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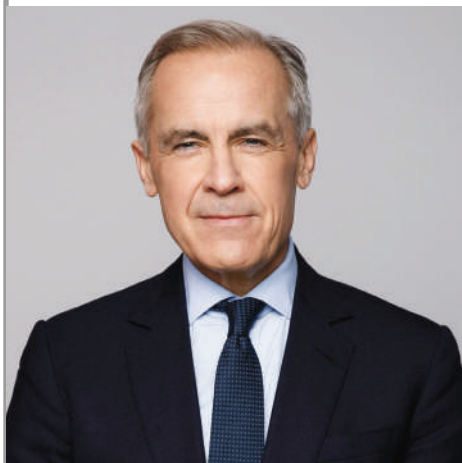


MATTERS
September 30

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Vol.28 no. 18 September 16 - October 3, 2026

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day Messages



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PRIME MINISTER OF
CANADA



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BC PREMIER

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FOREVER LOVED
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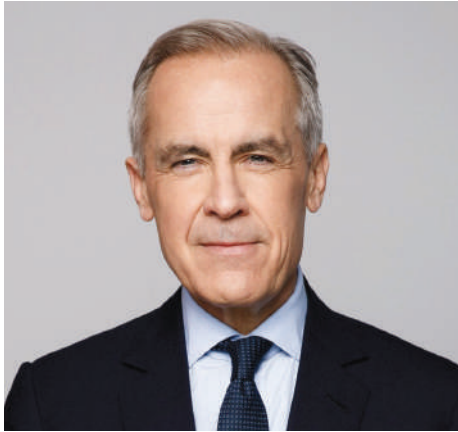
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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day Messages



Statement by Prime Minister
Mark Carney

OTTAWA, ON, Sept. 30, 2026 -- "On this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, we honour Survivors of Canada's residential school system, remember the children who never returned home, and stand with the families and communities who carry that loss.

For more than a century, over 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children were separated from their parents, families, and communities and sent to residential schools. The system was built on assimilation policies

designed to sever children from their languages, cultures, identities, and ways of life.

The federal government established and sustained this system, and Canada bears responsibility for the profound and enduring harm it caused. More than 6,600 Survivors and witnesses came forward before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to share painful realities Canada had too long ignored. Their courage ensured that Canada listened, remembered, and reflected.

We owe Survivors more than remembrance. We owe them action. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action remain a roadmap for that work.

In partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, our government is working to close longstanding gaps in health care and education, protect Indigenous languages and cultures, and advance safe drinking water and infrastructure in First Nations communities. We are advancing the Calls for Justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and

2SLGBTQI+ people, and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Today, Canadians will wear orange and participate in ceremonies to remember the children who never came home – and to honour the Survivors who told the truth so that all Canadians may take up the work of reconciliation."

For more information: The 24-hour safe and confidential National Indian Residential School Crisis Line, available at 1-866-925-4419, provides crisis referral services to Survivors and their families and explains how to obtain other health supports from the Government of Canada. The Hope for Wellness Helpline provides immediate, toll-free telephone and online chat-based emotional support and crisis intervention to all Indigenous people in Canada. Both telephone and online chat services are available 24/7 in English and French. Telephone support is also available upon request in Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut. Trained counsellors are available at 1-855-242-3310 or via hopeforwellness.ca. (Prime Minister's website)



BC Premier David Eby
NDP NPD

September 20, 2026- Today, people across British Columbia and Canada are coming together to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

This is a day to honour residential school survivors, remember the children who never made it home, and stand with the families and communities who continue to heal from this profound trauma.

We must reflect on and learn from the tragic legacy of residential schools. For more than a century, the government forcibly removed Indigenous children from their

SEE NEXT PAGE ..

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BRENDA LOCKE

SURREY CONNECT

BRENDA LOCKE
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HARRY BAINS
RE-ELECT FOR COUNCIL

MICHAEL DUNN
ELECT FOR COUNCIL

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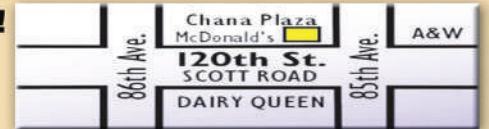
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RECONCILIATION FROM LAST PAGE ..

homes, separating them from their communities and cultures – often to face horrific abuse. These facts are indisputable. Survivors shared the truth, courts confirmed it, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission documented it.

Unfortunately, denialism and racism remain with us to this day. We saw that again on Sunday, when white nationalists in masks showed up on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc lands. It was a cowardly act of hate meant to frighten people in their own homes. It shows exactly how much work we still have left to do.

We need to answer intimidation by coming together. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with survivors means reckoning with the truth of what these children and communities went through. We must look at the darkest chapters of our past with open eyes, rather than turning away.

That is how we heal and build a stronger B.C. moving forward. By acknowledging the painful parts of our past, we can build a better future rooted in respect. A province where we all work together, where we look out for one another, and where every single child knows they matter.

Support is available. If you or someone you know needs help, the 24-hour National Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available at 1-866-925-4419.

Crisis services for Indigenous Peoples in B.C. are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free throughout the province at 1-800-588-8717.

Alternatively, individuals can call direct into the adult-Elders line at 250 723-4050 or the children/youth line at 250 723-2040.

The Métis Crisis Line is available 24/7 toll-free across the province at 1-833-638-4722.

(communications@bcndp.ca)



Lorne Doerkson
Leader of the Conservative Party BC,



Vancouver, BC-Lorne Doerkson, Leader of the Conservative Party of BC, released the following statement on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

Today is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to reflect on the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada.

We think of the Indigenous children who attended residential schools, and of the families and communities affected by them.

We also think of the parents and grandparents who were affected.

Today is a day for reflection, and we encourage everyone to take part in events in their communities.

As we move forward, reconciliation means learning from the past and taking constructive steps for the future. As Leader, I am committed to doing my part, including on economic reconciliation, and I am proud to have multiple strong Indigenous voices and leaders running as candidates.

Today I also think of my parents and the values they taught me: hard work, humility, honesty, and kindness. I will bring those values to my work with Indigenous communities.

Together, we can work toward a future built on partnership and cooperation for all British Columbians.

media@conservativebc.ca

EVERY CHILD



MATTERS
September 30



**NDP Indigenous Affairs
Critic Leah Gazan**

“The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was established in response to Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The TRC called for the implementation of a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities. It was also established to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital part of the reconciliation process.

Today, we honour Residential School Survivors, children, and relatives who never made it home. We also honour the parents who were left in deafening silence every September, after their children were kidnapped and taken away.

For more than 150 years, children were taken from their families as part of a genocidal project that was aimed to permanently eradicate Indigenous peoples. The House of Commons unanimously recognized the Indian Residential School system as a genocide in 2022.

The Honourable Murray Sinclair said, “There can be no reconciliation without the truth.” On this National Day,

everyone across Turtle Island must remember that the path to reconciliation was born from the sacrifices of Residential School Survivors, who bravely shared their truth, gifting us with a path forward. We lift up and honour these truths, and the sacrifices Survivors made to share them.

There is no reconciliation in the absence of truth. The truth of residential schools is under escalating attack through the violent incitement of hate. Survivors have asked governments to protect their safety and their stories from residential school denialists. I will continue to pressure the Liberal government to put forward my Bill C-254 as a government bill.

I will also continue to lift up TRC Calls to Action #21 and #22, which states that reconciliation must include ensuring Survivors of residential schools and their families have the resources they need to support healing. I echo the calls from Survivors who came to the House of Commons on September 25th, 2026, to ensure an ongoing and permanent funding structure for the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program.

On this Truth and Reconciliation Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to standing together to honour Survivors, their families and communities; and defend their stories and truth. All my love.”

(NDP Media Centre: media@ndp.ca)

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Antonio “Tony” Ortega: Building Connections Across Richmond

By ReyFort Media



For Antonio “Tony” Ortega, community service begins with bringing people together. As president of the Cebuano Society, he has worked to strengthen cultural ties among Filipino Canadians while building connections with people from other backgrounds. Now, as a candidate for Richmond City Council, he hopes to bring that same spirit of participation to civic leadership.

Ortega’s community work reflects a belief that people can celebrate their heritage while taking an active part in the wider city they call home. Through cultural gatherings and outreach, he has helped create opportunities for families, newcomers, youth and seniors to meet, share experiences and

support one another. His work with the Cebuano Society has placed him at the centre of efforts to keep traditions alive across generations.

He has also been involved in the realization of the Santo Niño Shrine in Agassiz, British Columbia, a project with deep meaning for many Filipino Catholics. For Ortega, such initiatives offer more than a place to gather. They give people a sense of belonging and a way to pass their faith and culture on to the next generation.

Those experiences have shaped how he approaches public service. Organizing events and working with community groups require patience, cooperation and a willingness to listen. Ortega sees those qualities as just as important at City Hall, where decisions affect residents with different needs and points of view.

Richmond is home to families from many cultures, and Ortega believes that diversity is one of the city’s strengths. He wants residents to feel that they can take part in decisions about their neighbourhoods, whether they have lived in Richmond for decades or have recently made it their home. Listening to people, he says, is a necessary first step toward earning their trust.



good leadership means making room for those voices and looking for common ground.

That approach has guided his work beyond any single event or organization. Cultural celebrations can introduce neighbours to one another. Outreach can help newcomers find their footing. Working together on a shared project can build relationships that last long after the gathering ends. Ortega hopes to carry those lessons into the council chamber.

As a council candidate, Ortega calls for transparent governance, inclusive decision making and thoughtful growth. He also speaks about economic opportunity and the everyday concerns of families. These are broad goals, but he connects them to a practical question: Are residents being heard when choices are made about the future of their city?

His years of community involvement have given him opportunities to hear from people of different ages and backgrounds. A conversation with a senior may reveal a different concern from one raised by a young family or a local organization. Ortega believes

For Filipino Canadians, his candidacy is also a reminder that community leadership can grow into a larger civic role. Ortega’s roots and service are an important part of his story, but his invitation extends to all Richmond residents. He asks them to take an interest in local issues, join the conversation and make their voices heard.

As Richmond voters consider who should represent them, Ortega offers a record of community involvement and a commitment to listening. His message is that a stronger city is built when neighbours participate, respect one another and work toward a future they can share.



ROD BELLEZA: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

By ReyFort Media



For Rod Belleza, community service has been a commitment spanning almost four decades. A longtime Richmond resident, former Philippine lawyer, and Richmond school

trustee, Belleza has devoted much of his life to supporting students, strengthening community organizations, and promoting inclusion.

His journey reflects the contributions of Filipino Canadians who bring their professional experience and cultural values into public service. According to his supplied biography, Belleza holds the distinction of being the first Filipino elected to public office in British Columbia—a milestone in the community’s growing participation in civic life.

Before immigrating to Canada in 1980, Belleza established a

foundation in law and education. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from West Negros University, graduating magna cum laude and receiving recognition as Most Outstanding Graduate. He completed his law degree at the University of Negros Occidental–Recoletos and passed the Philippine Bar in 1975.

His early career included serving as Secretary of the Bacolod City Council, a university professor, and College Registrar at Riverside College in Bacolod. These experiences brought together public administration, teaching, and institutional responsibility—areas that

would continue to shape his work in Canada.

A Fellow of the Institute of Canadian Bankers, Belleza has also brought financial expertise to his responsibilities in public education.

As a Richmond school trustee, his priorities include good governance, prudent financial management, and the well-being of students and staff. He helped establish the district’s Audit Committee, supporting oversight of financial reporting, risk management, audits, and budgeting.

His educational advocacy extends beyond financial

SEE NEXT PAGE ..



MARIO CRUZ: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND A VISION FOR RICHMOND

By ReyFort Media



For Mario Cruz, Richmond is the community he has called home since 2001 a place where his professional work, volunteer commitments and enthusiasm for sports have brought him into contact with people from different walks of life. Now, he is seeking to bring that experience to public office as a candidate for Richmond City Council in the October 17, 2026 municipal election.

A licensed British Columbia Realtor with more than 20 years of real estate experience, Cruz identifies housing affordability as an important concern for local families. Through his profession, he says he has seen firsthand how difficult it can be for people to afford a home in Richmond. That experience forms part of his motivation for seeking a seat on council.

Cruz attended the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business. For his Real Estate license. His professional background offers a perspective on housing and the challenges facing residents trying to establish themselves in the community. While housing affordability involves several levels of government, municipal council plays a role through planning, zoning, development decisions and affordable housing initiatives.

Beyond his career, Cruz's biography reflects involvement in community and faith organizations. He is a member of the Vancouver Diamond Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus. He is also active in Couples for Christ at St. Monica Church Parish, where he has served as a Christian Life Program team lead.

These commitments are part of a community life that brings together service, faith and participation. For readers getting to know Cruz, they provide a picture of the organizations and activities that have helped shape his background. Sports are another significant part of his story. Cruz was a volunteer basketball coach with Ateneo Alumni of Vancouver, and his biography notes that he was named Rookie of the Year in CFC Basketball. He is also a member of the Richmond BC Pickleball Association and an

IPTPA Level 1 Pickleball coach.

His involvement as both a player and coach connects closely with one of his stated campaign priorities: expanding recreational opportunities. Cruz would like Richmond to offer more indoor and outdoor activities, including pickleball, basketball and tennis, along with additional community events.

Access to recreation can give residents opportunities to stay active, develop skills and build friendships. For young people, sports can encourage teamwork and confidence. For seniors and other adults, accessible activities can support participation and social connection.

In his candidate statement, Mario Cruz also identifies public safety and support for seniors and youth as priorities. He describes a goal of helping build a city where families, older residents, young people and future generations can thrive and be safer again.

Alongside these priorities, he emphasizes responsible decision-making, transparency and accountability if elected. Turning campaign



intentions into municipal action would require working with fellow councillors and considering community needs, available resources and the responsibilities of local government.

As Richmond voters consider their choices, Cruz brings a combination of professional experience, volunteer involvement and sports participation to the conversation. His candidacy gives residents an opportunity to examine how that background and his stated priorities could contribute to the city's future.

For Mario Cruz, the next step is presenting that vision to the Richmond community he has called home for 25 years.

ROD BELLEZA...FROM
LAST PAGE...

accountability. His profile highlights support for financial literacy, stronger student voices, and greater parental participation in children's education. He has raised concerns about child poverty, substance-use awareness and drug prevention, physical and mental health education, and practical life skills. He has also advocated for the formation of a District Student Council.

Together, these priorities reflect an approach to education that considers both academic development and the challenges students face in everyday life.

Belleza's community involvement reaches across Richmond's civic, cultural,

and service organizations. He is the founding president of the Richmond Bayanihan Society and has served as president of the Richmond Multicultural Community Society, Mabuhay Jaycees, and Circulo Ilongo Association of BC.

His service has also included appointments to Richmond's Family and Youth Court Committee, Community Services Advisory Committee, and Intercultural Advisory Committee. Through these roles, he has contributed to discussions involving families, community needs, and relationships among people of different backgrounds.

A member of the Richmond Rotary Sunset Club and a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, Belleza



has maintained connections with organizations devoted to service.

His contributions have earned several honours, including a Maharlika Award for Outstanding Achievement and community service recognition from Philippine Asian News and the Filipino

Canadian Business Directory. The BC School Trustees Association awarded him a Certificate of Honour for dedicated service to public education and local governance. Rotary International's Foundation also recognized him as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Married to Hazel Regalado, Belleza is the father of Richard and Robert.

From Bacolod to Richmond, his record of service connects professional experience with a sustained commitment to education and community life. For Filipino Canadians, Rod Belleza's journey illustrates how participation in local institutions can help shape the communities they call home.



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Print Subscription: \$24/year



Publisher/Owner: Rey Fortaleza
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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

The Light in the Window

Every evening, just before the sun disappeared behind the mountains, Elena looked out through the kitchen window of her small townhouse in Burnaby. She had lived in British Columbia for almost fifteen years, raised two children, worked in a care home, and slowly built a life that once seemed impossible.

Her youngest son, Paolo, had left home after an argument two years earlier. He was angry about many things, including the sacrifices his mother had made for the family. "You always decide what is best for me," he had told her. After that night, his calls became fewer until they stopped altogether. Elena never stopped worrying. She simply learned to hide it.

One cold November evening, Elena received a call from an unfamiliar number. It was from a hospital in New Westminster.

Paolo had been brought there after becoming ill while working in a restaurant. He was safe, but he had no one listed as an emergency contact.

Elena sat quietly at the kitchen table after the call. For a moment, she remembered every angry word between them. She remembered telling herself that Paolo was old enough to make his own choices. She also remembered the years when he was a little boy who would wait by the window for her to come home from work. She put on her coat, picked up her umbrella, and left.

At the hospital, Paolo looked smaller than she remembered. He tried to sit up when he saw her. "Ma," he whispered. Elena didn't ask where he had been or why he had not called. She simply pulled the chair closer to his bed.

For a long time, neither of

them spoke. Then Paolo began to cry. "I thought you wouldn't come." Elena reached for his hand. "You are my son. Where else would I be?"

Outside the window, rain was falling against the glass, and the city lights blurred into soft reflections. In that quiet room, neither of them needed to explain who was right or who was wrong.

Paolo recovered slowly. He eventually found another job and rented a small basement suite not far from his mother's home. Their relationship did not suddenly become perfect. There were still things they needed to talk about and old wounds that needed time.

But on Sundays, Paolo began visiting his mother for lunch. Sometimes he arrived with groceries. Sometimes Elena sent him home with food he didn't ask for. They talked about ordinary things, the weather, work, the price of groceries, and the strange ways of living in Canada. Slowly, the distance between them became smaller.

One afternoon, Paolo brought a small potted plant and placed it beside the kitchen window. "For your window," he said. Elena smiled. "Why?" Paolo shrugged. "So there will always be something growing there."

Elena looked at the little plant and then at her son. She realized that some things in life cannot be repaired by one conversation. Some relationships need patience, forgiveness, and the courage to open the door again.

The plant was small, but she knew it would grow if she remembered to give it water and sunlight.

Perhaps home is not always



a place we never leave. Sometimes it is the place we discover we can still return to. In a province where many of us came as strangers, leaving behind parents, children, familiar streets and the comfort of everything we knew, we learn that people can wander far without truly disappearing from our hearts.

Sometimes, when the door

opens again, there is no speech, no explanation and no judgment. There is simply someone standing there, quietly saying, "Come in. You are home." And perhaps that is one of life's greatest gifts, knowing that even after a long journey, there can still be a light waiting in the window.

(contact: jblarano@gmail.com.)



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ConGen's Corner

News and Updates from the desk of the Philippine Consul General



By Dr. Gina A. Jamoralin

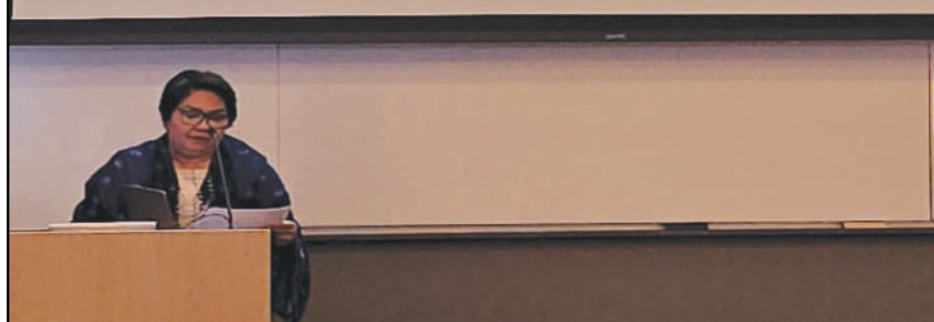
Reflections on nationhood, maps, and the Philippines as a maritime nation

Maps & the emergence of the Filipino Nation.

AMBETH R. OCAMPO

Ateneo de Manila University

Sen. Gil J. Puyat Pro



Last week, the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver organized a series of lectures by Dr. Ambeth Ocampo as part of its activities to celebrate Maritime and Archipelagic

Nation Awareness Month (MANAMo) this September.

More importantly however, we saw it fit to mount these lectures to commemorate a defining moment in



Dr. Ambeth Ocampo



contemporary diplomacy and international jurisprudence: the 10th Anniversary of the landmark 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea.

Ten years ago, the Permanent Court of Arbitration constituted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) rendered a historic decision that firmly upheld the primacy of international law. Today, that ruling is no longer just a milestone in Philippine diplomatic history; it is an indelible part of the corpus of international law. It serves as an enduring anchor for the rules-based international order, affirming that maritime domains are governed by settled legal principles, not by unilateral force or historical assertion.

In the global arena, law remains the great equalizer. For small or middle power nations, international law is both our indispensable shield and our rightful sword. It shields us from coercion and equips us to defend our sovereign rights through peaceful, civilized, and rules-based means.

The Philippines has consistently stood as a responsible maritime nation. Our commitment to UNCLOS and the peaceful settlement of disputes remains unwavering. We believe that true regional stability can only flourish where sovereign equality is respected and where the international rule of

law prevails without exception.

To understand the present, however, we must examine how our history was charted. Maps have never been mere geographic tools; they are historic declarations of identity, presence, and sovereignty. The Philippines is a maritime nation and there is no better way to demonstrate this than through maps. It will be recalled that the Philippines was part of a global supply and production network as early as the 16th century when the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade was bringing goods from Manila to Spain and back via Mexico. The galleon ships were not only made by the Philippine shipbuilders but they were manned by Filipino seafarers and Spanish naval officers.

Titled Maps and the Emergence of the Filipino Nation, Dr. Ambeth Ocampo's lectures showed us how the physical boundaries of our archipelago evolved alongside the spirit of our people.

These lectures — which were graciously hosted by our friends at Simon Fraser University (SFU), University of Victoria (UVic), and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada — walked everyone through the intricate intersection of cartography, history, and nationhood and how this interaction shaped the Philippines to be the nation it is today.



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Mayor Brenda Locke Meets with Vietnamese Business Community to Discuss Surrey's Economic Future

By ReyFort Media

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke met with members of the Vietnam Canada Business Association at Sun Flower Vietnamese Restaurant on September 28, 2026, to hear their experiences, aspirations and interest in strengthening their relationship with the City of Surrey.

Filipino Canadian council candidate Noemi Victorino accompanied Mayor Locke during the gathering, which provided an opportunity for business owners and community representatives to discuss their role in Surrey's economic future.

Victorino brings 25 years of federal public service experience with the Canada

Border Services Agency, where she worked in enforcement, project management and administration before transitioning into nonprofit leadership. She currently serves as Executive Director of Harvest for Hope, an organization that provides food assistance to individuals and families who need a helping hand.

Representing the Vietnam Canada Business Association were President Ken Chau, who also owns 88 Supermarket; Vice President Eric Lam; and fellow officers Ian Pham, Hieu Nguyen and Tuan Hoang. Also attending was Khaleel Qureshi, Chief Operating Officer of 88 Supermarket.

Mayor Locke welcomed the Vietnamese business community and spoke about

Surrey's growing role as a major economic and transportation hub. The discussion highlighted the city's strategic location and the opportunities that continued growth can create for businesses, employers and residents.

The gathering gave association representatives an opportunity to share their perspectives and discuss their interest in building stronger connections with the city. It also highlighted the contributions of businesses rooted in Surrey's diverse cultural communities.

Local businesses play an important role in neighbourhood life, providing goods and services, creating employment and connecting residents. Maintaining communication

with municipal leaders gives business owners a forum to express their aspirations and contribute to discussions about the city's development.

The participation of the Vietnam Canada Business Association brought the Vietnamese business community's voice into that conversation. With representatives from both the association and 88 Supermarket present, the meeting connected city leadership with people involved in serving the community through business. As Surrey continues to grow, opportunities for dialogue can help strengthen relationships between the city and its diverse communities. The September 28 gathering provided a setting for exchanging perspectives and discussing a shared interest in Surrey's economic future.



David Eby secures largest private sector investment in Canadian history

Conservatives would undermine Team Canada approach, put projects at risk with chaos

VANCOUVER – David Eby's BC NDP has secured the largest private-sector investment in Canadian history with the final green light for LNG Canada's expanded project. For years, the BC NDP worked closely with the federal government and the company to advance the project and build the confidence needed to secure this investment.

"This is a big win that will create good jobs and generate the long-term prosperity we need to deliver stronger public services for all British Columbians," said David Eby. "We are seeing real momentum in B.C., but the job isn't done – we need to keep going. Conservative chaos, reckless cuts, and a willingness to walk away from what is clearly working would put

these nation-building projects at risk and leave everyday people paying the price."

Eby noted that projects like LNG Canada rely on strong partnerships with First Nations, and that B.C.'s low-emitting natural gas is what attracts countries like Germany, Japan, and Australia as customers. He warned that the BC Conservatives would put our competitive advantage at risk by gutting B.C.'s world-leading environmental standards.

LNG Canada's Phase 2 will create up to 4,000 construction jobs and generate an estimated \$50 billion for B.C. and Canada to fund public services people rely on. It will also provide billions in contracts and create jobs in communities across the province that provide materials and services for the sector.

A portion of B.C.'s revenue will also be dedicated to climate action programs that help families and businesses choose less costly clean energy and create new jobs.

"Delivering major energy projects is part of my plan to grow paycheques, protect people from rising costs, and work with the Prime Minister to build a more independent Canada," said Eby. "The BC Conservatives would undermine our Team Canada approach. They've had four leaders in ten months – showing they're more focused on infighting than fighting for you. That's a risk we can't afford, especially with our country under economic attack."

Support to arrive at a final investment decision on LNG Canada Phase 2 was part of the

multi-billion-dollar agreement that Eby secured in July with Prime Minister Mark Carney. That agreement sets British Columbia on a generational path to prosperity, unlocking jobs for workers, generating revenue for vital public services and infrastructure, and protecting the tanker ban and British Columbia's pristine northern coast. The BC Conservatives opposed the agreement when it was signed.

B.C.'s natural gas is among the lowest-emission LNG in the world. Emissions from this project are projected to be 35% lower than the world's best-performing LNG facilities and 60% lower than the global average. This strengthens B.C.'s position as a low-emitting energy exporter.

(communications@bcndp.ca)



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*The Tall Order
By Mon Datol*

Mayor Baste Duterte haharap sa impeachment court; Manibela tuloy 3 araw na tigil-pasada di-takot sa LTFRB; PBBM Inatras Brgy. at SK elections sa Nov. 2028; Carlos Yulo sinungkit ika-2 ginto sa Asian Games, bro Eldrew Yulo bronze agad; Pasahe sa jeepney tataas simula Setyembre 28

Inaprubahan ni Senate Impeachment Court presiding officer Sen. Chiz Escudero ang pakiusap ni Davao City Mayor Baste Duterte na ngayong Martes, Setyembre 29 (habang sinusulat ito) siya haharap sa korte imbes na kahapon, Lunes, para...

Di makasabay si SenTri sa Senado?!? Takrot?!?

Si Mayor Baste ay sinubpoena ng impeachment court para magpaliwanag hinggil sa naging transaksyon ng City Hall sa GenCorp Industries Inc. na inamin ni VP Sara na isa siya sa may-ari sa kaniyang SALN kahit na...

No name sa SEC si Inday Sara as owner ng kumpanya.

At dahil sa Ate ni Mayor Baste si VP Sara ay plano ng prosesusyon na ideklara bilang hostile witness ang ma-tatong Davao City Yorme upang makapagbato ng leading question ang mga prosecutor. So...

Abangan kung paano ipagtanggol ni Baste Manang Inday niya.

Kinasahan ni Manibela Chair Mar Valbuena ang babala ng LTFRB na posibleng makompromiso ang kanilang prangkisa kapag marami ang sumama sa tigil-pasada mula Setyembre 28 - 30 bilang protesta sa walang-humpay na pagsirit ng presyo ng petrolyo. Buong mundo apektado ng krisis sa langis at di lang Pinas nagdurusa kaya...

Valbuena 'wag pulos ngak-ngak at pa-pansin ke PBBM!

Pati ang Piston sumama na rin sa ka-angasan ni Valbuena at tigil-pasada na rin grupo nila sa Setyembre 29 at 30 kahit na itinaas na ng Piso

pamasahe simula Lunes at suspindido na rin excise tax.

Nakngdragon Tol Reyfort! Umaangkas Piston sa Manibela eyh.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni LTFRB Acting Chairman Greg Pua Jr. na may 'rules on abandonment' kasi na kung hindi papasada ang 60% ng kabilang sa fleet, maituturing na pag-abandona ito sa prangkisa at kakanselahin ito ng gobyerno at poaibleng...

Sasabit sina Valbuena at ilang ka-tropa rito.

Ayon kay Pua, maaari silbihan sina Valbuena ng show-cause order at pagmultahin ng P5,000 para sa unang paglabag kung hindi sila papasada, taliwasa nakasaad sa kanilang prangkisa, may warrant suspension at pagkansela na ng prangkisa kapag umabot ito sa ikalawa at ikatlong paglabag.

Tingnan nga natin kung gaano katapang si Valbuena.

Pinirmahan nuong Biyernes ni PBBM ang RA No. 12326, na nagtatakda ng limang taong termino para sa mga opisyal ng barangay at para ipagpaliban ang nakatakdang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) sa darating na Nobyembre at iusog ito sa Nobyembre 2028.

Nangiti lahat Barangay at KB Chair sa Gift ni PBBM ah.

Muling nagbigay ng karangalan sa Pilipinas si Carlos Yulo matapos masungkit ang dalawang (2) gold medal sa floor exercise at men's vault final sa ginagawang 2026 20th Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games sa Japan. So, pwede na bang i-level na...

'King Carlos 1' ng Asia si Caloy ngayong Dekada? Hmmm...

Tiniyak naman ni Eldrew Yulo, batang kapatid ni Caloy, na hindi malilimutan ang unang sabak niya sa Asian Games matapos sungkitin ang bronze medal sa men's horizontal bar final nitong Biyernes, at, dahil sa bronze ni Eldrew ay panigurado na ang cash reward mula POC at PSC na ...

Pambili ng bukid ng Tatay nila na di nagawa ni Caloy.

And talking about Caloy Yulo at fiancée, di raw kukumbidahan ang magulang sa kanilang kasal. So huwat? Kung ayaw ni Caloy at fiancée na papuntahin ang Nanay at Tatay plus Lola at Lolo Yulo nila sa kanilang kasal, eh...

Di huwag, ubusin nyo handa nyo, kahit ako di dadalo, hehehe.

Parehong Sports Idol at Hero ng mga Pilipino sina Manny Pacquiao at Caloy Yulo, pero, 10-foot-tall ang ANGAT ng Imahe ni Lodi Manny Pacman kumpara ke Caloy dahil sobrang MAPAGMAHAL SA PAMILYA, lalo na sa Magulang si Manny Pacquiao, kumpara sa 2024 Paris Games 2-gold medalist at 2026 Asiad 2-gold medal winner na si...

Caloy Yulo na parang pera-pera lang yata labs sa Ina at Ama.

Simula ngayong Setyembre 28, magiging P14 na ang minimum fare sa traditional jeepney para sa unang 4 na kilometro mula sa dating P13 at magiging P2 na ang dagdag mula sa dating P1.80 at sa modern jeepneys, magiging P17 ang minimum sa unang 4 na kilometro mula sa P15 at P2.40 naman para sa next

kilometro mula sa P2.20.

O, hayan, Manibela, umaksyon si PBBM para tsuper at operator.

Hindi maaaring iapela ang hatol ng Senate impeachment court, 13-1, ito man ay conviction o acquittal, kung saan hindi lumahok ang anim na senator-judges, upang bigyang-kahulugan ang "all the Members of the Senate" bilang mga senador na legal at aktuwal na may kakayahang lumahok sa oras na ilabas ang hatol.

Ayon yan kay House lead prosecutor Cong. Gerville Luistro.

Ayon pa kay Luistro kung iaakyat sa Korte Suprema ang apela ay limitado lamang ito sa pagtukoy kung nagkaroon ng grave abuse of discretion ang Senate impeachment court.

Sa tingin ko ay di na makiki-alam SC sa desisyon ng Senado.

Nakatakdang idaos nang buong araw ang pagdinig ng Senate Impeachment Court sa impeachment case laban kay Vice President Sara Duterte simula Oktubre 1. Mabibilis takbo ng kaso sa Senado at...

Mai-impeach si VP Sara Duterte bago mag-Pasko. Pramis.

Nilinawni Senate President Win Gatchalian na nananatiling miyembro ng minority bloc si Sen. Mark Villar kahit bumoto pabor sa pagbabago sa voting threshold sa VP Sara Duterte impeachment trial.

Di pa bumalikad si Mark, baka sa botohan na ng conviction???

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...



YOU HAVE A WORK PERMIT — NOW WHAT?

Planning Your Path to Permanent Residence – Part 2

Two weeks ago, I wrote about some encouraging news for workers in British Columbia: the federal government gave B.C. an additional 1,000 provincial nomination spaces, bringing B.C.'s 2026 allocation to 6,254 nominations.

I also emphasized something very important:

Having a work permit does not guarantee permanent residence.

So, what should you do if you are already working in Canada and hope to stay permanently?

Start with your NOC and TEER

One of the first things you should know is the National Occupational Classification (NOC) that actually corresponds with the work you are performing.

Do not simply rely on your job title.

Your NOC is determined primarily by the work you actually perform, and it can affect which immigration programs may be available to you.

This has become increasingly important because both federal and provincial immigration programs are becoming more targeted.

Is your occupation currently a priority?

In B.C., the Provincial Nominee Program is now focused on three main objectives: CARE, BUILD and INNOVATE.

CARE includes selected occupations in health care, education, childcare and veterinary care. BUILD includes selected certified construction trades. INNOVATE focuses on high-economic-impact candidates across different sectors.

And we are already seeing these priorities being used.

For example, on September 10, 2026, B.C. issued targeted invitations in childcare, health care, veterinary care and construction. On September 17, the Province also issued invitations under its temporary rural and remote health-support initiative.

This is why it is no longer enough to say, "I have a job in B.C., so eventually I will qualify."

You need to know where your occupation fits within today's immigration programs. Don't overlook Express Entry

The BC PNP is only one possible pathway.

Workers should also determine whether they may qualify under the federal Express Entry system.

Canada's current category-based Express Entry system includes categories for French-language proficiency, health care and social services, STEM, trades, education and transport, as well as categories for certain physicians, senior managers and researchers with Canadian work experience.

That means your occupation, Canadian work experience and

language ability can make a significant difference. Your language score can matter — a lot

Sometimes people take an English test simply because they need one for immigration and then forget about it.

But your language score can affect your ranking under Express Entry. Improving your English or French may improve your immigration opportunities.

French can be particularly important. Express Entry has a separate French-language proficiency category, currently requiring at least NCLC 7 in all four language abilities for category eligibility.

So even if you are already comfortable communicating in Canada, improving your official language test results may still be worthwhile. What about your education?

Your education can also affect your Express Entry ranking.

For example, under the Canadian Experience Class there is no education requirement. However, Canadian education can provide additional ranking points, while foreign education can contribute points if you have the required Educational Credential Assessment (ECA).

Do not wait until your work permit is almost finished before determining whether you need an ECA or another document.

Most importantly — watch your immigration status

This is something I cannot emphasize enough.

Applying or hoping for permanent residence does not, by itself, give you the right to remain and work in Canada indefinitely.

Know when your work permit expires and understand what options may be available before that date.

For example, IRCC confirms that where an eligible worker applies to extend or change the conditions of a work permit before the existing permit expires, the person may have maintained status while IRCC processes the application, subject to the applicable rules.

Do not leave this planning until the last few days of your permit.

Make a PR plan now

If you are a temporary worker hoping to make Canada your permanent home, ask yourself:

1. What is my correct NOC and TEER?
2. Is my occupation currently being prioritized?
3. Do I qualify for Express Entry?
4. What is my CRS score?
5. Can I improve my English or French score?
6. Do I need an ECA for my foreign education?
7. Is there a provincial pathway available to me?
8. When does my current immigration status expire?

Immigration programs change. Occupations that are prioritized today may not necessarily receive the same priority in the future.

The important lesson is this:

Do not wait for your work permit to expire before making a permanent residence plan.

For our Filipino kababayans working hard to build their lives in Canada, having a job is an important beginning — but today, successful immigration planning requires understanding where that job fits within Canada's changing immigration system.

Plan early. Know your NOC. Know your score. Know your options. And always protect your immigration status.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or immigration advice. Immigration programs, eligibility requirements 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.

TALL ORDER ... FROM LAST PAGE..

Opisyal nang nakalaya si Mary Jane Veloso mula sa Correctional Institution for Women sa Mandaluyong City nitong Biyernes ng gabi, Setyembre 25 matapos niyang matanggap ang clearance order mula sa Bureau of Corrections, na, kasunod ng absolute pardon na ipinagkaloob sa kanya ni PBBM na nilagdaan noong Setyembre 24. Taga-Gen. Natividad, Nueva Ecija ang pamilya ni MJ Veloso, kaya't malinis na pangalan ni Mary Jane Veloso.

Welcome Kabayan, sa Bagong Buhay handog ni Lord Jesus Christ.

SHORT ORDER: Happy Birthday (Sept. 25) to our gorgeous Jessica Tucker, wifey to my handsome nephew Craig

Tucker & mom to 2 wonderful kids; Greetings too from Mum Mila, Dad Martin, sis Kayleigh & partner and Tucker Fam from Staffordshire, England, & from Datol Family from Toronto & Tita Flora and Tito Guy Quinto from NJ, USA....

Happy birthday (Sept. 28) to my Kababata and Dabarkadz Wenceslao 'Wenci' Barrera of Jaen, NE, greetings from all JUNKERS members....

Happy birthday (Sept. 28) to Queen Angel Christine Diego-del Rosario of Toronto, from hubby & kid and from Tita Cecille Araneta and Tito Ed Que of Mississauga....

Happy birthday (Sept 28) to Kabayan Teresita D. Cuevas of Toronto & Jaen, NE, greetings from Baguisa, Dayno Families....

Happy birthday (Sept. 25) to Ms. Karla Kintanar-Fernandez, wifey to PBA Legend Ramon Fernandez, greetings from this corner.... **God Bless.**

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Silenced Nights bares dark legacy of Philippine drug war at Toronto film festival

By Carlito Pablo

A movie based on the bloody war on drugs in the Philippines made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) last month.

The Tagalog-language *Silenced Nights* screened amid the looming trial of the man behind the brutal campaign that unleashed extrajudicial killings.

Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte will be tried before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague starting on November 30, 2026 on charges of alleged crimes against humanity.

Directed by Lawrence Fajardo and written by Troy Espiritu, the movie follows a witness to a killing by police in the slums of Manila and his journey to make the truth known.

Drawing from real events, *Silenced Nights* evokes the murder of 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos in an alleged shootout with police officers during an alleged bust in Caloocan City in 2017.

A video footage later surfaced showing cops dragging Delos Santos to an alley alive, contradicting the police's version of a gunfight.

"With *Silenced Nights*, Fajardo has crafted a shocking and infuriating film that criticizes the police state and its intertwining with government institutions," John Lynn wrote in a review for the online International Cinephile Society.

When Duterte campaigned for the Philippine presidency in 2016, he promised a literal bloodbath.

In a major rally in Manila two days before the election,

Duterte said that the fishes in Manila will grow fat feasting on cadavers.

"If you want to become rich after I am elected president, you should go into the funeral business," he said to cheers by his supporters.

Duterte's message resonated with voters, and he was elected in a landslide victory on May 9, 2016.

The killings that followed caught the attention of local and international observers, prompting complaints to be filed before the ICC.

Upon orders of Duterte, the Philippines withdrew from the Rome Statute, the international treaty that created the ICC. The withdrawal took effect in 2019.

However, the ICC retained jurisdiction over Duterte.

Duterte stepped down from office after his term ended in 2022, and his daughter Sara was elected vice president in a ticket with his successor Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos Jr.

On March 11, 2025, the former president was arrested at the Manila international airport and flown to The Hague, where he remains under ICC detention.

ICC prosecutors have charged Duterte with three counts of alleged crimes against humanity.

Actor Nico Antonio plays the lead role of Andoy, a labourer who witnesses the murder of teen Kerwin by police officers. Driven by conscience, he helps Kerwin's mother Marissa, played by Lotlot de Leon, to find justice.

Per listing by the TIFF, the rest of the cast includes



Filipino actress Lotlot de Leon plays the role of a grieving mother in *Silenced Nights*. Photo from De Leon's social media.

Ina Feleo, Tanya Gomez, Joel Saracho, Dylan Ray Talon, Mario Magallona, and Jorrybell Agoto.

Produced by Patricia Sumagui and Ferdinand Lapuz, *Silenced Nights* runs 112 minutes. The movie screened at the TIFF on September 12, 13, 15 and 18, 2026.

"The script is very true to life, a mirror of our times," lead actor Antonio told the Manila Bulletin newspaper in July this year when word got around that the film will be part of an international film festival.

In the review for the International Cinephile Society, critic John Lynn noted that Fajardo has "explored social injustice and marginalized communities throughout his career, including in

films such as *Amok*, *Posas*, *Imbisibol*, and more recently *The Hearing*."

"With *Silenced Nights*, he again focuses on ordinary people who find themselves up against institutions with vastly more power than they possess. Andoy is not an activist or politician; he is simply a working man who happened to see something he was not supposed to see," Lynn wrote.

In the movie, Andoy lay low after witnessing the killing out of fear, but he eventually found the courage to tell the truth after meeting grieving mother Marissa.

As the tagline for *Silenced Nights* goes, "Where fear prevails, justice is silenced."

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Meanwhile, Duterte's daughter Sara is a leading contender for the next presidential election in the Philippines in 2028.

However, the younger

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Duterte herself is fighting for political survival, as she will be disqualified from public office if convicted as a result of her ongoing impeachment trial.

Remembering The Children
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
September 30



Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

Mary Jane Veloso is Finally Free!



in Indonesia and two years inside the Correctional Institute for Women in the Philippines. Veloso was a victim of human trafficking.

Migrante Canada and its member organizations from coast to coast welcome this news and know the joy this brings to Mary Jane Veloso, her aging parents Nanay Celia and Tatay Cesar, and her two sons. Migrante International, the biggest global alliance of Filipinos overseas, as well as Veloso's lawyers in the NUPL, the many supporters from various sectors, the friends and allies across the globe

celebrate this long overdue freedom of Mary Jane.

The campaigns to free Mary Jane that started when her arrest and detention in Indonesia was made known to the public, spread far and wide from the Philippines to many countries around the globe where Migrante chapters, friends and networks rallied around to free Mary Jane, to save her from execution by firing squad, and to bring Mary Jane home. Migrante International summed it up well: **"Mary Jane's long-awaited freedom is a testament to the power of the people's collective action. The countless organized vigils, rallies and protest actions, prayers, petition signing, phone, letter and noise barrages, forums and lobbying efforts for the past 11 years have all challenged government leaders to act. Our calls for freedom reverberated around the world."**

Migrante Canada followed the case of Mary Jane Veloso, joined these campaigns with actions in front of the Indonesian consulate and the Philippine Consulate General, with petitions and letters, art exhibits, prayers and masses in



Apo Expedito Farinas and the congregation at St Mary the Virgin South Hill holding their signs to "Free Mary Jane". Photo credit: St Mary the Virgin South Hill church.

churches, forums, social media posts, and many more events to remind everyone that Mary Jane was not forgotten -- even if most of the time, the Philippine government did. Strong, loud, committed support to free Mary Jane was sustained throughout all these years because at the heart of these campaigns was Mary Jane herself, her parents and her family. We were determined to have no more Flor Contemplacions.

Last September 24, President Marcos Jr. issued an absolute and unconditional pardon for Mary Jane and restored her full civil and political rights. It must be said though that the President's announcement could have been made so much earlier when Veloso was transferred from Indonesia to the Philippines on December 18, 2024.

The announcement of absolute pardon for Veloso came in the heels of the big news made public in September 9, 2026. The Supreme Court in June 2026 acquitted Imelda Marcos, the president's mother, the former First Lady, and widow of the dictator Marcos by reversing the 2018 Sandiganbayan conviction of guilty on seven counts of graft, a sentence that carried a maximum of 77 years in prison. Imelda posted bail, appealed the decision, never served a day in jail using her age and poor health as reasons.

It did not make good PR sense for the government to share Imelda Marcos' acquittal (Shame!) and still continue to keep Mary Jane inside the CIW. Mary Jane, unlike Imelda Marcos, was never charged

nor convicted of any crime in any court in the Philippines. This was a grave injustice to Mary Jane who should have been set free when she was transferred from Indonesia to the Philippines.

It did not make good PR sense either to ignore our movement who kept faith and hope with Mary Jane for we were witness to the neglect of government officials on protecting the rights of migrant workers and to the lack of justice for those made victims of human trafficking, unjust detention, and criminalization.

Mary Jane is finally free. Maraming salamat to her family, friends and supporters in the campaigns through all these years in the Philippines and around the world. All our combined efforts made sure that Mary Jane Veloso was saved from execution by firing squad in Indonesia and made sure she walked out of jail to embrace her parents and sons in freedom."

**No more Mary Jane Velosos.
No more Flor Contemplacions.
End forced labour migration!
Justice to the victims of human trafficking!**

Finally! Mary Jane Veloso is free! Migrante International describes the release of Mary Jane Veloso as "a historic victory for the global people's movement that has long fought for freedom and justice for Mary Jane as a victim of human trafficking."

Migrante International continues: **"Our campaign does not end here. This victory gives us the inspiration, courage and fuel to advance our movement to free migrant workers from exploitation and assert their full economic, social and political rights abroad and at home. We must work to change the unjust and oppressive system that forces Filipinos like Mary Jane to leave the country in order for their families to survive and endure attacks on their rights."**

Migrante Canada issued its statement on the release of Mary Jane on September 28, 2026. The full-text of the statement is shared below:

"After 16 years of detention, 40-year-old Mary Jane Veloso finally walked out of the Correctional Institute for Women, a woman who spent 14 years inside prison

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Ask Computer Dean
Tech help for everyday users

Exclusive Column for Philippine Asian News Today
askcomputerdean@gmail.com

Scam emails are getting smarter. We need to get smarter, too.

Attention, Readers: Be sure to connect with us on Facebook and Instagram and **Like** and/or **Follow** our pages so you won't miss our important Tip/s of the Day. Send us your questions, we might just make it the main topic of our next issue but if the matter is urgent, text us at (236) 700-6388 and write **HELP** as the first word of your message. Welcoming October 2026!!!

Not too long ago, spotting a scam email was almost a game.

Bad spelling? Check. Strange grammar? Check. A Nigerian prince wanting to give you \$10 million? Delete! Unfortunately, those days are disappearing.

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Subject: Urgent: Verify Your Account

STOP • LOOK • VERIFY

STOP Don't click immediately.

LOOK Check the details.

VERIFY Contact independently.

When in doubt, it's safer to check.

Artificial Intelligence — the same technology behind tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Grok, etc. — can also be used by criminals to create professional-looking, grammatically correct and surprisingly convincing emails and messages.

Today's scam might appear to come from your bank, Amazon, Canada Post, your boss — or even someone you know. And that is what makes these scams dangerous.

The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security warns that AI can help criminals create highly realistic and personalized phishing messages. Scammers can also gather information available online and use it to make their messages more believable.

"THAT EMAIL LOOKS REAL — AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM!"

THE NEW RED FLAGS. Instead of looking only for spelling mistakes, I tell my clients to watch for something else:

URGENCY. "Your account will be suspended today." "Your package cannot be delivered." "We detected suspicious activity." "Please pay this invoice immediately." "Click here to verify your account." The objective is simple: make you react before you have time to think.

And here's my super important piece of advice: **DON'T USE THEIR LINK.**

If an email supposedly comes from your bank, don't click the button in the email. Open your banking app yourself or type the bank's address into your browser.

If "Amazon" says there is a problem with your order, open the Amazon app and check your orders.

If "Canada Post" says you owe \$2.37 for a package, go directly to Canada Post and enter the tracking number yourself.

And if someone you know suddenly emails or messages asking you to buy gift cards, transfer money or send confidential information? Call them.

Not using the telephone number contained in the suspicious message — use the number you already have.

ONE MORE RULE: STOP. LOOK. VERIFY. Before clicking anything, take ten seconds. Look carefully at the sender. Ask yourself whether you were expecting the message. Don't automatically trust a familiar logo, company name or even a familiar-looking email address. And remember: just because a message looks professional doesn't mean it's legitimate. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre reported approximately \$351 million in reported fraud losses during just the first six months of 2026 — and it estimates that only a small percentage of fraud is actually reported.

Technology has changed. The scammers have changed. So perhaps our old advice needs to change too. Don't ask: **"Does this email LOOK fake?"**

Ask: **"Can I independently VERIFY that it's real?"** That little change in thinking could save you a lot more than a mouse click.

Making everyday technology safer, simpler and easier to understand.. ~ Computer Dean



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



A Night to Remember: PICPAVancouver Annual Dinner and Dance

The *Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Vancouver Chapter* successfully celebrated its Annual Dinner and Dance on September 19 at St. Patrick's, with a glamorous Gatsby theme.

The evening was filled with fellowship, music, dancing, and celebration, while supporting a meaningful cause—our fellow *Filipino accountants aspiring to pursue their CPA licensure in Canada*.

PICPA Vancouver extends its sincere appreciation to the *Board of Directors and Officers*: Rowena Rosales, Ramon Salcedo, Mary

Grace Jauod, Ernesto Ong, Mari-beth Acosta, Josephine Lagayan-Dereh, and Mercedes Ortilas.

Special thanks to *Josephine Lagayan-Dereh*, the event organizer, as well as our *sponsors, past officers, members, friends, and families* for their generous support in making the evening a success.

It was truly a wonderful night of celebration, community, and giving back. Thank you to everyone who made our Gatsby evening one to remember!
(Article By: Rowena Rosales - President PICPA)



Anahaw Filipino Canadian Performing Arts Society Celebrates First Anniversary



whose contributions helped make the milestone celebration possible.

In her anniversary message, *Founding Chairman and Director Malou Capacio* Imus expressed her appreciation to the families who continue to support the dancers, as well as the guests, performers, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make the organization's first-year milestone possible.

"Anahaw is more than a dance organization - it is a family united by our love for Filipino culture, tradition, and community," Malou Capacio Imus said.

Photo credit: Imahe Canada
Program host: Kenji Santiago and Malou Cabanero Estrada



Congratulations to the Anahaw Filipino Canadian Performing Arts Society in BC on its first anniversary, celebrated on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Fraserview Banquet Hall on Fraser Street in Vancouver. The celebration featured cultural performances, dinner, music, and dancing, showcasing the rich traditions and artistic talents of the Filipino Canadian community.

Special guest performers Riley-Jasmine Nama Bernas - from Calgary, Zin-Indak Pilipinas Zumba Troupe and HyperVibez Dance Crew 23. Of course, the event also proudly showcased the talent and passion of Anahaw Filipino Canadian Performing Arts Society's own dance members.

The celebration also recognized the generous support of all sponsors of the 1st Anniversary event,

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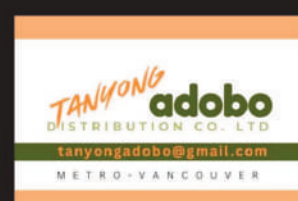
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Faith, Tradition and Community Unite as Bicolanos Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia in Vancouver

By Babes "Miss B"
Newland

VANCOUVER, BC — Faith, devotion and community spirit came together once again as the Filipino Bicol community of British Columbia gathered for the annual Our Lady of Peñafrancia Festivities, a cherished religious tradition that continues to bring generations of Bicolanos and Filipino Catholics together in Vancouver.

Organized by the Philippine Bicol Association of BC (PBABC), this year's celebration culminated on September 19, 2026, at St. Patrick's Church on Main Street, following nine days of Novena and liturgical celebrations held from September 10 to 18.

At the heart of this year's celebration was the Solemn Mass in honour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, with **Rev. Fr. Jun Reyes** of St. Andrew's Parish serving as the Main Celebrant.

He was joined by concelebrants **Fr. Gilbert Nuñez** of Blessed Sacrament Parish and **Fr. Tomasz Staruzyk** of St. Patrick's Parish, with **Deacon Wilfred Victoria** of St. Monica Parish assisting in the celebration.

The liturgy was followed by the traditional procession, allowing devotees to publicly express their faith and devotion to Ina, as Our Lady of Peñafrancia is affectionately known among Bicolanos.



More than a religious observance, the annual celebration has become a powerful expression of Bicolano heritage, Filipino faith and community solidarity in British Columbia.

A Celebration Built on Community

Behind the solemn ceremonies is a dedicated group of volunteers who work tirelessly to keep this annual tradition alive.

This year's principal organizers included **Lorry Gavieres Russell** (President-PBABC); **Joe Arellano**, Chair of the PBABC Religious Committee; **Mario Garchitorena**; **Danny Reyes**; **Robert Azaña**; **Aleta Bombase**; **Marilyn Cunanan**; **Juan Dumalasa**, **Allen May Robles** and **Pilar De Guzman** (VP-PABC).

Their efforts, together with the participation of numerous members, volunteers and devotees, helped bring together the Novena, Mass, procession and reception in a spirit of service and fellowship.

What makes the celebration particularly meaningful is that much of it is made possible through generous community donations.

The beautiful flowers at the foot of Ina's altar were donated by **Muriel Boncacas** and **Aleta Bombase**, while the dress of Ina was generously donated by **Amy** and **Danny Reyes**.

Even the food and beverages served during the community reception were made possible through donations from officers and members of the Philippine Bicol Association of BC, and devotees and supporters of Ina in the community.

These contributions reflect something deeply rooted in Filipino culture: the willingness to give, serve and share without seeking recognition in return.

The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC), extend their sincerest gratitude to St. Patrick Parish for graciously allowing them to use St. Patrick Church for the Nine-Day Novena to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, for the celebration of the Holy Mass, and for the use of Shamrock Hall for our community potluck.

The Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC), extend their sincerest gratitude to St. Patrick Parish for graciously allowing them to use St. Patrick Church for the Nine-Day Novena to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, for the celebration of the Holy Mass, and for the use of Shamrock Hall for our community potluck.

Keeping the Devotion to "Ina"

Alive

For Bicolanos, devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia is more than an annual appointment on the calendar. It is a tradition carried from one generation to the next—a connection to faith, family, homeland and identity.

The celebration in Vancouver allows Bicolanos who have made British Columbia their home to continue a tradition that has long been central to Bicolano Catholic life. It also provides an opportunity for younger generations and members of the wider Filipino community to experience and understand the richness of Bicolano religious heritage.

From the nine-day Novena to the culminating Eucharistic celebration and procession, each part of the observance is an expression of gratitude, prayer and devotion.

And perhaps most significantly, the celebration demonstrates the enduring strength of a community when people come together in faith and service.

As the image of Ina was carried in procession and devotees gathered in prayer, the streets and church grounds became more than a place of celebration—they became a visible reminder of a tradition that continues to thrive thousands of kilometers from its homeland.

A Tradition That Continues

Year after year, the Philippine Bicol Association of BC and its community of volunteers continue to preserve this annual celebration, ensuring that the devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia remains alive in the Filipino-Bicolano community of British Columbia.

It is a celebration of faith, but also of heritage, generosity, friendship and community.

And as another Peñafrancia celebration ends, one message remains at its heart:

The devotion to Ina continues—not simply because a community remembers its tradition, but because generation after generation chooses to carry it forward.

**VIVA LA VIRGEN!
VIVA EL DIVINO ROSTRO!
VIVA PEÑAFRANCIA!**



Prayer Leaders:

Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia

1. Lorry G. Russell – President
2. Pilar de Guzman – Vice-President
3. Honesto Dumalasa – Treasurer
4. Robert Azana – Assistant Treasurer
5. Allen May Robles – Secretary
6. Eden De La Rama – Assist. Secretary
7. Rene Alcantara – Business Manager
8. Jose Arellano – Auditor
9. Eman Raquin – PRO
10. Danilo Reyes – Sergeant at Arms





P6 Beyond Potential: A Community Moving Forward Together

By Alain Arostique

More than 100 people came together for the P6 Beyond Potential Professional Summit on September 26, 2026, at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Vancouver Campus. They came to learn, connect, and consider their next professional steps. For me, that turnout made every hour of preparation worthwhile. Behind that number were more than 100 individual reasons for showing up.

P6 stands for Passion, Purpose, People, Progress, Possibility, and Pathways. We built the summit around something familiar to many Filipino Canadians: finding our place, rebuilding our careers, and putting our experience to meaningful use.

Our message was simple: made for us, by us.

Starting over involves licensing requirements, workplace expectations, and decisions made alongside family responsibilities. We wanted attendees to leave with a resource, clearer options, or a connection worth following up. Encouragement matters. So does knowing what to do on Monday morning.

The program brought together engineering, architecture, nursing, trades, construction, and project careers, with guidance specific to each pathway.

The questions were familiar: How does my experience

fit here? What qualifications do I need? Where can I find support? Having professionals and community organizations in one room made those conversations possible.

Ma. Celeste Valderama presented MWO Programs and Services for OFWs, recognizing that building a career happens alongside the practical and personal demands of settling into a new country.

In Engineering Beyond Borders, Rob Salamat, P.Eng., addressed engineering licensing, career pathways, and professional practice in British Columbia. Guel Climaco, Architect AIBC, covered architecture's corresponding requirements through Designing Your Future. Both sessions helped participants understand how to build on their education and experience.

Mhel Buzon, P.Eng., and Jonald Francisco, PMP, presented Building Canada, exploring construction and project careers in British Columbia. As a project management professional, this mattered to me. Our work depends on people bringing different expertise together, from planning and design through coordination and delivery. Recognizing that range can help someone see where their experience belongs.

Eliseo Yanga III's Beyond the Resume explored Canadian workplace culture and getting

hired. Rachele Sunga, RN, presented Your Status, Your Strategy, focusing on a roadmap for the first three years in Canada. Vaneza Villaceran's Moving Forward with WorkBC connected attendees with employment resources to continue learning beyond the summit.

Ellie Lindong, RN, led Beyond the Banter, addressing communication, health, and mental well-being across the built environment. Career conversations need room for how people are coping and whether they can sustain their responsibilities.

The closing Ask, Connect, Grow brought speakers together for panel discussion, networking, and reflection. Registration, breaks, and lunch also gave attendees opportunities to share their own experiences.

Our host, Kath Malabanan, brought warmth, lively energy, and personality throughout the day. Kath, thank you for making everyone feel welcome.

The gathering also brought me back to something I shared: the cost of free.

Admission was free, but organizing P6 required preparation, resources, and coordination. Speakers gave their time. Organizations offered support. Volunteers handled the tasks that made everything possible.

To our volunteers, your service to the community is im-

mense, even when often invisible. I may not name each of you, but your effort deserves recognition. Thank you. May God bless you and return your kindness through strength, joy, and people who show up when you need them.

Attendees invested too. A Saturday carries work commitments, family responsibilities, and the need to rest. Thank you for choosing to spend yours with us.

My sincere thanks to every speaker, the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver - Migrant Workers Office, the Filipino Canadian Construction Society, the Society of Filipino Engineers in British Columbia, CIAP-BC, and the International Nursing Alliance. Thank you to Fairleigh Dickinson University's Vancouver Campus and Lester for welcoming our community into that beautiful space.

To everyone who attended, may your learning ripple beyond the room. Share a resource. Pass along useful advice. Follow up with someone you met. Put one lesson into practice.

We may never know every opportunity that follows P6. What matters is that we gave people a place to begin and keep helping one another move forward.

"The greatest thank you we can give those who helped us rise is to become the reason someone else rises." — Alain





Asian Games or 'China Games'?

ARE we really having the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan?

Or is it the "China Games" we've been watching since Sept. 20 and ending on Oct. 4?

For, at the rate China has been gobbling up the gold medals, it certainly appears it's been practically an all-Chinese show from Day One of this 20th edition of the continental showcase.

As of yesterday alone, China has a runaway haul of 130 gold medals, scooping up win after win after win in almost every event staged in the two-week or so competition.

That 130-gold total is so massive the Philippines needs maybe 50 Asiad to amass that much?

China is so way ahead of the pack that if this were a one-on-one duel between two marathon runners, the winner had long crossed the finish line, had emerged from the showers and been enjoying cocktails hour while the foe was not even halfway through the 42.195-kilometer race.

For the record, Japan was running second as of yesterday with 41 gold medals--or 89 gold medals behind China.

With still five days or so left in the quadrennial Games, China could yet jack up its lead in the event that also includes countries like Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan.

So unreachable is China that its 89-gold margin is as wide as the combined sizes of the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

But be that as it may, Japan's 41 gold medals seems secure for second spot for the host country as the Japanese are 20 gold medals ahead of the third-running South Korea at 21 golds.

Rounding up the Top 10 thus far are Uzbekistan at fourth with 12 golds, Kazakhstan, Thailand and Bahrain tied at 5th to 7th with 9 golds apiece, Iran at No. 8 with 8 golds, North Korea 9th with 7 golds and Malaysia 10th with 6 golds.

And the Philippines?

We are at 17th tied with Indo-

nesia, Singapore and Tajikistan with two gold medals apiece.

And who won for us our two gold medals?

Why, of course, Carlos Yulo, whose electrifying victories in the vault and floor exercise duplicated his twin wins in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The good news is we could win some more golds, with our chances as bright as the fuel prices might yet end sooner than expected?

Carlo Paalam, the Olympic medallist, has advanced to the semifinals as the 28-year-old survived a tough Chinese opponent in Monday's quarters to remain the last Filipino man standing in boxing.

EJ Obiena might yet keep his pole vault crown he won in record fashion four years ago in Hangzhou, China, his spirits buoyed up by consistent finishes in his recent European tour. And who could forget Alex Eala, the 21-year-old global sensation, who debuted on Monday with a 6-1, 6-0 rout of Thailand's Cheapchandej Patcharin

in a 55-minute win that looked more like a workout than an actual match.

Eala has been tagged the No. 1 favorite to win the gold as chief rivals Naomi Osaka of Japan, defending champion Zheng Qinwen of China and newly-crowned U.S. Open winner Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan have skipped the Games to honor a commitment to play in the Beijing Open.

We may not hit the Top 10, but an Eala win will surely ease the pain of that sorry loss by Gilas Pilipinas, the defending men's basketball champion, slumping to a worst ever finish of 9th overall.

Indeed, we win some, we lose some.

THAT'S IT Alex Eala, who plays JoAnn Garland of Taipei today (Wednesday) in the quarterfinals, is aiming for a double in the Nagoya Asiad: win the tennis gold to earn a ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Go, go, go Alex!

(The author authorized to reprint his article)

Asian Games: Team Philippines results

(Update) September 30, 2026- The Philippines has its biggest Asian Games contingent in more than three decades, with more than 450 athletes set to compete across 38 sports as the 20th Asiad unfolds in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Eala ousts Garland, Obiena secures gold

SUSTAINING her gold-medal quest, Filipina pride **Alex Eala** raised her form a notch in the second set, sweeping past Chinese-Taipei's Joanna Garland 7-5, 6-0 yesterday to enter the women's singles semifinals of the 20th Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games netfest in Nagoya, Japan.

Finally getting to play outdoors in sunny weather at the Higashiyama Tennis Park Center Court after two straight days of continuous rain, Eala blitzed Garland in stringing up eight

straight games from the opening set to settle the issue in one hour and 49 minutes in front of a delighted predominantly Filipino crowd.

UNDER wet conditions due to a drizzly Tuesday evening, **Ernest John "EJ" Obiena** still claimed his second straight men's pole vault title in the 20th Asian Games in Japan.

The Filipino pole vault ace did it in a record-setting fashion at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium.

Obiena secured the gold medal after Chinese Yao Jie and Li Chenyang struck out at 5.75 m which the Philippine bet cleared in just one try.

The 30-year-old decided to post a new meet record and successfully did so with a 5.91-meter (m) clearance, surpassing the 5.90-m height he aced

in the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, back in 2023.

Obiena thus gave the Philip-

pinas its third overall gold in the ongoing meet following gymnast Carlos Yulo's floor exercise and vault titles. (Manila Times Sports)



Team Philippines at the Asian Games: How many medals will the athletes win at Aichi-Nagoya 2026? Mark Ron Castañeda for ESPN

Wisdom from
the Word

Ben Berto



PRAYING FOR WISDOM

James 1: 5, NIV

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

EG White wrote these words about prayer. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are stored the boundless treasures of omnipotence." "Prayer is the breath of the soul"

God is the source of all wisdom in the universe. If we don't know what to do in some situations, when we are between the "rock and the hard place", when choosing a life partner, what to eat, whether to eat meat or be a vegetarian, et cetera, those are questions you could ask God for help in prayer, and we have to have faith that God would show us the right answer.

However, there is a "but" in the next verse, in James 1: 6 -8, we read, 6 "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Some famous men like George Washington, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Isaac Newton, all believed in prayer. Abraham Lincoln, U.S. President, once said, said that 'prayer and dependence on God were essential, famously noting, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

Jesus, when He was on earth, was a man of prayer. In the Gospels, Mark 1: 35, we read, "35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a [a]solitary place;

and there He prayed." Before Jesus ordained the twelve into the ministry, He spent the entire night praying for them, while his disciples were sleeping at the foot of the mountain.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before He was crucified, He told Peter, James, and John, "41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Even when the Roman soldiers were hammering nails into his hands to the cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. Luke 23:34

The Apostle Paul always prayed for his parishioners. He told them to "pray without ceasing." And told them to "pray for each other." Does Pope Leo the Fourteenth believe in prayer? "Yes, Pope Leo XIV strongly believes in prayer, placing it at the center of his daily life and actively urging Catholics and Christian families to rediscover and maintain traditional prayer

practices".

Friends, the only way we could communicate with our heavenly Father is through prayer. You could "talk to your Father as to a friend." His line is never busy or "the person you reached is unavailable."

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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Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



To your promise, be true

The story is told about a patient who went back to his doctor and said: "Well doctor, you sure kept your promise, that I will be walking after a month. Yes, I am walking now because I had to sell my car, to pay for my medical bill!"

In today's Gospel (Matthew 21: 28-32) we hear the story about a son who broke his promise to his father. It would be good for all of us to renew the promises we have made to God, to others, and to ourselves. If we have been faithful to those promises, then let us praise God for his grace. If we have broken our promises, then let us turn to God in sorrow, and renew them. Let not our broken promises break us.

Our government officials and our elected leaders made a promise when they were put in office—that they will serve the public and that they will do their very best to serve the common good. Today, we enjoin them to remember and make true their

promise to God and to our people.

Likewise, we church and religious people made a solemn vow to God to serve Him and His people. We, too, beat our breasts today and say "mea culpa" for the many times we have been so untrue, and for the times we gave in to personal comfort and agenda.

Husbands and wives likewise must remember and renew today their marriage vows. Remember, the Lord said: "Love one another," not "love another one"! And remember that you promised to love each other "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

Reminds me of a story about a little boy from China whose family settled in America. One day, in exasperation, he said: "I am so confused with the English language: they point to electrical gadget,

they say 'plug,' they point to a croaking animal, they say 'plug,' they point to a cloth on top of a pole, they say 'plug!'" This story should remind us adults to stop confusing the children with our dishonesty, lies, and inconsistencies. What are we leaving behind for the next generation? How will they remember us and our generation?

He who pretends is tense. He who lies, in the end, cries. There is no greater peace than in being honest to God, to the world, and to oneself. He who is honest is free. He who is truthful is peaceful.

The good news is that it is possible for us to change our minds for the better at any moment of our lives. The first son initially refused, but eventually went to the vineyard and was praised by Jesus. This gives us hope. God always accepts us whoever we are, whatever we have done. He does not keep a re-

cord of the wrongs we have done in the past. He looks at us with love in the present and He sees our potential to be better in the future. Yes, it is possible to change. It is possible to leave behind our lying ways and schemes. And the beautiful thing is that God believes and keeps on believing in us. Talaga! Really!

All too often we are so focused in our life on "komisyon" (money) and "konsomisyon" (problems) that we forget our "misyon" (mission) for God and His people. Please don't forget, don't belittle God's call to live not only a successful and comfortable life., but more so, a meaningful life filled with God, goodness, service, sharing, and love.

Today is National Migrants' Sunday. We all are migrants in this world. May we learn to treat foreigners, "outsid-

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



OBITUARY



Rosette Viduya

FOREVER LOVED

September 30, 1966 to September 27, 2026

Rosette is survived by her husband, Augustine "Tintin" Viduya; her son, Justin Viduya; her siblings, Rick, Richard and Rosalyn; and her many relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Generoso Jr. and Leticia Quijano. She will be remembered for her warmth, her laughter, her kindness, and the quiet care she gave to the people she loved. May her soul rest in peace.

Vancouver Celebrations of Life:
Monday, October 5th: Viewing and Prayers
Hamilton Harron Funeral Home
6-9pm

Tuesday, October 6th: Funeral Mass
St Jude's Parish and Shrine
11am Mass then light reception to follow

FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

ers," and those who are "different" from us with respect, understanding, compassion, and love. This is our sincere prayer, too, for all of our Filipino migrants all over the world. We salute them for being missionaries of hope and faith whenever they go.

Inviting you to join our Walk with God to Manaoag on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026,

starting at 5 a.m. in Urdaneta, Pangasinan Cathedral, ending with 9 a.m. mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag. This is a 13-kilometer walk we do with sacrifice and thanksgiving, and petition for peace and unity in our country.

A moment with the Lord: Lord, help us to be true to the promises we made to others and to You. Amen.

momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com



**Remembering
The Children**
National Day for
Truth and Reconciliation

SEPTEMBER 30

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EAH.H. BEEFSTEAK
TOMATO B.C.**1⁴⁸**
LBGREEN LEAF
LETTUCE B.C.**2/2⁹⁸****MEAT**FRESH BONE-IN
SKIN-ON PORK
PICNIC HALVES**3⁶⁸**
LBFRESH PORK BACK RIBS
TAIL FAMILY PACK**4⁴⁸**
LBFRESH INSIDE ROUND
ROAST BEEF AA**8⁸⁸**
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