

# Filipino Canadians celebrate two historical events in June

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# Marvin Rotrand to retire

Communique: June 16 2021

## Snowdon to Have New City Councillor

Snowdon City Councillor Marvin Rotrand announced today that his name won't be on the ballot for re-election as City Councillor as Montrealers choose their next Mayor and Council on November 7.

Rotrand was first elected in 1982 and has served without interruption since. He holds the record as Montreal's Councillor with the longest years of service.

"It truly is an honour to have been the voice of Snowdon residents. I know a large number of my constituents personally and it has been a privilege to have represented the neighbourhood. With the support of the people of Snowdon, I am proud that I have been able to improve the quality of life locally, in the Borough and in our city," said Rotrand.

Promoting a debate on Montreal's



**Montreal municipal councillor Marvin Rotrand.**  
**PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY /Montreal Gazette files**

electoral system. I propose ranked ballots and voting by mail. Rotrand's decision is a personal one. He recently turned 70 and became a grandfather for the first time. He has decided that, after 39 years in office, he wants to spend time with family and to help community causes from outside City Hall.

Noted as a pragmatic progressive, Rotrand spent most of his years on Council as an independent or with smaller parties, yet has had more motions adopted than any other Councillor.

Rotrand has been elected an unprecedented ten times. On several occasions he bucked "waves" when groups of new councillors were elected and old stalwarts turfed out. His first election was in 1982, at the time of Mayor Jean Drapeau's last mandate, when he was among a small group of Montreal Citizens' Movement

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Rotrand





**From the Publisher's desk**

**Learning about residential schools reveals a dark past in Canadian history**

**Zenaïda Ferry Kharroubi**

As I review various articles, history and literature on residential schools in Canada, I feel very sad and disgusted by the immorality, cruelty, and inhuman treatment of children who were forcefully taken away from their parents and their native culture. I could hardly believe the horror stories of physical and sexual abuses committed by the personnel of these schools. How could these nuns, priests, and other adults commit these crimes with impunity against innocent, helpless children?

Two ideas seem to be a common thread in all the literature about the establishment of these residential schools - colonialism and racism. The Europeans (who are all from the ruling class of the white race) came to colonize the New World, and in doing so, they wanted to make the native people become like them by destroying their culture and language. They considered the natives uncivilized. and even called them “savages” who needed to be tamed, conquered, transformed, and Christianized. They believed that the best way to do this was to take away young children and indoctrinate them to a new religion, language and culture for they thought that when these children go back to their homes, they would influence their parents and elders to be assimilated into the mainstream society.

The discovery of 215 unmarked graves in Kamloops is probably only one of many such graves. Residential schools started during the early days of colonization in the 18th century and continued for many years when the last residential school was closed in 1996 in Saskatchewan. It is a surprising fact that these schools were funded by the government and managed mostly by the religious orders. Expressions of apology by the government were made first by Prime Minister Harper in 2008, which was followed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017 to include other groups overlooked in the previous apology. However, Pope Francis has expressed only sorrow in learning about the unmarked graves but did not issue any apology for the role of the Catholic Church in these residential schools.

The issues emanating from residential schools are still reflected in most of our social problems - racism and colonialism that still persist in many forms. We simply cannot predict when there will be a complete healing of the wounds inflicted upon the indigenous people who are still fighting for their rights. It seems likely that the tragic saga of residential schools will haunt us for a while longer in spite of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission created in 2008 to repair the harm done to the native people.

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**Letter to the Editor**

June 3, 2021

Dear Editor:

I am proud to call Lilia Esguerra both a friend and a colleague. Her contributions to Montreal's Filipino community are legendary. Anyone who is plugged in to the community would know that. In fact, anyone who claims to be a voice for Filipinos would know that Lilia was the first Filipino - of any gender - to run for public office in Montreal. She came within an eyelash of being elected City Councilor in Darlington district in 1998.

Today Lilia is active in her work with seniors as President of FILGA as well as operating the Ahmon Institute, a successful adult education school which is part of the English Montreal School Board network. Yet recently a person that few of us know and who is clearly not active in our community

organizations, told the Montreal Gazette and other media that she, a candidate for City Council for a small third party, is the "very first Filipina" to ever run. That claim shows her ignorance, the fact that she is disconnected from the community and worse that she has no knowledge of the history of Filipinos in our city.

Many of us took this as an insult to Lilia and I have decided not to let it pass. I have no doubt that this new candidate, running for this third party and with no community support and against a sitting councilor who has distinguished himself as a friend of the Filipinos, won't have a very long tenure in politics.

If you are going to run, know the basic facts and don't denigrate those who came before. Lilia Esguerra is someone many of us admire.

Ramon Vicente  
CEO & President  
Filipino Family Services of Montreal

**How Thousands of Indigenous Children Vanished in Canada**

*The discovery of the remains of 215 children at the site of a defunct boarding school in British Columbia has rekindled discussion of a sinister time in Canada's history.*

By Ian Austen, New York Times  
June 7, 2021

OTTAWA — The announcement last month that the remains of 215 Indigenous children had been found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School left the nation reeling.

Flags throughout Canada were put at half-staff and impromptu memorials comprising children's moccasins or shoes, often marked with "215," have sprouted, including one in

Indigenous children passed through the schools between their opening, around 1883, and their closing in 1996. Since taking office in 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has prioritized putting in place a list of 94 actions for commemorating the students and improving the lives of Indigenous people. But Indigenous leaders believe the government still has a long way to go.

The discovery of the graves has given new impetus to the nation's debate on how to atone for its history of



**Children at the Kamloops school in 1931.Credit...National Center for Truth and Reconciliation**

front of Canada's Parliament building in Ottawa.

"A lot of survivors, my relatives, they've been saying this for years and years — that there was a lot of death, there's a lot of unmarked graves," said Perry Bellegarde, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, the country's largest Indigenous organization, referring to children who were taken from their families and forced to attend Canada's notorious residential schools like Kamloops to assimilate into Western culture.

"But nobody ever believed the survivors," he added. "And now with the discovery of the grave site at Kamloops, it's just horrific, it's tragic and it's painful."

An estimated 150,000

exploiting Indigenous people. Many are asking how so many children could have wound up in that burial space. What has been discovered?

About 20 years ago, an effort to find remains started at the Kamloops school, which operated from 1890 until the late 1970s, and was once Canada's largest, with 500 students at its peak. Members of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation made last month's grim discovery after bringing in ground-penetrating radar.

Among the 215 bodies found by the radar, there appears to be one of a child who died as young as 3, said Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc. All of the children were buried decades ago, she said.

Chief Casimir also said she



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*The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star nor its editors.*



anticipated that more remains would be discovered as the ground is scanned further this month. The community is now working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the coroner's service in British Columbia.

On Friday, Chief Casimir said the bodies found so far appeared to be buried in separate "unmarked burial sites that are, to our knowledge, also undocumented."

#### **What was the residential school system?**

In the late 19th century, Canada set aside land for Indigenous people through often dubious treaties, while outright seizing Indigenous land in some places, particularly in British Columbia.

Around 1883 the government added a new dimension to its exploitation of Indigenous people. Indigenous children in many parts of Canada were forced to attend residential schools, often far from their communities. Most were operated by churches, and all of them banned the use of Indigenous languages and Indigenous cultural practices, often through violence. Disease as well as sexual, physical and emotional abuse were widespread.

The Kamloops school was operated by the Roman Catholic Church until 1969, when the federal

disease, accidents, fires and during attempts to escape, according to the commission.

Schools suffered mass deaths when infectious diseases swept through them, according to a report this year on the burial sites by Scott Hamilton, a professor of anthropology at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

#### **How many children died at the residential schools?**

When children died at residential schools, their families were often given vague explanations or told that they had simply run away and vanished, the commission found. When the schools acknowledged the deaths of children, they generally refused, until the 1960s, to return their bodies to their families. Remains were sent back only if it was cheaper than burying them at the schools.

In its report, the commission estimated that at least 4,100 students had died or gone missing from the residential schools, and demanded that the government account for all of those children. It did not, however, definitely say how many had disappeared.

Murray Sinclair, a former judge and senator who headed the commission, said in an email last week that he now believed the number was "well beyond 10,000."

Since the commission ended, a



**Children's shoes and toys were placed in front of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia after the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3, were found at the site this past week. Credit...Dennis Owen/Reuters**

government took over the school system. Reports by an inspector and a doctor indicated that the students at Kamloops were severely malnourished at times.

A National Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up by the Canadian government spent six years hearing from 6,750 witnesses to document the history of the schools. In a report in 2015, it concluded that the system was a form of "cultural genocide."

The commission also called for an apology from the pope for the Roman Catholic church's role. On Sunday, Pope Francis stopped short of offering a formal apology, but said that "the sad discovery further raises awareness of the pains and sufferings of the past."

Some former students testified before the commission that priests at the schools had fathered infants with Indigenous students, that the babies had been taken away from their young mothers and killed, and that in some cases their bodies were thrown into furnaces.

Many students also died from

federal project has been underway to document the fates of the children who never returned to their families after being sent to residential schools, and who are generally known as "the missing children."

Remains in unmarked graves have appeared or been discovered through construction or natural events at the sites of other former schools, although nothing on the scale of Kamloops.

Dr. Kisha Supernant, an Indigenous woman who directs the Institute for Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology at the University of Alberta, has been leading teams that use ground-penetrating radar and other technologies to hunt for remains.

Professor Hamilton said that simply locating burial sites was often difficult because of poor record-keeping, lost records and the relocation of some schools.

"These graveyards are often now unmarked," he said. "What they were like 50 or 60 years ago is anyone's guess. The challenge here is that they have not been maintained. Once the schools were closed, the properties



**The Kamloops Indian Residential School in 1937. Credit...National Center for Truth and Reconciliation**

were often abandoned."

#### **What happens next?**

During a special debate in the House of Commons last Tuesday evening, Mr. Trudeau said Canada had failed the 215 children whose remains were discovered as well as the other children who never returned to their communities from the residential schools.

"Today, some of the children found in Kamloops, and who have yet to be found in other places across the country, would have been grandparents or great-grandparents," he said. "They are not, and that is the fault of Canada."

Mr. Trudeau said the government heeded calls from Indigenous leaders for money and other help to use radar and various technologies to

search for the remains of students at other schools. In 2019, the government budgeted 27 million Canadian dollars to look for graves. But the money was not distributed.

Chief Bellegarde said he hoped the shock that followed the discovery in Kamloops would lead Canada to accelerate efforts at bringing about reconciliation and eliminating discrimination and the wide economic gap between Indigenous people and the rest of the country.

"We have to use this as this catalyst," he said. "We've helped build this great country and nobody's going anywhere. We have to work together, so let's roll up our sleeves and get this work done." #

Ville de  
Côte Saint-Luc

## *The Côte Saint-Luc City Council wishes you a happy Philippine Independence Day and Filipino Heritage Month*



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# Filipino-Canadians celebrate two historical events in June

By Zenaïda F. Kharroubi

The annual tradition of celebrating Philippine Independence Day has added significance because of another important event - the declaration of Filipino Heritage Month by virtue of a private member's bill 55 sponsored by Salma Zahid, a member of the Canadian Parliament for Scarborough Center, Ontario and approved on October 31, 2018. But a resolution proposed by Councillor Marvin Rotrand, seconded by Councilor Lionel Perez to declare June as Filipino Heritage Month was approved earlier in February 2018, by the CDN-NDG Borough Council in Montreal. Subsequently, the FHSM (Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal) was created with Al Abdon selected as Chairman, and Bert Abiera, Vice-Chairman. This organization was mandated to have activities to commemorate Philippine cultural heritage and traditions as well as to coordinate with other community associations.

Before the pandemic, Philippine Independence Day has always been a big event and celebrated with a colorful parade organized by the CCFAQ (Council of Canadian Filipino Associations of Quebec), as well as a multi-cultural festival of music and dances held at MacKenzie King Park. Attendance had always been in the thousands as

everyone would like to meet their friends and neighbors to share food and camaraderie. Last year, Montrealers missed the parade and the big social event at the park due to

pandemic has prevented most cultural events, Famas still held the usual raising of the Philippine Flag virtually on Philippine Independence day. This year, as restrictions were partially lifted,

some dignitaries who delivered congratulatory messages. A reception followed the flag raising ceremony.

Since the declaration of Filipino Heritage Month last February 2018, the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal has always been active and engaged in several projects to achieve their goals. In spite of the pandemic, the members still managed to maintain their connection to the community. They took turns preparing food weekly and made deliveries to seniors and called this Ayuda, a Spanish word for assistance. They also sponsored computer courses for seniors, knitting lessons, baking, and for social events, they held a bingo night weekly. Moreover, they made sure to wish members of the group on their birthdays with a special birthday card handcrafted and designed by Jeannette Perrignon.

This year, opening of the Filipino Heritage Month started on June 1st, by zoom which featured the messages from many VIPs and leaders of different organizations. An array of entertainment numbers was included such as songs, dances, and Philippine historical events. Fely Rosales Carino's column on community social events described what transpired during this event which lasted over two hours.

The opening remarks was given by Councillor Marvin Rotrand



**Flag raising ceremony at FAMAS (Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs) building, June 12, 2021 (From Facebook post of A. Manon-og)**

safety precautions and restrictions. It is not known yet as of this writing if there will be a resumption of big gatherings of Filipinos in Mackenzie King Park during the summer months of July and August.

Last year, even though the

FAMAS under the leadership of President Romeo Remigio and Vice-President Joseph Gonzales, was able to hold the raising of the Philippine flag on June 12th, at 9:00 A.M. with a smaller crowd present in front of the Philippine Community Center with

From Page 1 Rotrand (MCM) councillors voted into office. The MCM of those days represented a new and fresh way of looking at politics, at having men and women, francophone and anglophones, working together to promote the rights of tenants, green space and consultative democracy.

"My experience since those early days has taught me that Council works best when it is collegial," says Rotrand. "Today I am inspired by the Toronto model where political parties do not exist at all and where everyone works together to advance the common good. That is what, over the years, I have always tried to do: put the public good ahead of the partisan. My voters have appreciated this and that perhaps explains why I have been so successful in earning their enduring confidence".

Rotrand is proud of his record of reading all the files which are presented at City Hall and in committees, and of asking probing questions based on meticulous research which - having access to only a miniscule support budget - he does himself. His attendance record at meetings of all kinds is likely among the best of any Councillor, present or past.

He believes that no Councillor has worked harder than he has.

Among his many achievements, Rotrand served as the STM's Vice President for 17 years, acted as leader of the majority under Mayor Gerald Tremblay, was an influential member of the Public Security Commission under Mayor Jean Dore and was Mayor Denis

Coderre's point man on the internationally successful transit congress held in Montreal in 2017.

Given the moniker of Mr. Democracy for his relentless efforts to reform Montreal Council and bring it closer to the citizens, Rotrand is perhaps best known for his work to promote diversity. He has championed the hiring of minorities into the police department and civil services (beginning with improving access to employment for women in the 1980's), promoted minority candidates for City Council and brought causes dear to racialized and immigrant communities to the floor of Council.

"I cherish my close relationship with my constituents of minority origin. My parents immigrated here in 1948. In Canada most of us can trace our family history in the country only a few generations. My family history in Canada dates only a generation longer than the families of so many in Snowdon. My Filipino voters are living the same successful integration into Canada as my parents and many Jewish immigrants did a few decades earlier," said Rotrand

Rotrand has a very close relationship with the Filipino community. He is an honorary Knight of Rizal, piloted the awarding of the name Place Jose Rizal for the area around the monument at Mackenzie King Park through City Council, originated the Montreal Manila friendship motions in 2004, proposed the motion to create Filipino Heritage Month and has been an ardent supporter of Filipino cultural, sports and seniors' organizations.

"I appreciate the strong support my Filipino constituents have

always given me. It has been an honour for me to be their voice at City Council," Rotrand said.

Most recently Rotrand's work has focussed attention on anti-Asian racism as well as inadequate resources in the police department to confront hate crimes.

Rotrand indicates that he will actively support the election campaign for Mayor of Denis Coderre. He also indicates that he has aided Coderre's Ensemble Montreal team recruit some excellent candidates in Cote des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grace Borough including in Snowdon. These candidates will be announced soon.

"I leave knowing that I have always been available to my voters and to the media whose job it is to report

our work to the public so that voters can make an informed choice. I invite those who come after me to promote transparency by being available to the press. I have great respect for the professionalism of the Montreal press corps," Rotrand concluded.

Rotrand also urges Councillors to buck the party line when they don't agree. He believes Montreal Council would better serve citizens if it acted less like the Parliament it has become and perform more like a City Council.

## Partial list of accomplishments:

- Promoted civilian oversight of law enforcement leading to the creation of the Quebec Police Ethics Commission. Former Quebec Justice

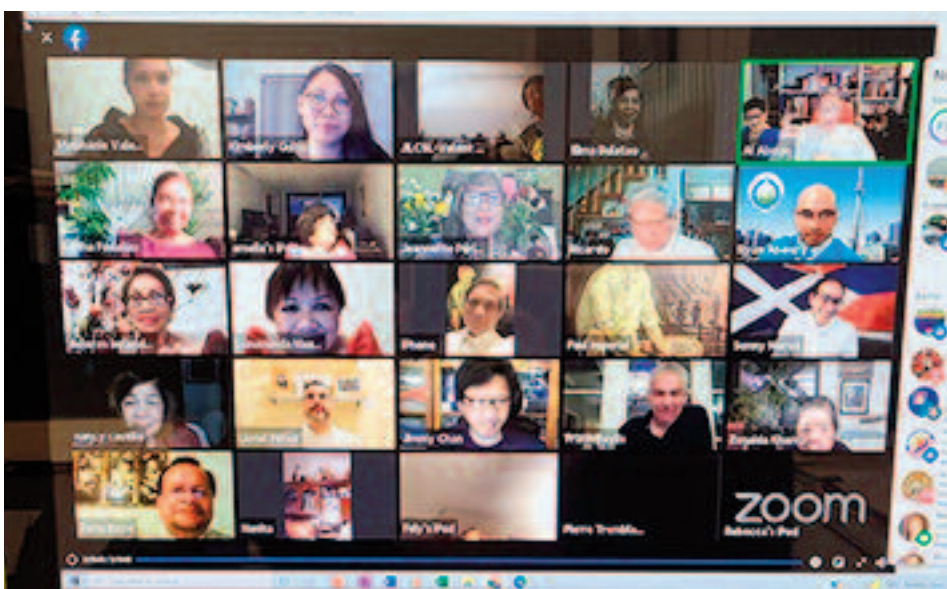
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Rotrand

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**The virtual opening of Filipino Heritage Month by the FHSM on June 1, 2021 (See Fely Carino Rosales column, page 15).**

while the keynote speech was delivered by the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Hon. Rodolfo D. Robles. Representatives from the different levels of government - municipal, provincial and federal - were invited to deliver their messages in addition to the leaders of non-profit organizations. In all of the speeches, the contributions of Filipinos to Canada were recognized, and in particular, a deep appreciation of frontline workers who are mostly Filipinos working in hospitals, and in long term care institutions. They also noted the economic contributions of Filipinos to the progress of Canadian society.

Celebrations of Philippine independence and the Filipino Heritage Month have obviously been toned down due to the pandemic. There are very limited ways these events can be celebrated due to the

safety protocols but the Filipino community in Montreal has adjusted to these restrictions and even a curfew that lasted for several weeks. Perhaps, when the restrictions are lifted

further, there maybe some big gatherings happening soon.

Filipino community organizations across Canada hold festivals in large public venues. These Filipino festivals often feature Filipino showbiz personalities who sing and dance for large crowds in attendance, who enjoy the different kinds of Filipino food available from many vendors.

Cities like Toronto, which have larger Filipino communities, are known for its multi-day celebrations like Taste of Manila, which is held in Little Manila, at the corners of Wilson and Bathurst. It is one of Canada's largest street festivals, with more than 300,000 people in attendance.

Statistics Canada reported the following population with Filipino ethnic origins in key metropolis in the country:

Cities	2011	2016
Toronto	246,340	254,480
Vancouver	120,645	123,170
Winnipeg	58,535	73,880
Calgary	52,645	70,660

Montreal 32,740 33,050

Calgary showed the biggest population growth among all key metropolitan areas in Canada with a rate of more than a third over the past 5 years, followed by Winnipeg with a 26.2% growth rate. The very low growth rate of Filipino migrants in Montreal, and in Quebec in general, may be explained by the difficulty faced by new immigrants in meeting the province's minimum French language requirements.

More than 76% of those with Filipino ethnic origins reported being first generation Filipinos (598,960), including those who were born outside Canada. Second generation Filipinos (168,045) are mostly children of immigrants, and those born in Canada or had at least one parent born outside Canada. Only a very small percentage of Filipinos in the country consider themselves third generation Filipinos (13,125).

Source: Philippine Embassy website



**Photo of a past Philippine Independence Day celebration at MacKenzie King Park in Montreal.**

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We are here to help guide you through the process of dealing with the many different federal departments, programs, and services.

### Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

2020 has been an exceptionally trying year for everyone. We were confronted with a worldwide pandemic, the likes of which has not been seen in our lifetime. While no government is perfect, and in retrospect there are things we could have done differently, I am proud of the way our federal government has stepped up to support Canadians during the pandemic.

My job has been to support my constituents which included providing a constant stream of information; answering your questions; helping individuals and groups with their own files; and obtaining funding and grants. It also meant helping our Government construct and refine programs like the CERB, CEBA, CEWS, CECRA and their successors. It meant fighting for improvements, such as helping to lead the charge for national standards in our long-term care facilities.

Throughout the first 5 months of the pandemic, my staff and I worked 7 days a week to ensure that all phone calls and emails were responded to within 24 hours.

I published a daily update (now weekly) to provide important information to the thousands of constituents who provided us their email addresses. Those updates are also posted on my Facebook page. I encourage everyone who does not yet receive my updates to please email us at [Anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca).

We also had volunteers contact as many residents of the riding as possible, particularly seniors.

Throughout the year, we tried to help resolve the thousands of files that we received from the riding's businesses, non-profits and organizations. We also assisted them in applying for funding and grants. Simultaneously, Parliament was also functioning and I was also representing you in Parliament, on Committees, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and in the Liberal caucus.

In all the years that I have served as an elected official, this one has been the most challenging but also the most rewarding. I have never before been able to assist so many people directly in such a short time frame and, hopefully, make a positive difference in their lives.

I appreciate the incredible sacrifices everyone has made this year and for this holiday season let us hope for a joyous and HEALTHY 2021.



# Anthony Housefather

Member of Parliament · Mount Royal

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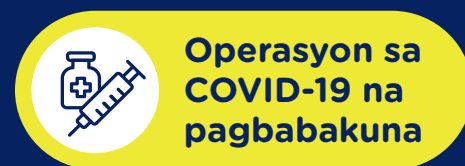
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# Most Beautiful Places in the Philippines That Won't Fail to Impress You



Banaue Rice Terraces in Ifugao, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of the most beautiful places in the Philippines.



Boracay beach in Aklan is a sure-fire hit for travelers and beach-lovers. Boracay is famous for its fine white sand and now, clear blue waters, party scene, and amazing water activities.



Vigan in Ilocos Sur - Just like Intramuros, is the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia. Established in the 16th century, Vigan's architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines, from China and from Europe, recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Chocolate Hills in Bohol. There are more than 1,000 symmetrical mounds, conical and dome-shaped that most people liken them to Hershey's Kisses because of their color.



Intramuros in Manila is filled with old Hispanic architecture that was preserved from hundred years ago.



Big and Small Lagoons in El Nido, Palawan - With its gorgeous rock formations and clear aquamarine waters, El Nido is a sure-hit for every traveler! You can go kayaking, paddle boarding, or swimming in these lagoons while digesting its majestic views.



*Congratulations!*



Sue Montgomery  
Borough Mayor  
Côte-des-Neiges - Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Happy 123rd Philippine Independence Day and 3rd Filipino Heritage Month!



Magda Popeanu  
Councillor  
Côte-des-Neiges District



Lionel Perez  
Councillor  
Darlington District



Marvin Rotrand  
Councillor  
Snowdon District



Peter McQueen  
Councillor  
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce District



Christian Arseneault  
Councillor  
Loyola District





# Personality of the Month

By Fely Rosales Cariño



## Angelita Ogerio

Watch out! Someone interesting is coming up. She's a lady who is sometimes misunderstood. Let me clear the way. Sometimes perceived as strict, aloof, and detached, she is actually funny, lovable, a good conversationalist, and a burst of fresh air. I am talking about Angelita (aka Angie) Ogerio. There is much more to discover about my dear friend!

She first saw the light of dawn in Ballesteros, Cagayan, Philippines in 1943. She completed her elementary and high school education in their hometown. After high school, indecisions confused her mind. Her parents, Melanio Ogerio and Bonifacia Arrieta, wanted her to be a doctor or a nurse, but Angie had set her eyes and heart on being a lawyer. In the end, she conceded and agreed to go to a nursing school. She chose to go to the Filipino Women's University (PWU) in

Manila, Philippines. There she finished her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Major in Clinical Teaching. After graduation, she heard about the Reciprocity Program offered for doctors and nurses in the United States. She applied for and was accepted to work at the Boyle General Hospital (BGH) in Boyle, Alberta, a small town near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She signed for a two-year contract.

After her contract, she moved to Montreal, where, by good luck, hospitals were in need of doctors and nurses. She chose the Royal Victoria Hospital where she worked as a head nurse. What a feat. This is admirable! While working, at the back of her mind, she needed to further her studies. She enrolled at McGill University and took qualifying courses for a Master's Program in Nursing. Her hectic schedule made it difficult to complete

the program.

Another chance came when she was accepted at the Columbia University in New York for the same program. However, this time, a US visa was out of her reach.

Perhaps to find new dreams, she actively immersed herself and joined Filipino associations. The following are the organizations she was involved in. She served as Director in the United Nurses Union of Montreal. This union supported and protected rights of nurses working in Montreal. Along with this added responsibility, she accepted a position as a member of the Board of Governors of the nurses' union that fought for the rights of blacks and domestic workers in Montreal. In connection with this work, against the advice of her friends, she took upon herself to help free a Filipino domestic worker from an unjust employer.

She also served as a representative of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ) in the Center for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR). After this term, she was elected as President of the FNAQ. This lady president was going places!

The association that took most of her time was the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) in which she served as president. She kept planning various activities that would enhance her term. As FAMAS president, the following activities were introduced for the first time: Children's Christmas Party, Independence Ball, and Munting Binibining Pilipinas. She was successful in fundraising, the proceeds of which led to the beginning of the establishment of the present Philippine Center located at Van Horne Street, Montreal. It was also under her administration that FAMAS successfully raised around \$26,000 which was donated to ONDOY flood victims in the Philippines in 2009.

After her FAMAS presidency, she was elected as President of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ). She served for two terms. Under her watch, the FFCAQ celebrated their 30th anniversary on October 2010. Wait a

minute, The celebration highlighted the \$1,000 cash prize for the winner of the Maharlika award.

Wait a minute, I detect a pattern here. Angie, you seem to be always a president. I should baptize you Madame President For Life!!!

Now, over the years, Angie has been an officer, advisor, or member of the Board of Trustees of different organizations. I would say that her crowning glory was her prestigious award given for an exemplary performance in various activities, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal presented by Honourable Irwin Cotler, then a Member of Parliament in 2012.

During conversations when she finds something disagreeable, she's quick to give notice. She always enjoys a healthy and lively debate. Wow! Angie, you would have made a fiery defence lawyer during a court trial. For now, let us salute Angie for her countless contributions in helping shape most Philippine organizations in Montreal to stand on their own. When asked if she has any regrets, she said, "I worked well and I'm living the best life with no regrets!" Her future includes travelling and visiting exotic places, and tasting different gourmet dishes that each place can offer.

At the present time, Angie lives a quiet and contented retirement life and she is living like nobody's business! She is a regular at Angelita Velez's beauty salon. Her time is also spent with occasional dinners at nice restaurants. Most especially, she caters to her beloved nephews and nieces (Nico's and Minda's children). And of course, shopping sprees are still a delight! Though appearing serious, her contagious smile will catch you off guard. So don't let her fool you; she is full of life!

Angie, thank you for being inspirational to the Filipino community! I would like to say a prayer for you: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

## Juneteenth becomes a Federal Holiday



People celebrate Juneteenth at St. Nicholas Park, which commemorates the end of slavery in Texas, two years after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves elsewhere in the United States, in New York City, New York, June 18, 2021.

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# Filipino-Canadian Scientist seeks Member of Parliament seat in Toronto-St. Paul's, Ontario

**Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)**

Filipino Canadian scientist Dr. Phil De Luna, a young, aspiring, and first-time politician, is an acclaimed candidate for Member of Parliament for Toronto-St. Paul's under the Green Party for the next federal election. Phil will run in the political riding presently held by Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett. The 29-year-old scientist and cleantech researcher is the third Filipino Canadian to announce candidacy in federal politics following Paul Jonathan Saguil and Elizabeth R. Quinto, both solicitors-barristers, who are seeking Liberal Party nominations in Brampton Centre and Kitchener South-Hespeler, Ontario, respectively.

Dr. P. De Luna, who is currently on leave from his job at the National Research Council of Canada, is throwing his hat in the political arena to articulate his ideas in cleantech science and innovation. He said that "Technology is not enough but government policies can do much better and faster". De Luna explained

He has four main reasons why he is running: 1) "we must move faster to combat the threat of climate change and sustainably renew our society and economy, 2) we need more diversity in parliament and more science in policy, 3) I want to lower the barriers for other non-traditional candidates, and 4) to consider running because a diverse government is a robust and resilient one."

In his political quest, De Luna is focusing on three main issues which he considered deeply personal and important such as 1) supporting our essential workers, 2) housing affordability, and 3) fighting for green, sustainable jobs. He explained that "we need to do everything we can to diversify and create a more sustainable economy for Canada, to ensure families have green jobs that will last."

Born in Taiwan, Phil grew up in Windsor, Ontario. He came to Canada with his parents, Art and Joy De Luna in 1996 at age 4. His father, an

autoworker, lost his job during the Steering Committee. Phil is an



**Dr. Phil de Luna**

recession in 2008 and when the Ford car assembly plant closed. Phil knows firsthand what happens when an entire community is dependent on one industry.

A graduate of the University of Toronto with a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Materials Science and Engineering in 2018, Phil also completed his Master of Science (MSc) degree in Chemistry from the University of Ottawa in 2015 and BSc. Honours Chemistry with thesis at the University of Windsor, Ontario.

De Luna was the youngest-ever Director at the National Research Council of Canada and is an expert in clean technology. He served as Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors of CMC Research Institutes and was a member of the OECD Advanced Materials

entrepreneur and innovator being a carbon tech co-founder. He currently serves as a founding Mentor of the Matter and Climate Streams in Creative Destruction Lab.

Since 2013 he has published more than 44 articles including op-eds in high-impact scientific journals and newspapers. As a co-host and produce podcast producer, he has given hundreds of talks, panels, podcast interviews, and speeches on topics in science, climate change, clean technology, diversity, and innovation.

Among Phil's numerous achievements are: "Youngest Director in National Research Council's 100-year history"; "Forbes Top 30 Under 30 - Energy"; "Forbes 'Best of Canada' Top 30 Innovators"; "Clean50

Emerging Leader", "Podcast Host Massey College Fellow, Governor-General Gold Medalist, Member of the OECD Advanced Materials Steering Committee, Member of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

De Luna's family and fiancée are highly supportive of his candidacy after explaining his reasons. "I am running because I think we need a new kind of politics, one that listens to the science, one that represents a diversity of Canadians, and one that offers solutions instead of criticisms". Part of his campaign objective is "to help and inspire others who are new to the political process, especially underrepresented groups".

Philosophically speaking, Dr. P. De Luna reasoned out "If we don't have good people to run in politics, then what will we have left? #

## Sparklines

### A Message to Clean Tech Entrepreneurs: You Are Still Not Late

The industry has already weathered one boom and bust cycle, but the conditions are ripe for more billion-dollar businesses.

By Nathaniel Bullard

May 27, 2021, 6:00 AM EDT

A week ago, U.S. President Joe Biden signed an executive order urging his administration to create a comprehensive strategy on climate-related financial risk. The order includes a slew of asks, mostly around how to 1, measure; 2, assess; 3, mitigate; and 4, disclose the potential harms wrought by climate change.

Of those four priorities, two are fundamentally financial: assessment and disclosure. The other two, however, are physical. Measurement is about sensing what is happening to our own systems and to the planet; mitigation is about reducing severity—or to put it in

See Page 10

Clean Tech



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From Page 4

Rotrand

Minister Herbert Marx called Rotrand the father of civilian control of police in the province.

- Chaired the Democracy Workshop of the Summit of Montreal 2001-2005 leading to the adoption of the Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities and the creation of a municipal Ombudsman.

- Introduced the idea of healthy lifestyles into municipal parlance with motions that led to a no smoking bylaw (now provincial law), convinced the city to withdraw soft drinks and junk food from its vending machines and installations, authored a ban of fast-food restaurants on main streets in Cote des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grace.

- Championed changes to Canadian currency to give visibility to women, First Nations and minorities. Stephen Poloz, then Bank of Canada Chair, has indicated Rotrand's motion, also adopted by Toronto, helped start the process that led to Viola Desmond being featured on Canada's \$10 bill.

- Proved the link between Mayor Bourque's 1994 electoral victory and illegal financing leading to large fines for Vision Montreal party and an ultimate reform of the provincial electoral financing law.

- One of the Councillors whose work led to the creation of the Commissions of Council allowing citizens to influence the decision-making process.

- Won the Canadian Urban Transit Association's prize in 2017 for

major accomplishments to advance transit on the national level by successfully lobbying all the federal parties to include major funding increases in public transit infrastructure to their 2015 electoral programs.

- Successfully advocated for a moratorium on further purchase of tasers by Quebec police forces in the wake of the death of Guillem Registre and has championed de-escalation as an alternative to use of force.

- Helped create first affirmative action program bring women and minorities into police force

- Championed diversity in Montreal's place names: Elie Wiesel, Yolene Jumelle, Saidye Bronfman, Warren Allmand, Mordechai Richler

**SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS**

- Labelled "Voice of the Black Community at Council" by Dan Philip, long time President of Black Coalition of Quebec

- Only Montreal Councillor to whom Peter Trent ever gave a donation (megacity election of 2001)

**STILL WORKING ON:**

- Smoke Free Park bylaw
- Body cameras for Montreal police

- Framework to protect privacy rights from facial recognition, license plate reader technology and Stingray devices that track cell phones

- Changing police uniform rules to accommodate minorities #

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From Page 9

Clean Tech

plainer terms, doing something about the impacts of climate change.

Measurement and mitigation are economy-wide, even global challenges, but they're also business opportunities of equal scope. They fall under the umbrella of climate tech, a sector that has resumed early-stage fundraising and growth after a very quiet half-decade.

#### **Late Stage in Later Years**

Climate tech investment in private companies Climate tech has accrued \$17 billion or so of investment globally in the past few years, most of that in the U.S. under a presidential administration that was actively hostile to its principles. Surely an administration wanting to bolster a climate tech market will create more interest in the sector—and in company formation and probably capital-raising, too?

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If climate tech is going to be the new, hot investment space, it'll need some new, hot companies. Ali Tamaseb, a venture capital investor at DCVC, has just published a new book, Super Founders, that uses numbers, not myths or media tales to examine who starts billion-dollar startups and what approaches they take to fundraising, product development, market fit,

competition and so on. There are lots of insights to be gleaned here, but I'll highlight just a few that may be of particular interest for climate tech founders.

#### **What on Earth?**

The first is that there's room at the billion-dollar table for companies tackling hard, fundamental problems of the climate tech sort. Tamaseb calls them "deep tech" companies, which "bring value by offering a product that is so hard to develop that it requires years of scientific and engineering advancement." You might think deep tech companies would be rare in the unicorn ranks, particularly when there are so many highly visible consumer-facing apps. But Tamaseb finds that they represent more than a quarter of all billion-dollar start-ups.

#### **Plenty of Space for Tech**

Level of engineering complexity in billion-dollar start-ups

The second is that there's room for value creation, even in competitive or crowded-seeming markets. The door to success doesn't close behind the first company to try something, or even the first five. In fact, Tamaseb finds that the largest cohort of billion-dollar startups were those with many competitors already in the market before they entered.

#### **You Are Not Late**

Time to market for billion-dollar start ups. This idea in particular gives me hope for climate tech. After all, the sector has had one boom—and quite a bust—already, but many



**Marvin Rotrand**  
**City Councillor - Snowdon**  
[marvin.rotrand@montreal.ca](mailto:marvin.rotrand@montreal.ca)



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**Best wishes to everyone as we celebrate the 3rd Filipino Heritage Month in Canada!**

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things that were tried then could very well work today at billion-dollar scale and act as building blocks for those creating new companies. These would have plenty of things going for them, by Tamaseb's estimation. Clean technologies are cheaper than ever; they work better than ever; and there's more market support, more policy support, and more societal engagement on climate than ever. That means that whether you're trying something brand new or a tried and true idea, you'll more likely find a market.

There's another reminder from another longtime technology observer that I hope all climate tech entrepreneurs bear in mind. Seven years ago, Kevin Kelly wrote a short essay titled "You Are Not Late." In it, he urged all entrepreneurs not to feel like they'd missed the seemingly wide-open opportunities of earlier decades in technology. "The last 30 years has created a marvelous starting point, a solid platform to build truly great things," he said. "However the coolest stuff has not been invented yet."

I hope that's true for climate tech, for the entrepreneurs who are building its new wave, and for what they bring to the climate, too. The White House is bringing climate to the heart of our systems and society. It is also creating new markets for climate tech to fill. #

# Philippine Independence Day History

The earliest recorded was when Andres Bonifacio, along with Emilio Jacinto, Restituto Javier, Guillermo Masangkay, Aurelio Tolentino, Faustino Manalak, Pedro Zabala and few other Katipuneros went to Pamitinan Cave in Montalban, Rizal to initiate new members of the Katipunan. Bonifacio wrote Viva la independencia Filipina! or Long Live Philippine independence on walls of the cave to express the goal of their secret society. Bonifacio also led the Cry of Pugad Lawin, which signals the beginning of Philippine Revolution. Members of the Katipunan, led by Bonifacio, tore their community tax certificates (cedulas personales) in protest of Spanish conquest.

The Philippine Revolution began in 1896. The Pact of Biak-na-Bato, signed on December 14, 1897, established a truce between the Spanish colonial government and the Filipino revolutionaries. Under its terms, Emilio Aguinaldo and other revolutionary leaders went into exile in Hong Kong after receiving 400,000 pesos from the Spanish Government.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Commodore George Dewey sailed from Hong Kong to Manila Bay leading the U.S. Navy Asiatic Squadron. On May 1, 1898, Dewey defeated the Spanish in the Battle of Manila Bay, which effectively put the U.S. in control of the Spanish colonial government. Later that month, the U.S. Navy transported Aguinaldo back to the Philippines. Aguinaldo arrived on May 19, 1898 in Cavite.



**Front view of Aguinaldo House in Kawit, Cavite as of June 11, 2015. The national shrine is known for being the place of Philippine declaration of independence by Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898.**

On June 5, 1898, Aguinaldo issued a decree at Aguinaldo house located in what was then known as Cavite El Viejo proclaiming June 12, 1898 as the day of independence. The Acta de la Proclamacion de la Independencia del Pueblo Filipino was solemnly read by its author, Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, Aguinaldo's war counselor and special delegate. The 21-page declaration was signed by 98 Filipinos, appointed by Aguinaldo, and one retired American artillery officer, Colonel L. M. Johnson. The Philippine flag was officially unfurled for the first time at about 4:30 p.m, as the Marcha Nacional Filipina was played by the band of San Francisco de Malabon.

The proclamation was initially ratified by 190 municipal presidents from the 16 provinces controlled by the revolutionary army August 1, 1898, and was again ratified on September 29, 1898 by the Malolos Congress.

The Philippines failed to win international recognition of its independence, specifically including the United States of America and Spain. The Spanish government later ceded the Philippine archipelago to the United States in the 1898 Treaty of Paris. The Philippines Revolutionary Government did not recognize the treaty and the two sides subsequently fought what was

known as the Philippine-American War.

The United States of America granted independence to the Philippines on July 4, 1946. In accordance with the Philippine Independence Act (more popularly known as the "Tydings-McDuffie Act"), President Harry S. Truman issued Proclamation 2695 of July 4, 1946 officially recognizing the independence of the Philippines. On the same day, the Treaty of Manila was signed.

July 4 was chosen as the date by the United States because it corresponds to the United States' Independence Day, and that day was observed in the Philippines as Independence Day until 1962. On May 12, 1962, President Diosdado Macapagal issued Presidential Proclamation No. 28, which declared June 12 a special public holiday throughout the Philippines, "... in commemoration of our people's declaration of their inherent and inalienable right to freedom and independence." On August 4, 1964, Republic Act No. 4166 renamed July 4 holiday as "Philippine Republic Day", proclaimed June 12 as "Philippine Independence Day", and enjoined all citizens of the Philippines to observe the latter with befitting rites. (Wikipedia) #

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Happy Independence Day

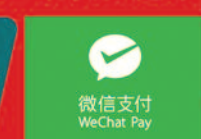
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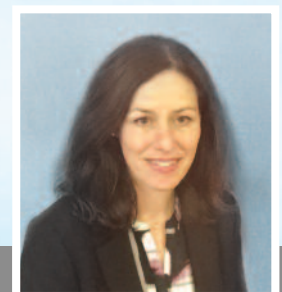
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## Cooking with love provides food for the soul.

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**Watermelon Salad with Feta Cheese**

#### Ingredients

#### Dressing

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

3 tablespoons lime juice

½ garlic clove, minced

¼ teaspoon sea salt

#### For the salad

5 cups cubed watermelon

1 heaping cup diced English cucumber

¼ cup thinly sliced red onions

cup crumbled feta cheese

1 avocado, cubed

cup torn mint or basil leaves

½ jalapeño or serrano pepper, thinly sliced, optional

Sea salt

#### Instructions

Make the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lime juice, garlic and salt.

Arrange the watermelon, cucumber, and

red onions on a large plate or platter. Drizzle with half the dressing. Top with the feta, avocado, mint, and serrano pepper, if using, and drizzle with remaining dressing. Season to taste and serve.



### **Vegetable Rice Paper Rolls**

#### SPRING ROLLS

4 oz. rice noodles or vermicelli

8–10 spring roll wrappers

2 avocados, thinly sliced

Green leaf lettuce, torn into chunks

1 English cucumber, julienned

1–2 red bell peppers, julienned

Shredded red cabbage

Fresh cilantro leaves

Fresh basil, sliced into thin ribbons

#### PEANUT DIPPING SAUCE

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

Juice 1 lime, 2-3 Tablespoons

1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce (for gluten free – sub tamari)

3 Tbsp. honey

2 tsp. fresh ginger, grated using a

microplane

1 garlic clove, minced or pressed

1 tsp. sesame oil

1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes

2–3 Tbsp. water

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Cook rice noodles according to package instructions. Rinse under cold water and drain over a colander.

In the meantime, prepare the peanut dipping sauce by adding all sauce ingredients except water to a small mixing bowl and whisk to combine.

Add water by a tablespoon until desired consistency is achieved. Taste and adjust flavors as needed. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

To assemble spring rolls, have all of the filling ingredients prepared and laid out. Add warm water to a shallow dish and soak one rice paper wrapper at a time. When you feel the wrapper getting loose, remove it from the water and set it on a damp cutting board.

Arrange avocado slices in the center of the wrapper, below the avocado arrange the lettuce and layer small handful of noodles, cucumbers, and peppers. On top of the avocado layer red cabbage, cilantro, and basil.

Gently fold over once, tuck in edges, and continue rolling until the seam is sealed. The wrapper will be very sticky and delicate so work quickly and carefully. It may take few tries and that's okay.

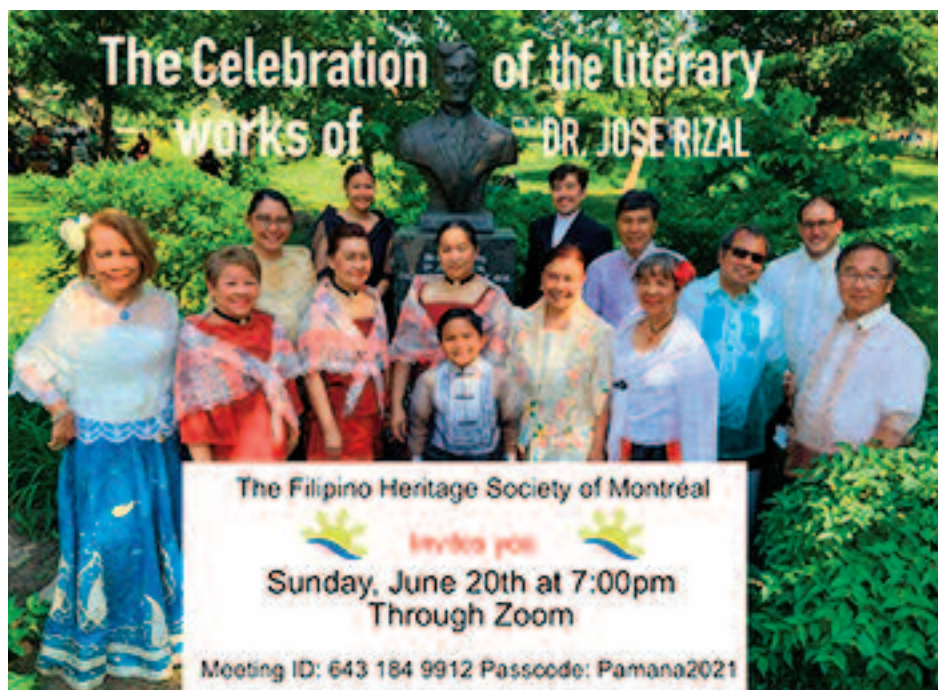
Cut the rolls in half and place on a serving platter. Serve with peanut dipping sauce.

## An impressive show by FHSM of Dr. Rizal's literary works presented on Zoom, June 20, 2021 highlights the 3rd Filipino Heritage Month in Montreal

By Zenaida F. Kharroubi

It is a rare occasion that I review any movie or entertainment but after watching the FHSM's presentation of Dr. Jose Rizal's literary works, I felt happy to make a few comments when requested by Al Abdon, the chairman of the Society. Even without interviewing Editha Fedalizo who coordinated the event, I could guess that she must have worked so hard in doing research, selecting all the participants, conducting people who could lend her a hand in such a short period of time. She spoke about the experience and mentioned that it was a challenge to select a young Filipino to portray the role of Maria Clara, a main character in Rizal's works. She said she was impressed by the performance of Stephanie Valenzuela who did a magnificent job of acting out the monologue of Maria Clara. She also cited the work of Kim Gultia who presented the Letters of Dr. Jose Rizal to the women of Malolos. She acknowledged the cooperation of Joseph Gonzales who contributed the participation of the children in the FAMAS Heritage class.

It was obvious that team work, coordination of efforts towards a common goal of celebrating Filipino Heritage Month and the commitment by all members of this group contributed to the success of the show. A long agenda was provided to everyone invited to see this presentation which made it easy to



follow the sequence of numbers from beginning to end.

The event started with the opening remarks by Bert Abiera, Vice-Chairman, followed by the singing of both the Philippines and Canada's national hymns by the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble, conducted by Paul Imperial. Panday Tinig members played a major role in all the musical numbers and introduced by Editha Fedalizo, namely, Bayan Ko, a solo by Carmina Franco; Awit ni Maria Clara by the Panday Tinig Trio (Magnolia Camat, Cora Baquiran and Raquel Estrogue); Kundiman by the Panday male trio (Ruel Arevalo, Gerry Baquiran, Jessie Pascual). Editha also

introduced the song called Ugoy ng Duyan and accompanied young Rejean Aquino on the piano. Elma Bulatao introduced the dance numbers, namely, Pamana ng Luzviminda's La Jota Manilena, and Jeannette Perrignon and Sonny Moroz' dance number called Kuratsa. Sonny Moroz mentioned that he learned this dance from the teaching of Jeannette.

Joseph Gonzales made several introductions, starting with the oath of allegiance, Panunumpa sa Watawat, and a poem under the title Sa Aking Mga Kabata (To my fellow children) by Rondel Talabocon who is from the Famas Heritage class, Sa Mga Kabataan (To the Youth) by Jhun Diaz,

a member of Panday Tinig, and Sisa's Monologue by Jeannette Perrignon.

Rebecca Aguilar introduced Kim Gultia's and Joseph Gonzales' joint delivery of Liham ni Jose Rizal sa mga Kababaihan ng Malolos (To the Women of Malolos) in the form of a slide presentation that included a great amount of material which is very educational. Nancy Karidis introduced the fashion show of Maria Clara's costumes modeled by Norma Vohra of the Seniors in Motion group and Jeannette Perrignon of FHSM. Stephanie Valenzuela introduced Sonny Moroz who sponsored the show and gave a closing remarks of acknowledgement in which he recognized that the FHSM had shown a way for other groups to follow. Finally,



**Al Abdon, Chairman, FHSM**

Al Abdon, Chairman (who I presumed videotaped the various elements of the show) called on Councilor Marvin





## Social Tidbits Community News

### Fely Rosales Cariño

Hi everyone! Here are some beautiful phrases we want to hear: opening soon, no more masks, no more social distancing, no more notice of staying home, etc. Now, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Yes, I can hardly contain myself. I want to call my friends and go to restaurants of our choice again. We want to go to exercise again. We want our normal lives back. Yes, it's looking good right now. Let's bow our heads and say, "Thank You, Lord!"

Here is somebody who was thinking about outings a month ago, a time when it was impossible to think of picnics or outdoor activities. She is Monica Regacho. She called up her friends and organized potlucks and bingo sessions. All of them met at Van Horne Park and enjoyed the afternoon until sundown. Trans Liganor, Flor de la Cruz, and other friends joined also. Monica just can't wait till the casinos will open again. She plans to organize trips for seniors to go a-gambling.

As the beautiful sunshine peeks more often, I heard that some organizations are planning their summer gigs. For one, I was told that Pista Sa Nasyon of the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) will be held July 11, 2021. Still not sure if it's online or in-person. The Chess Club will have a big gathering this July for a Chess Tournament and/or maybe an election of a new set of officers. Cherry Palmos of the Chess Club have to give more details next issue.

The sun's rays brightly appeared on June 12, 2021 during the Philippine Independence celebration that featured the flag raising ceremony. It was held in front of the FAMAS Center in Van Horne St., Montreal. FAMAS invited guests to help celebrate the occasion. Present were Snowdon City Councilor Marvin Rotrand, D'Arcy McGee Councilor David Birnbaum, FHSM Adviser and Outreach Coordinator Sonny Moroz, Sir Dario Boco, Sir James de la Paz (and charming wife Rose), Sir Gerry Danzil, Sir Ray Balansi, Sir Bert Abiera, Sir Al Abdon, Federation President Minda

Mazzone, the Panday Tinig Ensemble and a host of others. As always, Marvin Rotrand's patriotic greeting was full of stories about the Philippines. David Birnbaum delivered a heartfelt speech and Sonny Moroz's well wishes was endearing. By the way, was it only me who detected as if Sonny sounded more like a seasoned politician campaigning for an elected office? I'm just wondering (wink wink!)

FAMAS President Romeo Remigio and the other lady officers were busy with all the snacks served in front of the FAMAS Center. The gathering was enhanced by the confident emceeing of FAMAS Vice-President Joseph Gonzales. Bravo, Joseph! You did a commendable job!

The Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) with Chairman Al Abdon as the producer and a slew of

warmly greeted the association. Here are the officers who introduced the guests: Minda Mazzone, Jeannette Perignon, Ricardo Ribaya, Edith Fedalizo, Dolores Belandres, Amy Manon-og, and Kimberly Gultia. A feast for the eyes were the ladies in Filipiniana attire and Barong for the gentlemen. The program started with the rendition of our Philippine National Anthem by the Panday Tinig. Guest of Honor was the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Honourable Rodolfo Robles. Snowdon City Councilor Marvin Rotrand and FHSM Chairman Al Abdon gave their individual greetings. Youth singer Rondel Talabocon from the Heritage Kids group recited Panunumpa sa Watawat. He did it eloquently.

Now, let's give a hand to our friendly local dignitaries from the political arena who expressed their well wishes: Sameer Zuberi (MP, Pierrefonds-DDO), Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs (MP, Notre-Dame-de-Grace/Westmount), Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children & Social Development (MP, York South-Weston), Anthony Housefather (MP, Mount Royal), Francis Scarpaleggia (MP, Lac-St. Louis), Rachel Bendayan (MP, Outremont), David Birnbaum (MNA, D'Arcy-McGee), Alex Bottausci (Mayor, DDO), Lionel Perez (City Councilor, Darlington),



**L-R: Ricardo Ribaya, Editha Fedalizo, Paul Imperial, Councilor Marvin Rotrand, Al Abdon, David Birnbaum MNA, Sonny Moroz, Stephanie Valenzuela, Alberto Abiera, Fely Rosales, Valent Llyod Hughes, Luzviminda Mazzone. Seated (L-R): Jeannette Perignon and Amelia Manon-og**

assistants managed the online launch of June as the Heritage Month of Montreal. This is a momentous occasion! The event was highlighted by the participation of local dignitaries who

Magda Popeanu (Councilor, CDN), Christian Arseneault (Councilor, Loyola), Frank Baylis (former MP, Pierrefonds-DDO), Sonny Moroz (Outreach Coordinator and Adviser, FHSM), Tony San Juan (Chairman,

Filipino Heritage Council of Canada in Toronto), Ryan Abenir (Coordinator, United Peace Federation in Toronto), Sir Dario Boco (President, Council of Canadian Filipino Associations of Quebec), Lolita Odulio (Vice Chairman of Seniors of West Island and Suburbs, SWIS), Ador Bolusan (Ex-Officio of Filipino Canadian Association of West Island, FCAWI), Elvira Estopa (President of Quebec Association of Filipino Canadian Teachers, QAFCT), Allan Cunanan (Chairperson, Filipino Canadian Community of South Shore, FCCSS), Dr. Kimberly Manning (Principal, Simone de Beauvoir Institute), Dr. Cynthia Hammond (Professor, Arts History, Concordia University), Christina Altares (President, Filipino Canadian Association-Vaudreuil Solange), Dr. Dinh Huy Duong (Cardiologist, Charles Lemoyne Hospital, representing the Vietnamese Community), Jimmy Chan (Founder and President, Montreal Chinatown United Care Committee), Timothy Chan (President, Chinese Canadian Historical and Cultural Society), and Gail Marcovitz (President, Canadian Jewish Association).

To further liven up the event, the following entertainers gave their signature performances: singer Carmina Franco (Bayan Ko, Ano Kaya Ang Kapalaran), Thea de la Cruz (Isang Lahi), Manny Cruz and Friends (Harana), and Youth singers Renzie, Nico, Bella, and Chris. Last but not least was Manny Rosello (Philippine History). Folk dances performed were Sayaw sa Bangko by Pamana and Carinosa by the FHSM dancers. Congratulations to all participants who gave it their all! What a spectacular show!

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere apologies and make the appropriate corrections to the following Knights of Rizal (KOR) donors. Somehow, saying a simple "Thank You" isn't really enough to show our appreciation. But be assured that the ONDOY flood victims in the Philippines are so touched by your generosity. Thank God for the following, kind-hearted and compassionate donors: Vito & Josie Vosilla (\$30), Marcy Ellasus & family (\$20), Satish and Norma Vohra (\$100), Jose (Totoy) & Amelia Quiambao (\$50), Illumin Slawik (\$5), Andy & Lily Reyes (\$60), Bella Hernandez Sorensen (\$25), Gaetana Forgiere (20), Joevic Soriano & family (\$50) and the City of Montreal-CDN-NDG (\$825), c/o Marvin Rotrand. Again, our profound and deep thanks!

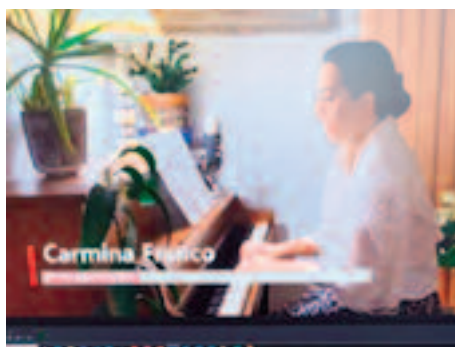
Stay hopeful. Be optimistic. Bring out your sweetest smile! See you next issue. And God Bless !!!



**Bert Abiera, Vice-Chairman, FHSM**



**Rejean Aquino sings Sa Ugoy ng Duyan, accompanied on the piano by Editha Fedalizo.**



**Carmina Franco. Panday Tinig soprano, sings Bayan Ko, and also plays the piano.**

[www.filipinostar.org](http://www.filipinostar.org)

Rotrand to say a few words at the end of the program.

It was quite an evening, different from the big parties we have had in the past. Perhaps, the literary works and life of Dr. Jose Rizal which form part of the prescribed curriculum in the Philippines should also be taught in our schools here for the benefit of our youth born in Canada who may not necessarily learn about Dr. Jose Rizal who sacrificed his life and paved the way for Philippine Independence.#



# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Tip from Gretchen Barretto: Don't live for approval of people



**Gretchen Barretto**

Dealing with criticism? Here's a tip from Gretchen Barretto.

Speaking with beauty doctor to the stars Aivee Teo, the actress said she has reached the point in her life where she is no longer bothered with what people are saying about her.

"They (bashers) used to bother me when I was so much younger... because I lived in a world where I felt that all they thought of me or their opinion would matter, or that's all it mattered. But not anymore," she said.

"Okay, I know everything I do is going to matter to them."

Barretto said she learned how to handle criticism from her long-time partner, businessman Tonyboy Cojuangco.

She recalled one of her conversations with Cojuangco, back when she was overly affected by her mother's remarks.

"It was a long time ago, when my mom had like opinions of me... and I was really, terribly distraught," she said.

The actress went on: "He (Cojuangco) said... 'I'll ask you one question.' Because I was really getting depressed. He goes, 'Will it matter? Will your life change?' He's really good at that. And then I said, 'No, not really.'"

"And then he said to me, 'Then why are you bothered?' Then it opened my life. I learned na, oo nga ano. I mean, do they have control over my life, my lifestyle, or anything else?" she stressed.

"Whatever the situation is, I learned [that] whatever you accept is what it will be."

Barretto and the rest of her showbiz clan have become involved in many controversies over the years.

While she is no longer as active on the big and small screens, the public still gets to see a glimpse of her daily life through Instagram, where she has 1.6 million followers.



She pointed out that one does not live "for the approval of people," including "bashers."

"I'm 51. I mean, really? How can all your opinion just matter?" she added. "Parang I learned to live like,

### Anne Curtis shares touching moment when her dad finally met baby Dahlia



Anne Curtis is so thrilled that her dad was finally able to meet her baby daughter Dahlia, who turned a year old last March.

Incidentally, Curtis' dad first saw his granddaughter just in time for Father's Day.

"A year and a bit in the making but it finally happened. There's a little bit of shyness but we're getting there," the actress wrote in the caption of her Instagram post.

"This moment truly made my heart soooooo happy. Happy Father's Day to our gentle giant. We love you so much," she added.



Curtis, her husband Erwan Huessaff and Dahlia only returned to the Philippines last February after over a year of being based in Melbourne.

Curtis and Huessaff had been in Australia since December 2019, as they prepared to welcome their firstborn away from the limelight.

The couple had intended to return to the Philippines earlier, but the coronavirus pandemic delayed that plan.

Currently, Curtis has yet to return to showbiz full-time. ■



# Catriona Gray shares hardship as breadwinner at 21



**Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray**

Before Catriona Gray became Miss Universe 2018, and now, a recording star, the Filipino-Australian beauty also went through hardship as a breadwinner of her family at the young age of 21.

During her recent virtual press conference for her new single "R.Y.F.," Catriona recalled a low point in her life and how she overcame it.

"There were multiple times when I was giving up and felt like I wasn't good enough," she began.

"One of them was when I was quite young. I was 21. I was breadwinner of my family at that time and I didn't have any new work opportunity coming in and I just felt like I kept getting 'no,' like every single opportunity kept closing on me."

Catriona, who was then a budding model, didn't know what to do with her life.

"I was like, 'Is there something wrong with me? Am I kulang? Don't have I anything good to offer?' Like I questioned everything about myself."

She also doubted her

decision to live in the Philippines at that time.

"I felt like I was such a disappointment to my family and it was a very hard time to me."

Catriona, however, found her way out of the dark tunnel by being a Christian.

"But it was very true in strengthening my faith, because that's how I started my faith journey as a Christian. That really pulled me out from that."

True enough, her faith led her to her advocacy to promote children's welfare and education, which eventually led her to try her luck in pageants that enabled her to speak more and raise funds for her causes.

"And also I was introduced into volunteerism that introduced me to pageantry so I was all of a sudden feeling that si Lord is guiding me talaga. He's like, 'Wait lang anak! I have something for you. Be patient lang!'"

She encourages parents to be supportive of their children's dreams, too. She, for one, didn't realize that she

wanted to become a singer until she was 18. It all began when she felt a certain "kilig" when she recorded her voice for a Mother's Day tribute and heard her voice beaming from the speakers.

"I've always been passionate about music and I've been trained, vocal lessons and everything, when I came back to the Philippines after my reign," shared Gray.

"Because I would just sing along in the house. I always loved listening to music and all throughout my academic life, I would always be in the choir and I took part in

musicals... Even to this day, I have a lot of nervousness when it comes to the arena of music because I feel such a newbie and I feel there's a lot of room for me to prove myself..."

Similarly, she hopes "R.Y.F.," now streaming in major music platforms under ABS-CBN Star Music and CS Music, will inspire listeners to stand up for someone or something.

"I hope this song could be a reflection that life isn't easy, getting to a dream isn't easy... But just keep that internal compass to get you into the right direction!" year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

## Sarah Geronimo, Matteo Guidicelli get vaccinated, urge followers to do the same



**Matteo Guidicelli & Sarah Geronimo**

Celebrity couple Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli each received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with the actor urging his followers to do the same.

On his social media channels, Guidicelli shared a photo of him with Geronimo, posing to show their vaccination marks on their shoulder.

"Sarah and I are done with our 1st dose! Let's do this not just for ourselves but for our families, friends and kababayans! Get vaccinated!" Guidicelli wrote.

The actor did not indicate where he and Geronimo got their first jab.

In recent weeks, dozens of showbiz workers, including actors and performers, have been vaccinated as part of the recently opened A4 priority category for economic frontliners, or those who are required to work outside of their homes.

As of Monday, June 21, the Philippines has administered over 8.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines since March, according to the Department of Health.

Of the number, 6.2 million were given as first doses, while some 2.1 million were second doses. Recipients of the latter are considered fully vaccinated. ■





Today, Filipinos remember their homeland's long road to liberation. In the wake of revolution, General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the Philippines to be a free nation on June 12, 1898. However, it would not be until July 4, 1946, that the Philippines truly gained independence and took control of its destiny.

The Philippines is now a proud and trusted member of the international community, and its people enrich Alberta each day with their traditions and culture.

As ALBERTANS OF FILIPINO HERITAGE reflect on the triumphs and tragedies of their ancestral history, it is tempting to celebrate as a community. This year, I encourage everyone to be responsible,

avoid large gatherings and continue to observe existing measures for public health and safety.

We live in difficult times, but there is always space for joy. Maligayang araw ng kalayaan! Mabuhay!

**"Our liberty will not be secured at the sword's point... We must secure it by making ourselves worthy of it. And when the people reaches that height, God will provide a weapon, the idols will be shattered, tyranny will crumble like a house of cards, and liberty will shine out like the first dawn."**

**Jose Rizal**



**Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec**

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Best wishes to the Filipino Community  
as you celebrate

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***Joyeux 123<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'indépendance des Philippines.  
Félicitations à l'occasion du Mois du patrimoine philippin au Canada.***

Best wishes and congratulations to all Filipinos on the occasion of the 123rd Anniversary of the Independence of their homeland, the Philippines. June 2021 is also the Third Annual Filipino Heritage Month in Canada.



Maligayang bati sa ika-123 anniversary ng kalayaan ng Pilipinas at pagdiriwang ng Filipino Heritage Month sa buan ng Hunyo sa Canada



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En ce mois du patrimoine philippin, nous vous souhaitons une

**Bonne  
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**Happy  
Independence Day**  
and Filipino Heritage Month!



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## Bulakenya being pushed to become first Black Filipina Miss Universe



**Chelsea Anne Manalo**

Chelsea Anne Manalo became the talk of the town after a Facebook page posted a rumored list of Miss Universe Philippines 2021 aspirants.

The 22-year-old stunner from Meycauayan, Bulacan is a Filipino-American who is not new in the pageant scene.

In 2017, she joined Miss World Philippines and landed in the Top 15 finalists.

Now that she is reportedly joining Miss Universe Philippines,

said: "Pinoy surname, Pinoy beauty, Pinoy features #filipino #filipinopride #filipina."

Some of the comments were also projections about her.

Loverly Buladaco, one of the top comments, said: "I can feel the Ms. Universe vibe on her."

Kimberly Daño commented: "She's the one... she'll get the crown! Mark it!"

Michelle Mielkhaeylla also said: "This One! She will slay the stage for Sure."



Filipino pageants fans could not stop raving about her.

The photo of Manalo uploaded in the Facebook page of Philippine Pageants has now garnered 242,000 likes, 5,500 comments, and 11,000 shares as of writing.

LorraineAnn Facundo commented: "Living black barbie."

Meanwhile, Luzvi Morales

If the Bulakenya beauty wins Miss Universe Philippines 2021, she is believed to be the first-ever Filipino-African American who will represent the country in Miss Universe.

Miss Universe Philippines has yet to release the official list of candidates. The deadline for submission of applications is on June 24. ■

## How Bea Alonzo disposed of excess pounds



**Bea Alonzo**

Actress Bea Alonzo actually shared the same problem.

Early this year, she revealed via her vlog how she actually gained 15 to 20 pounds following the onset of the pandemic all because she just can't stop eating.

Eventually, she lost her desire to exercise as well.

epitome of fitness but I want to do it properly and I feel good, I feel better about myself..."

"And I am proud of that. I am proud that I have lost 15 pounds the healthy way."

But how did she do it?

Well, according to Bea it's all about patience, sacrifice, hard work,



"I was kind of exercising pero hindi gaya ng workouts ko before," she related.

Unlike others, Bea didn't sulk.

She vowed to get rid of the excess pounds and "to lead a healthier life."

And she did.

Just recently, she shared her progress with fans, noting how she already 15 pounds since January.

Bea shared, "Hindi ko alam kung halata ninyo, but halata ko dahil sa mga damit ko..."

Bea is not concerned that people might think her progress slow or she doesn't look as fit as she might think.

She said, "I am not the

dedication.

A certified foodie, Bea did away with tasty but fattening meals, enlisting the help of nutritionist, Ian Matthew.

The night owl also changed her sleeping habits.

"I'm trying to get eight hours of sleep every day. I also try to drink lots of water..."

Bea then transformed her entertainment room into a gym.

She would go on to hire trainer Jay Garcia, working out twice a day, four to five times a week.

"I'm just sharing this thinking na baka makatulong din sa inyo," she said. ■



# Manny bonds with sons Jimuel and Michael over music, sports



**Manny fully supports his son Michael Pacquiao's music career.**

Manny would love to see Jimuel and Michael perform on stage and have musical experience. "Gusto ko magkaroon sila ng experience sa pagkanta, especially Michael. Gustong-gusto niyang kumanta at gumawa ng kanta. Gusto niya siya rin nag-co-compose, nag-a-arrange," said he, who had released albums in the past. "Yung anak ko na si Michael mahilig talaga sa music. 'Yung kuwarta niya, puro gamit ng music eh. Sana makita ko sila na kumakanta sa stage."

In a Father's Day video posted on Sunday by Jinkee on Facebook, his children Jimuel, Michael, Princess and Queenie shared their thoughtful greetings for their dad and their favorite moments with him.



**Manny with son Jimuel**

Michael said, "We love you so much. We are blessed, happy and honored to be your children. Hope you with the best."

Jimuel followed with this sweet message, "I just want you to know that you always inspire us. Especially me, when it comes to what I want to be. I want to follow in your footsteps. You

help a lot of people and I just want to be like you. You're not only an inspiration to me but also to a lot of people. I look up to you, dad."

Michael shared that his best moment with dad Manny is when they play basketball. "'Coz we always play together. If I have the opportunity, I would ask if I could play with him. Then he would play basketball, sa GenSan, sa Dasma. That's one of the best memories I've had because (it's a) father-and-son (thing). I love basketball as well. It really has a place in my heart. Good luck sa fight," the 19-year-old said. Manny's next boxing match is with Errol Spence Jr. in August.

Meanwhile, apart from acting, 20-year-old Jimuel also enjoys boxing

memorable to me, especially boxing, which is my favorite sport. It's fun learning from the best."

The uploaded video also featured snippets of the 42-year-old senator as a doting family man, including how he is with their youngest son, Israel.

Meanwhile, the Filipino sports icon is also the major supporter of the upcoming Isang Tinig, Isang Lahi music event where he will render his songs Para Sa 'Yo Ang Laban Na 'To and Lalaban Ako Para Sa Pilipino, and probably a duet with Pilita Corrales. "Posible naman. Maganda 'yan (duet with Pilita). Gusto ko 'yung mga kanta niya dati."


Manny will join other local and international music icons for the free virtual concert organized by Filipino American Voice United (FAVU) and spearheaded by Cory Quirino on ABS-CBN's digital venue KTX.ph on June 26 at 8 p.m. and June 27, 10 a.m.

"The event is so unique.

Magkakaron tayo ng online concert. Malaking bagay ito at karangalan (to be part of it). Isa itong (paraan) na makakapag-bigay ng encouragement and inspiration to all our kababayan," said Manny.

The digital concert will be headlined by renowned musicians and singers, namely, David Pomeranz, Lea Salonga, Regine Velasquez, Apl De Ap, Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Joe Mari Chan, Ogie Alcasid, Bamboo, Maymay Entrata, Ian Veneracion, Moira dela Torre and many others.

The charity music event will also have a simultaneous donation drive for the benefit of Caritas Philippines projects, the Caring Hearts Foundation, Inc. in the United States, PGH Medical Foundation, Inc., Tuloy Foundation, Inc., ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc., Philippine Relief and Development Services, Inc. and Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC). ■



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# New global study on dangerous health impacts of smoke from forest fires including Canada

Ottawa/Canberra/Brazil/London: 16/17 June 2021

As firefighting crews from British Columbia and Alberta deploy to help fight wildfires in Quebec and Ontario, even as parts of the Okanagan in British Columbia set records for low rainfall this spring, a global report on wildfires released today by the Global Climate and Health Alliance emphasizes that bigger, more frequent forest and bush fires are having increased and not yet well-studied health impacts on people, including through longer and more frequent exposure to fire smoke by larger populations in distant cities.

The report, *The Limits of Livability - The emerging threat of smoke impacts on health from forest fires and climate change*, with case studies from Canada, Australia, and Brazil, warns that worldwide, governments must act to prepare public health systems for the impacts to the public from recurring air pollution episodes from fires caused by the climate crisis, deforestation practices, and poor land management.

"What *The Limits of Livability* report shows us is that climate change, climate impacts and health are intertwined, and that policymakers must put health concerns front and centre when creating policies for dealing with climate change including in their national commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs)," said Jeni Miller, Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance.

"The implementation of both systematic monitoring and reduction of air pollution from forest fires must go hand-in-hand with reducing the causes of forest fires and an improved public health response. Ultimately global leaders, including those in the countries experiencing the worst forest and bush fires, must step up and limit the warming of the planet through rapid climate action," Miller said.

Lead author of the report, Dr. Frances MacGuire said, "The short-term health effects of forest smoke are now well documented but the long-term effects of extended exposure are unknown. It is clear that there are significant research gaps in understanding the full health impacts of smoke from increased wildfire risk in

a warming world, and on primary and secondary health services."

Dr. Sarah Henderson, Scientific Director, Environmental

had fully double the normal number of visits to our ER for asthma over two and a half months. We need to anticipate further wildfires, and make

Prevention and preparation are the prescription for reducing the health impacts of wildfires and there is no time to lose."

## Key facts:

Under current greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, wildfires are projected to increase substantially across 74% of the world by 2100, and to set off a feedback loop in which wildfires drive forest loss which can release substantial greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn cause more wildfires in a reinforcing feedback loop.

Smoke from forest fires and bushfires travel significant distances, with smoke from the 2019-2020 bushfires in Australia travelling 66,000 km and smoke from fires in Alberta, Canada in 2019 travelling as far as Europe.

Wildfire smoke can lead to significant spikes in air pollution, while longer burning fires can expose significant populations to increased air pollution over a long period of time. Annually recurring major fires increase exposure year on year.

The 2017 fires in Canada prompted a 10-week stage of emergency, yet public health guidance on wildfire response is premised on smoke exposures of three days to one week.

The report can be downloaded from the Global Climate and Health Alliance website here: <https://climateandhealthalliance.org/the-limits-of-livability/>

Country snapshots on Canada, Brazil and Australia are available.

Interviews available with:

Dr. Courtney Howard, ER physician, CAPE Past-President, Global Climate and Health Alliance Board Member, Yellowknife [doctorswithinborders@gmail.com](mailto:doctorswithinborders@gmail.com)

Dr. Samantha Green, Family Physician, Climate Change and Health Lead UofT Department of Family and Community Medicine, CAPE Board Member, Toronto [samanthaegreen@gmail.com](mailto:samanthaegreen@gmail.com)

Dr. Claudel Petrin-Descrosiers, Available for French-language interviews, Family Practice Resident, President Quebec Association of Physicians for the Environment and CAPE Board Member, Quebec [claudel.pdesrosiers@gmail.com](mailto:claudel.pdesrosiers@gmail.com)



Health Services, British Columbia Center for Disease Control, said in an interview for the report, "What tends to happen as smoke comes, is everybody gets all worked up about it, and then it leaves, and then they forget about it, and then maybe the next year is not a bad year...but this problem is with us for decades. And it's going to have long-term health consequences."

Past-president of CAPE, wildfire researcher and ER doctor Dr. Courtney Howard said, "In 2014 we

sure our communities know their evacuation plans and have clean air shelters, and that our home and hospital ventilation systems can cope with severe smoke. And to prevent smoke that we can't adapt to, we need to meet and exceed our greenhouse gas reduction goals. Here in Canada, the most urgent action item is that we need to make sure Bill-C12, our draft climate governance legislation, gets passed before the House of Commons and the Senate rise for the summer.

## Canada announces 3 new initiatives to welcome and support more refugees

June 18, 2021—Ottawa—The world is facing a refugee crisis. Across the globe, millions are displaced and longing for what most of us take for granted: a safe place to call home. As a global leader in protecting those who need it most, Canada welcomed nearly half of all refugees resettled around the world in 2020. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recently called Canada "a bright light in a horrible year for refugee

resettlement."

Our efforts are making a difference—yet the world's most vulnerable are counting on us to do more. In advance of World Refugee Day, the Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, met with UNHCR's representative in Canada, Rema Jamous Imseis, to announce 3 new initiatives to assist even more refugees.

These important steps will help Canada offer asylum to more people who need it, welcome more refugees through new channels and increase support to those welcomed through community sponsorship.

### Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot

Launched in 2018, the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) is a ground-breaking initiative that recognizes the talents and skills of refugees by welcoming them through economic immigration streams. This not only allows Canada to welcome more refugees, but also flips the stereotype of refugees as solely

victims by demonstrating all that they contribute to our country. Today, the Minister announced a new policy that will help settle 500 refugees and their families.

- The new measures will improve the EMPP process by
- expediting the processing of permanent residence applications for EMPP applicants in several streams, so they can start working and contributing faster
- making it easier for refugees

See Page 23 Canada announces



## U.S. border restrictions extended to July 21, PM cites desire to stick to vaccine targets

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Published Friday, June 18, 2021

Transparency Act" that would require the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to report



**Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is seen on an iPad during a virtual news conference on the COVID-19 pandemic from his residence at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa, Friday, June 18, 2021. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang**

10:39AM EDT

Last Updated Friday, June 18, 2021

12:55PM EDT

OTTAWA -- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau maintains that Canada will need to meet the COVID-19 vaccines target of 75 per cent of the total population with a first dose and 20 per cent with two doses before his government lifts border restrictions.

Speaking to news that the U.S. Canada border will remain closed to non-essential travel for another month, Trudeau said Friday that, while he understands the urgency to return to some semblance of normality, permitting discretionary travel now would risk another wave of cases in this country.

"We're not out of this pandemic yet, we're still seeing cases across the country and we want to get them down. At the same time, we also know we have to hit our targets of 75 per cent vaccinated with the first dose, at least 20 per cent vaccinated with the second dose before we can start loosening things up because even a fully vaccinated individual can pass on COVID-19 to someone who is not vaccinated," he said.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blair announced earlier in the day that the current U.S. land border measures would remain in place until July 21. The restrictions, which came into effect in March 2020, exempt the flow of trade and commerce, as well as the movement of vital health-care workers such as nurses who live and work on opposite sides of the border.

Blair also noted that the government will provide further details about its phased approach to easing restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals on Monday.

On Thursday, tourism groups and Canadian and U.S. politicians participated in a panel discussion about the need to reopen the border to support hurting industries and businesses at risk of permanently closing due to the pandemic.

New York Rep. Chris Jacobs, who sat on the panel, introduced last week the "Northern Border Reopening

back to Congress within 30 days on a plan to reopen the border.

Jacobs said he was "heartened" to hear of an additional shipment of one million vaccines being sent to Canada from the U.S. and hopes it may help accelerate progress.

"We need laser focus on this. Every day that is delayed is a day that people are going to make travel plans to go somewhere else. If we open in mid-August, I don't know how helpful that will be because everybody will have already scheduled things elsewhere," he said.

Trudeau said he spoke with the premiers about the border on a Thursday night call and there was a consensus to maintain the status quo.

"I can tell you there is tremendous focus on making sure we're working together to do this as quickly and safely as possible because we all want to get back to normal, which means, yes moving quickly, but it also means avoiding any further massive waves," he said.

President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada Goldy Hyder said he was "disappointed" by the border news.

"Our two countries have missed an opportunity to make amendments to the border agreement which would recognize the increasing number of people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19," he said.

Trudeau also described the two-tracked approach to develop a vaccine documentation framework.

"First of all, in the initial phase, we're going to be working with the AriveCAN app in ways that people an image of their paper proof of vaccination or online proof of vaccination so that the border agents on their return to Canada can verify indeed that they are fully vaccinated," he said, adding this process will be in place in the coming weeks.

In the long-term he said the government is working with the provinces on a "national certification of vaccination status" that he assures will be accepted globally.



**World leaders gather on the beach in Carbis Bay for a photo on Friday, the first day of the summit. Pictured (left to right): Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister; Charles Michel, president of the European Council; US President Joe Biden, Yoshihide Suga, Japan's prime minister; Boris Johnson, the UK's prime minister; Mario Draghi, Italy's prime minister; Emmanuel Macron, France's president; Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission and Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor. (BBC News) June 11, 2021**

From Page 22 Canada announces

under EMPP to get settlement funds

- waiving fees for permanent residence applications
- making the application process more flexible

- providing pre-departure medical services to assist with immigration medical exams

### Protected persons in Canada

Despite the many challenges of the pandemic, Canada's asylum levels have remained stable. We are now building on this success by increasing the number of protected persons we'll welcome this year from 23,500 to 45,000. We will also expedite the processing of applications, meaning that more protected persons can quickly become permanent residents and put down roots in their communities.

Currently, there are over 40,000 protected persons and their dependants residing in Canada with open permanent residence applications. In 2021, almost 17,900 protected persons became permanent residents.

### Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program is a world-leading initiative, helping us welcome more refugees and better equipping them for lasting success. Since it began over 5 decades ago, private sponsors have welcomed more than 350,000 refugees to Canada. This program is now emulated all over the world, from the United Kingdom and the European Union to New Zealand, and the US has committed to creating one as well.

To further strengthen this program, IRCC recently launched a national call for proposals to improve existing pre- and post-arrival support services for private sponsors and ensure refugees take full advantage of the assistance offered to them. As a result of this process, up to \$3 million over 2 years will be invested in supporting 9 organizations.

Quote

"This year's World Refugee Day comes at a challenging time, because the pandemic has made the situation worse. That's why Canada is redoubling its efforts to welcome

refugees. When others close their doors, we keep them open. We will keep looking for new ways to support and welcome refugees, because offering refuge to the world's most vulnerable speaks to who we are as Canadians."

—The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, P.C., M.P., Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

### Quick facts:

- Throughout the pandemic, Canada is one of few countries that never closed its doors and continued to resettle refugees.

- In 2018, Canada committed to resettling 10,000 refugees from Africa and the Middle East by 2020. Despite COVID-19 challenges and travel restrictions, Canada delivered on its Middle East commitment, and will soon do so for Africa.

- In 2019, Canada resettled more than 30,000 refugees. Refugee resettlement during the pandemic has been limited by many factors, including travel restrictions. Despite these challenges, we welcomed over 9,200 refugees in 2020.

- In December 2020, Canada started to accept applications for permanent residence from pending and unsuccessful refugee claimants who worked in Canada's health care sector and provided direct care to patients during the pandemic. As of May 29, 2021, approximately 4,345 applications had been received.

- Refugees who face immediate risks may be resettled under Canada's Urgent Protection Program. This program provides expedited resettlement to refugees whose life, liberty or safety is immediately threatened.

- In July, the Government of Canada will become the second Chair of the Central America and Mexico Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) Support Platform. Canada will champion the issue of protection, meaningful participation and the empowerment of displaced women and girls. This theme will provide opportunities for Canadian leadership in putting women, girls and those vulnerable to gender-based violence, including LGBTQ2 communities, at the heart of solutions.



Canada



NOUS SOUHAITONS À TOUTES LES  
PERSONNES DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ PHILIPPINE

# JOYEUSE FÊTE DE L'INDÉPENDANCE ET BON MOIS DU PATRIMOINE PHILIPPIN !

DE LA PART DE VOS DÉPUTÉS FÉDÉRAUX LIBÉRAUX  
EN CETTE PÉRIODE DE DISTANCIATION PHYSIQUE, SOYEZ PRUDENTS.

WISHING EVERYONE FROM  
THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

# A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AND A HAPPY HERITAGE MONTH!

FROM YOUR FEDERAL LIBERAL MPs  
IN THIS PERIOD OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING, BE CAREFUL.



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