# THE NORTH AMIERICAN

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# Which party platform answers Canada's needs and challenges?



(L to R): Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, Liberal Leader Mark Carney, New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh, and Bloc Quebecois Leader Yves-Francois Blanchet, take part in a group photo prior to participating in the Englishlanguage federal leaders' debate, in Montreal, Thursday, April 17, 2025. (THE **CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld)** 

Amid all the various economic and political challenges, Canadians hope to elect the best man to lead the country during this critical time in our history. The next prime minister not only needs to be knowledgeable and experienced but must also have the vision and foresight to choose the right path for Canada to build its economy in order to be prepared to face the constant threats of tariffs from U.S. President Donald Trump.

How does one measure party platforms and vote for the one that seems to produce the greatest good for all? What are the most important

major political parties promise to do to be elected?

In order to vote wisely, one must have the facts and be able to have a clear understanding of the significance of ideas proposed by the different political parties. It is a common practice for all political parties to promote their own platforms and criticize their opponents but it is up to the electorate to decide which one offers the most sensible solutions to the problems facing the country at this time, particularly global factors that are beyond anyone country's control.

At the beginning of the political issues that affect our life? What do the campaign, the leaders of the five major



Federal Liberal leader and prime minister Mark Carney spoke to a large crowd of supporters during a rally at the Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre on April 19, 2025. (Photo: Jeannine Taylor / kawarthaNOW)

parties were not very specific about their plans but during the last week, more details of the different platforms are reported and analyzed by experts.

The Canadian Press reported that with just over a week left in the federal election campaign, both Liberal Leader Mark Carney and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh unveiled their respective costed platforms on Saturday, April 20th.

The Liberal platform promises almost \$130 billion over the next four years and charts a major change in priorities from the party's 2021 platform under former prime minister Justin Trudeau.

The platform, which focuses See Page 4

on four principles - unite, secure, protect, and build - highlights several previously announced campaign promises, including \$18 billion in new defence spending and almost \$12 billion on housing. It also includes \$20 billion in countertariffs expected to be collected this year on American imports.

The platform outlines the party's promise to eliminate federal barriers to interprovincial trade while making it easier for Canadians to buy Canadian, defending workers against U.S. tariffs, rebuilding and reinvesting in the military, and building a stronger

Which party platform

### **Pope Francis dies on Easter Monday, Vatican confirms**



Volodymyr Zelenskyy arriving for a private audience with Pope Francis at The Vatican in October last year (Vatican Media) (Reuters) April 21, 2025) Francis,

Monday at the age of 88, the Vatican said.

See Page 2

the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church, died on Easter

Pope Francis

# Stability vs. bold change style of leadership - who will prevail?



A new poll indicates that Pierre Poilievre, right, and the CPC are resonating with voters who want bold change, whereas Mark Carney, left, and the Liberals are appealing to those seeking stability. Photo by Dave Chan /AFP - Jeff Vinnick/Getty Images (See story on page 2, "Results of a survey of voters' choice of leaders of

## Results of a survey of voters choice of six leaders of political parties by IPSOS

#### Carney Leader Represent Canada, Navigate Tough **Economic Times**

2

At the start, the election appears to be driven by the views Canadians have of the various party

Seen as Best Pierre Poilievre only leads on negative statements: being seen as having a hidden agenda (+18 pts vs. Carney), being someone who will say anything to get elected (+15 pts), and someone who is in over their head (+11 pts).

> Canadians continue to unite under Mark Carney as their choice for

> > 85

		•	F.	*		12	Р
	Someone who is best to manage during tough economic times	27%	42%	7%	4%	3%	2%
	Someone who is best to represent Canada on the world stage	28%	43%	7%	4%	3%	3%
	Someone who has the right temperament and maturity to be Prime Minister	26%	40%	9%	5%	4%	2%
	Someone who can stand up to President Trump	28%	40%	7%	3%	3%	3%
	Someone who can help make us proud to be Canadians	27%	38%	10%	5%	4%	2%
	Someone you can trust	23%	32%	11%	6%	4%	3%
	Someone I would be proud to see as Canada's Prime Minister	26%	35%	10%	5%	4%	3%
	Someone who will provide open, responsible, and ethical government	25%	33%	12%	6%	3%	2%
	Someone who will protect the interests of cultural, religious and other minorities in Canada	21%	28%	23%	4%	4%	2%
		<b>€</b>	<b>I</b> ₩	•	•	B	P
	Someone who will get things done	29%	36%	8%	4%	3%	3%
	Someone whose values best represent my own	25%	31%	12%	5%	5%	4%
		25%		12%	5%	5%	4% 2%
	represent my own Someone who will spend		31%				
	represent my own  Someone who will spend taxpayers' money wisely  Someone who will keep their	27%	31% 32%	10%	4%	4%	2%
S	represent my own  Someone who will spend taxpayers' money wisely  Someone who will keep their election promises  Someone who will fight for the	27%	31% 32% 30%	10%	4%	4%	2%
S	represent my own  Someone who will spend taxpayers' money wisely  Someone who will keep their election promises  Someone who will fight for the middle class  Someone who will make things more	27% 25% 27%	31% 32% 30% 31%	10%	4% 4% 5%	4% 3% 4%	2%
S	represent my own  Someone who will spend taxpayers' money wisely  Someone who will keep their election promises  Someone who will fight for the middle class  Someone who will make things more affordable	27% 25% 27% 27%	31% 32% 30% 31% 28%	10% 10% 15%	4% 4% 5% 4%	4% 3% 4% 3%	2% 3% 2% 3%
S	represent my own  Someone who will spend taxpayers' money wisely  Someone who will keep their election promises  Someone who will fight for the middle class  Someone who will make things more affordable  Someone who is in over their head	27% 25% 27% 27% 32%	31% 32% 30% 31% 28% 21%	10% 10% 15% 13%	4% 4% 5% 4%	4% 3% 4% 3%	2% 3% 2% 3% 4%

leaders. In every way that matters, Liberal Party leader Mark Carney is running well ahead of his opponents. Given the ongoing tensions with the United States under President Donald Trump. Canadians see Carnev as best to help navigate the uncertainty: Carney's lead over Conservative Pierre Poilievre is highest for being best to represent Canada on the world stage (+15 pts vs. Poilievre), being the best to manage during tough economic times (+15 pts), having the right temperament and maturity to be Prime Minister (+14 pts), being someone who can stand up to President Trump (+12 pts), and being someone who can help make us proud to be Canadians (+11 pts). By contrast,

best Prime Minister, with 44% (+2 pts vs. earlier this month) selecting Carney as best for the job. One-third (33%, +1 pt) think Pierre Poilievre would make the best Prime Minister of Canada. While Carney is running in line with his Liberal Party, Pierre Poilievre is running five points behind vote for his Conservative Party.

Confidence in Jagmeet Singh is waning, as just 8% pick him as Prime Minister, down four points from our last survey.

Carney's lead is strongest among those 55+ (50%). Although Carney still leads Poilievre among those 18-34 (38% among this group selected Carney vs. 34% Poilievre), the lead is much narrower than for

Canadians overall. Voters in Alberta and Saskatchewan/Manitoba are more likely to select Poilievre (44% in each) as best Prime Minister, while those in Atlantic Canada (48%) and Ontario (47%) are more likely to select Carney. About the study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between March 24 and 26, 2025, on behalf of Global News. For this survey, a sample of n=1,500 eligible voters in Canada aged 18+ was interviewed. A sample of n=1,000 Canadians aged 18+ was interviewed online, via the Ipsos I-Say panel and non-panel sources, and respondents earn a nominal incentive for their participation. A sample of n=500 Canadians aged 18+ was interviewed by live-interview telephone interviewers by landline and cellphone, using random-digit dialing. Quotas and weighting were employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to

From Page 1 Pope Francis In a video statement, the Vatican confirmed his death.

"This morning at 7:35 a.m. (0535 GMT), the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father," said Cardinal Kevin Farrell in a statement published on the Vatican's Telegram channel.

The Pope had been suffering from serious health issues over the last 12 years of his papacy.

#### **Zelensky honours Pope Francis**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has paid tribute to the late Pope

"Millions of people around the world are mourning the tragic news of Pope Francis's passing. His life was devoted to God, to people, and to the Church," he wrote on X.

"He knew how to give hope, ease suffering through prayer, and foster unity. He prayed for peace in Ukraine and for Ukrainians.

"We grieve together with Catholics and all Christians who looked to Pope Francis for spiritual support. Eternal memory!"

#### A historical review of Pope Francis' 12 years at the Vatican

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, served as the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of Vatican City from 2013 until his death in 2025. As the first Jesuit and Latin American pope, he ushered in a new era of leadership with focus on environmentalism, and global peace.

#### His ascension to the papacy heralded many firsts.

Francis was the first Pope from the Americas or the Southern Hemisphere. Not since Syrian-born Gregory III died in 741 had there been a non-European Bishop of Rome.

He was also the first Jesuit to be elected to the throne of St Peter - Jesuits were historically looked on with suspicion by Rome.

His predecessor, Benedict XVI, was the first Pope to retire voluntarily in almost 600 years and for almost a decade the Vatican Gardens hosted two popes.

#### **Determined to be different**

From the moment of his election,

Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos polls which include non-probability sampling is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadians been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. Ipsos abides by the disclosure standards established by the CRIC: https://canadianresearchinsightscounc il.ca/standards/

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Francis indicated he would do things differently. He received his cardinals informally and standing - rather than seated on the papal throne.

On 13 March 2013, Pope Francis emerged on the balcony overlooking St Peter's Square.

Clad simply in white, he bore a new name which paid homage to St Francis of Assisi, the 13th Century preacher and animal lover.

He was determined to favour humility over pomp and grandeur. He shunned the papal limousine and insisted on sharing the bus taking other cardinals home.

The new Pope set a moral mission for the 1.2 billion-strong flock. "Oh, how I would like a poor Church, and for the poor," he remarked.

His last act as head of the Catholic Church was to appear on Easter Sunday on the balcony of St Peter's Square, waving at thousands of worshippers after weeks in hospital with double pneumonia.

Many Catholics had assumed the new pontiff would be a younger man - but Cardinal Bergoglio of Argentina was already in his seventies when he became Pope in 2013.

He had presented himself as a compromise candidate: appealing to conservatives with orthodox views on sexual matters while attracting the reformers with his liberal stance on social justice.

It was hoped his unorthodox background would help rejuvenate the Vatican and reinvigorate its holy mission.

But within the bureaucracy some of Francis's attempts at reform met with resistance and his predecessor, who died in 2022, remained popular among traditionalists.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 17 December 1936 - the eldest of five children. His parents had fled their native Italy to escape the evils of fascism.

He enjoyed tango dancing and became a supporter of his local football club, San Lorenzo.

He was lucky to escape with his life after an initial and serious bout of pneumonia, undergoing an operation to remove part of a lung. It would leave him susceptible to infection throughout his life.

See Page 9 Pope Francis



#### FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Exercising one's right to vote makes a difference

**Majority vs. Minority** Government

#### Zenaida Kharroubi

review of past federal elections and referendums shows that the percentage of voter turn out has never reached 80% of the registered eligible voters. Voter turnout ranged from 61.1% during the May 2, 2011 elections to 79.4% during the March 31, 1958 24th federal elections, the highest of all the past federal elections.

We are now in the midst of the 45th federal elections. Will we have a better turnout this time when we are facing more serious challenges of our life? Why is it important to vote?

Voting in a federal election can be a daunting task. Do you vote for the party whose values align with yours; for your member of Parliament, who will ultimately represent your ridings' concerns; or do you vote for the person at the helm, the party leader who you may or may not think is the right choice? It's a tough call for a lot of people and unfortunately many Canadians don't know what to do or feel like their vote won't count, so they don't bother casting a ballot.

When you exercise your right to vote, you are using your voice to help decide who will form the government and who will hold them accountable over the next four years. In Canada we cast our vote for the candidates in our federal riding. Ultimately, they will be the ones to represent us in Parliament, even if their party leader doesn't win. However, some people vote based on how closely their own values align with the party's values. And some people vote based on their opinions of the party leaders. How you choose to decide is up to you. It's best to educate yourself and make your own

decision. Taking the time to inform yourself and vote can make a difference. Most importantly, voting is a benefit of being Canadian.

Voting gives you the power to create positive change for your community and determine a better quality of life for you and your family. Voting together with your neighbors, family, and friends ensures that your shared values and issues are prioritized, that you play a key role in choosing who represents us, and where government funding and resources will go. The more we vote, the more powerful our voices become, and the likelier the issues that are important to us will be heard.

Elections impact our daily life. Voting and encouraging others to vote means standing up for the issues you care about by electing the people who have your best interests at heart. Voting does not just help our communities in theory; it has tangible effects on whether or not our elected officials care about our needs. Voting gives a stake in your community.

Every vote counts: In local elections especially, victory for one candidate may be determined by just a few votes more than the other. Your decision to vote could sway an election from someone who doesn't have your best interests at heart to someone who

Decide where your tax dollars go - everyone pays taxes, so we should all have a say in where that money goes. By helping to elect a representive or MP, your vote chooses how your tax dollars allocated, who runs communities, and what projects will get

federal funding.

There is another common question that is related to any election whether or not it is better to have a majority or minority government. It is evident that a majority government can pass legislations more easily than when it is in a minority position. During the previous Trudeau minority government, it was only able to pass legislations with the support of the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois. Eventually, when the NDP ended their agreement with the Trudeau Liberals, it became obviously clear that the current government would not last any longer.

#### **Majority or Minority Government?**

When Marc Carney called for a snap elections, it is his hope to form a majority government in order to be able to negotiate better with Donald Trump's

disastrous tariff threats and annexation of Canada as the 51st state.

With all considerations of the importance of voting and the need for a stronger government, it is extremely important for all voters to reflect seriously on the issues of the day and elect the best leader to guide the country effetively for the next four years.

From the analysis of David Colleto, a leading Canadian polling expert, he writes about the stakes of this election: "Ultimately, this election will be a referendum on what kind of leadership Canadians want during uncertain times. Do they want a fighter who will shake up the system, or a seasoned expert who will guide the country through turbulence?

The answer to this question will only be known after all the votes are counted on April 28th.#

#### Celebrating World Press Freedom Day

Every year, May 3rd is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

World Press Freedom Day was first celebrated in 1993, following the recommendation of the General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The date May 3 was chosen to commemorate the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of press freedom principles put forth by African journalists in Windhoek. Namibia, in 1991. Since then, World Press Freedom Day has been celebrated annually on May 3.

The National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada is celebrating World Press Freedom Day on May 2nd in Toronto City Hall Press Gallery. Mr. Thomas Saras, NEPMCC president, is inviting all members to join him and the Executive Board in honoring seven individuals who have sacrificed their lives in doing their job as journalists in countries where the freedom of the press is often threatened by autocratic governments and dictators.

In 2024, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and Pakistan were among the deadliest countries for journalists, according to a report from CNN. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)



Thomas Saras, President, NEPMCC (Photo: BCI Media)

also identified countries like Mexico, Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, and Haiti as having multiple journalist killings in 2024.

In 2024, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reported that the following countries were in the red zone for press freedom and considered dangerous for journalists: Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Palestine, Iraq, Bahrain, Syria, and Egypt. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also documented the killing of 39 journalists and media workers in 16 nations, with the deadliest being Sudan, Pakistan, Mexico, Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, and Haiti. Palestine, particularly Gaza, was identified as the most dangerous region for journalists, with a high number of killings attributed to the Israeli military. #

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From Page 1 Which party platform health care system.

The platform also states that the Liberal government will have a budget deficit of \$62.3 billion this year, but that the deficit would shrink by almost \$15 billion to \$48 billion by 2028-29.

In an analysis of the Liberal Party platform, Aaron Wherry's headline - Mark Carney lays out his plan for 'the biggest crisis of our lifetimes', it seems to imply that Carney is basing his reponse to the economic problems caused by the trade war and knows that he must act according to his economic experience.

Carney said that the United States is attacking Canada's economy and threatening Canadian sovereignty. The American president is "trying to fundamentally restructure the international trading system" and, in doing so, is "rupturing the global economy."

"And to succeed in a crisis, you have to act with overwhelming force," Carney said at an announcement in Ontario. "In a crisis ... the private sector retreats, and government needs to step up. Government must lead and catalyze private investment."

A little while later, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre appeared at his own announcement in British Columbia, where he dismissed Carney's plan as a "spending bonanza" that Canada can't afford.

"Mark Carney launched his platform today, announcing \$130 billion in new inflationary spending," Poilievre said.

The questions of exactly how much federal spending has contributed to inflation in Canada, and exactly what the alternative was — particularly as it pertains to the spending the federal government did during the COVID-19 pandemic to support households, business and other levels of government — have not been adequately debated, either in this campaign or in the months leading up to it.

But it seems fair to note that Canada was not the only country to experience inflation after the pandemic and that there were significant global factors contributing to the problem. (An analysis by Scotiabank in December 2022 attributed 85 per cent of inflation in Canada to global factors and 15 per cent to the government's pandemic support programs.)

For now, the debate might focus on the details of Carney's \$130-billion plan — and the question of exactly what Poilievre's Conservatives would do differently.

### What Carney would do with \$130 billion

While the Conservative described it as "spending," that \$130 billion includes money the federal government would lose as a result of tax cuts. The single most expensive line item in the Liberal platform is, in fact, a previously announced income-tax cut, at a projected cost of \$22 billion over four years. Another \$12.5 billion would go toward cancelling the capital gains changes that were proposed last spring by Justin Trudeau's government.

In the context of a crisis, Carney might be asked whether such amounts would be better put toward other things.

But Poilievre is not well positioned to criticize the cost of those two particular line items — he's pledged that a Conservative government would also cancel the capital gains changes, and promised an income tax cut that would actually be more expensive than the one Carney proposed.

In terms of actual spending, there are three buckets that collect the majority of new funds in Carney's plan — defence, infrastructure and housing. For accounting purposes, Carney plans \$18 billion over four years for defence (on a cash basis, the Liberals say an additional \$32 billion would be spent). A number of infrastructure initiatives — aimed at "nation-building" projects, trade corridors, digital infra-structure, health-care infrastructure, community infrastructure and projects in the Arctic — account for more than \$20 billion.

Build Canada Homes, a new agency focused on affordable housing, would receive \$11.8 billion over four years. Another \$6 billion would go toward helping municipalities reduce development charges and build housing-related infrastructure. A new tax incentive for the construction of rental housing would cost \$4.1 billion.

The additional spending would be partially offset by cost reductions. The Liberals say that transfers to provinces and individuals would be off limits, but they aim to save \$28 billion over three years by cutting "wasteful" spending and making changes to the government's internal operations, including a cap on the size of the public service.

Finding that amount of savings probably won't be perfectly easy or painless — a previously announced spending review was already expected to "refocus" \$15 billion over the same time frame. (On the other hand, the Business Council of Canada has suggested that a spending review on par with the austerity of the mid-1990s would find cuts of \$90 billion over three years.) But Carney's argument is that Canadians can trust him to prudently manage public funds.

"It's a question of management and focus, and one of the things that I bring is experience in managing and focus on budgets," he said on Saturday.

The Liberals emphasize that they would reduce the government's operational spending, while new spending would predominantly go toward capital — tangible assets and things that grow the capacity of the Canadian economy. But at the bottom line, the Liberal platform would mean higher deficits over the next four years.

Instead of a projected deficit of \$46.8 billion (equivalent to 1.47 per cent of GDP) in 2025-26, the deficit would be \$62.3 billion (1.96 per cent of GDP). Four years from now, the deficit would be \$47.8 billion (1.35 per cent of GDP). By the fourth year, the Liberals hope the deficit would be composed entirely of capital spending.

For the sake of comparison, at the height of its response to the Great Recession, Stephen Harper's Conservative government ran an annual deficit equivalent to 3.6 per cent of GDP in 2009-10. The following year, the deficit was 2.1 per cent of GDP.

Is this the right plan for the moment?

Deficit hawks will groan at Carney's forecast, but ultimately, the question is whether the global circumstances and the specifics of Carney's plan justify the additional debt or whether the federal government's fiscal situation should compel much tighter spending.

The federal government's debtto-GDP ratio was 42.1 per cent in the last fiscal year. That's 11 points higher than it was before the pandemic, but still 24 points lower than it was in the mid-'90s. As a share of the economy, federal debt has returned to where it was in 2002.

Carney's argument is that his plan meets the moment — that it's what the federal government should be doing in the face of the crises that exist.

"I know that when you're in a crisis, you have to act with purpose and with force. Your government needs to step in," he said. (It was one of more than a dozen times he used the word "crisis.") Beneath the most expensive items, there are smaller items in the platform that speak to Carney's larger argument, including a full foreign-policy review (with the stated goal of expanding Canada's foreign service) and \$100 million over four years to attract academics and researchers currently working in the United States.

Furthermore, Carney argued, Poilievre doesn't understand or appreciate the situation Canada and the world are now in. Carney chided the Conservative leader for saying the president should "knock it off."

"As if it were so simple," Carney said

Poilievre obviously disagrees with the choices Carney would make. But the full extent of Poilievre's own choices remains unclear — with just a week remaining in the election campaign, the Conservative Party has yet to release a complete and costed platform.

Calling the next four years "rocky and unpredictable," Singh released his party's costed platform at a rally in Burnaby, B.C. on Saturday, promising tax reforms, \$7 billion over four years on mental-health coverage, and a wealth tax on the "super rich" with more than \$10 million in holdings which it says could raise upwards of \$22 billion each year.

The party says it would generate revenue by reinstating the capital-gains tax increase that Carney scrapped shortly after becoming Prime Minister.

The party is pledging to boost employment insurance payments, funded by tariffs on American goods, as well as a rebate for zero-emission vehicles, which exempts any vehicles made by Tesla.

The party laid out the cost of commitments made while noting that those costs are incremental to investments made in the 2024 Budget and the 2024 Fall Economic Statement.

The NDP's platform would add \$48 billion to the deficit over four years, however, those estimates are based on various economic scenarios.

The Bloc Québécois became the first party to release its costed platform on Friday, publishing a document that promised \$133 billion in new federal spending over five years.

The main items include \$22

billion for a wage subsidy related to the trade war with the United States, and a \$15 billion fund for public transit.

The Bloc only runs candidates in Quebec and cannot form the government so the promises made are things the party could push whoever wins the election to do but couldn't enact on its own.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, who was campaigning in Richmond, B.C. Saturday, said his full platform will come soon, but said "95 per cent" of it has already been announced.

With about a week left before election day and well over two million ballots cast so far, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre still hasn't released a costed platform outlining his vision for the country and how he'd pay for his multibillion-dollar commitments.

Conservative campaign sources told CBC News the platform is not expected to be released on Easter Sunday, even though advance voting ends Monday.

But the Tory leader hasn't given many details about how he will pay for what he's pitching, including a sizable middle-class tax cut that will set the federal treasury back some \$14 billion a year, according to early campaign estimates.

Poilievre's tax cut is more generous than what Carney has promised. The average worker will save some \$900 a year as a result of the cut, according to a party backgrounder — but it's also a lot more expensive.

To fund his agenda, at least in part, Poilievre has promised to defund the CBC — while keeping its Frenchlanguage service, Radio-Canada — but the savings from that commitment would be well less than \$1 billion a year, given the parliamentary appropriation to fund both divisions was about \$1.5 billion last fiscal year. He promised a platform would be released "soon," making him the last major party leader to put a plan before voters after Liberal Leader Mark Carney and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh released their platforms over the weekend.

"We need a change and Conservatives will bring that change in our platform," he said. This is related to his campaign slogan to put Canada First (similar to Trump's America First) but towards the later part of the campaign, he changed his slogan to 'Change' (Changement)

Poilievre tore into Carney for promising billions of dollars in new spending for housing, infrastructure and military measures, among other commitments, saying the level of spending is "shocking."

He has also vowed to do away with some of Canada's foreign aid, which is a big ticket item.

According to the government's estimates, Ottawa allocated some \$5.6 billion last year for what it calls "development, peace and security programming," among other budget line items that help fund projects and diplomacy abroad.

In total, about \$12 billion a year is spent on some form of foreign and refugee resettlement, which is classified as aid, according to Global Affairs

See Page 18 Which party platform



# **Monthly news**

### By John Leo Lete

Local Journalism Initiative
National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada

# A Journey of Resilience: Soraya Martinez Ferrada's Path from Refugee to Party Leader

Montreal, QC — In the heart of Montreal's diverse landscape, Soraya Martinez stands out not only as a political figure but also as a symbol of resilience and hope for immigrants across Canada. Her journey, rooted in adversity and courage, paints the portrait of a woman who turned the challenges of migration into a lifelong mission of advocacy and community-building.

Born in Chile, Martinez arrived in Montreal as an eight-year-old child in the 1980s, part of the second wave of Chilean refugees fleeing the brutal dictatorship that gripped her homeland in the 1970s. Her mother, a single parent and a former teacher made the difficult decision to start anew in Canada after the family was among 5,000 Chileans welcomed by the Canadian government.

"We were one of the lucky ones," Martinez recalls. "We had a family member already in Montreal who had come in the first wave. That helped us get settled."

#### **Adapting to a New Reality**

Montreal in the 1980s presented both opportunities and hurdles. Quebec's newly implemented Bill 101 required newcomers to learn French and integrate into French-speaking schools. For Martinez and her mother, this meant a rapid adaptation to a new language and culture.

"My mother had to learn French and start working in the textile industry. She couldn't continue

teaching like she did in Chile," Martinez said. "Like many immigrants, we were in survival mode—finding jobs and figuring out how to start over."

This early experience shaped Martinez's understanding of immigrant struggles, particularly the need for connection and belonging in a new land.

### **Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges**

Before stepping into politics, Martinez faced a common challenge among immigrants: the absence of a well-established network. However, she quickly realized that community

engagement beyond her ethnic circle was essential.

"I had to start from zero," she explained. "I stepped out of my comfort zone, got involved in projects outside my community, and slowly built relationships and trust across different sectors—business, culture, community organizations, and eventually, politics." This approach not only helped her rise in public service but also allowed her to become a role model for others



Sorraya Martinez Ferrada Photo: Sorraya Martinez Ferrada's team navigating similar paths.

### **Championing Immigrants and Refugees**

Now, as a public figure in Montreal, Martinez continues to champion immigrant causes. She's keenly aware of the ongoing challenges—particularly the housing crisis and barriers to employment and education—that newcomers face in today's Quebec.

"Montreal welcomes a large number of immigrants and refugees, but they need real support," she stressed. "Community organizations need to be present and empowered in every neighborhood. The city also has to work hand-in-hand with these groups to make integration successful."

For Martinez, supporting immigrants isn't just policy—it's personal.

#### A Message of Empowerment

When asked what message she would give to immigrants and refugees arriving today, her response is clear and powerful:

"This city is yours. This country is yours. Don't be scared to raise your hand, contribute, and take your place. That's how we build this country—together."

Soraya Martinez's story is not just about overcoming odds; it's about transforming hardship into action. And as her journey continues, so does her unwavering belief in the power of community, courage, and collective progress.#

# **Dollard-des-Ormeaux Spring Collection Event for Hazardous and Electronic Waste**

Residents of Dollard-des-Ormeaux are invited to participate in the city's annual spring collection event for household hazardous waste (HHW), outdated electronics, refrigerant-containing appliances,

Residents of Dollard-des- transparent pastry wrappers, mini milk ax are invited to participate in and coffee cream containers, and R#39;s annual spring collection CD/DVD cases.

Confidential Documents: residents can bring up to three boxes of personal documents for on-



Dollard-des-Ormeaux — a vibrant suburban city in Quebec, Canada, where community meets convenience on a sunny boulevard." Photo by P19

Styrofoam, and confidentia documents.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 5p.m. at the Civic Centre's P3 parking lot, accessible via Lake Street.

#### **Accepted Items**

The collection aims to facilitate the safe disposal of materials harmful to the environment if not handled properly. Accepted items include:

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): alkaline and rechargeable batteries (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Li-ion, Pb), automotive batteries, leftover paint (latex or alkyd), adhesives, solvents (e.g., turpentine, gasoline, fuel, thinner, alcohol, shellac), cleaning products (e.g., drain cleaners, degreasers), pesticides, pool chemicals, propane tanks or cylinders, fluorescent tubes, and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Electronic Waste: computers, cell phones, screens, printers, televisions, radios, photocopiers, fax machines, scanners, modems, media players (VHS, DVD, CD, MP3), digital and video cameras, video game consoles, and printer cartridges.

and Plastic #6: items such as coffee cups, meat and vegetable trays, protective packaging for electronics, plastic utensils, mushroom trays, single-serving yogurt containers,

confidential site shredding. Ensure that all items are sorted and packaged ke place on sunday, May doors or locks from appliances, and bundle wood or metal pieces no longer arking lot, than 1.2 meters (4 feet).

Excluded Items: used tires, polyurethane foam insulation containers, and certain small household appliances (e.g., microwaves, toasters, kettles) are not accepted at this event. These should be taken to designated ecocentres.

Permanent Drop-Off: For electronic waste, residents can utilize the city's permanent drop-off location at 100 Glenmore, open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Note that this facility is exclusively for Dollard-des-Ormeaux residents.

#### **Environmental Impact**

By participating in this collection event, residents contribute to reducing environmental pollution and promoting sustainable waste management practices. Proper disposal of hazardous materials prevents soil and water contamination while recycling electronics conserves valuable resources.

For more information, including a detailed list of accepted and refused materials, visit the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux's official website.

# Simple Plan to Rock Canada Day in Pierrefonds-Roxboro on July 1, 2025

The City of Montreal's Pierrefonds-Roxboro borough is gearing up for an exciting and high-energy Canada Day celebration this summer, and the highlight of the festivities will be none other than Montreal's own internationally acclaimed pop-punk band

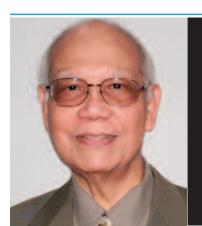
#### Simple Plan

The beloved hometown heroes are set to headline the borough's

Pierrefonds-Roxboro, QC — Canada Day event on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, bringing a powerful dose of nostalgia, energy, and musical talent to the local stage.

The event will be held at Pierrefonds Community High School, located at 13800 Pierrefonds Boulevard, a spacious venue that has welcomed large community gatherings in previous years.

See Page 7 Canada Day



# **ONTARIO**

# Filipino-Canadian **Community News**

Tony A. San Juan, OCT

#### Sixteen Remarkable Filipinos awarded the **King Charles III Coronation Medals**

proudly welcomed the wonderful news that seven notable Kababayan Filipinos in the Greater Toronto Area( GTA) were happy recipients of the prestigious "King Charles Coronation III Medals" recently. The Royal coronation medallion is a commemorative medal created to mark the coronation of

Filipino Canadians in Ontario contribution to Canada or a particular province, territory, region of, or community in, Canada, or attained an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada; and have been alive on 6 May 2023, the date of the Coronation."

> Those who were awarded the medals in various appropriate ceremonies



MP for Scarborough (Centre) Salma Zahid with Awardees Philip **Beloso & wife Marites Beloso** 



Jennifer Rabanillo



Jose Isaac Torres



**Arturo Viola, former Lord Mayor of Niagara on the Lake** 

the United Kingdom's King Charles III on May 6, 2023.

The recipients for the medals were nominated by partner organizations chosen by the government of Canada, which presented the medals to individuals who meet the medal's eligibility criteria: "To be eligible for the Canadian medal, a person must: have made a significant



Ronnie de la Gana

were Filemon "Philip" Beloso and Mary Ann S. San Juan from Scarborough, Toronto, Yolanda Ladines from Markham-Thornhill, Ignacio "Mogi" Mogado and Marlene Mogado from Markham-Stouffville, Jennifer Rabanillo and Jose Isaac Torres from Mississauga, Rolando Mangante and Teresa Torralba from Eglinton-Lawrence, Austin Gaqui, Grant Gonzales, Mark Gravoso, Melisa Grelo, and Ramon



**Awardees Ignacio and Marlene Mogado** with MP for Markham-Stouffville, Helena Jacsek



Honouree Mary Ann S. San Juan with MP for Scarborough North Shaun Chen



MP Ya'ara Saks with A. Gaqui, G. Gonzales, M. Gravoso & R. Torralba



**Teresita Torralba** 

Torralba from North York, Ronnie De la Gana from Ajax, and Art Viola from Niagara on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The Federal Members of Parliament who presented the respective recognitions were the Chief Government Whip and Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Streetsville, Rechie Valdez; Member of Parliament for Scarborough North, Shaun Chen; Member of Parliament for Markham-Stouffville, Helena Jacsek; Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence, Marco Mendicino; Member of Parliament for Markham-Thornhill. Marv Ng; Member of Parliament for York Centre, Ya'ara Saks and Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, Salma Zahid.



Markham's Yolanda Ladines displays her King Charles III Coronation Medal

The King Charles III coronation medal was also gifted to many Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders. Canada issued 30,000 medals, awarding them to select members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and Public Service, as well as individuals who made remarkable contributions to the country. The Filipino-Canadian recipients were honoured and recognized for their respective contributions to art, broadcast and print media, civic leadership, small business and entrepreneurship, healthcare, public education, community service and volunteerism. Maligayang bati mga kabayan sa inyong natamong parangal!!!

www.filipinostar.org

From Page 5 Canada Day

This year's Canada Day promises to be one of the biggest and most memorable yet, thanks to the borough's efforts to deliver a truly

special celebration for residents and visitors alike.

#### **A Homecoming for Simple Plan**

Known for hits like "Welcome to My Life," "Perfect," and "I'd Do Anything," Simple Plan has remained one of Canada's most recognized rock bands since their debut in the early 2000s.

With a fan base that spans generations, the band's return to perform in their home province is sure to draw thousands. Their headlining performance is scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. and will run until taste, making it easy for guests to grab dinner or dessert without missing a moment of the fun.

#### A Free and Family-Friendly **Event**

The Canada Day celebration in Pierrefonds-Roxboro is completely free of charge and open to all ages. Whether you're a longtime fan of Simple Plan or simply looking to enjoy a night out with your community, the event promises a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for everyone.

"This is a chance for us to come together, celebrate our identity as Canadians, and enjoy a first-class concert right here in the West Island," said borough mayor Dimitrios (Jim) Beis. "We're proud to welcome Simple Plan back home and to offer such a



Simple Plan Set to Headline Canada Day Celebrations in Pierrefonds-Roxboro on July 1, 2025" Photo by CoalitionMUS

10:00 p.m., followed by a 15-minute fireworks display to light up the sky in patriotic red and white.

This performance marks a meaningful moment for the band, who have long expressed pride in their Quebec roots. "We're thrilled to be celebrating Canada Day right here at home, with our fans in Montreal," the band said in a statement. "It's going to be an amazing night filled with music, energy, and national pride."

#### **Delicious Local Food Trucks**

borough is also The welcoming a selection of popular food trucks and local vendors who will be serving delicious bites from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Options will include:

Queues de Castor - Famous for their sweet, fried "beaver tail" pastries

Crèmerie Gelato - Offering artisanal ice creams and frozen treats

Andros El Tacos - Authentic Mexican street food

Athéna - Greek cuisine favorites BunsBuns - Creative street burgers and sandwiches

Food trucks will be stationed on-site to offer something for every dynamic lineup of entertainment and food for our residents."

#### **Plan Your Visit**

Parking is limited, and attendees are encouraged to walk, bike, or use public transit whenever possible. Event organizers recommend arriving early to secure a is widely accepted as the edge of good spot for the concert and to enjoy space. the full experience.

For the latest updates, including weather notices or any changes to the schedule, visitors are advised to check the official City of Montreal event page.



Your local community newspaper offers the best deal to attract new customers. Send email to:filipinostar2@gmail.com for information on our business feature story of the month or call 514-485-7861. All Female Crew of Blue Origin space flight returns safely



A handout photo published on April 14, 2025, on the X account of Blue Origin, shows (clockwise from L) U.S. entrepreneur Lauren Sanchez, former NASA scientist Amanda Nguyen, singer Katy Perry, TV presenter Gayle King, former NASA scientist Aisha Bowe and film producer Kerianne Flynn posing in their space suits ahead of the all-woman suborbital flight. Blue Origin/AFP via Getty Images

All eyes were on the West Texas desert Monday morning as Katy Perry and five other celebrities launched into space on a short flight aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket and capsule.

Joining Perry as part of the allfemale crew was Gayle King, "CBS Mornings" co-host; Lauren Sánchez, a former journalist who is Jeff Bezos' fiancée; Aisha Bowe, a former NASA rocket scientist; Amanda Nguyen, a bioastronautics research scientist; and Kerianne Flynn, a movie producer.

The high-profile launch drew a crowd, with several famous faces in attendance, including Oprah Winfrey, NASA astronaut Jeanette Epps, former astronaut Mae Jemison, Kris Jenner and Khloé Kardashian.

Liftoff took place at 9:30 a.m. ET from Blue Origin's launch site in Van Horn, Texas.

During the roughly 10-minute flight, the six crew members flew just above the Kármán line, an invisible boundary at an altitude of 62 miles that

While in space, Bowe held up a patch representing the Bahamas and the women tumbled and did handstands in weightlessness. Perry also sang "What a Wonderful World" and held up a daisy.

"Daisies are common flowers, but they grow through any condition," Perry said after the flight. "They are resilient. They are powerful. They are strong."

It appeared to be a pictureperfect flight. The reusable New Shepard booster returned to Earth and landed vertically a few miles away from the launch site before the capsule made its own descent under parachutes and touched down in the Texas desert.

It was a jubilant and emotional return for all six crew members. Perry and King kissed the ground after they exited the spacecraft and most fought back tears as they described the experience of gazing back at Earth from the edge of space.

Source: ABC News

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#### 8

### NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SECTION

**Business Feature Story of the Month** 

### Derwin Collantes - Trusted Advisor, Community Advocate, Financial Guide

By Michael Davantes

Derwin Collantes is a dedicated Financial Security Advisor and Mutual Funds Representative at Sun Life Financial where he brings clarity and confidence to clients navigating the often-overwhelming world of personal finance. With a strong background in financial planning, he specializes in providing tailored solutions for individuals, families, and businesses. His mission is simple: to empower people to make informed financial decisions that lead to long-term security, stability and peace of mind.

He offers tailored solutions for a wide range of needs, from retirement planning and mutual fund investing to life, health and disability insurance. His client-first approach is rooted in building genuine, lasting relationships, ensuring that each financial plan reflects the unique goals and values of the individual or family he serves. Whether it's developing a robust investment portfolio, protecting a loved one's future, or navigating the early steps toward financial independence, Derwin is there every step of the way offering expert guidance and support.

Television, he played a key role in shaping the program's vision and direction, ensuring it authentically reflected the stories, culture, and aspirations of the Filipino-Canadian community in Montreal. In addition to his on-screen presence, Derwin was deeply involved behind the scenes—developing segment ideas, producing community-focused features, and collaborating with local organizations to spotlight achievements, share important news and celebrate cultural identity.

His work on Mabuhay Montreal TV helped establish a vital platform where Filipino voices could be heard, celebrated and empowered—bridging generational and cultural divides

through storytelling and meaningful conversations. Beyond this program, his media contributions extended to Omni TV where he served as a trusted advisor on multicultural content, helping shape programming that resonated with Canada's diverse communities.

These rich media experiences sharpened Derwin's ability to connect with people from all walks of life— a skill he has seamlessly carried into his financial career. Through initiatives



Derwin Collantes (left) with his friends and associates, Tenne Rose Dayandante, Jake Dheer from Omni TV, and Michael Dayantes.

Beyond his role at Sun Life, Derwin is the CEO of Insognia and Collantes Financial Services Inc. where he leads a passionate team committed to holistic financial wellness. The firm offers a comprehensive suite of services, specializing in both health insurance products and life insurance solutions designed to safeguard what matters most. Under Derwin's leadership, the team helps clients align their financial plans with their health and wellness achieving goals-because true prosperity means more than just wealth; it's about balance, security and living with purpose.

Derwin's influence extends far beyond the world of finance. As a former TV host of Mabuhay Montreal TV on ICI like Talking Finance, he merges communication with education, making financial literacy more accessible, inclusive and culturally relevant for the communities he serves.

Today, Derwin Collantes continues to be a dynamic force at the intersection of finance, media and community service. Whether he's guiding a client through a complex insurance decision, sharing investment strategies through Talking Finance, or championing Filipino culture in the community, Derwin exemplifies the values of leadership, trust and empowerment—earning him the enduring reputation of a trusted advisor.

-000-

# Advice from someone you trust.



# **Common Financial Mistakes in the Filipino Community**

By Michael Davantes

When talking about financial security, advice usually revolves around saving, investing, and purchasing insurance. While these are essential strategies, the financial reality for many Filipinos is more complicated. After covering daily expenses, some families have little to nothing left to save. Many live paycheck to paycheck or rely on credit just to stay afloat. This article explores common but often overlooked financial mistakes within the Filipino community, along with ways to avoid

#### 1. Not Having a Budget

them.

A major financial misstep is failing to create and follow a budget. Without one, it's difficult to track spending, save effectively, or make informed decisions. This often results in unnecessary expenses and debt. A solid budget helps you plan ahead, prioritize needs, and build long-term financial discipline.

#### 2. Confusing Wants with Needs

Spending on non-essentials like gadgets or trendy clothes—while basic needs remain unmet—is a habit many fall into. Treating yourself isn't wrong, but prioritizing wants over needs can derail progress. Delayed gratification is essential for financial growth.

## 3. The "I Deserve This" Justification

Many justify splurging by saying, "I deserve this," especially after stressful days. While occasional rewards are fine, this mindset becomes risky when used frequently. Overspending on wants can deplete savings and increase debt. Self-care is important, but balance is key.

#### 4. Lack of Financial Boundaries

It's common for Filipinos to feel pressured to support relatives or friends financially, even when their own situation is tight. Generosity is admirable, but not if it compromises your well-being. Learning to say no when necessary helps protect your future.

#### 5. Misapplying Utang na Loob

The cultural value of utang na loob—or "debt of gratitude"—can

sometimes push people to make poor financial decisions out of guilt. While showing appreciation is good, it shouldn't come at the cost of your own stability. Healthy boundaries are essential

#### 6. Falling for Guilt-Tripping

Emotional manipulation from loved ones often leads to giving beyond one's means. Recognizing guilt-tripping is key to avoiding poor choices. Support should be given willingly, not out of pressure or fear.

## 7. Using Children as a Retirement Plan

Some parents expect their children to support them financially in adulthood. While education is a pathway to progress, relying on children as a safety net is unfair. Parents should plan for their own retirement to avoid burdening the next generation.

#### 8. Avoiding Money Talks

Financial conversations are often avoided in Filipino households, leading to conflict or misunderstanding. Open dialogue promotes shared goals and smart planning. Talking about money should be normalized to create a healthier family dynamic.

#### 9. Staying Trapped in Debt

Many fall into the habit of borrowing for daily needs and struggle to repay it. To break the cycle, commit to budgeting, prioritize debt repayment, and avoid loans for non-essential expenses.

#### 10. Limited Financial Knowledge

Lack of financial education remains a major issue. Without basic knowledge of saving, investing, or budgeting, many make costly mistakes. Improving financial literacy and

working with a trusted advisor can empower individuals to build a stronger, more secure future.

In conclusion, by addressing these common mistakes and adopting healthier financial habits, Filipinos can take control of their financial lives and move toward lasting stability and empowerment.#

From Page 2 Pope Francis

As an elderly man he also suffered from pain in his right knee, which he described as a "physical humiliation".

The young Bergoglio worked as a nightclub bouncer and floor sweeper, before graduating as a chemist.

He became a Jesuit, studied philosophy and taught literature and psychology. Ordained a decade later, he won swift promotion, becoming provincial superior for Argentina in 1973.

#### A man of simple tastes

He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires in 1992 and then became Archbishop.

Pope John Paul II made him a cardinal in 2001 and he took up posts in the Church's civil service, the Curia.

He cultivated a reputation as a man of simple tastes, eschewing many of the trappings of a senior cleric. He usually flew economy and preferred to wear the black gown of a priest - rather than the red and purple of his new position.

In his sermons, he called for social inclusion and criticised governments that failed to pay attention to the poorest in society.

"We live in the most unequal part of the world," he said, "which has grown the most, yet reduced misery the least."

As Pope, he made great efforts to heal the thousand-year rift with the Eastern Orthodox Church. In recognition, for the first time since the Great Schism of 1054, the Patriarch of Constantinople attended the installation of a new Bishop of Rome.

Francis worked with Anglicans, Lutherans and Methodists and persuaded the Israeli and Palestinian presidents to join him to pray for peace.

After attacks by Muslim militants, he said it was not right to identify Islam with violence. "If I speak of Islamic violence, then I have to speak of Catholic violence too," he declared.

Politically, he allied himself with the Argentine government's claim on the Falklands, telling a service: "We come to pray for those who have fallen, sons of the homeland who set out to defend their mother, the homeland, to claim the country that is theirs."

And, as a Spanish-speaking Latin American, he provided a crucial service as mediator when the US government edged towards historic rapprochement with Cuba. It is difficult to imagine a European Pope playing such a critical diplomatic role.

#### **Traditionalist**

many of the Church's On teachings, Pope Francis was traditionalist.

He was "as uncompromising as Pope John Paul II... on euthanasia, the death penalty, abortion, the right to life, human rights and the celibacy of priests", according to Monsignor Osvaldo Musto, who was at seminary with him.

He said the Church should welcome people regardless of their sexual orientation, but insisted gay adoption was a form of discrimination against children.

There were warm words in favour of some kind of same-sex unions for gay couples, but Francis did not favour calling it marriage. This, he said, would be "an attempt to destroy God's plan".

Shortly after becoming Pope in 2013, he took part in an anti-abortion march in Rome - calling for rights of the unborn "from the moment of conception".

He called on gynaecologists to invoke their consciences and sent a message to Ireland - as it held a referendum on the subject - begging people there to protect the vulnerable.

women, declaring that Pope John Paul II had once and for all ruled out the possibility.

And, although he seemed at first to allow that contraception might be used to prevent disease, he praised Paul VI's teaching on the subject - which warned it might reduce women to instruments of male satisfaction.

In 2015, Pope Francis told an audience in the Philippines that contraception involved "the destruction of the family through the privation of children". It was not the absence of children itself that he saw as so damaging, but the wilful decision to avoid them.

He resisted the ordination of Francis cancelled his regular appearances in St Peter's Square - to prevent the virus circulating. In an important example of moral leadership, he also declared that being vaccinated was a universal obligation.

In 2022, he became the first Pope for more than a century to bury his predecessor - after Benedict's death at the age of 95.

By now, he had his own health problems - with several hospitalisations. But Francis was determined to continue with his efforts to promote global peace and inter-religious dialogue.

In 2023, he made a pilgrimage to South Sudan, pleading with the country's



Francis lies in state in St. Peter's Basilica for 3 days ahead of funeral on S April 26, 2025 at 4:00 a.m. Canada's Governor General Mary Simon will attend.

#### **Tackling child abuse**

leaders to end conflict.

He appealed for an end to the The greatest challenge to his "absurd and cruel war" in Ukraine, although papacy, however, came on two fronts: from he disappointed Ukrainians by appearing those who accused him of failing to tackle to swallow Russia's propaganda message



Who will be elected the next Pope? Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle is one of the prospective candidates among a dozen names from different nationalities. (BBC photo)

child abuse and from conservative critics of having been provoked into its invasion. who felt that he was diluting the faith. In particular, they had in mind his moves to allow divorced and remarried Catholics to take Communion.

In August 2018, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, a former Apostolic Nuncio to the US, published an 11-page declaration of war. He released a letter describing a series of warnings made to the Vatican about the behaviour of a former cardinal, Theodore McCarrick.

It was alleged that McCarrick had been a serial abuser who attacked both adults and minors. The Pope, Archbishop Viganò said, had made him a "trusted councillor" despite knowing he was deeply corrupted. The solution was clear, he said: Pope Francis should resign.

"These homosexual networks," the archbishop claimed, "act under the concealment of secrecy and lie with the power of octopus tentacles... and are strangling the entire Church."

The ensuing row threatened to engulf the Church. McCarrick was eventually defrocked in February 2019, after an investigation by the Vatican.

During the Covid pandemic,

And a year later, he embarked on an ambitious four-country, two-continent odyssey; with stops in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Singapore.

In recent months, Francis had

struggled with his health. In March 2025, he spent five weeks in hospital with pneumonia in both lungs.

There will be some who would have preferred a more liberal leader, and critics will point to his perceived weakness in confronting the institution's legacy of clerical sexual abuse.But change it, he did.

He appointed more than 140 cardinals from non-European countries and bequeaths his successor a Church that is far more global in outlook than the one he inherited.

And, to set an example, he was the no-frills Pope who elected not to live in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace - complete with Sistine Chapel - but in the modern block next door (which Pope John Paul II had built as a guest house).

He believed anything else would be vanity. "Look at the peacock," he said, "it's beautiful if you look at it from the front. But if you look at it from behind, you discover the truth."

He also hoped he could shake up the institution itself, enhancing the Church's historic mission by cutting through internal strife, focusing on the poor and returning the Church to the people.

"We need to avoid the spiritual sickness of a Church that is wrapped up in its own world," he said shortly after his election.

"If I had to choose between a wounded Church that goes out on to the streets and a sick, withdrawn Church, I would choose the first."

#### **Visit by Pope Francis to Canada**

Pope Francis visited Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022, with stops in the provinces of Alberta and Quebec and the territory of Nunavut. The trip mainly focused on apologizing for the Catholic Church's role in the Canadian Indian residential school system and on country's reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples. It was the first papal visit to Canada since 2002, when Pope John Paul II visited Toronto for World Youth Day. His apology received mix reactions as he did not explicitly mention the role of the Catholic Church in the cultural genocide committed and that he did not officially repudiate the Discovery doctrine.

On March 30, 2023, the Vatican's Dicasteries for Culture and Education and Promoting Integral Human Development jointly repudiated the doctrine of discovery as "not part of the teaching of the Catholic Church". The Vatican's statement pointed to the 1537 papal bull, Sublimis Deus, which affirmed the liberty and property rights of indigenous peoples and prohibited their enslavement. (With files from Wikipedia, and BBC News, 4/21/25)





We hope you had a joyful and meaningful Easter surrounded by love, family, and faith. Wishing the Filipino community in Quebec continued peace and happiness during this blessed season.

Chaleureux voeux de Pâques à la Communauté Philippine du Québec

Nous espérons que vous avez passé une joyeuse Pâques entourés de votre famille et d'amour. Nous souhaitons à la communauté philippine du Québec de la paix et du bonheur.



Michelle Setlakwe MNA for Mont-Royal-Outremont (514) 341-1151

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Désirée McGraw MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (514) 489-7581 Desiree.McGraw.NDG@assnat.gc.ca



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### THANK YOU TO THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY FOR HELPING ST. MONICA'S!



A message from your neighbours:

Bike paths disrupt while the borough mayor turns a deaf ear

#### Your Vote in the November 2 Municipal Election can Make a Real Difference!

Last year the Project Montreal party used its majority at our local Borough Council to ignore a public consultation and plunked down a bike path on each side of Terrebonne Street IN NDG. To facilitate this, the Borough took away most of the on-street parking and turned the road into an one way. Residents have been appalled but the Mayor and Councillors refuse to listen.

#### Does this sound familiar?

The same thing has been happening Borough and citywide.

Three schools, a church and the residential buildings located on Terrebonne Avenue were immediately impacted.

The ability of St Monica's Church to conduct funerals and weddings was significantly undermined. In addition, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) noted a serious accident in front of St. Monica's Elementary School soon after the bike paths were installed and reacted by sending the Borough a letter, publicly tabled at Council, advising of serious access and safety issues at its three schools on the street. The Borough refused to change anything.

The municipal ombudsman had to step in asking the city to lower the sidewalks at the church to allow funeral vehicles to access it. The situation is still unresolved, is it normal to prevent a church from serving its parishoners?



Here's what Montrealers need to know: a recent access to information request revealed that Project Montreal has spent an incredible \$200 million on bike paths since 2020 and intends to add an additional \$50 million in the next two years.

#### \$200 million on bike paths since 2020

Snow clearing this past winter was terrible and most of us see a decline in the quality of municipal services while taxes have increased significantly above inflation. Higher taxes are a burden for home owners and drive up residential rents impacting tenants as well. That really affects people just like you

To make matters worse, the Borough Mayor decided that the Terrebonne bike path would remain open all winter long as part of a strategy to keep bike paths open all year whether anyone uses them or not.

We contend that the bike path has not significantly increased the number of people cycling on Terrebonne and we assert that it bike path in the winter months. It's been the same elsewhere in the Borough.



We thank the Filipino community for standing with us. Many of you reading this message attended the Save Saint Monica concert in November to help the church.

Clearly the situation isn't about pragmatism - it's about imposing an ideology. Projet Montreal now intends to repeat the Terrebonne flasco on streets in the Cote des Neiges part of the Borough.. Wilderton and Darlington are on the new bike path list. We also fear that streets like Plannondon, Barelay and Bourret may become winter bike paths completely disrupting residents' parking.

Moreover, the City and Borough have admitted that no documentation exists proving that all this expenditure increases cycling.

We do not oppose cycling but clearly the Borough Council majority represents one small vocal and unrepresentative interest group and is choosing to ignore the vast majority of neighbourhood residents. We see it as irresponsible, almost to the point of negligence, to simply brush aside safety ssues raised by the school bound and others.

Ensemble Montreal Mayoralty candidate Soraya Martinez Ferrada recently called for a complete mobility review. That makes sense, After the November 2 municipal election, we will ask the City and Borough Councils to keep what works, modify what could be done better and remove what is clearly not working,

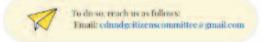


But that means we need a City and Borough Council that aren't simply anti-car. We don't need elected officials who attack anyone who indicates that the bikes-at-all-cost agenda is impractical. It's time to restore civility and real democratic input to our City and Borough Council.

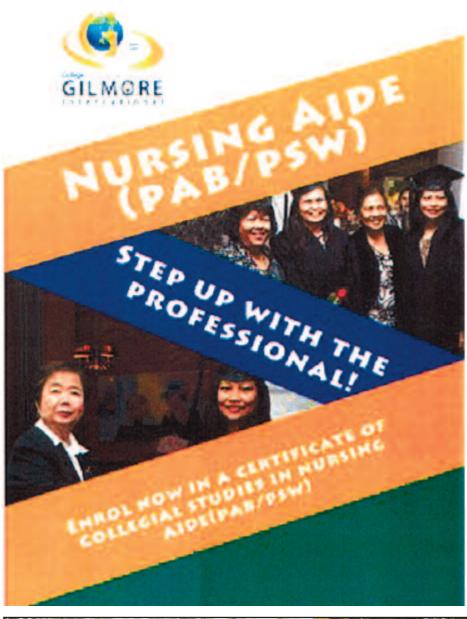
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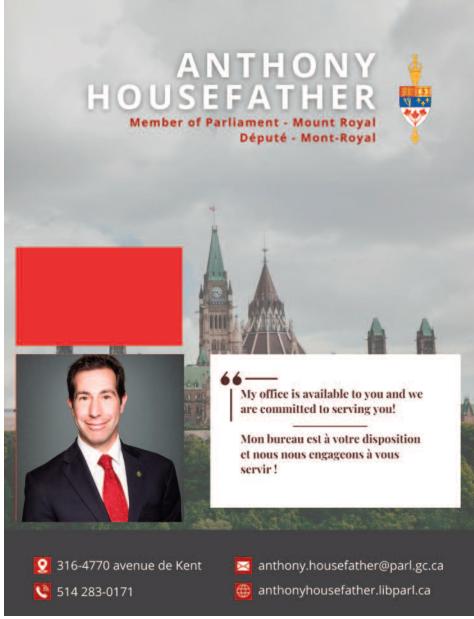


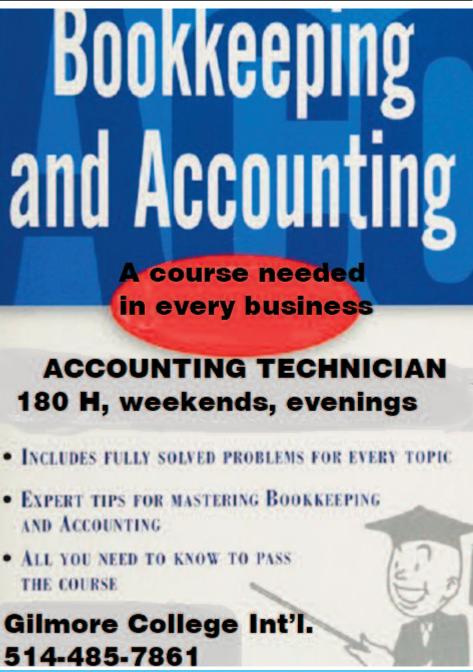
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### Recipes selected from various sources

# Cooking with love provides food for the soul.

### **Quick and easy delicious** recipes with few ingredients



**Linguine with Tuna and Capers** 

Prep Time:10 mins Cook Time:20 mins Total Time:30 mins Servings: 4 servings Yield:6 cups Ingredients:

12 ounces uncooked linguine 2 (5-ounce) cans solid tuna packed in

6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil 1 large shallot, thinly sliced

1/2 cup dry white wine

3/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper

1/4 cup drained capers

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, for serving (optional)

Method

Cook the pasta:

Cook the linguine according to package directions. Drain, reserving 1 1/3 cups cooking water.

Simple Tip!

When boiling your pasta, put a 1-cup measuring cup by the colander. It will help remind you to snag some pasta water before you dump it all! Cooked pasta in a colander over a bowl for linguine with tuna and capers

Make the sauce:

recipe

Drain the oil from the tuna cans and reserve; set the tuna aside. Heat the tuna oil and extra-virgin olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent, about 3 minutes. Stir in the white wine and cracked pepper, and cook undisturbed, until reduced by half, about 2 minutes. Stir in the capers. Onions and capers cooking in white wine mixture in a pan for 5-ingredient linguine with tuna and capers recipe Finish the pasta and serve:

Reduce the heat to medium heat. Add the cooked pasta, 1/2 cup of the reserved cooking water, and salt. Toss and stir constantly to coat, about 2 minutes (add more pasta water 2

tablespoons at a time, if needed, for a creamy consistency).

Remove the pan from the heat. Add the reserved tuna and gently toss to distribute. Divide evenly among serving bowls. Serve immediately, sprinkled with parsley, if using. Refrigerate leftovers for up to 3 days.



**Coconut Shrimp Curry** 

Yields:6 serving(s) Prep Time:5 mins Cook Time:15 mins Total Time:20 mins Ingredients

2 Tbsp. butter

1 1/2 lb. jumbo shrimp, peeled and deveined

1 medium onion, diced

4 garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 Tbsp. yellow curry powder

1 (13.5 oz.) can coconut milk

2 Tbsp. honey, plus more to taste

1/4 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste 1 lime, juiced

12 basil leaves, chopped, plus more for serving

Hot sauce (optional)

Cooked Basmati rice, to serve Directions

1 In a large skillet (I used non-stick), heat the butter over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, turning them over halfway through, until fully cooked. Remove to a plate and set aside. 2 Add the onion and garlic to the skillet and stir to cook for 2 minutes. Sprinkle the curry powder over the onions and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, for another couple of minutes.

3 Reduce the heat to medium-low and pour in the coconut milk, stirring to combine. Add the honey, salt, and lime juice, and allow the sauce to cook until bubbling gently.

4 Add the shrimp into the sauce, tossing to coat, and allow it to simmer until slightly thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Taste the sauce and add more salt, lime juice, or honey if you like. Stir in the basil and add hot sauce if you want a little kick.

5 Serve the shrimp and sauce over the rice, topping with more basil. Delicious!



**Chorizo-Stuffed Zucchini** 

Yields:4 serving(s) Total Time:35 mins Cal/Serv:250 Ingredients 4 zucchini (about 6 oz. each) 3 tsp. oil, divided 2 small links fresh chorizo sausage (about 6 oz. total)

2 scallions, thinly sliced 3 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, coarsely

1/2 cup cilantro, chopped, plus more for sprinkling

Kosher salt and pepper Directions

Step 1

Place rimmed baking sheet in oven and heat to 450°F. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise and, using teaspoon, hollow out each zucchini half. Brush cut sides with 1 teaspoon oil, then place, cut sides down, on heated baking sheet. Roast 5 minutes. Step 2

Meanwhile, heat 2 teaspoons olive oil in large skillet on medium-high. Add sausage and cook, breaking up, until no longer pink, 3 to 4 minutes. Using slotted spoon, transfer to bowl. Step 3

Add scallions to chorizo and toss to combine.

Step 4

Fold in Monterey Jack cheese and cilantro. Turn zucchini cut sides up and season with 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Divide chorizo mixture among zucchini halves (about 1/4 cup per half) and roast until zucchini are just tender, 8 to 10 minutes more. Sprinkle with cilantro if desired.



**Chicken Marsala** 

Prep Time:10 mins Cook Time:20 mins Total Time: 30 mins Servings:4 Chicken Marsala is a succulent dish that features thinly sliced pieces of pan-fried chicken breast and mushrooms in a reduced wine sauce. Its name comes from the fortified Italian wine used to give the dish its trademark deep, nutty, and slightly sweet flavor.

Ingredients:

1/4 cup all-purpose flour for coating

½ teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

½ teaspoon dried oregano

4 medium skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - pounded 1/4 inch thick

4 tablespoons butter

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 cup sliced mushrooms

½ cup Marsala wine

1/4 cup cooking sherry Instructions:

1) Gather all ingredients.

In a shallow dish or bowl, mix together the flour, salt, pepper and oregano.

2) Coat chicken pieces in flour mixture. 3) In a large skillet, melt butter in olive oil over medium heat. Place chicken in the pan, and lightly brown.

4) Turn over chicken pieces, and add mushrooms.

5) Pour in wine and sherry.

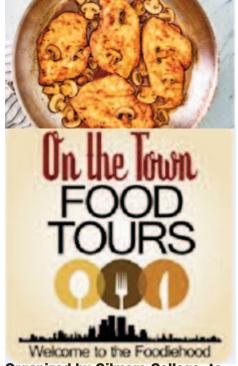
6) Cover skillet; simmer chicken 10 minutes, turning once, until no longer pink and juices run clear.

7) Serve hot and enjoy!

What to Serve With Chicken Marsala

This family-friendly chicken recipe pairs well with many side dishes. Try a cheesy risotto or Tuscan white beans for a full Italian meal, or opt for classic dinner rolls. Any way you serve it, this decadent Chicken Marsala is sure to be a hit.

If you want to enjoy your delicious leftovers later, pour Chicken Marsala in a freezer pan and save for up to two months. Thaw in the refrigerator, and reheat in an oven preheated to 350 degrees F for best results.



Organized by Gilmore College to provide fellowship and fine dining - Pls. call 514-485-7861 to register. Schedules subject to a group of six minimum, weekends, or weekday evenings.



Greetings to my dearest social tidbits readers! Aren't you glad there's no more snow, no more coats and boots, and no more freezing as you go about town. Goodbye winter, hello spring! Let's not mind the April showers; let's enjoy the bright sunshine and more comfortable clothing

Lately, I've been missing friends. Isn't it true that there are what you call an inner circle of old friends that no matter how far away they are, they are still in your heart - and no matter how many friends you gain in the interim, they still matter? Such is the case with forever friends Hans Wilgehof and Adoree Silva. Well, good thing they are not from a faraway land but from Kanata, Ontario. Whenever they come to say 'hi', it is always a special occasion and we meet for a good meal. In the group are Ciony Nueva and Procesa Gladyse. The last time we met, an old friend, Celv Dagsaan, also came along. The restaurant of our choice was Casa Grecque on Newman Street in Lasalle. We spent roughly three to four hours discussing anything under the sun before saying our goodbyes and bid them temporarily adieu before they go back to Kanata the next morning. Hans and Adoree, we like these special gettogethers! Looking forward to your next visit again. How about sushi next time? Or maybe sinigang or pinakbet at a Filipino Restaurant!

Other friends who left Montreal include Julie Gaba, a retired elementary teacher. She frequently hosted mahjong sessions for friends. She now resides in Calgary where her relatives are. Another Montrealer I dearly miss is precious friend Puring de la Cruz Bamba, a retired nurse who moved permanently to Winnipeg, Manitoba. She wanted to be with her sister Meba and family. Since then. close friends Carlito & Thelma Arlegui and Maria Cudemo Kuerstainer have been burning the phone lines just to hear each other's voices.

Speaking of missing dear friends, many Filipinos are in sad spirits. An intellectual giant - and everybody's friend - Natalie Olarte Pelausa, at 97 years young, passed away at their Town of Mount Royal (TMR) home. Intellectual giant I say because she graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Education Degree at San Carlos University, Cebu City Philippines in 1951. A retired teacher and a pillar of the community, she was well loved by many of us. She earned many awards such as the Canada Senate Medallion and the 2024 King

#### **Social Tidbits**

### **Montreal Community News Fely Rosales Cariño**

Charles Medal. She famously founded the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ) which granted scholarships to deserving Filipino-Canadian youth. Her husband, Dr. Jesus Peduche Pelausa who awaits her in heaven, was an anesthesiologist. She is survived by her children Dr. Ermelinda Pelausa (Neonatology) and Dr. Edilberto Pelausa (Otolaryngology). She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren Crisanto, Orion, and Alexander and great grandchildren Orson, Jody, Sappho, and Emmeline.

definitely left giant shoes to fill. A precious wife, beloved Mama, a loving Lola, a stalwart figure in the Filipino community and a beaming example of her Catholic faith, she is an original and is irreplaceable. The PBSSQ celebrated its 40th Anniversary Awards Night & Gala and a Happy 97th Birthday on July 27, 2024 at the Schofield Hall, 90 Roosevelt Avenue, Mount Royal. In the programme, she penned a Thank You to family and friends for their kindness and generosity to her. And the birthday girl even offered a birthday gift to them in the form of a poem, Life's Favorite Recipe! Here it is: Take a cup of kindness, mix it well with love. Add a lot of patience and faith in God above. Sprinkle very generously with joy and thanks and cheer, and you will have a lot of angel food to feast on all the vear!"

Thank you, Natalie. We will continue to oversee the aims of PBSSQ and see that every year, we honor you well and try to perform the ideals you so dearly established. You will be remembered as a dutiful teacher, a loving mother, a well-loved grandmother, and a model to all of us. We love you, Natalie, you know that. May you rest in peace now.

The re-election campaign of MP Anthony Housefather. Town of Mt. Royal, is in full swing. Housefather has strong credentials as a Liberal heavyweight. He has two law degrees and an MBA. He served as Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board (2019-2021) and to the Ministers of Labour and Procurement (2021-2024). Last year, Housefather was named Special Advisor on Jewish Community Relations and anti-Semitism by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

On April 19, 2025, Housefather's office at 5805 Decarie Blvd, was a hub of activity. Several rooms were cleared to allow volunteers to make phone calls reminding people to go out and vote. Advanced voting is on April 18-21 and election day is on April 28. Political leaders present were Anthony Housefather, Marvin Rotrand, Moroz and Stephanie Sonny Valenzuela.

Among the many volunteers were: Nida Quirapas, Mercy Sia (Filipino Canadian Volleyball Association of Montreal), Alma Tablada (Mrs. FAMAS 2025 Queen), Doreen San Juan, Elisa Florentino, Raquel Trinidad, Fauzia Abbasi, Daniela

against Bill C-13, the revision of the Official Language Act that recognizes Quebec Language Law and gives it application over federal areas of jurisdiction." Anthony, we want you to know that we, Filipinos, are happily rooting for you as well. Wishing you the best of luck and praying for your successful re-election!

In closing, I wish to offer you hope from God's holy word in Lamentations 3:21-23 which says, "Yet



Volunteers who helped remind people to go to the polls and cast their votes, April 19, 2025, pose for souvenir with Marvin Rotrand, Director-General, United Against Hate Canada and Anthony Housefather, running for re-election as MP for the Mount Royal Riding. More volunteers came later who are not in this photo.

Cifuentes Larrota, Zenaida Kharroubi this I call to mind and therefore I have (North American Filipino Star), Gemma hope: Because of the Lord's great love Velez Lanoba, Chelsea Craig, Greg Libman, Parisa Dengnani, Chris compassions never fail. They are new Savard, Cristy Hunter, Jovy Narvas, Gerry Danzil, Stephanie Valenzuela, Myrna Housefather and yours truly. We, volunteers, were treated to a pizza lunch by Nida Quirapas.

A Housefather win would make many Filipinos happy because Anthony is a very good friend of Filipinos. Some of the prominent Filipinos who endorse Housefather are: Stephanie Valenzuela (City Councilor, Darlington District), Nida Quirapas (President of the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS), Cesar Manuel (former FAMAS President and owner of Pinoy Pansitan), and Gerry Danzil (President of the United Pilipino Seniors of Quebec (UPSQ).

Joel Goldenberg of the Suburban, Easter issue, is also an avid supporter of Housefather. He says, "Anthony was the only MP to vote we are not consumed, for His every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

See you next issue and God bless!



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# **FILIPINO STAR**

# SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

# Michelle Dee, Rhian Ramos reveal secret of long-lasting friendship



**Besties Rhian Ramos & Michelle Dee** 

Real-life best friends Michelle Dee and Rhian Ramos revealed the secret to their long-lasting friendship.

"We're on the same page. We like the same things. We have the same taste," Michelle said during the launch of Luxxe White under Frontrow International, owned by RS Francisco and Sam Verzosa. The latter is in a relationship with Rhian.

"I just knew I wanted to live with her after traveling with her, and it wasn't until I lived with her that I realized she was my best friend in life," she added.



Michelle and Rhian are living in the same house for some time now.

"We're both really busy kaya even if we live together bihira na lang po kami nagkikita. Makikita niya ako when I come home from shooting. Doon na lang kami nagkikita," Rhian said.

"It's good for your health to

have female friends around you. It's not only healthy for women, it's healthy for everyone to have female friends or sisters," she added.

The brand launch was done in creative ways: billboards across the Metro declaring of the death of Luxxe White; an intricate funeral held at the company's headquarters; and a frenzy that filled the headquarters with thousands of product distributors falling in line to purchase the "last remaining stocks" of the product.

The brand was built and nurtured by Versoza and Francisco for almost two decades.

Behind its calculated marketing strategy was the plan to defy expectations, to break the mold of traditional marketing campaigns, and to create an unforgettable product relaunch in the country.

Luxxe White did not actually die as it evolved into Luxxe White Ultima – a bigger, better, and stronger line of products that redefines health, beauty, and wellness.

"We knew exactly what we were doing," Sam said. "People love drama and controversy and we gave them a spectacle they couldn't ignore. But instead of failure, they witnessed the rebirth of a legendary and revolutionary product."

"We just didn't launch a product. We created a moment in marketing history. Real visionaries never follow the rules – they rewrite them," RS added..

# Kathryn Bernardo confirms she's 'still single'



**Kathryn Bernardo** 

Actress Kathryn Bernardo has finally addressed ongoing speculations about her love life, confirming she is "still single" and happily focused on her career and personal growth.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News during the red carpet of the ABS-CBN Ballc, the "Box-Office Queen" was asked about her current status on which she answered the question with a smile.

"I'm very happy and, yes, still single," Kathryn said.

The confirmation came after Kathryn was romantically linked to fellow "Hello, Love, Again" star Alden Richards and Lucena City Mayor Mark Alcala in recent months. While many have closely followed her personal journey following her breakup with longtime on-screen and

real-life partner Daniel Padilla in late 2023, Kathryn has remained private and graceful amid the attention.

Currently, Kathryn is having her time and enjoy doing projects. She is one of the judges in the newest season of "Pilipinas Got Talent," alongside Eugene Domingo, Donny Pangilinan, and television executive Freddie "FM" Garcia. The talent competition, which airs every weekend, is hosted by Robi Domingo and Melai Cantiveros.

"Thank you so much sa lahat ng mga sumusuporta and sa lahat ng nage-enjoy manood ng 'Pilipinas Got Talent' every weekends," she stated.

"Mapapanood niyo na 'yan kasama ang mga judges and hosted by Robi Domingo and Melai Cantiveros — it's been fun," added Kathryn.

# Piolo Pascual's photo with rumored new girlfriend goes viral



**Piolo Pascual with Kim Rivera** 

Kapamilya star Piolo Pascual is rumored to be now in a relationship.

Acording to a report by Lolit Solis in Pilipino Star Ngayon, Piolo is was seen in a photo with Kim Rivera.

Reports said that Kim is the sister of model-actress Ashley Rivera.

According to Lolit, the photo was uploaded by Kim herself on social media.

Last January, Piolo said that he has been single for 13 straight years

"Wala naman e. May love life ba ako? Ang tagal na rin, e, hindi ko na alam 'yung love life. Napaisip ako doon, ah," he said.

# Nora Aunor's kids reveal that she died after an angioplasty

### Imelda Papin bares last texts with the superstar



**Imelda Papin (left) Nora Aunor (right)** 

National Artist and Superstar Nora Aunor's celebrity children revealed that she died a day after an angioplasty, a procedure that is usually done to open blocked coronary arteries. This was corroborated by the superstar's close friend, singer Imelda Papin, who shared their last texts.

In an exclusive interview with GMA's "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," Nora's five children—lan, Lotlot, Matet, Kenneth, and Kiko-shared the best memories and lessons they received from their superstar mom. It was lan who revealed the chain of events that led to the fateful day of Nora's death.

was doing very well, na kasi she's undergoing this treatment to help ease her pain," lan said.

"Everything just happened in a snap," he added. "We found out that she's already in the hospital and she was having a hard time breathing. Her BP (blood pressure) was really high during that time. We had another call that they're doing (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on her already. That's when we dropped everything and

Ian narrated that Nora was first admitted to the hospital to be monitored for her condition.

just went straight there."

"Suddenly, they decided to "A couple of weeks ago, she do an angioplasty procedure. After

that procedure, it was a fairly quick thank God because He is so good. procedure. What happened was things got complicated from there on," he relayed.

"When we got there, ang sabi ng mga doktor, nag-flatline na siya ng 30 minutes. Pero they were able to revive her. When she got to the ICU, nag-flatline siya ulit," Lotlot stated.

"Sabi po ng mga doktor that they tried everything already which nakita po namin mga kakapatid na ginawa nila ang lahat para tulungan si mommy. Kaya lang, hindi na po talaga niya kinaya. (The doctors said they tried everything already, and we saw that they did their best. However, in the end, her body couldn't take it anymore)," she added.

Interviewed at the Heritage Memorial Chapels in Taguig City, singer and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office director Imelda Papin recalled that on April 15, Nora texted and thanked her after her procedure.

The text read: "Thank you. Salamat po ulit. Iniligtas mo po ang buhay ko. I love you very, very much, Mare."

Imelda said she told the superstar not to text because she needed to rest.

"Sabi ko, maraming salamat sa Panginoon. Napakabait niya, Mare. Kapit ka lang sa Kanya at narito lang ako, naka monitor. I love you, too, Mare. (I told her that we

Just hang on to Him, and I am also here to monitor)," Imelda revealed.

"Nine o'clock in the evening, when she was texting me, she was okay. Then the whole night, okay siya. April 16, mga 8, 9 in the morning, it was okay. About 9:30 or 10 in the morning when she started having pain," the singer bared.

Lotlot said their mom did not update them about their health because she did not want her children to worry.

"Alam niyo po, ang mommy kasi ayaw niyang nag-aalala kami mga anak niya. So, every time she feels something, talagang tinatago niya sa amin. (You know, Mommy didn't want us, her children, to worry. So every time she felt something, she would really keep it from us)," she pointed out.

lan recalled one of his mom's last texts: "Pakihalik na lang ako sa mga apo ko. Yakapin mo sila. (Please kiss and hug grandchildren for me.)

lan reminded her that they still had many bonding moments, especially since her May 21 birthday was fast approaching.

Lotlot stressed that growing up, they understood they had to share their mom with the public and her adoring fans.

"She's born for more than us. She's born for greatness," she noted.

# Janine Gutierrez mourns the loss of her grandmothers Nora Aunor and Pilita Corrales within five days



Janine Gutierrez and Nora Aunor (right)

Award-winning Janine Gutierrez grieves the loss of her two grandmothers, National Artist and Superstar Nora Aunor and Asia's Queen of Songs Pilita Corrales, who both passed away within five days.

Janine, 35, is the daughter of actress Lotlot De Leon, daughter of Nora, and actor Ramon Christopher, son of Pilita.

Instagram, Janine honored Pilita, who died on April 12, and Nora, who passed away on April

Janine wrote: "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved mami and mamita, Pilita Corrales.

"Pilita touched the lives of many, not only with her songs but also with her kindness and generosity. She will be remembered for her contributions to the entertainment industry, but most of all

actress for her love of life and family.

"Please join us with your prayers and kind thoughts as we celebrate her beautiful life." she said.

Janine also shared the demise of Nora on social media.

"With sorrowful hearts, we share the passing of our grandmother, Mama Guy. A treasure to our family but truly always more the people's than ours. She had a life of giving her immeasurable love to everyone she touched whether on screen, through music, or in person.

"We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of love and support. Please keep our family in your prayers, especially Mama, Uncle Ian, Ate Matet, Kuva Kiko, and Ken, as we say goodbye.

"We find comfort in knowing she, the one and only Superstar, will be forever loved," she added.

# Nora Aunor: The Eternal Superstar, Now Among the Stars

By Michael Davantes, Host/Director, "PINOY PA RIN" ICI Television

Nora Cabaltera Villamayor — more widely known and celebrated as Nora Aunor — is a name that resonates across generations and creative forms: film, music, stage, and broadcast. A pillar of Filipino culture, she was long hailed as the "Superstar" of Philippine cinema.

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the passing of this cultural icon. Nora Aunor died peacefully at the age of 71, leaving behind a legacy that few could ever match and a void in the heart of the nation that can never be filled.

In 2022, that iconic title was formally enshrined when she was conferred the rank of National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts—the highest cultural distinction given by the Republic of the Philippines. It was a moment that affirmed what the Filipino people had always known: that Nora Aunor was not just an artist, but a living legend, a symbol of hope, authenticity, and excellence.

Born on May 21, 1953, in Iriga City, Camarines Sur, Nora's rise from modest beginnings to national treasure is the kind of story that defines the Filipino dream. From selling peanuts and water at train stations to gracing the world's most prestigious film festivals, her life was a narrative of resilience, passion, and unshakable belief in the power of art.

### From Singing Prodigy to Cinematic Force

Nora's journey to stardom began in music. In 1967, she captured the nation's heart after winning the Tawag ng Tanghalan singing competition with her unforgettable rendition of Moonlight Becomes You. But what followed surpassed even the boldest dreams. Her transition to film turned her into a phenomenon. With roles in All Over the World (1967), Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos (1976), Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo (1976), Himala (1982), Bona (1980), Bulaklak sa City Jail (1984), and Andrea, Paano Ba ang Maging Isang Ina? (1990), she didn't just act—she transformed cinema.

Her characters—wounded, hopeful, brave—spoke directly to the soul of the Filipino. She redefined what it meant to be a leading lady in Philippine cinema: raw, real, and deeply human.

#### **A Career Etched in Gold**

The numbers only begin to tell the story: more than 170 films, over 50 years in the industry, and an unmatched collection of awards and honors, including:

- 17 FAMAS nominations and induction into the FAMAS Hall of Fame
- 21 Gawad Urian nominations with seven wins
- 8 Metro Manila Film Festival Awards
- 9 PMPC Star Awards
- 4 Luna Awards
- 5 Young Critics Circle Awards

International accolades from Cairo, Tokyo, and the Asia Pacific Screen Awards

In 2012, her performance in Thy Womb earned her the Best Actress award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the first for a Filipino. She followed this with more critically acclaimed work in Dementia (2014), Taklub (2015), and others, showing the world that her

brilliance only deepened with time.

#### The Woman Behind the Legend

Beyond the accolades, Nora Aunor was a woman of resilience and authenticity. She married actor Christopher de Leon in 1975, with whom she raised five children. Though their marriage eventually ended, their partnership on screen became iconic in Philippine cinema.

She became a permanent U.S. resident in 2008, yet her heart never left

grow in the hearts of her people.

#### **A Light That Will Never Dim**

Nora Aunor's passing marks the end of an era, but her light remains. Her roles will continue to be studied, celebrated, and cherished by artists and audiences alike. Her voice, her gaze, her quiet strength—they belong now to the annals of history, but also to every Filipino who has ever found courage through art.

She was more than a superstar. She was a storyteller of the Filipino spirit, a voice



home. In 2011, she returned to the Philippines and reignited her artistic flame, continuing to act with the same intensity and purpose that first captured the nation's imagination.

In 2023, a newly discovered plant species, Begonia noraaunorae, was named in her honor — a living tribute to an artist whose presence will forever

Cebuano, Pilita brought diversity and depth to Filipino music. Her 1963 classic A Million Thanks to You wasn't just a hit; it was a moment—a rare achievement at a time when local artists struggled for airtime beside international acts.

She serenaded presidents, entertained royalty, and performed alongside global greats. Pilita was personally invited by Sammy Davis Jr. to perform at the world-famous Caesars Palace—a moment of prestige not only for her, but for every Filipino who saw in her success the possibilities of their own dreams.

On-screen, her warmth and wit captivated audiences just as much as her music did. Her long-running show An Evening with Pilita became a staple of Philippine television, setting the bar for excellence in entertainment. Whether acting in films, judging the next generation on Philippine Idol and Asian Idol, or hosting her own programs, Pilita exuded a quiet, commanding presence—graceful, wise, and endlessly magnetic.

Her influence and dedication have not gone unrecognized. Pilita received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Philippine Association of the Record Industry (PARI), numerous Awit, Tinig, and Aliw awards, and the rare distinction of having a street in Melbourne named after her. She also held an honorary Doctorate in Music from the University of Visayas—a nod to

for the voiceless, and a mirror to our hopes and pain. "Himala? Walang himala! Ang himala ay nasa puso ng tao!" Indeed, the miracle was not just in the stories she told, but in the life she lived.

Rest in power, Nora Aunor. Your light will never fade.#

her immense contributions to arts and culture.

And yet, for all the accolades, perhaps her greatest legacy lies in her ability to touch hearts. Kapantay ay Langit, A Million Thanks to You, and Saan Ka Man Naroroon continue to move generations, reminding us of love, longing, and the beauty of melody sung from the soul.

In her later years, she remained an enduring presence—whether through a surprise TV appearance, an impromptu performance, or at her beloved Greenhills restaurant bar, Pilita's, where her music filled the air and her warmth filled the room.

Pilita Corrales was more than a queen—she was a beacon of talent, a nurturing force in the Filipino music scene, and a symbol of grace that never faded. Her journey was not just one of fame, but of heart, heritage, and a lifelong love for sharing music with the world.

Though she has taken her final bow, her voice will continue to echo—in records, in memories, and in every note sung by the countless artists she inspired. Thank you, Pilita. A million thanks to you. #

The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

Aristotle

# Pilita Corrales: The Voice That Echoes Across Generations

By Michael Davantes.Host/Director, "PINOY PA RIN" ICI Television

To speak of Pilita Corrales is to speak of elegance, excellence, and endurance—a voice that has not only soundtracked countless Filipino lives but also carried the soul of a nation to the world stage. Known affectionately as Asia's Queen of Songs, Pilita was more than a musical icon; she was a cultural treasure whose legacy is woven into the very fabric of Philippine music history.

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Pilita Corrales, who peacefully left this world at the age of 85. The nation mourns the loss of a legend, whose music, spirit, and grace touched generations of Filipinos both here and around the globe.

Born Pilar Garrido Corrales on August 22, 1939, Pilita spent over six remarkable decades in the spotlight, transcending genres, languages, and borders. With each performance, she bridged eras—her timeless charm as present in black-and-white television as it was on the digital screens of today.

While her signature backbend became a beloved visual emblem of her performances, it was her voice—soulful, crystal-clear, and rich with emotion—that truly defined her artistry. A trailblazer long before the term became trendy,



musicians on international stages, becoming the first Filipino to reach number one on the Australian music charts and making history at the Tokyo Music Festival in 1972 by taking home the Best Performer Award—outshining a roster of international legends.

Her contributions spanned far beyond chart-topping hits. With over 135 albums to her name, recorded in English, Tagalog, Spanish, and

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Souvenir photo of apple picking trip, one of the educational trips organized for students, besides sugaring and tulips festivals.

From Page 4 Which party platform

Canada data.

Poilievre also pledged to find \$1 billion in new tax revenue by cracking down on Canadians holdings assets in off-shore tax havens.

Eliminating the English public broadcaster, targeting tax havens and stopping all foreign aid of any kind still wouldn't be enough to pay for Poilievre's tax cut — let alone his other commitments like boosting Canada's defence spending to two per cent of GDP by 2030 and eliminating the GST on new home purchases.

Poilievre's GST commitment is pricier than what Carney is promising because the Liberal plan knocks the sales tax off new homes purchased only by first-time homebuyers.

To address the budget shortfall, Poilievre said Saturday, like Carney, he will "cap" government spending.

Liberal platform promises \$130B in new measures over 4 years, adding \$225B to federal debt. He's also promised in the past to implement what he's calling a "dollar for dollar" law so that every new dollar spent by the federal government must be followed by a cut to spending elsewhere — but the details of what could get the axe are unknown.

"The choice here is do you want more Liberal debt, more taxes and more inflation on housing or do we want a Conservative government that will cut costs, cut spending and make life more affordable. That is the choice," he said.

Poilievre has long promised to turn the page on that level of spending and "fix" the country's books by returning to a balanced budget.

But asked Saturday when he'd get Ottawa back to black, Poilievre was noncommittal, only saying, "we're going to bring the deficit down."

The Liberal platform includes \$35.2 billion in new spending over the next year, and \$129 billion in new measures — which include tax cuts — over the next four years.

On Tuesday, April 22nd, Poilievre released his costed platform after all the other parties had done theirs. Poilievre says his platform includes an estimated \$75 billion in tax cuts and \$35 billion in new programs over the next four years.

Poilievre claims that the Conservative platform will also save Canadians more than \$56 billion between 2025-2029.

Putting in place their programs

will also require the Conservative government to carry a projected deficit of \$31 billion this year.

According to information in the Conservatives' 30-page platform, it takes into account \$20 billion in revenue gained from implementing U.S. counter tariffs

It also calculates economic growth based on the scrapping of programs such as clean electricity regulations, mandatory Electric Vehicle sales target and the elimination of the carbon tax for industry and residents.

Poilievre said that a Conservative government would cut the "Liberal deficit by 70 per cent" by cutting back on 'bureaucracy, consultants, foreign aid to dictators and terrorists."

He says he will slash money for special interest groups and unleash "half a trillion dollars of extra economic growth by unlocking the power of resources in home building."

The platform, called "Change," promises to cut the lowest personal income tax rate from 15 per cent to 12.75 per cent -- meaning the average Canadian worker earning \$57,000, for example, will save \$900, with dual-income families saving \$1,800 a year.

The party says a Conservative government would gain \$12.8 billion in new revenue from increased homebuilding over four years, and collect almost \$1 billion from repealing the Impact Assessment Act that the Liberal government passed in 2019 to assess impacts of major projects on federal lands.

The Conservatives say they would pay for their programs by "trimming the bureaucracy, not services." They would streamline the federal public service through natural attrition and retirement and only replace two-thirds of departing employees.

#### Liberals reaction:

Liberal Leader Mark Carney's spending initiatives primarily target Donald Trump's trade war, while Poilievre has continued his focus on cost of living measures.

In reaction to the Conservative platform on Tuesday, Carney said it "really only confirms what we already knew. That Pierre Poilievre has no plan to stand up to President Trump."

"These numbers are a joke. We aren't in a joke. We are in the worst crisis of our lives," said Carney during a campaign stop in Quebec City. "It takes a serious government. It takes a serious plan. It takes a plan that delivers today. It takes a plan that delivers investment. It takes a plan that grows this economy,

stands up to Trump and moves forward with the brilliance of the workers here and across Quebec and across Canada."

Overall, it seems that the two competing major parties that are in a position to form the government have presented different approaches to meet the needs of the country and overcome the challenges of the current trade war. It is not a simple question of numbers and deficits, but more importantly, it is a matter of having the ability to conceive concrete plans to improve productivity through proper investments, tax reforms conducive to attracting capital, and to formulate sound policy decisions to increase both internal and international trade, particularly due to the trade war which no one knows how it will end.

The Conservative Party leader, Pierre Poilievre has been in politics for over 20 years, while Marc Carney, the current Liberal Party leader and prime minister for a short time is new to politics which some experts cite as a disadvantage but also give him credit for his expertise in having an extensive management experience as the former governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England.

It seems that in the final analysis, it is a matter of trust - who should a voter elect to meet Canada's needs and economic challenges, a career politician or an experienced bank manager?

With files from the Canadian Press, CTV News, CBC News of various dates.

#### THANK YOU MESSAGE



Winning The Munting Binibining Pilipinas is such an honour and exciting moment for me. But I know one thing for sure: I didn't win alone.

Thank you to the amazing Filipino community who helped and believed in me. I felt your love and support along the way—from the hugs and advice, to the kind words that made me feel brave. A heartfelt thank you to my Zia Caterina (Munting Binibining Pilipinas 1987) for being my inspiration, and a continuous role model. Thank you to my Vavo Elia, for embracing our culture and

supporting me always. Thank you to my Tita Angie for always teaching us that women are powerful, and anything is possible with the Ogerio determination. Thank you to my mom, who always reminds me that any dream is obtainable. Thank you to FAMAS for encouraging young Filipinas to shine bright, all while helping the community.

A special thank you to my Lola Minda. Your strength, kindness, and unwavering dignity are the kind of quiet power that leaves a lasting impact. You've taught me, through your actions and your words, how to carry myself with pride, humility, and love. Your ways are woven into the foundation of who I am. I carry your wisdom with me every day. You are deeply loved and endlessly admired.

I will wear my dress on stage, but I will also wear all your love. The crown will shine bright because of all of you. It is a privilege and to be Filipina is an honour. I will never forget this feeling, and all of your support. Maraming salamat po! With all my heart.

Angelina Mazzone Munting Binibining Pilipinas 2025

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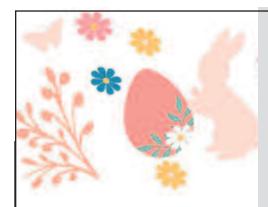
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