakatakda sana nitong Biyernes, September 11 matapos hiniling ng kampo ni Duterte dahil samganakabinbin pang mosyon na pinagbigyan naman ng hukuman.

TRO sa SC hinihintay ni VP Sara sa 'grave threats' kaso niya.

At dahil may ilang DDS sa labas ng QC RTC ay tumayo sa pulpito si Sara at tumirada na naman para banatan si PBBM at muling tinawag na Adik ang Pangulong Marcos na paulit-ulit na nilang magkakapatid isinisigaw kahit na ang Tatay Digong nila ang gumon sa pagtira ng Fentanyl at...

Wala silang patunay na

nagdo-droga si PBBM.

At nagdagdag pa ng 'Resign' at 'Umalis ka dyan' na sigaw si Inday Sara, at, tumalak pa ng 'Sinungaling', 'abusado', 'walanghiya', 'walang-utang na loob' at kung anik-anik pang paninira.

Nakngdragon! Tol Reyfort, bakit di inalis malaking salamin sa harap ni Inday Sara?

Hinikayat din ni Inday Sara ang kanyang mga natitirang ilang-dakot na tagasuporta na ipagpatuloy ang pakikipaglaban kontra sa umano'y mga abusado, sangkot sa ilegal na droga, mga adik at korapsiyon. Tekla...

Baka akala ni Sara ay Tatay Digong pa rin Presidente now!

Ganoon daw talaga kapag adik, hindi na raw dumadaan sa realidad ang pag-iisip, at, kung anik-anik na isisigaw at ginagawa kapag bangag na.

Nakngdragon, Tol Reyfort! Mga utol yata nasa isip ni Sara!

Natupad na ipinangako ni PBBM na lalambatin ng hustisya ang mga 'big fish' na di-lang nangungurakot sa kaban ng bayan, kung di yong gustong ibagsak ang gobyerno at maghasik ng lagim sa pamayanan.

Kinakalos na ni PBBM umaapaw na bigas sa maleta ni Taning.

Pinaka-malaking 'big fish' na kinalawit ni PBBM ay ang Bise Presidente na kinasuhan ng Ombudsman ng '3 counts ng gravethreats' sa Sandiganbayan na naglabas kaagad ng 'warrant of arrest' na...

Ikina-gitla mismo ng higitang balyena at mga

DDS supporters!

Bukod ng akasisaimpeachment proceedings, heto pa nga ang kasong kriminal na hinaharap ni Inday Sara, na para sa korte, may sapat na batayan para mag-isyu ng warrant at itinakda ang piyansa sa P120,000 bawat kaso. Kayat hayun, matapos ang samu't saring drama na parang teleserye na sablay sa ratings...

Nagpiyansa si Day Sara kahit barya lang yan sa bulsa niya.

Isa pang heavyweight, si dating House Speaker Martin Romualdez, ang isinunod na inaresto kaugnay ng kasong plunder sa tinatayang P7.44 bilyon, na kung saan nag-isyu ng warrant ang Sandiganbayan matapos makakita ng probable cause sa kasong isinampa ng Ombudsman. Isa lang ibig sabihin nito...

Pangulo si BBM ng Pilipinas, ng lahat ng Pinoy, 'di kadugo lang.

Inilipat nitong Sabado si Romualdez sa PGH sa Maynila alinsunod sa kautusan ng Sandiganbayan para sa isang independent medical examination upang beripikahin ang findings ng kaniyang mga doktor sa Cardinal Santos Medical Center sa San Juan City.

Grabe ba talaga sakit sa puso ni Cong 'o taas sugar o' anxiety?

Ayon kasi sa mga doktor ni Cong sa CSMC, kabilang sa kondisyon ni Romualdez ang hypertension, hypothyroidism, Type 2 diabetes, at anxiety attacks at kailangan ng apat hanggang anim na linggo bago mailipat si Romualdez sa detention facility. Abangan natin resulta ng PGH exam ni Cong sa September 14.

Hospital arrest o' QC

Payatas Jail sa Kasin ni PBBM???

Dalawang makapangyarihang pangalan na nilambat at kita naman ng lahat na magka-ibang paksyon sina VP Sara at Cong Martin. So, ilsa...

Ang mensahe si PBBM: Lahat ng may sala, Kalaboso.

Pero hindi pa tapos ang pamimingwit dahil kasama sa nakalinyang 'big fish' ay si Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, na nasasangkot sa mga 'ghost at anomalous projects' sa Taguig. Kaya tila kaliwa't kanan ang pagdarasal ngayon at baka magka-milagro ang...

Self-proclaimed "Ambassador of Jesus Christ." Nakngdragon!

At nariyan din si Sen. Loren Legarda at ang kanyang anak na si Rep. Leandro Leviste, na nasa extended foreign vacation trip sa France, na mula sa pagiging political butterfly ni Loren, ay isa nang big fish, dahil dawit ang mag-ina sa mga alegasyong plunder kaugnay ng kontrobersiyal na bilyon-bilyong pisong solar projects. At may hiwalay pang kasong human trafficking na iniuugnay kay...

"Solar Boy" ng Batangas, at, Uuwi pa raw, naman, mag-ina.

Ito na ang hinihintay na pag-uusig ng mga Pilipino na ilang beses nang na-delay para panagutin ang lahat ng kurakot ng pera ng bayan anuman ang kanilang paksyon sa pulitika at posisyon sa gobyerno. Ang tanong nga lang, eh...

Kelan at sino-sino ikakalaboso, bibitayin, err, mali, alaws nga palang 'death penalty', at maibabalik ba

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...



GOOD NEWS FOR WORKERS IN B.C.: 1,000 MORE PROVINCIAL NOMINATION SPACES

There is some encouraging immigration news for workers hoping to become permanent residents of British Columbia.

On August 18, 2026, the federal government gave British Columbia an additional **1,000 nomination spaces** under the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP).

This increases B.C.'s total allocation for 2026 to **6,254 nominations**, and the Province has indicated that it intends to use its full allocation by the end of the year.

For many of our Filipino kababayans who are already living and working in B.C., this is certainly welcome news — but it is important to understand what it means.

The BC PNP is becoming more targeted

The additional spaces do not mean that everyone with a work permit or a job in B.C. will qualify for permanent residence.

B.C. is increasingly focusing its limited nominations on three priorities:

CARE — occupations supporting health care, education, childcare and community well-being;

BUILD — construction, skilled trades, infrastructure and major

projects; and

INNOVATE — highly skilled individuals who can contribute to B.C.'s economy and innovation.

The Province also expects at least **35% of nominations to go to candidates working outside Metro Vancouver**.

This is important because the immigration landscape has changed significantly.

In the past, some temporary workers believed that if they obtained a job in B.C. and worked long enough, permanent residence through the BC PNP would eventually follow.

That should no longer be assumed.

Having a work permit allows you to work temporarily in Canada. It does not guarantee permanent residence.

What should you do?

If your goal is permanent residence, start planning **before your work permit is close to expiring**.

Know your correct NOC and TEER classification. Find out whether your occupation is currently a provincial priority. Consider your Express Entry options and whether there

are other federal or regional immigration programs available to you.

Most importantly, always maintain valid immigration status while you pursue permanent residence.

The additional 1,000 BC PNP spaces are good news. But today's immigration system is increasingly selective, and eligibility depends on much more than simply having a job in Canada.

For our kababayans already working hard to build their lives in British Columbia, the best advice is simple:

Plan early, know your options and don't wait until your work permit is about to expire.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or immigration advice. Immigration programs and policies are subject to change.

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.

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EDITHA CORRALES NELSON

TALL ORDER ... FROM LAST PAGE.. Mundo!

sa kaban ng bayan bilyon-bilyong nanakaw ng mga mandarambong?

Abangan.

SPECIAL GREETINGS:

Happy 69th birthday to President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr., September 13, 2026, likewise, to former President Apo Lakay Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr., September 11. I also celebrate on September 13, Ka-birthday ko nga si PBBM, pero, mas me edad ako sa Pangulo ng ilang tulog, hehehe. God Bless the President & Mabuhay ang Lahat ng Pilipino sa Buong

ALAM BA NEWS: Na 50 years ago, nuong **18-years-old pa lamang si Reynaldo Fortaleza**, ay isinuot niya ang uniporme ng Pilipinas at lumaban sa ginawang 1976 Montreal Olympic Games at umabot sa quarterfinals ng amateur boxing competition, na kung saan natalo siya sa isang kontrobersyal na 4-1 split decision kontra isang boxer mula sa Great Britain, na inulan ng malakas na pagboo ng maraming nanuod ng laban. inimbistigahan ng AIBA ang nasabing laban at nasuspindi ang isang boxing opisyal sa asabing laban. Pero, sa boxing never na binabago ang unang desisyon

ng mga huwes, kayat, nabigo ang ating pambatong si Rey Fortaleza na masungkit ang bronze medal sa kaniyang dibisyon ng 1076 Montreal Olympics. **Mabuhay ka, Rey Fortaleza, isa sa kinikilalang miyembro ng Fortaleza Boxing Brothers ng Philippine Sports.**

SHORT ORDER: Happy birthday (Sept. 9) MJ Japin of Toronto, greetings from family & friends.. Happy birthday (Sept.8) to Sister Mitch Fernandez of Genesis Immigration, Toronto. Greetings from children, parents, kin, Tita Frances, Tita Cez Araneta, Tito Ed Que, Tita

Agnes Miranda & all relatives & friends... Happy birthday to Ms. Adela R. Bailey (Sept. 10), wifey to Johnston Bailey of Richmond Hill, ON. greetings from children, friends & colleagues from work... HBD to Cong. Rody Antonino (Sept. 12) of Jaen, NE.. Happy birthday to colleague & veteran columnist Inday Espina-Varona (Sept. 13) of Manila.... Happy birthday Beth Javate-Dizon (Sept 14) of Vancouver, BC from children & friends. Happy Heavenly Birthday Margarita 'Tita Nene' Gamboa-Uyao (Sept. 15), youngest sister of our Nanay Lucia (RIP), of Jaen, NE & Paranaque. greetings from Tito Butch & Uyao Children & Family God Bless.

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(L-R) coach Jeremy Neufeld, parents, co-team captain Natalie McCutcheon and coach Paul Langford

RIISING SPOTLIGHT

By ReyFort Media



Some athletes are remembered for the points they score. Others are remembered for the way they make the people around them better.

As **Kaitlin Vergara** prepares to begin the next chapter of her basketball journey at Vancouver Island University (VIU), her story offers something far more meaningful than a list of championships or accolades. It is a reminder that success is not always measured by statistics. Sometimes, it is measured by character.

When Kaitlin first began playing competitive basketball, she was not among the strongest players on her team. In her early years, she earned limited playing time and spent plenty of time watching from the bench. Rather than becoming discouraged, she embraced the opportunity to learn. She listened to her coaches, watched her teammates work on their weaknesses, and continued to show up.

There was no expectation that improvement would happen overnight. Instead, Kaitlin developed her game one practice, one season, and one challenge at a time.

That mindset became the foundation of everything that followed.



... with grandparents, Felipe and Connie

Earning Her Opportunity at Riverside

Kaitlin joined École Riverside Secondary in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, where she became part of one of the province's premier high school basketball programs. Early in her time with the Rapids, an eligibility requirement meant she was unable to compete for a season. Rather than viewing the setback as an obstacle, she used that year to continue developing her skills, support her teammates, and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Over her three playing seasons with the Riverside Rapids, the team reached the BC School Sports AAAA Provincial Championship twice, earning provincial silver medals in both 2024 and 2026, while also making a Final Four appearance in 2025.

Throughout those seasons, Kaitlin developed into a trusted leader whose composure, unselfish play, defensive intensity, and commitment to the team became increasingly evident.

Her growth was not defined by individual statistics. Instead, teammates and coaches came to rely on her court vision, basketball IQ, willingness to defend, and ability to make the players around her better.

Those qualities earned the respect of legendary coach Paul Langford, whose coaching career has spanned more than four decades. By her senior season, Kaitlin had become one of Riverside's team captains—a reflection not only of her basketball ability, but of the trust she had earned through consistency, coachability, and leadership.

While preparing this feature, ReyFort Media came across Varsity Letters' coverage of the opening day of the 2026 BC School Sports AAAA Provincial Championships, where Langford spoke about Kaitlin following Riverside's victory.

"When she moves the ball she can be extremely effective. When her teammates are running the floor, they know she's going to get them the ball. And she can shoot it."

Langford then offered what may have been the highest compliment a coach can give a player. "She's very creative, one of the most creative players I've had," he said, referring to a backhanded assist that helped spark Riverside's offense.

Kaitlin Vergara's Journey of Humility and Perseverance



Kaitlin with coach Paul Langford

That praise came during a season in which Kaitlin helped lead the Riverside Rapids to the 2026 BC School Sports AAAA Provincial Championship silver medal. She was subsequently named a 2026 4A Girls Second Team All-Star, recognition that reflected not only her talent, but also the unselfish style of play and leadership that had become hallmarks of her game.



Photo with parents, Ariel and Ces

Making an Impact the Moment She Steps on the Floor

Kaitlin's impact wasn't limited to those inside the Riverside program. It also caught the attention of some of British Columbia's most respected basketball voices during the provincial championships.

During the championship broadcast, veteran basketball journalist Howard Tsumura highlighted the immediate energy Kaitlin brought after coming off the bench, describing a "great lightning move" as she attacked the basket before quickly racing back to defend a much taller player.

Basketball analyst Cheryl Jean Paul, head coach of Trinity Western University and the 2018 Canada West Coach of the Year, praised the same sequence, noting Kaitlin's effort in recognizing a developing transition opportunity and "pour[ing] on the jets" to prevent an easy three-point attempt.

Later in the broadcast, Tsumura noted that Kaitlin was one of Riverside's two senior leaders. Jean Paul again highlighted her decision-making and composure, observing that Kaitlin could have forced a difficult pass but instead attacked the rim and finished under control.

Six Years with VK Basketball

Away from school basketball, Kaitlin spent six years developing with VK Basketball, one of British Columbia's premier girls' basketball programs.

VK Basketball's mission is to expose athletes to elite competition across Canada and the United States and help prepare them for the next stage of their basketball careers. Through VK, Kaitlin competed against many of North America's top club programs and experienced a demanding schedule of high-level tournaments, including events such as the Nike EYBL Champions League, Nike Tournament of Champions, Nike Nationals, SFU Tournament, SLAM Summer Challenge and BBA Nationals.

She was also selected to participate in the FI-Foreign Nation Select Global Summit in both 2024 and 2025, giving her the opportunity to compete internationally while proudly representing her Filipino heritage.

Success Beyond the Scoreboard

Kaitlin's accomplishments have been recognized with several honours, including the Quinn Keast Foundation Scholarship, the Big Ticket Scholarship and selection to the "It's Bigger Than Basketball" Class of 2026 All-Star Game.

Yet those who know Kaitlin best would likely point to something else before mentioning an award. They would talk about the kind of teammate and person she has become.

Whether mentoring younger players, encouraging teammates from the bench, or volunteering in the community, she has consistently demonstrated that leadership begins with serving others.

She also helped organize the 2025 Tournament for Emily, a community initiative that

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with sister Kura

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A Role Model for the Next Generation

For young athletes, particularly young girls and members of the Filipino community around the world, Kaitlin's journey carries an important message.

Her story is not one of someone who was the strongest player from the beginning. It is the story of a young athlete who started with room to grow, sometimes watched from the bench, experienced a season when she couldn't compete, and continued to show up.

Kaitlin offers a different example. You don't have to be the biggest player. You don't have to be the strongest player. You don't have to be the most talented player when

you begin. You must be willing to work. You must be willing to learn. And you must be willing to keep going.

For young female athletes around the world, Kaitlin's example also speaks to the value of modesty, of allowing accomplishments to speak for themselves while remaining grounded, grateful, respectful, and committed to others.

As Kaitlin begins her collegiate career with the Vancouver Island University Mariners, she carries with her the lessons learned from Riverside, VK Basketball, her coaches, her teammates, her family, and the many young athletes she has encountered along the way.

She leaves behind more than memorabilia, games, championship appearances, and awards. She leaves an example of what can happen when perseverance is paired with modesty, when ambition is balanced by gratitude, and when individual achievement is always measured against the impact we have on others.

For Kaitlin Vergara, that may be the most meaningful measure of success of all.



Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro



Photo credit: Project Gunita FB

Nakakainis na. Pero ano ba ang maaasahan natin? The Supreme Court (SC) made its decision to reverse the Sandiganbayan's conviction of former First Lady Imelda Marcos on seven counts of graft last June 10, 2026. The SC made it public on September 8, well-timed as some people said, for the birthday on September 11 of the dead dictator Marcos Senior. Parangbang birthday gift. Pero sa nalalapit na ika-54 na anibersaryo ng batas militar ng diktador Marcos Senior, ipinakikita lang nito na ang kultura ng impunity at kawalan ng hustisya ay malalim, talamak, at kailangan labanan.

Balikan lang natin. In September 2018, the Sandiganbayan found Imelda Marcos guilty of graft and sentenced her to a maximum of 77 years (!) in prison – after nearly three decades

People don't forget: History will make Imelda pay

when the charges were filed against her. Hindi nakulong si Madam. Nag-apela si Madam at nagpiyansa ng 300,000 pesos. Nakatakas sa pagkakulong dahil advanced age at poor health na daw siya. Sana all. Dahil ang daming nakakulong na political prisoners, matanda na sila at may-sakit pa, may mga kaso na gawa-gawa at naghihirap sa kondisyon sa loob ng bilangguan, pero bingi ang korte at gobyerno sa kanilang kalagayan. Ang suwerte talaga ni Madam.

In its statement, Migrante International, the biggest alliance of Filipinos overseas, condemned this SC decision amidst the Filipino people's fight against all forms of government corruption under the Marcos Jr. regime. Below is the rest of the statement.

"We must remember. We cannot just ignore the recent acquittal of Imelda Marcos as a minor event in the midst of the deafening noise of corruption hearings, impeachment, unserved ICC warrants, and feigned medical alibis of the criminally accused.

We must remember, that long before the images of maleta loads of cash, and the stacks of money inside a government office, we must recall how the world was appalled by the images of crates of money, jewelry, artworks loaded by the Marcos family on board their plane en route to their escape to Hawaii on February 26,

1986, the triumph of the EDSA people power revolution.

We must remember that the Presidential Commission on Good Government created after EDSA estimated \$10 billion or P589 billion worth of ill-gotten wealth plundered by Ferdinand E. Marcos and his family and cronies, of which only P174.2 billion has been retrieved as of September 2021, as reported by Rappler.

We must realize that the heirs of Marcos, including Imelda Marcos, have never spent a single day in jail for the ill-gotten wealth that benefited their family, instead, they have returned to power as president, senators, representative, governor at one time or another, and have recovered their wealth, power and political prestige.

And now, comes the impunity of Imelda Marcos for the crimes for which she was formerly held guilty by the Sandiganbayan, due to alleged weakness of the prosecution.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat them.

We must remember and demand accountability and justice. There should be no gratuitous exemption. Presidents, vice presidents, parliamentarians and even justices, must all stand the scrutiny of the people's anger. It is not enough for them to be virtuous but to be above suspicion, like Caesar's wife.

As Marcos Jr himself has anticipated the obvious, he claimed that the acquittal of his mother by the Supreme Court has no bearing on his choice of the next Chief Justice in the months ahead.

The Marcoses have long worked to cover their crimes against the Filipino people, distort history, and evade accountability. But the people see, and the people remember. The mills of the people may grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly small. As the anniversary of the declaration of Marcos Sr's Martial Law nears, Migrante International calls on all Filipino migrant workers all over the world to protest against impunity, rampant government corruption and systematic plunder of our country's resources. Let us demand that Imelda, his son and all government officials who have caused the suffering of millions of ordinary Filipinos be brought to justice. Let us demand an end to the longstanding political system that allows corrupt government officials to rule and enrich themselves."

Hindi nakakalimot ang taumbayan. Sa ika-54 na anibersaryo ng batas militar, maririnig ang boses na kailangan maninigil at managot ang lahat, hanggang sa tuktok! Palagay ko, magbabaha muli ang mga pagkilos bilang paggunita sa pagdeklara ng batas militar noong ika-21 ng Setyembre 1972.

An invite from Rev. Xp Farinas: Martial Law@54

Come and join us on Migrante Sunday, September 20, 2026,

St. Mary the Virgin South Hill Church in Vancouver will mark the 54th anniversary of martial rule in the Philippines in its Sunday service with Migrante BC to remember and pray for the many faithful departed during the dark years of martial rule in the Philippines.

At the end of the service, the congregation will gather around the memorial cross for a candle lighting & prayer



File photo and Photo credit: Northern Dispatch

service to remember all victims and lost lives, those arrested government critics, activists, and opposition leaders without trial.

We will all recite the prayers

for "those who have died, for all whom we remember this day, particularly those who were killed, abducted, and missing during the dark years of martial law in the Philippines, including all workers and peasants, youth

and women, indigenous people, professionals and many church people."

We will also remember those who survived and their families. We will continue to pray for those who peacefully challenge state laws and practices.

May God give them strength and courage to stand their ground for truth and justice. Protect their lives from those who seek to harm them when they voice their dissent.

SEE NEXT PAGE



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Residents invited to help plant over 2,500 trees and shrubs this fall

Surrey, B.C. – Residents are invited to help plant more than 2,500 native trees and shrubs in parks across Surrey this fall and help grow the urban forest. Five Releaf community tree-planting events will take place between Sept. 26 and Oct. 31, starting with Surrey's National Tree Day celebration and concluding with a Halloween-themed tree planting event.

"These community planting events give residents a hands-on way to connect with nature and make a lasting difference in their neighbourhoods," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "Surrey has been recognized as a Tree City of the World for a seventh consecutive year in 2026 thanks

in part to the thousands of people who have helped plant and care for trees across our city. I invite everyone to join us this fall as we work together to create a greener, healthier and more resilient city for future generations."

The Fall Releaf Program kicks off at Surrey's National Tree Day celebration on Sept. 26, where residents of all ages can enjoy music, take part in a tree-themed storytime and costume parade, and help plant more than 500 trees and shrubs.

Releaf concludes on Oct. 31 with the Halloween in the Urban Forest event, featuring a special themed planting of native trees and shrubs to help create habitat

for bats, owls and other wildlife. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes and enjoy some Halloween-themed fun.

This fall's tree-planting events take place in five parks:

- Fleetwood Park, Saturday, Sept. 26 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
- Chantrell Creek Park, Saturday, Oct. 3 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- William Beagle Park, Saturday, Oct. 10 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- Fraser Heights Park, Saturday, Oct. 17 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- Clayton Park, Saturday, Oct. 31 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

"Releaf is an important part of Surrey's commitment to growing and caring for our urban forest," said Rob Landucci, urban forestry

manager. "Every tree planted helps expand the many benefits our urban forest provides, including clean air, shade, wildlife habitat and improved climate resilience. Thank you to everyone who joins us in caring for our parks, natural areas and forests."

At each tree planting, gloves and equipment will be provided. Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toed shoes and dress for the weather. The event will go ahead rain or shine but may be cancelled if there are strong winds or severe weather.

For more information, visit surrey.ca/releaf. (Jesse Johnston@surrey.ca)

AN INVITE... FROM LAST PAGE

All are Welcome! Service Time: 10:30am Holy Eucharist

St. Mary's South Hill
808 E. 50 Ave., Vancouver, BC
V5X 1B5



May God grant us long and lasting peace! Shalom, Apo Xp Last Sept 6, Rev. Farinas led the congregation in its Labour Sunday service with the Labour Day prayer: "....Pour out your

blessing on all who labour today. Strengthen the hands that build, the minds that lead, and the hearts that care for families and communities. Grant fair wages, safe conditions, and dignity to every

worker. Comfort those who are weary and provide meaningful work for the unemployed. In your holy name, we pray."

Filipino migrant workers are an integral part of the Filipino people, regardless of the thousands of miles away they work in their host countries. Migrants International estimates that "as the largest force of an estimated 15 million overseas Filipinos, Filipino migrant workers are spread across more than 200 countries and territories" and that the problems in the Philippines continue to push out at least 8,000 men and women every day to work abroad to help their families survive.

"On this day, we celebrate and stand with the contract workers whose working hours are set just the minimum so that the benefits can be denied. Let us also stand against exploitation, let us stand with the people who become the target of unfair treatment with threats of deportation."

St. Mary the Virgin South Hill church has a Migrants Ministry, a member of the Justice and Peace Unit of the Archdiocese of New Westminster, and a member of the Churches Witnessing with Migrants-Canada chapter. All are welcome to join the Sunday masses at 808 East 50th Avenue, Vancouver.



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



Celebrating Diversity at the Harmony of Cultures & Honours Gala 2026

Congratulations to the Indo-Pacific Foundation of Canada (IPFC) on a successful Harmony of Cultures & Honours Gala 2026, held August 29 at the Aria Banquet & Convention Centre in Surrey.

The well-attended gala brought together approximately 800-900 civic leaders, diplomats,

business leaders, artists, and community members for an inspiring evening celebrating Canada's multicultural identity. Guests enjoyed cultural performances, networking, traditional attire, and the prestigious IPFC Excellence Awards.

Special congratulations to Ken Chau, owner of 88 Supermar-

ket, on receiving the IPFC Multicultural Business Award for his contributions to business and community.

Congratulations also to Excellence Awardee Vishaal Khurana.

The evening was led by Bhaskar S. De, CEO and Founder of

IPFC, whose vision continues to build connections among diverse communities.

Representing the Filipino community were Rey Fortaleza, Zeny and Victor Villamera, Christian, Roy and Audrey Lim, Phebe Jacobsen, Mirasol Vega, Earl and Brenda Ngo, Rain Orogo, Joel Castro and Neha Kwatra.



Angel's 40th Intimate Birthday Celebration

VANCOUVER — Angel celebrated her 40th birthday on September 12 with an intimate gathering of close family and friends at East Kent Avenue SE Marine Drive in Vancouver.

The special occasion brought together the people closest to Angel to celebrate not only her milestone birthday, but also 40 years of blessings, accomplishments, friendships, and cherished memories.

A well-known and popular Realtor in the community, Angel is admired by those around her for her caring, hardworking, generous, and genuine personality.

Initially, Angel had no plans to celebrate her 40th birthday. But her best friend Patty, affectionately called each other "Kaps," short for Kapatid, convinced her that turning 40 was a special milestone worth celebrating



In her short birthday speech, Angel thanked everyone for joining her and smilingly said, "If only I could invite the whole barangay, I would!"

It was a beautiful celebration of friendship, family, and life. As the saying goes, "Age is just a number; life is what you make it."





Linda Magno

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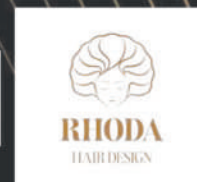
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PCTC AWARDS HONOUR LEADERS STRENGTHENING CANADA-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC TIES

Four leading companies recognized for contributions to trade, investment and services; Vincent Uy receives PCTC Impact Award

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Leading companies and individuals helping strengthen economic ties between Canada and the Philippines were honoured at the inaugural Philippine Trade Recognition Awards for British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories, held August 21, 2026, at the Terminal City Club in Vancouver.

The initiative of the **Philippine Consulate General** in Vancouver, organized in partnership with the **Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC)-Toronto** and the **Philippines Canada Trade Council (PCTC)**, celebrated outstanding contributions to trade, investment and services between Canada and the Philippines.

The event brought together representatives from the diplomatic, government, business and Filipino-Canadian communities and highlighted the growing importance of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The initiative was inspired and supported by **Philippine Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin**, whose leadership has emphasized stronger economic diplomacy and closer collaboration among government, businesses and community organizations.

FOUR LEADING COMPANIES RECOGNIZED

Four companies received the principal Philippine Trade Recognition Awards:

Corinthian Distributors Ltd., represented by **President Vincent Uy** and partner **Kenneth Co**, received the **Outstanding**

Importer Award – Diversified Products.

Jollibee, represented by **Jeffrey Santos**, General Manager of Jollibee Granville Downtown, and **Reden Espina**, Restaurant Manager, received the **Outstanding Importer Award – Food and Beverage.**

Vancouver-based **B2Gold Corp.**, represented by **President and CEO Michael Cinnamond**, received the **Outstanding Investment Partner Award – Mining & Resources.**

TELUS Corporation, represented by **Carl Perron**, Senior Director, TELUS Digital, received the **Outstanding Services Partner Award – Telecommunication and BPO.**

Together, the four awardees represent the expanding range of economic connections between Canada and the Philippines, from consumer products and food to investment, telecommunications and digital services.

VINCENT UY RECEIVES PCTC IMPACT AWARD

In addition to the four **Philippine Trade Recognition Awards**, the Philippines Canada Trade Council presented its special **PCTC Impact Award**, recognizing an individual whose leadership and contributions have made a meaningful impact in strengthening trade, investment and community ties between Canada and the Philippines.

Vincent Uy, President of **Corinthian Distributors Ltd.**, was named recipient of the **PCTC Impact Award**.

Uy was recognized for his leadership and longstanding contribution to expanding the presence and visibility of Philippine products in the Canadian marketplace and for helping strengthen commercial connections between Philippine exporters and Canadian consumers.

The award also featured an impressive group of nominees representing business, investment, innovation, media and entrepreneurship: **Paolo Kalaw of Nimbyx; Rey Fortaleza, OLY, of ReyFort Media; Vincent Uy of Corinthian Distributors Ltd.; Rhona Doria of Hablon Styles and Hues; Michael Cinnamond of B2Gold; and Carmelita Tapia of Kananaskis Manufacturing.**

Their nominations reflected the diverse contributions being made by Filipino-Canadian and Canadian leaders toward strengthening economic, business and community connections between the two countries.

BUILDING STRONGER CANADA-PHILIPPINES TIES

More than an awards ceremony, the inaugural event demonstrated the importance of cooperation among the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, PTIC-Toronto, PCTC and the private sector in creating new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.

The leadership of Consul General Jamoralin in helping inspire the initiative also highlighted the important role of the Philippine Consulate General in bringing together government, business and

community partners to advance Philippine economic interests in British Columbia and Western Canada.

For the Filipino-Canadian community, the event was also a source of pride, demonstrating how businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders can serve as important bridges between Canada and the Philippines.

A WELL-ATTENDED INAUGURAL CELEBRATION

The inaugural awards ceremony was exceptionally well attended, with the **Terminal City Club ballroom filled to capacity**. The strong turnout reflected growing interest and support for Canada-Philippines trade and investment relations.

Business leaders, entrepreneurs, Filipino-Canadian community representatives, diplomats and government officials gathered for the occasion. The presence of dignitaries from the **City of Vancouver** and the **provincial government** further underscored the significance of the event and the growing recognition of the Philippines as an important economic and community partner in British Columbia and Western Canada.

The recognition of **Corinthian Distributors Ltd.**, **Jollibee**, **B2Gold Corp.** and **TELUS Corporation**, together with **Vincent Uy as recipient of the PCTC Impact Award**, sent a strong message that sustained partnerships, entrepreneurship and leadership will continue to deepen the economic and people-to-people ties between **Canada and the Philippines**.



Neil Mort, PCTC Vice-Chair – Frank Lee, PCTC – Hon. Paul Choi, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade – Rhona Doria, Hablon Styles & Hues – Rey Fortaleza, Reyfort Media Group – Vincent Uy, Corinthian Distributors Ltd. – Carmelita Tapia, Odessa Manufacturing – Dr. Gina Jamoralin, Consul General, Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver – Eric Ching, PCTC Chair – Ellen Hsu, PCTC



(Left photo: Kenneth Co, Corinthian Distributors Ltd. – Hon. Paul Choi, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade – Dr. Gina Jamoralin, Consul General, Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver – Vincent Uy, Corinthian Distributors Ltd. – Eric Ching, PCTC Chair



Ajit Thandi, PCTC/Tim Hortons – Myla Bicol, PCTC – Neil Mort, PCTC Vice-Chair – Elma Esquerra, PCTC – Merrjoy Nicolas, PCTC/University Canada West – Hon. Paul Choi, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade – Dr. Gina Jamoralin, Consul General, Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver – Teresa Wat, MLA – Mary Tecson, PCTC – Ellen Hsu, PCTC – Eric Ching, PCTC Chair – Frank Lee, PCTC – Eleanor de la Cruz, Philippine Consulate in Vancouver – Paul Uy, Deputy Consul General, Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver and other guests.



RCVM Holds Strategic Planning Session with PDG Drew Antrobus



Pres. Chris Lored

VANCOUVER, BC — September 10, 2026 — The Rotary Club of Vancouver Mountainview (RCVM) held its Strategic Planning Session at 4403 Rupert Street, Vancouver, BC, with Past District Governor Drew Antrobus as the guest speaker.

PDG Drew shared his knowledge and experience in Rotary leadership, guiding members in setting clear goals and planning for the club's future. RCVM members actively participated in the discussion and shared ideas.



Members of RCVM with PDG Drew Antrobus, in discussions.



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SPORTS

2026 Brotherhood Basketball Cup Officially Opens

By MonBC

Now on its 20th year, the Brotherhood Basketball Cup 2026 was inaugurated with initial games on Sunday noon, September 13th at the St. Bernadette School Gym in Surrey.

In 2006, BBC was organized by brothers within the Couples for Christ (CFC) community in the Vancouver Chapter to promote brotherhood and bonding within CFC brothers and their families, as well as to have a weekly recreational sports activity for a good cause.

The league is proud supporter of Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) with fundraising efforts through weekly food concessions and sponsorship. All proceeds from these sales are donated to ANCOP.

Games are being held at starting at noontime Sundays at the St. Bernadette School Gym until November 29, 2026. The ten participating teams are St. Paul Crusaders A & B, St., SJTW Fahrenheit, OLG Saints, St. Bee Blaze, IC Delta, Tigs Handyman, Good Shepherd, Samaritans and Tricity Kings.



Oath of sportsmanship led by 2025 Rookie of the Year and league MVP Miguel Dela Cruz

See Brotherhood Basketball Cup game updates and rosters at <https://italaplatform.netlify.app/#/event/-P13BNr-wtp2IdjiL2Hz>

(Photos by Japheth Bondoc)



New League Coordinator Jonathan Tasarra



Opening prayer by Rey Ople and emcee Greg Castillo



GOLF TIME
BY: Ferdie Lontok



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September 5, 2026

CLASS A: CHAMPION
Sumesh Putra

PGABC TOUR WINS 2026
September :



CLASS B: CHAMPION
Marlon Pasatiempo

PGABC TOUR WINS 2026
April :
September :



KP Winners

Hole # 4 :
Ferdie Lontok



Hole # 14:
Sumesh Putra



Hole # 6:
Ron Yatco



Hole # 17:
Marlon Pasatiempo



Battle of Pinoy Golfers in BC

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BLESSED SLEEP

It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.

Psalms 127: 2 NKJV

The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep. Eccl. 5: 12 NKJV

One of the interrogation tactics employed by some repressive governments on prisoners is to deprive them of sleep by keeping the lights on 24 hours a day, until the prisoner/s break/s and give the information wanted by the government.

During the Vietnam War, this method was used by the Communist government on captured American soldiers.

Insomnia sufferers try various means to get sleep; the most

common is by medication, but medication has limitations. They don't always work, and some have bad side effects.

Physical labour is one way to get good sleep. When I was in college, I spent three years as a working student. I slept well at night, but since I worked in the morning and went to school after lunch, I felt sleepy during afternoon classes, which was bad for me. I missed some of the lessons the instructors wanted to impart. Luckily, I read my books well and did well on the quizzes when the teacher called for a 1/2 sheet of paper for the test.

Sleep is important for everyone. Babies require 21 hours of sleep for growth and development. God gave us this gift usually for the night. Many of us become night-owls and when I was working, I preferred that shift. Brenda Walsh again has some good advice from the Good Book, the Bible. Once

on the Sea of Galilee, with His disciples, Jesus was exhausted from His work, so He went to the stern of the boat while they were underway to some port. Then a vicious storm hit and they were in danger of sinking, so the disciples woke Him up saying, "Master, aren't you concerned that we are about to die?" Jesus got up and simply told the storm, "Peace be still" and there was a great calm. That's not part of her story.

"If you were tossing and turning and sleep won't come because you just can't quit thinking about the mess you're in, stop worrying—God has you covered. No matter what problems you are facing, God already has you figured it out! The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV), Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." And in Philippians 4:5-7 (NIV) we're told, "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,

by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

It is easy to trust God when everything is doing great, but the minute the tables are turned and tragedy strikes... that is when your faith is really put to the test. It doesn't matter whether you are facing financial ruin, the love of your life just left you, or you just received a death sentence, God has your back. You can trust Him to do the right thing for you because He always has your best interest at heart. Claim Romans 8: 28 (NKJV), "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" Once you give your troubles to God, roll over

WISDOM TO PAGE 22 ...

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Be still...

Who is the least stressed driver in the world? The funeral car driver. Why? He is not in a hurry, he is not bothered by traffic, and, best of all, he does not carry a backseat driver.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 18:21-35), Jesus teaches us about forgiveness and reconciliation. Forgiveness is one of the most difficult, yet most freeing, lessons we can learn in life. It is a journey of the heart that often calls us to let go, again and again. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude." How true. Forgiveness is not always a single act that happens once and is finished forever. Sometimes, we have to forgive again and again, especially when the memory of the hurt returns, again and again.

There is a saying that reminds us of what anger can do: "Anger does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to the vessel on which it is poured." When we keep an-

ger inside us, we may think we are punishing the person who hurt us. But often, we are the ones who suffer. Lewis B. Smedes wrote, "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." We have a choice: to forgive and become free, or to refuse to forgive and remain trapped in anger, stress, bitterness, and sadness.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Indeed, forgiveness is not weakness. It takes strength to forgive when we have been deeply hurt. It takes humility to set aside our pride. And it takes faith to surrender to God what we cannot change. Perhaps this is the prayer we need to make: "Lord, You have forgiven me so many times. Help me to do likewise."

Think for a moment of the person who has hurt you the most. Perhaps there is someone you dislike so deeply that even hearing that person's name disturbs your peace. Perhaps the wound

is still fresh. Perhaps it happened many years ago, but the pain remains. What should we do? Offer that person to God. Leave that person in God's heart. Pray, if you can, for that person's conversion and healing. Release the matter from your hands. You do not have to carry it forever. Surrender. Let God take over.

Forgiveness does not mean saying, "It did not happen." Neither does it mean saying, "It did not hurt." What happened may have been real, and the pain may have been deep. But forgiveness means choosing not to allow that pain to control you anymore. Get rid of the "backseat driver"!

There is a story of a monk who saw a scorpion on a leaf drifting along a river. Wanting to save it, the monk reached out to lift the scorpion from the water. But each time he tried, the scorpion stung him. Someone watching asked, "Why do you keep trying to save it when it keeps hurting you?" The monk replied, "It is the nature of the

scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love simply because it is the scorpion's nature to sting?"

"Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart." (Matthew 11:29). Gentleness is the way, and humility is the key to true peace and reconciliation. Gentleness softens hearts, while humility helps us recognize that we, too, have made mistakes and have needed forgiveness. Let us take—and remain on—the road of gentleness and humility.

Allow me to share my simple prayer of forgiveness: "Lord, forgive me for all my sins. I forgive all who have hurt me. I ask forgiveness from and pray for all those I have hurt. With humility and gratitude, I joyfully accept Your unconditional love and forgiveness. Amen." And whenever the burdens of anger, resentment, worldly worries, and personal struggles

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



WISDOM from PAGE 21....

and get some sleep.

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, 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58, 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18

FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

become too heavy, let us return to the One who is always merciful. Let us pray often: "Jesus, I trust in You. Mama Mary, I love you."

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) The lessons come when you are calm. When you listen more to the Lord, and less

on your feelings, hurts, and disappointments, then you are growing, you are moving on, again.

A moment with the Lord: Lord, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Amen.

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Office: 604-581-8400

Instagram: @soldbyraycel

Email: rfortaleza@sutton.com



Our Latest Listings:

**2 BED
774 SQFT**

Bear Creek/ Green
Timbers
Surrey

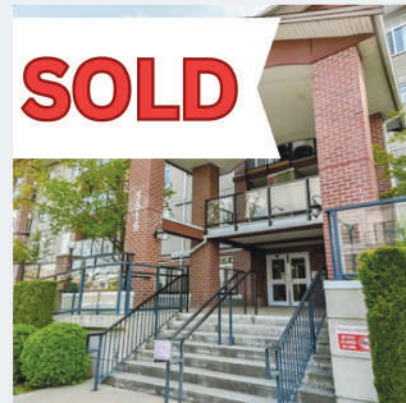
**4 BEDS
2609 SQFT**

North Surrey/ Guildford
Surrey



ARE YOU A FIRST-TIME BUYER?

CALL ME TODAY AND LET ME GUIDE YOU TO YOUR NEW HOME!





88 SUPERMARKET
Where shopping is truly rewarding

PROUDLY CANADIAN OWNED AND OPERATED

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

DIVERSE SELECTIONS FOR FILIPINOS

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

COMING SOON

88 4TH SUPERMARKET
Live Seafood | Frozen Foods | Fresh Produce | Groceries | Dairy | Bakery | Floral

KINGSWAY

3328 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC

WHOLE WEEK DEALS: SEP 17 TO SEP 23

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

PRODUCELARGE CARA
CARA ORANGE
(AUSTRALIA)**1⁴⁸**
LBCOSMIC CRISP
APPLE**1⁸⁸**
LBWATERCRESS
BUNCH**2/3⁰⁰**SNOW PEA
/SNAP PEA
200G PKG**3/3⁸⁸****MEAT**FRESH BONE-IN
SKIN-ON PORK
LEG STEAK**3¹⁸**
LBFRESH PORK BELLY
STEW/ADOBO CUT**5⁸⁸**
LBFRESH BEEF BACK
RIBS/RIBLETS**5⁹⁸**
LB

SCAN FOR MORE WEEKLY DEALS!



f FACEBOOK

i INSTAGRAM

WEBSITE

FROZEN FOOD & COOLERLAS ISLAS UNSEASONED
DEBONED MILKFISH
350G**4⁹⁸**
EASUPREME FISH FZ
SILVER POMFRET 908G**4⁹⁸**
EAMAYNILA'S CHOICE
SQUID/PUSIT 400G**5⁹⁸**
EABARRIO FIESTA
MARINATED BABY
MILKFISH 3PCS
400G**5⁹⁸**
EATAN HUE VIEN MUNG
BEAN DURIAN PIA
CAKE 400G**6⁸⁸**
EAFOONG'S KITCHEN
SHRIMP & PORK
WONTON 300G**6⁸⁸**
EABARRIO FIESTA WHOLE
MILKFISH 400G**2/8⁰⁰**AA1 ROUND SCAD/
GALUNGGONG
450G**3/8⁰⁰**BLACK TIE FZ BLACK
TIGER SHRIMP P/D 26/30
400G**8⁹⁸**
EAANT FARM R16 DURIAN
W/ SEED 400G**9⁹⁸**
EA**GROCERY**KOSA GLUTINOUS
RICE/RICE
FLOUR/TAPIOCA
STARCH 400G**98¢**
EAKNORR LIQUID
SEASONING 250ML**1⁶⁸**
EAANGEL CONDENSADA
CREAMER 380G**2¹⁸**
EAJUFRAN BANANA
SAUCE 560G**2²⁸**
EAAROY-D YOUNG
GREEN JACKFRUIT
565G**2²⁸**
EAKOSA FISH SAUCE
750ML**2²⁸**
EABUENAS PANCIT
CANTON NOODLES
454G**3¹⁸**
EAUFC COCONUT
WATER 1L**3²⁸**
EABRY-CONN QUAIL
EGGS 24'S**3⁶⁸**
EABAMBOO TREE
FINE RICE
VERMICELLI
340G**2/3⁹⁸**MANG PEDRO'S
CHICHARON 170G**4⁴⁸**
EAS.M PUREFOODS
CORNED BEEF 340G**5⁹⁸**
EATRUNG NGUYEN G7
COFFEE 3-IN-1 STRONG X2
600G**7²⁸**
EAGOLDEN 8
GRANULES
SEASONING 1KG**7⁶⁸**
EABAMBOO TREE RICE
VERMICELLI 908G**2/8⁰⁰**BAMBOO DELIGHT
JASMINE RICE 40LB**28⁹⁸**
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