

# THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

Volume LXIII No. 5 May 2025

The only Filipino-Canadian newspaper in QC

## The 45th Canadian Parliament resumes with the new cabinet and King Charles III speech from the throne

Montreal, May 22, 2025 - When Parliament resumes regular session on May 26th, Prime Minister Marc Carney appears prepared to begin the work in building the fastest-growing economy in the G7, create new jobs and deliver a middle class tax cut, make Canada an energy superpower, strengthen our public safety and justice systems, and build Canada strong after forming a trimmed-down cabinet of 28 ministers and secretaries of state. In his own words, he described his cabinet as "focused," "purpose-built for this hinge moment."

Carney has long been fond of thinking of this current moment as a hinge — even before its real depths were clear. The Hinge was the title of the book he was planning to publish this month, before the opportunity to become prime minister of a G7 nation came along.

Of the 29 members of cabinet, including the prime minister, 14 ministers are entirely new. Nine of those ministers are also rookie MPs. As the Conservatives were quick to point out, that still leaves 14 ministers who sat around the cabinet table with Justin Trudeau. But even those ministers have all changed jobs. Meanwhile, former ministers like Bill Blair, Jonathan Wilkinson, Jean-Yves Duclos, Karina Gould and Marc Miller — all prominent



**Carney's selected 28 ministers to serve in his cabinet. (Christinne Muschi/The Canadian Press)**

figures during the Trudeau era — have been left out entirely.

Amid the change, Carney has opted for experience on many of the biggest files. François-Philippe Champagne has maintained the

finance portfolio while Mélanie Joly is now the industry minister and Anita Anand moves to foreign affairs. Dominic LeBlanc will lead on trade negotiations with the United States, while Patty Hajdu will be minister for

jobs and families.

Prime Minister Carney, prior to meeting with President Donald Trump barely a week after the federal elections, made a strategic decision to

See Page 4 Canadian Parliament

## First US Pope Leo XIV celebrates inaugural mass



**Pope Leo XIV waves to the crowd during his inauguration at St. Peter's Square. Robert Francis Prevost is the first pontiff from the United States. Michael Kappeler/dpa**

Pope Leo XIV presides at the Mass of Inauguration of his Petrine Ministry in Saint Peter's Square, and invites the Church to walk together

along the path of God's love and remain united in one family.

See Page 2 Pope Leo XIV

## Philippines Comelec declares 12 midterm senators elected



**Photo courtesy of Senator-elect Bam Aquino**

MANILA, Philippines—May 17, 2025 - Political veterans and dynastic names secured the majority of the 12 Senate seats at stake in the 2025 midterm elections, with Sen. Bong Go and former Sen. Bam Aquino leading the race, based on the final official canvass released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The winning candidates, proclaimed on Saturday, also underscored a shifting political landscape: key allies of detained former President Rodrigo Duterte and two liberal opposition candidates were among the top winners. delivered an unexpected boost to Vice President Sara Duterte

See Page 7 Phil. midterm elections



From Page 1 Pope Leo XIV

Greeting over 200,000 pilgrims, leaders from around the world, and representatives of Christian denominations, Pope Leo XIV marked the joyous start to his Petrine Ministry, officially inaugurating it with Mass in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday, May 18. Prime Minister Marc Carney with a group of Indigenous leaders and 13 other Liberal MPs were among the global leaders who attended the inaugural mass.

Religious delegations included Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jainists, among the many present for the celebration.



**After praying at the tomb of St. Peter, Pope Leo XIV exits St. Peter's Basilica and joins the congregation outside, where he celebrated Mass on the basilica's steps. (OSV News photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters)**

#### Heart full of gratitude

Expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the prayerful and joyful support offered to him as he begins his pastoral ministry as Pope, Leo XIV recalled the intense emotions experienced over these past few weeks.

"Following the death of Pope Francis, we felt like sheep without a

challenges.

He said they felt "the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody."

#### United in love and unity

"I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling," said Pope Leo, "I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family."

Pope Leo XIV recalled how love and unity are the two aspects of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus.



**Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization under Pope Francis, places the papal fisherman's ring on Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, as the pontiff celebrates his inauguration Mass at the Vatican May 18, 2025. (OSV News photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters)**

shepherd," he recalled, "yet having received his final blessing on Easter Sunday, and with eyes of faith, hope, and joy, we remembered how the Lord never abandons His people."

The Pope also thanked everyone for accompanying in prayer the College of Cardinals meeting in conclave to elect the Successor of Peter as they looked at how to continue the mission of preaching the Gospel with a shepherd able to address today's

Pope explained.

#### Self-sacrificing love

Pope Leo recalled how Peter is entrusted then with "loving more" and "giving his life for the flock," a "self-sacrificing love."

"The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ. It is never a question of capturing others by



**Cardinal Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio in Syria and representing Europe, places the pallium over Pope Leo's shoulders. The pallium, a white woolen band embroidered with six black crosses, is a symbol of the pope as the Good Shepherd who carries his sheep. (OSV News photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters)**

force, by religious propaganda or by means of power. Instead, it is always and only a question of loving as Jesus did."

#### Church, sign of unity and communion

The Holy Father expressed his hope for "a united Church, a sign of

missionary spirit, adding that such an approach will keep the Church from closing itself off in small groups or taking on a feeling of superiority to the world.

"We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out



**Canada's Prime Minister Marc Carney travelled to the Vatican city with 13 other Liberal MPs to attend the inaugural mass of Pope Leo XIV and also met some other global leaders. He has a brief meeting with the Pope after the mass, and posted this photo in his Instagram account.**

unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world."

In the face of a world marked by so much discord and wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, fear, and economic reality "that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalises the poorest," the Pope said, "we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion, and fraternity within the world."

"We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one," he urged. "This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!"

The Pope upheld the

differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people," he said.


"Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters."

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV invited all Christians to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, so that we might build a Church "founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made 'restless' by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity."

"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."

Source: The Vatican News and other files from the internet.





**FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK**

**Let not tragedy paralyze us but strengthen our resiliency and community fellowship**

**Zenaida Kharroubi**

Tragedy comes in many forms and can happen to anyone, anywhere, and anytime. Ironically, it seems to be part of common experience around the world but when it hits home, it becomes more shocking and painful. Such is the case of the Lapu-Lapu Day Festival in Vancouver held last April 26th, in its second year that was meant to be better and bigger.

The response to this tragic event was an overwhelming country-wide expressions of grief and sympathies from all leaders and ordinary citizens. People from all walks of life came together to express their sorrows and prayers for the 11 victims whose lives were cut short by someone who was later identified as the brother of a murder victim and may have to undergo psychiatric examination to see if he is fit for trial.

As we reflect over this tragedy, many questions need to be asked in our search for the proper ways to prevent similar tragedies from happening again. It may sound simplistic to say that such an action of senseless violence is due to mental illness which seems to be the case after reading the background of the young man arrested for this crime for second degree murder. As there have been similar events happening around the world, we may feel that this kind of violence is the result of a copy cat syndrome. If it is, what do we do about it?

From the various incidents where car-ramming killed people in Europe and the U.S., security experts recommend the installation of concrete

barricades and stricter regulations to ensure people's safety but these measures do not completely prevent a mentally ill person from doing desperate acts of violence. What is the proper and prudent way to react to the possibility of these events happening?

Solutions to prevent this type of tragedy are complicated as it is not easy to detect danger from people with mental illness. However, mental health experts have always advocated that family support is basic to all human beings. In addition to the family, community and social support systems should be available which can help an individual from being isolated. Someone in the circle of this community may be able to recognize the need for help and guide this person with mental health problems to seek professional assistance before it is too late.

A variety of opinions expressed about this tragedy has a common element - a common will to be strong against all odds and to overcome fear of the unknown. Many people have also expressed a strong sense of cultural pride and kinship with the victims, a beautiful sense of family which is not only blood-related but also a powerful interrelationship among people of different races, creeds, and languages.

We are strong when united and we feel happier when we care for each other as we feel like one big family in facing life's trials. Let us hope and pray that this tragedy never happens again. #

**Former International student of Gilmore College International wins \$80 million!**



**Justin Simporios won an \$80 million Loto Max jackpot from the May 9, 2025 draw. (Handout BCLC)**

Montreal, May 15, 2025 - How does it feel to see someone you know win the biggest jackpot ever for a single winner in Canada?

I was watching the 6 o'clock evening news on CTV when I saw the photo of the big Lotomax winner of the May 9th draw for \$80 million. I recognize him right away as he was an international student from the Philippines who was able to obtain a student visa because I issued him a letter of acceptance to study French as a second language in my own private school that I founded 36 years ago.

It was a surreal feeling for I knew that my school played a role in this man's life-changing experience. But will he ever think so? Maybe he will, or

maybe he won't. Nevertheless, I still feel happy that somehow, I made a difference in someone's life. I hope he makes the best decision to handle this big windfall with the guidance of an honest and knowledgeable financial adviser who will help him and his family make the most of this fortune to last for a lifetime.

Lotto Max is a national lottery game in Canada, with draws held every Tuesday and Friday. The jackpot starts at \$10 million and can grow to \$80 million. This \$80 million won by Justin sets a record both in BC and in Canada. The winning numbers were 6, 10, 16, 17, 30, 38, and 48. The odds of winning the Lotto Max jackpot are approximately 1 in 33 million. # By Z.F. Kharroubi

**THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR**

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Filcan Publications, Inc. The North American Filipino Star**

Established since 1998

**Fely Rosales Cariño**  
Society Editor  
Community News

**Joy Rosales**  
Administrative Asst.

**John Leo Lete**  
Local Journalism Initiative  
NEPMCC  
April 2025-Sept. 2025

**Bert Abiera (R.I.P.)**  
Nov. 16, 1934-Nov. 11, 2024  
Founder-Publisher, Filipino Star  
Nov.1982-Nov. 97

**Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi**  
Chief Editor  
Publisher, April 1998-present  
under the revised name of  
North American Filipino Star

**The only Montreal Filipino-Canadian community newspaper & member of the National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada**

**Funded by the Government of Canada**

**Tony San Juan**  
Toronto News

**Alvin D. Veloso**  
Montreal, QC

**Gus Mercado**  
Dallas, Texas

**Contributing Writers**

**Sam Kevin**  
Show Biz News & Layout Editor

**COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR**

Date	Activities	Location	Time	Entrance
11-May	Muntin Binibing Filipinas Montreal 2025	Palace Convention Centre	2 - 9 PM	Adults \$85.00
		1717 Boul le Corbusier Laval H2S2K7		Kids \$45.4 - 12 years old
29-May	Jewish Heritage Month	By Zoom call	7:00 PM	Open to the public
30-May	FCAWI Independence Ball	Olympia: 3855 Blvd St. John DDO	6-11 PM	Ticket \$70
31-May	Launching - Filipino Heritage Month	6767 Côte des Neiges - Grand Salon	10-2 PM	Open to the public
06-Jun	Heritage Thanksgiving Mass	Saint Joseph Oratory - Basilica	6-9 PM	Open to the public
06-Jun	SWMS - Independence Ball	Olympia: 3855 Blvd St. John DDO	6-11 PM	Ticket \$65
08-Jun	Tianggahan ng Bayan 2025	6767 Grand Salon	9 - 4 PM	Open to the public
12-Jun	Flag raising at FAMAS	4708 Van Horne Montreal	9-12 PM	Open to the public
12-Jun	Flag raising at the City of Côte Saint Luc	5801 Cavendish Blvd Cote St Luc	4- 6 PM	Open to the public
14-Jun	FAMAS Gala Night	Olympia: 3855 Blvd St. John DDO	6-11 PM	Tickets \$75
15-Jun	Philippine Independence Day Celebration	Parc MacKenzie King Cote St. Catherine	9 - 9 PM	Open to the public
21-Jun	Knights of Rizal - Birth Anniversary	Parc MacKenzie King Cote St. Catherine	9-2 PM	Open to the public
28-Jun	FCAAO Kultura Sining at Kalinangan - Cultural Tapestry	Decarie Square Mall and theater	10-10 PM	Open to the public
28-Jun	UPS Palaro ng Bayan	Parc MacKenzie King Cote St. Catherine	10-5 PM	Open to the public
20-Jul	FAMAS Pista sa Nayon	Parc MacKenzie King Cote St. Catherine	9 - 8 PM	Open to the public
26-Jul	Mrs FAMAS	TBA		
23-Aug	Fiesta Extraganza	Parc MacKenzie King Cote St. Catherine	9 - 8 PM	Open to the public

**SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$35 - 12 issues

☐ \$65 - 24 issues

Please send your request to: The North American Filipino Star  
7159, ch. de la Cote des Neiges, Montreal, QC H3R 2M2  
with your cheque payable to the North American Filipino Star  
or send email request to: [filipinostar2@gmail.com](mailto:filipinostar2@gmail.com) and send payment by interac transfer to: [zbc@gilmorecollege.com](mailto:zbc@gilmorecollege.com)

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.



From Page 1 Canadian Parliament

invite King Charles III to formally open Canada's 45th Parliament on 27 May.

That request is certainly strategic.

Carney said the King's visit "clearly underscores the sovereignty of our country" - a nod to Trump's 51st state remarks.

Trump also has a well-known admiration for the Royal family. In February, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer used his trip to the White House to present Trump with a letter from King Charles offering to host a second state visit.

The King is Canada's head of state and is represented in Canada by Governor General Mary Simon.

After an election, the new parliamentary session is usually opened by the governor general, who reads the Speech from the Throne on behalf of the prime minister. The speech, read in Canada's Senate, sets out the government's agenda.

While it is not unprecedented for the Throne speech to be read by the head of state, the last time this happened was in October 1977 when Queen Elizabeth II read the speech for the second time as part of her Silver Jubilee tour. Prior to that, Queen Elizabeth also delivered the Speech from the Throne in 1957 to mark her first visit to Canada as a reigning monarch and the first time a monarch opened Parliament in Canada.

While the primary focus of the visit is His Majesty King Charles III delivering the Speech from the Throne, Their Majesties will also engage with a variety of individuals and groups that reflect the geographic and cultural richness of the country.

His Majesty King Charles III has a deep, longstanding connection to Canada and shares many values that resonate with Canadians, including environmental stewardship, youth empowerment, and the celebration of Canada's vibrant and diverse heritage.

This first visit as King of Canada marks a momentous and historic occasion, highlighting Canada's identity and sovereignty as a constitutional monarchy.

The Royal Visit also strengthens the bond between Canada and the monarchy, offering an opportunity to better understand the unique role of the Crown in our democracy.

In his first news conference since the federal election, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney laid out his priorities, which included how he would approach Donald Trump in his first face to face meeting at the White House that was held on May 6, 2025. Prime Minister Carney and President Trump discussed the immediate trade pressures facing their nations. The Prime Minister stated Canada's openness to building a new economic and security relationship with the United States - based on respect, built on common interests, and to the benefit of both nations.

To that end, the Prime Minister and the President agreed to continue



**Mark Carney, centre, arrives for the cabinet swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Photo by Christinne Muschi /The Canadian Press**

discussions over the coming weeks. They looked forward to meeting next month at the G7 Summit in Kananaskis.

Prime Minister Carney's election campaign focused on

Governor General Mary Simon at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa. The following are the members of the new cabinet:

1) Shafqat Ali, President of the Treasury Board



**King Charles III is seen during the Service for the Oath and Installation of the Great Master and the Knights Grand Cross, at Westminster Abbey on May 16, 2025 in London, England. Photo by WPA Pool /Getty Images**

standing up to Trump's tariff plans and threats to make Canada the 51st US state, which Carney has said will "never ever" happen.

The Liberals won 169 seats out

2) Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

3) Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs

4) Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of



**Queen Elizabeth II reads the throne speech in the Senate Chambers on Oct. 18, 1977, officially opening the session of Parliament. Prime Minister Trudeau sits to the right of the Queen. Canadian Press**

of 343 in Canada's House of Commons in Monday's election, April 28th, enough to form a minority government but falling short of the 172 necessary for a majority. Carney's new cabinet was sworn in on May 12 by the

Public Safety

5) Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

6) François-Philippe Champagne,

Minister of Finance and National Revenue

7) Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

8) Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages

9) Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services

10) Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario

11) Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

12) Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

13) Dominic LeBlanc, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy

14) Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement

15) Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

16) Steven MacKinnon, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

17) David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence

18) Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

19) Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

20) Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health

21) Eleanor Olszewski, Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada

22) Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade

23) Evan Solomon, Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

24) Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries

25) Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism)

**10 Secretaries of State**

1) Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State (Rural Development)

2) Stephen Fuhr, Secretary of State (Defence Procurement)

3) Anna Gainey, Secretary of State (Children and Youth)

4) Wayne Long, Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions)

5) Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors)

6) Nathalie Provost, Secretary of State (Nature)

7) Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State (Combatting Crime)

8) Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State (International Development)

9) Adam van Koeverden, Secretary of State (Sport)

10) John Zerucelli, Secretary of State (Labour) (With various files from news and government websites)





# Monthly news

## By John Leo Lete

### Local Journalism Initiative

National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada

# Just for Laughs rolls back with star-studded line-up

*Russell Peters, Kumail Nanjiani, and Tom Segura Lead the Charge as Festival Returns Under New Ownership*

After a year-long hiatus, Montreal's iconic Just For Laughs (JFL) festival is making a triumphant return from July 16 to 27, 2025, boasting a lineup brimming with comedic heavyweights.



"Comedians Russell Peters, Kumail Nanjiani, and Tom Segura headline the highly anticipated return of Montreal's Just For Laughs festival, running July 16–27, 2025." Photo from Cult MTL

Headliners include global sensations Russell Peters, Kumail Nanjiani, and Tom Segura, signaling a bold new chapter for the festival under its new ownership by Quebec City-based ComediHa!

### A Revitalized Festival Experience

The 2025 edition marks the first full-scale English-language JFL festival since its parent company filed for creditor protection in 2024. Now operating under the Just For Entertainment Group, the festival aims to reclaim its status as a premier comedy event. President and CEO Sylvain Parent-Bédard expressed gratitude for the festival's revival, stating, "Just For Laughs is back — and this moment is one of true gratitude. As we find our voice again, we do so with heart, humility, and profound gratitude."

### Star-Studded Lineup and Fan Favorites

In addition to Peters, Nanjiani,

and Segura, the festival will feature performances by Fortune Feimster, Michelle Buteau, Adam Ray, Mae Martin, and Russell Howard. The festival's programming includes beloved showcases such as the Just For Laughs Galas, The Nasty Show, JFL Culture Show, BRIT(ISH), Midnight Surprise, and a collaboration

### Free Outdoor Shows and Exclusive Taping

Fans can look forward to two free outdoor events at Place des Festivals: "Adam Ray Is Dr. Phil Live" on July 24 and "Tom Segura: Come Together;" on July 26. Additionally, the festival will host live tapings of the Just For Laughs Galas and Roast Battle Canada, set to air on CBC and CTV Comedy Channel & Crave, respectively.

### Ticket Information

Tickets for the festival go on sale to the general public on May 12. JFL members have early access to a 30% pre-sale discount on select shows until May 12 at noon. For the full schedule and ticket purchases, visit [HAHAHA.com](http://HAHAHA.com).

With its robust lineup and renewed vision, the 2025 Just For Laughs festival promises to deliver a summer filled with laughter and unforgettable performances.

# West Island Blues Festival celebrates 22 years of music and community

The West Island Blues Festival is set to return for its 22nd year, bringing soulful rhythms and community spirit to Montreal's West Island. This beloved summer tradition features a series of free outdoor concerts, a VIP indoor event, and a mission to support local charities.

### Festival Schedule and Lineup

The festival kicks off with a

VIP indoor concert on May 29 at the Pierrefonds Cultural Centre, featuring performances by Old Soul and Rachel Dara. The outdoor concerts are scheduled as follows:

July 5: Dollard-des-Ormeaux Park, featuring Freddie James Project, Mitch and the Blues Bastards, Fired Up Band, The Ramblers, and Bad Ass Diva.

August 9: Pine Beach Park in Dorval, with Sylvie DesGroseilliers, Justin Saladino, Jah Cutta and the Determination Band, Daylite Vampires, and Rachel Dara.

September 6: The Village in Pointe-Claire, showcasing Dawn Tyler Watson, The Sugar Darlings, Steve Rowe, Matt Rock, and Tone 11.

### Community Impact

Since its inception, the West



Island Blues Festival has raised nearly \$500,000 for local organizations. This year's beneficiaries include the West Island Women's Shelter, the West Island Black Community Association, and the West Island Mission. Co-founder Errol Johnson emphasized the festival's dual purpose: celebrating blues music and supporting community initiatives.

### A Celebration of Music and Togetherness

Attendees can expect live music, local and Caribbean food, beverages, and a family-friendly environment. The festival aims to bring the community together through shared cultural experiences. Borough Mayor Jim Beis highlighted the importance of local events, stating, "It allows families to celebrate locally without having to go downtown."

For more information and updates, visit the West Island Blues Festival website.

# Canada unveils \$27 billion tax relief package for middle class Canadians

May 19, 2025 | Ottawa - In a significant move to bolster economic resilience and provide financial relief, the Canadian government has announced a comprehensive \$27 billion tax relief package aimed at benefiting over 22 million middle-class citizens. This initiative, a cornerstone of Prime Minister Mark Carney's newly elected administration, underscores the government's commitment to easing the financial burden on Canadians amid global economic uncertainties.

### Key Highlights of the Tax Relief Package:

**Reduction in Personal Income Tax Rate:** Effective July 1, 2025, the lowest marginal federal income tax rate will decrease from 15% to 14%. This adjustment is projected to save two-income households up to \$825 annually, enhancing disposable income for a significant portion of the population.

**Working Canadians Rebate:** In early spring 2025, approximately 18.7 million Canadians earning up to \$150,000 will receive a one-time \$250 rebate. This measure aims to provide immediate financial support to working individuals and families.

**Temporary GST/HST Exemption:** From December 14, 2024, to February 15, 2025, a temporary exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Harmonized Sales

Tax (HST) was implemented on a range of essential items, including groceries, children's clothing, and select household goods. This "tax holiday" was designed to alleviate cost-of-living pressures during the holiday season.

Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne emphasized that these measures are part of a broader

strategy to stimulate economic growth and enhance affordability for Canadians."By putting more money back into the pockets of Canadians, we're fostering increased consumer spending, which is vital for our economic recovery and growth." Champagne stated.

The tax relief package is also seen as a response to external economic challenges, including global inflationary pressures and trade uncertainties. By strengthening the financial position of middle-class Canadians, the government aims to build a more resilient economy capable of withstanding international economic fluctuations.

The announcement comes on the heels of the Liberal Party's recent electoral victory, where they secured the most seats without achieving a majority. Prime Minister Carney, who succeeded Justin Trudeau in March,



Prime Minister Marc Carney and his new cabinet announced the tax relief package effective on Canada Day. (Reuters photo)

has positioned this tax relief package as a fulfillment of key campaign promises centered on economic revitalization and support for the middle class.





## ONTARIO Filipino-Canadian Community News

**Tony A. San Juan, OCT**

### Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto Elects New Officers, Von Canton is Re-elected President

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto (PCCT) elected its new officers and directors for the 2025-2026 term. The election event was held at the Suave Korner Kafe X Bistro, Eglinton Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto. The process was conducted under the electoral supervision of Comelec officials, Tony A. San Juan and Lapu-Lapu Cana.

Nestor Von Canton was unanimously re-elected President to a 2-year term. Von Canton, a pharmacist by training, is the President of Philippine Extravaganza, Arts, Culture and Heritage (PEACH) and Proprietor & General Manager of MCBN -Pinoy Radio.

Elected as Executive Officers and Members of the Board of Directors are President - Von Canton, Philip Beloso - Vice President for Government and Trade Relations, Lilac Cana - Vice President for Membership, Gisele Mirasol - Vice President for Public Relations, Mark Gabriel - Secretary, Nikko Aguilar - Treasurer, Rainier Macandog San Pascual - Auditor, Rommel Lumbao and JB

Ramos - Chairman for Special Projects, and Luis Brosas, Prescilla Quiogue-Cantos, Beethoven Crasco, Valentina Salas, Lloyd Serrano and Erlene Sylvester - Board Members.

After the official proclamation, in his brief speech, Von Canton pledged to serve with meaningful determination and purposeful leadership toward achieving the PCCT's established mission and mandate of enhancing better business relations between Canada and the Philippines and promoting business growth & investment in the Filipino-Canadian community and other stakeholders.

The 34-year-old not-for-profit business association plans to hold its formal induction of officers & directors, escalate the membership drive, and develop & execute sustainable programs and viable projects. Former PCCT president Rafael "Paeng" Nebres attended the proceedings and encouraged the newly elected officers to "meet the challenges before them with foresight, courage and dedication".

### Smith calls Quebec's new openness to pipeline projects 'a massive breakthrough'

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith believes the conversation around pipelines is shifting, following recent comments by Quebec Premier François Legault sharing an openness to develop projects in his province.

on her weekend morning radio program, Your Province, Your Premier, on Saturday, Smith said she has been trying to lobby Legault to further develop Quebec's natural gas resources.

"Every time I saw him, he said, 'There's no social acceptability for it,' until recently," Smith said.

Legault made an appearance on the podcast Contact hosted by Stéphan Bureau last week and said he senses a growing openness to potential pipeline projects among Quebecers.

He even mentioned a potential project that would pass through the northern part of the province and end at the port of Sept-Îles.

"There are projects like that which would have been unthinkable before Trump," said Legault.

"Quebecers are saying, 'There's no way Trump is going to control the oil we produce in Alberta.' So, can we export it to Europe through Quebec instead of being stuck with Trump? There's openness. I feel things are

shifting," he added.

Smith says she believes there are a few factors that may have swayed her Quebec counterpart, including the world's perspective on natural gas and foreign demand.

"I think there is a world understanding that natural gas is an important transition fuel. I think it's a destination fuel, personally, but when you use natural gas, it means you're not using other high-emitting fuels like coal and wood and, in some cases, even dung," Smith said.

"The high demand in Europe, when you think of the proximity for Quebec, if they develop their resources, work with Nova Scotia and we're able to export to Europe, that helps our allies there."

Quebec rejected the GNL Québec project in Saguenay in 2021. Ottawa did the same in 2022. The Energy East project, which aimed to transport oil from Alberta to New Brunswick, was cancelled in 2017.

Last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney indicated in an interview with CTV News that he's open to building more pipelines if there is consensus across the country in favour of it.

But Canada's former

### Toronto Catholic Teachers to host Proudly Pinoy Education Confab

Filipino-Canadian catholic educators, parents and teachers in Toronto, Ontario, will host the "First Proudly Pinoy Education Conference" on May 27, 2025 (Tuesday), from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm., at Brebeuf College, 211 Steeles Avenue East, Toronto. Under the auspices of the Indigenous, Equity, and Community Relations Department of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), the gathering is organised for Filipino parents, educators, students, and community members engaged in public education who are interested to learn or leading in catholic schooling and training.

Moreover, the significant event is celebrating "Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope." In the words of Pope Francis: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

The maiden conference aims "to discuss barriers affecting Filipino-Canadian participation, engagement, and achievement in education, understand critical issues, and learn and appreciate what it means to be a Filipino." Further, the meeting expects to "identify actions for the participants and the community to take action and follow through."

TCDSB trustees, senior officers & staff, faith-focused leaders, community association representatives, and members of the Filipino



Advisory Committee (FAC), Filipino Catholic Educators Network (FCEN), Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC), Philippine Teachers Association of Canada (PTAC), Filipino Canadian Parents Association for Catholic Education (FCPACE), Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), and other community stakeholders are invited and expected to attend the conference.

According to the conference organisers, the late afternoon program will include opening remarks, special greetings, community blessing, keynote addresses, breakout sessions and dialogues for parent & community, educators, and students' groups. A plenary session for reporting back on the conference summary and actions/next steps is also scheduled, after which socials, refreshments, entertainment, and networking activities will follow. Interested individuals are requested to register at: <https://forms.gle/1kJicHjXMTD1Uw7>



**In this composite image, (left) Alberta Premier Danielle Smith leaves the podium after an event in Calgary, Alta., May 16, 2025. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jeff McIntosh), and, (right) Quebec Premier François Legault speaks at a news conference at the legislature in Quebec City, April 29, 2025. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jacques Boissinot)**

environment minister said the country should make full use of its existing infrastructure for transporting energy products before building more.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the first meeting of Carney's new cabinet, Steven Guilbeault claimed less than half of the Trans Mountain pipeline's capacity is being used.

"Before we start talking about building an entire new pipeline, maybe we should maximize the use of existing infrastructure," Guilbeault said Wednesday.

"And the Canadian Energy Regulator, as well as the International

Energy Agency, are telling us that by 2028-2029, demand for oil will peak globally, and it will also peak in Canada."

The actual utilization rate of the Trans Mountain pipeline is contested. According to data from the Canada Energy Regulator, utilization appeared to be up around 76 per cent as of December 2024.

Guilbeault, who now heads the federal culture portfolio, served as environment minister under former PM Justin Trudeau. With files from CTV News Edmonton's Craig Ellingson and The Canadian Press



## Mid-term Elections in the Philippines: The Clan War Reaches New Heights

Three years after the last general and presidential elections, Filipino voters once again went to the polls on May 12, 2025, to elect their municipal and parliamentary representatives.

While more than 18,000 positions were at stake at all levels of government, it was the senatorial election – 12 out of 24 positions were up for grabs – that attracted most of the political and media attention. The upper house plays a strategic role in determining the partisan balance in the run-up to the 2028 presidential elections.

style of government. The latter quickly counter-attacked, denouncing the government's inability to contain inflation, while accusing the president of being a heroin addict.

The campaign quickly moved into a critical phase following Sara Duterte's impeachment vote on February 7 in the House of Representatives, which will have to be confirmed by the Senate, followed by Rodrigo Duterte's arrest on March 11 and extradition to The Hague, where he now awaits trial on charges of crimes against humanity, committed as part of his war on drugs.



Filipinos during the Philippine midterm election - May 12, 2025  
Ryan Eduard Benaid/SOPA Images/Shutterstock

The Philippine political system is dominated by dynastic and oligarchic logics, in which power relations between families prevail over ideological cleavages and substantive debates. The two “ruling” families, represented by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (son of the former dictator of the same name) and Vice President Sara Duterte (daughter of the previous President Rodrigo Duterte), have been in open conflict since the implosion of the opportunistic alliance they formed for the 2022 presidential elections. In this context, the mid-term elections have become a referendum in disguise for the domination of one camp or the other.

From the very first days of the campaign, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who enjoys a solid partisan base in Congress but limited popular support, dramatized the electoral stakes by presenting it as a choice between the “dark days” of Rodrigo Duterte’s regime (2016-2022) and the promise of a “new Philippines”, and called on voters to reject his predecessor’s authoritarian and divisive

The presidential administration has presented a list of 12 senatorial candidates, united under the banner of the Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas (Alliance for a New Philippines). Formed in May 2024 with a view to the 2025 elections, this alliance brings together Marcos’ Partido Federal ng Pilipinas and Romualdez’s Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), as well as three other parties also controlled by powerful political dynasties. Alyansa thus brings together the country’s dominant forces, and at the start of the campaign, it established itself as a hegemonic player on the Philippine political landscape.

In opposition, the Duterte clan has put forward a senatorial list of ten candidates, the “Duter10”, including two pillars of the former regime: Bong Go, Rodrigo Duterte’s close advisor and right-hand man, and Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, a central figure in the repressive apparatus during the war on drugs.

*A summary of report from the Institut français des relations internationales by Juliette LOESCH, May 20, 2025.*

From Page 1 Phil.Midterm elections

ahead of her looming impeachment trial in the Senate, while dealing a blow to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s administration, whose candidates underperformed in what is traditionally a midterm show of strength.

Go, a longtime aide and Cabinet member under Duterte, topped the race with 27,121,073 votes (6.33%), while Aquino, a Liberal Party stalwart and a critic of the Duterte administration, followed closely with 20,971,899 votes (4.89%).

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) proclaimed the winning 12 senators at Manila Hotel Tent City on Saturday, five days after midterm elections and the earliest in the poll body's history.

Of all the senators-elect, only 11 were able to attend as Kiko Pangilinan is currently with his family in the United States for his daughter's

2. Former senator Bam Aquino – 20,971,899 votes
  3. Sen. Ronald dela Rosa – 20,773,946 votes
  4. ACT-CIS party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo – 17,118,881 votes
  5. Former senator Francis Pangilinan – 15,343,229
  6. SAGIP party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta – 15,250,723
  7. Former senator Panfilo Lacson – 15,106,111
  8. Former Senate president Vicente Sotto III – 14,832,996
  9. Sen. Pia Cayetano – 14,573,430
  10. Las Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar – 13,651,274
  11. Sen. Lito Lapid – 13,394,102
- Of the 12 winners, five were reelectionists: Go, dela Rosa, Cayetano, Lapid, and Marcos. Meanwhile, four got fresh mandates: Aquino, Pangilinan, Lacson, and Sotto.
- Three incumbent congressmen will make the switch from the



Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is proclaimed as a senator-elect by the Commission on Elections, May 17, 2025. Handout/Panfilo Lacson Media Team

graduation program.

During the proclamation, Comelec called the 12th-ranked senator first, while the top vote-getter was the last.

Imee Marcos with 13,339,227 votes at 12th place was first to be proclaimed. Bong Go, who achieved 27,121,073 votes at 1st place, was called last.

The other senators-elect with their acquired votes based on the National Certificate of Canvass (NCOC) are as follows:

House of Representatives to the Senate: Tulfo, Marcoleta, and Villar.

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos was present for daughter Imee's proclamation.

Except for the incumbent senators who got a second term, the other winners will be formally called senators-elect till June 30, 2025, when their term of office begins

With files from Enquirer and ABS-CBN news, May 17, 2025.

Contact me at  
marvinrotrand2@hotmail.com



WISHING YOU THE BEST FOR  
**FILIPINO HERITAGE**  
MONTH



Marvin Rotrand  
Director General  
United Against Hate Canada

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED**  
**LIVE-IN/LIVE-OUT - FULL TIME/PART TIME**  
**ELDERLY CARE, CHILDCARE,**  
**HOUSEKEEPING, COOKING**  
**TOP SALARIES CALL FOR INFORMATION**  
**514-489-3072**  
**OVERSEAS PROCESSING - WORK**  
**PERMIT TRANSFERS AND RENEWALS**  
**INTER OCEAN AGENCY**  
**7005 KILDARE ROAD, #01B,**  
**COTE ST. LUC, QC, H4W-1C1**  
**njhecht@hotmail.com**



# Israel Day Rally at Park MacDonald, May 1, 2025

An estimated 8000 marchers celebrated Israel's 77th anniversary of its independence on May 1 and as in past years a delegation of Filipinos played a prominent role.

A joint Filipino and Jewish delegation marching with flags of the Philippines, Israel and Canada was once again organized by Reverend Orlan Racacho whose goal has been to highlight the historic friendship of Filipinos and Jews.

The Filipino delegation included members of the Knights of Rizal, United Pilipino Seniors, Filipino Family Services Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec and Canadian Council of Filipino Associations of Quebec. Jewish marchers in the delegation were organized by former City Councillor Marvin Rotrand in his role as Director General of United Against Hate Canada.

"The delegation's participation in Israel Day allows us to educate the public to the Rescue in the Philippines and President Quezon's role in sheltering Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust," said Reverend



**City Councillor Sonny Moroz, organizer Reverend Orlan Racacho and United Against Hate Canada Director General Marvin Rotrand are shown marching with the Filipino-Jewish delegation at Montreal's Israel Day rally.**

Racacho. "It also allows us to proudly declare that the Philippines was the only Asian nation to vote in 1947 at the United Nations for the rebirth of the Jewish state."

For several decades, the annual Israel Day rally has taken place downtown culminating in speeches by dignitaries at Place de Canada. This year organizers moved the event to Snowdon, in the heart of Montreal's Jewish community. Marchers followed a route from Macdonald Park to Van Horne Park where they were addressed by Israeli Consul General Paul Hirschson.

Present to hear his address were freshly re-elected Member of Parliament Anthony Housefather, Cote Saint Luc Mayor Mitch Brownstein and City Councillor Sonny Moroz.

A follow up to the rally will take place on May 29 via a global ZOOM call to be organized by the Filipino Heritage Society and United Against Hate Canada which will fete May as Jewish Heritage Month and June as Filipino Heritage Month and will invite the public to learn of the two nations shared history.



**Some 50 people marched under a joint Filipino-Jewish delegation organized by the Filipino Jewish Friendship of Montreal and United Against Hate Canada**



**Filipinos celebrating Israel's 77th anniversary of independence were warmly greeted as they held aloft flags, banners and placards.**

## Join CBC at the ASIASIE Market for free workshops and events - Downtown Montreal, Eaton Center

CBC is partnering with ASIASIE for The third edition of the ASIASIE Market, taking place at Time Out Market in downtown Montreal from May 22 to 25.

The ASIASIE Market invites people to discover and enjoy a market of high-quality, diverse products from various parts of Asia. The goal is to promote intercultural understanding through market artisans, exchanges and cultural activities.

Join CBC for the following free events:  
**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

3-4 p.m.: "How to Pitch to Media" Workshop: Our team will be sharing valuable insights and practical advice on how to effectively pitch stories to media outlets.

6-7 p.m.: Opening Ceremonies, Portrait Studio: We'll be offering attendees a chance to have their portrait taken by photographer Tim Chin during the opening ceremonies.



**On the menu: More than 40 vendors and organizations representing various regions of Asia, plus cultural programming and fun activities to discover! (Photo by Yasuko Tadokoro)**

Group of dancers striking a pose mid-choreography  
Free workshops and performances will be happening all weekend at the Time Out Market downtown. (East2West/photo by Yasuko Tadokoro)  
**Sunday, May 25, 2025**

### **1-2 p.m.: Roundtable: The Pitfalls of Cultural**

**Appropriation:** Join CBC host Sudha Krishnan as she moderates this important and timely discussion. Where: Time Out Market Montreal (2nd floor of the Centre Eaton de Montréal), 705 Ste-Catherine Street, Montréal  
Cost: Free

Location

Timetable of the whole event:

Thu 22 May 11:30 - 22:00

Fri 23 May 11:30 - 22:00

Sat 24 May 11:30 - 22:00

Sun May 25 11:30 - 18:00

Source: Rana Liu, Communications Officer at CBC Quebec working in community engagement and outreach

"The government is us; we are the government, you and I."  
—THEODORE ROOSEVELT



## Here's the Vatican's official English translation of Pope Leo XIV's homily from his inaugural Mass in St. Peter's Square on Sunday, May 18:

Dear Brother Cardinals,  
Brother Bishops and Priests,  
Distinguished Authorities and  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Brothers and Sisters,

I greet all of you with a heart full of gratitude at the beginning of the ministry that has been entrusted to me. Saint Augustine wrote: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you" (Confessions, I: 1,1).

These days, we have experienced intense emotions. The death of Pope Francis filled our hearts with sadness. In those difficult hours, we felt like the crowds that the Gospel says were "like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36). Yet on Easter Sunday, we received his final blessing and, in the light of the resurrection, we experienced the days that followed in the certainty that the Lord never abandons his people, but gathers them when they are scattered and guards them "as a shepherd guards his flock" (Jer 31:10).

In this spirit of faith, the College of Cardinals met for the conclave. Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we placed in God's hands our desire to elect the new Successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, a shepherd capable of preserving the rich heritage of the Christian faith and, at the same time, looking to the future, in order to confront the questions, concerns and challenges of today's world.

Accompanied by your prayers, we could feel the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody.

I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family. Love and unity: these are the two dimensions of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus.

We see this in today's Gospel, which takes us to the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus began the mission he received from the Father: to be a "fisher" of humanity in order to draw it up from the waters of evil and death. Walking along the shore, he had called Peter and the other first disciples to be, like him, "fishers of men". Now, after the resurrection, it is up to them to carry on this mission, to cast their nets again and again, to bring the hope of the Gospel into the "waters" of the world, to sail the seas of life so that all may experience God's embrace.

How can Peter carry out this task? The Gospel tells us that it is possible only because his own life was touched by the infinite and unconditional love of God, even in the



hour of his failure and denial. For this reason, when Jesus addresses Peter, the Gospel uses the Greek verb *agapáo*, which refers to the love that God has for us, to the offering of himself without reserve and without calculation. Whereas the verb used in Peter's response describes the love of friendship that we have for one another.

Consequently, when Jesus asks Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (Jn 21:16), he is referring to the love of the Father. It is as if Jesus said to him, "Only if you have known and experienced this love of God, which never fails, will you be able to feed my lambs. Only in the love of God the Father will you be able to love your brothers and sisters with that same 'more', that is, by offering your life for your brothers and sisters."

Peter is thus entrusted with the task of "loving more" and giving his life for the flock. The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ. It is never a question of capturing others by force, by religious propaganda or by means of power. Instead, it is always and only a question of loving as Jesus did.

The Apostle Peter himself tells us that Jesus "is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, and has become the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11). Moreover, if the rock is Christ, Peter must shepherd the flock without ever yielding to the temptation to be an autocrat, lording it over those entrusted to him (cf. 1 Pet 5:3). On the contrary,

he is called to serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them, for all of us are "living stones" (1 Pet 2:5), called through our baptism to build God's house in fraternal communion, in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of

Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

This is the missionary spirit that must animate us; not closing ourselves off in our small groups, nor feeling superior to the world. We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people.

Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters. With my predecessor Leo XIII, we can ask ourselves today: If this criterion "were to prevail in the world, would not every conflict cease and peace return?" (Rerum Novarum, 21).

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made "restless" by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity. Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another. #

From Page 5 Tax Relief Package

### Looking Ahead:

While the tax cuts are set to take effect in July, the government has indicated that a full economic update will be delivered in the fall. This update is expected to provide further details on the fiscal implications of the tax relief measures and outline additional strategies for economic development.

As Canada navigates the complexities of the global economic landscape, this substantial tax relief package represents a proactive step towards ensuring financial stability and prosperity for its #.



# WINE\*

starting **\$3.50\*** 750ml

Type Cabernet Sauvignon - Pinot Noir - Merlot - Zinfandel  
Muscat- Chardonnay - Pinot Grigio - Icewine- Rose etc

## BestWineAmerica

50 years - Canadian company

1265 O'Brien, St-Laurent, Que, H4L-3W1 Tel: 514-747-3533

**Tuesday to Friday 10hrs to 15hrs / Sat 9hrs to 13hrs**

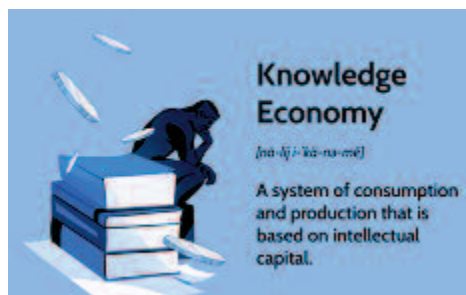
**Closed Sunday and Monday**

\*According to concept store





**Gilmore College International is designed and committed to help students acquire "soft skills" required for the knowledge-based economy.**



**EDUCATION**  
raises the bar  
but lowers  
the barriers  
to a  
rewarding  
career.

**All tuition fees of \$100 or more are income tax deductible.**



**Presentation of Levels 3 & 4 French proficiency certificates to Eileen Rosales, Feb. 7, 2025.**



**7159, chemin de la Cote des Neiges**  
Montreal, QC H3R 2M2  
**Tel.: 514-485-7861**  
**E-mail: zbk@gilmorecollege.com**



**PAB Batch 8 graduation held at La Cucina in downtown Montreal, October 7, 2012.**



**PAB Batch 12 graduates pose with their instructors and guests, July 7, 2017, held at Gilmore College social hall.**



**Presentation of French 1 & 2 proficiency certificates to the Sunday class, February 2019.**



## **PROGRAMS**

- **PAB/PSW**
- NURSING AIDE**
- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**
- **ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN**

## **COURSES**

- **FRENCH**
- **ENGLISH**
- **FILIPINO**
- **KEYBOARDING**
- **MICROSOFT WORD/EXCEL**

## **OTHER SERVICES**

- **HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**
- **TRANSLATION (English, French, Tagalog)**

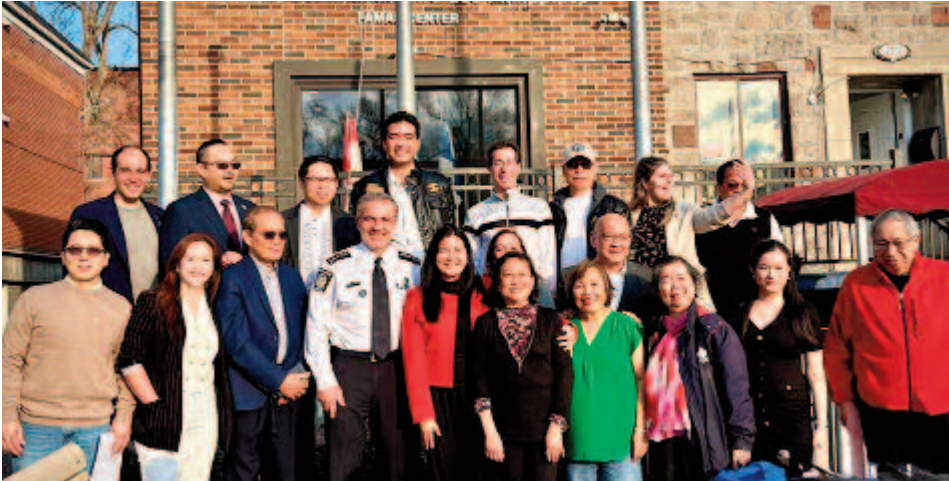
## **AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING**

**All levels - Elementary-Secondary**

**Classes start anytime for private or tutorial courses and small groups. Registrations accepted at all times by appointment. Pls. call 514-485-7861.**



# NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



In response to the Lapu-lapu Day Festival tragedy, Fo Niemi of CRARR invited the Filcan community to meet SPVM Chief Faby Dagher to discuss security concerns during festivals, Saturday, May 3, 2025. MP Anthony Housefather, MNA Elisabeth Prass, Councilors Sonny Moroz and Stephanie Valenzuela also attended the meeting held at FAMAS Center.



Anthony Housefather, re-elected MP of Mount Royal riding is flanked by his supporters and heartily expressing his sincere thanks. He wants everyone to know that his office located at 3770 Kent Avenue is always available to assist anyone in need of his help. The Canadian Parliament resumes May 26, 2025.



The Pingpong Club of Montreal now has found a good place where its members practice and hold tournaments at Notre Dame des Neiges Church basement. Previously, the Club used Gilmore College's social hall for several months. Oye Olivar, the organizer, expressed her gratitude and sent this photo to the North American Filipino Star. Perhaps, she can now encourage her members to take French lessons at Gilmore besides promoting good fellowship and camaraderie.



The Pierrefonds-Roxborough Municipal Council invited Filipino-Canadians to its meeting on May 5, 2025 to witness the declaration of the Filipino Heritage Month including a flag raising ceremony to be held on June 12. Both the United Against Hate Canada and the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal are jointly working in promoting the adoption of the Heritage idea in many other places or towns.



**Protégez ceux que vous aimez. Planifiez à l'avance.**

- > Obtenez la tranquillité d'esprit
- > Assurez-vous les prix d'aujourd'hui

**Protect those you love. Plan ahead.**

- > Gain true peace of mind
- > Secure today's prices



**Téléphonez à  
Sandra Wong:**  
514-342-8000 ext. 2258

CENTRE FUNÉRAIRE  
**Côte-des-Neiges**  
DigniteQuebec.com

Chaque détail compte | Dignité

Une division de Service Corporation Internationale (Canada) ULC. | A division of Service Corporation International (Canada) ULC

# Bookkeeping and Accounting

**A course needed  
in every business**

**ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN**  
**180 H, weekends, evenings**

- INCLUDES FULLY SOLVED PROBLEMS FOR EVERY TOPIC
- EXPERT TIPS FOR MASTERING BOOKKEEPING AND ACCOUNTING
- ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PASS THE COURSE

**Gilmore College Int'l.**  
**514-485-7861**





Recipes to make most out of your herb garden



Make-Ahead Quinoa Salad With Cucumber, Tomato, and Herbs

**Ingredients**  
1 cup quinoa  
1 pint grape tomatoes, split into quarters  
1 large cucumber, seeds removed, cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
Kosher salt  
2 small shallots, minced  
1/2 cup roughly chopped flat-leaf parsley leaves  
1/4 cup roughly chopped fresh mint leaves  
5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
Freshly ground black pepper

**Directions**  
1. Combine quinoa and 2 cups water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stir, reduce heat to low, cover, and cook for 7 minutes. Shut off heat and let rest until water is absorbed, about 5 minutes longer. Transfer quinoa to a fine-mesh strainer and rinse under cold water until thoroughly chilled. Let drain for 10 minutes.  
2. While quinoa cooks, combine tomatoes and cucumbers in a colander set in the sink. Season with salt and toss to coat. Let drain in sink until ready to combine with quinoa.  
3. In a large bowl, toss drained quinoa, drained tomatoes and cucumbers, shallots, parsley, mint, olive oil, and red wine vinegar. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve immediately, or for best flavor, let rest overnight in a sealed container in the refrigerator. Salad can be stored in a sealed container in the refrigerator for up to 5 days



The Best Tabbouleh Salad

A Middle Eastern vegetarian salad made with chopped parsley, tomatoes, mint, bulgur wheat, and lemon juice.

**Ingredients**  
3/4 pound ripe plum tomatoes, finely diced  
2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided, plus more for seasoning  
2 cups finely chopped flat-leaf parsley leaves and tender stems (about 2 bunches), finely chopped with a sharp knife  
1/4 cup dry coarse bulgur wheat  
1 cup finely chopped fresh mint leaves (about 1 bunch)  
2 scallions, white and light green parts only, finely chopped  
5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons fresh juice from 1 lemon  
1/4 teaspoon ground coriander seeds (optional)  
Pinch ground cinnamon (optional)  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Romaine lettuce leaves, for serving

**Directions**  
Season tomatoes with 1 teaspoon salt and toss to combine. Transfer to a fine-mesh strainer or colander set in a bowl and allow to drain for 20 minutes. Reserve liquid. Finely diced tomatoes for tabbouleh in a strainer.  
Season parsley with remaining 1 teaspoon salt and toss to combine. Transfer to a large mixing bowl lined with paper towels and let stand for 20 minutes. Blot parsley with towels to remove excess moisture.  
Finely chopped parsley for tabbouleh in a mixing bowl lined with paper towel.  
Bring 1/2 cup reserved tomato water to a boil, then pour over bulgur in a small heatproof bowl and let stand until bulgur is softened, about 1 hour (bulgur may still have a slight bite, but will continue to soften in the salad). Drain bulgur of any excess liquid and pat dry with paper towels.  
Bulgur draining in a mixing bowl lined with paper towel.  
In a large mixing bowl, stir together tomatoes, parsley, mint, bulgur, scallions, olive oil, lemon juice, ground coriander seeds, and cinnamon until well combined. Season with salt and pepper. Serve tabbouleh with romaine leaves.

Fresh herbs: How to use them and preserve them for herbs

Having fresh herbs to cook with means being able to add a touch of flavour and aesthetics to any dish. Wondering how to take full advantage of these fragile yet flavourful herbs? And how to properly store them? Read on to find out!

Chopped herbs in containers

Extremely practical, chopped herbs sold in plastic containers are a great ally in the kitchen. Are you wondering what to do with the leftovers? There are several ways of preserving your fresh herbs, but know that they don't keep for much longer than 7 or 8 days in the fridge.

The first solution is to remove them from their plastic container, place the stems in a glass filled with 2-3 cm of water, and store them in the fridge. If you change the water daily, you should be able to stretch them 2, maybe even 3, weeks.

The second option is to remove them from their plastic container, rinse them thoroughly, wrap them in a damp paper towel, and store them in the fridge. It's important to keep the paper towel humid at all times.

Another solution is to rinse your herbs under water and store them in a Ziploc bag. Make sure to remove all the air from the bag so that it sticks to the herbs and prevents them from browning.

Potted herbs

Potted herbs can be easily grown on your balcony.

Some perennial varieties, such as tarragon, rosemary, thyme, etc., grow year-round, while others, like basil, need to be purchased every year.

Fresh herbs require light (between 6 and 8 hours of sunlight each day) and regular watering. Herbs can spend their entire life in a pot on a windowsill . . . and they make a pretty addition to any décor!

To help your herbs stay fresher, longer, make sure you pinch them (prune the young shoots) and remove any flowering buds, which are especially common on basil.

Speaking of basil, make sure to give your basil plants ample water; they need frequent watering during the dryer months, otherwise they'll just end up flowering.

When should you water your herbs?

During the summer, it's preferable to water them at night, when the risk of evaporation is lower. In the spring and fall, opt for a morning watering routine.

Two ways to keep your herbs fresher, longer:

**Frozen:** Herbs keep much longer in the freezer. Simply chop and freeze them in ice-cube trays. To prevent basil from browning, combine it with olive oil and then freeze.

**Dried:** Make a bouquet of herbs and place it in a paper bag for 4 to 6 weeks. You can also make several bouquets and dry them upside-down in a dark room. Or, preheat your oven to 180°F, and dry out your bouquets with the oven door slightly ajar for 4 hours. Then, enjoy your herbs all year long!

Common mistakes when caring

When it comes to potted herbs, moderation is key—they don't like too much afternoon sun or water! And watering guidelines vary depending on whether your plants are indoors or outdoors. Outdoor plants need to be watered more than once a week, because the sun and wind dry them out faster. And make sure your soil is combined with a bit of compost. You can also add fertilizer, but no more than 2 or 3 times during the warmer months. **So you just bought a nice bouquet of herbs and you're wondering what to do with it?**

Several dishes: You can prepare a variety of meals to freeze, just make sure they all call for the same herb (tarragon chicken, tarragon-marinated vegetables, tarragon sauce, etc.).

**Sauces:** A tasty green sauce made with tarragon, basil, or dill would pair perfectly with white meat or fish.

**Marinades:** Lemon and basil, lemon and oregano, sage, soy, and mustard, or parsley, garlic, thyme, and paprika . . . combined with oil, these flavour combos make great marinades for your grilled meat and skewers.

**Vinaigrettes:** Herbs add loads of flavour to dressings and vinaigrettes! The secret? Chop them up finely . . . and don't forget that mint makes a great addition to the mix!

A few perfect pairings!

**Basil:** With tomatoes, in pasta, on chicken, ice cream, or in a gaspacho

**Chives:** In a vinaigrette, sauce, or salad

**Parsley:** In tabbouleh salad or marinades

**Sage:** On gnocchis or gnudis

**Dill:** In a yogurt vinaigrette on fish or with cucumbers

Three delicious recipes

Oven-baked tarragon fries and minty fresh fruit salad are ideal summer dishes, and strawberry basil jam makes the perfect gift!



Oven-baked tarragon fries



Minty fresh fruit salad



Strawberry basil jam





## Social Tidbits

# Montreal Community News

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

Greetings to my lovely Social Tidbits readers. Let me tell you, my dearest social followers, you certainly keep me on my toes. I'd say that the 's' in social stands for sunshine (because you are my sunshine!). And it also stands for spring (because spring is in the air!). Alright I'm stretching. I hope you're enjoying this terrific weather upon us. Suddenly, even the dandelions are in bloom. Warmer temperatures are here and we can't be more glad. So bring out your spring wardrobe. And to all the mommas out there, a belated Happy Mother's Day! Let's appreciate our mothers everyday, not just a day in May. Now let's start with my round-up of recent happenings.

### Fun with the Kids

The Federation of Filipino Canadian Association of Quebec (FFCAQ) staged Fun With The Kids at MacKenzie King Park, 4907 Avenue Saint-Kevin, Montreal on April 26, 2025. The weather forecast was slight showers and the kids came prepared in complete spring outfits, in colorful rain coats and rain boots. FFCAQ President Minda Mazzone opened the event with an encouragement and an emphasis on fair play in all the games.

The decorating activities included Kidpreneur Pop-up market, Face Paint by Glitter Berries, Coloring (play area) and Mini Carnival Games. Food was available all throughout the day, but the best deal was the all-you-can-eat, free popcorn and free juice! How about that? And did you know that for the first time ever, pets were introduced in the activities? I'm talking dogs and turtles. And yes, the kids tried to follow the big turtle walk. Can you imitate your own pet? It should be hilarious. After lunch, 11-year old Dashlee Go sang Ariana Grande's Wicked For Good and a Blackpink number. The verdict, she sang very good! The afternoon was mostly spent for games such as Come to Bunny, Sack Race, and various egg games (Bounce the Eggs, Catch the Egg, Egg and Spoon Game).

And of course, inspite of the drizzly weather, our guest politicians who showed their huge support and participation were MP Anthony Housefather, Neil Oberman (Litigation Lawyer), Sonny Moroz (City Councilor, Snowdon District), Stephanie Valenzuela (City Councilor, Darlington District), and Marvin Rotrand (United Against Hate Canada). Thank you for being with us! And there was the welcome sight of Ellie Israel who stayed until the games ended. And Renzie Ivan Costales was a superb emcee who made the event really fun with the kids.

While there were tables with a variety of merchandise, a most

interesting one was that manned by 'Pinoy Pa Rin's Tenne Rose Dayandante, Michael Davantes, and Derwin Collantes. Get this, the table was filled with kids' clothing for free! Towards the end of the day, almost all were gone. Well everyone loves a freebie. And while the kids had fun, adults made the most of the day also. Seen exploring the grounds were Jane Cayan, Cora Abdon, Cristy Hunter, Jovy Narvas, Racquel Trinidad and other officers. What an enjoyable day. Huge thanks and congratulations to President Minda and her Executive Board in ensuring a fun-filled day. Thank you for all your effort; it does not go unnoticed. Please hold this event again!

### Pierrefonds-Roxboro Meeting

On May 5, 2025, a council meeting was held at 13665 Pierrefonds Boulevard. Marvin Rotrand, Al Abdon (Chairman of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal, FHSM), and a delegation of officers and members of community leaders met with Pierrefonds-Roxboro Mayor Jim Beis and his councilors. A group picture was taken by photographers Norberto Mandin and Jane Cayan. On behalf of the borough, Mr. Beis accepted the motion that the month of June be declared a heritage month. He also accepted the idea of having the Philippine flag flown in front of city hall on this Independence Day (June 12). Among those present were Jeannette Perignon (President, Kahirup/Hiligaynon Association of Quebec), Al Abdon (Chair, FHSM), Minda Mazzone (President, FFCAQ), Ramon Vicente (President, Family Services), Pastor Orlan Racacho, Cora Abdon, Derwin Collantes (TV's Pinoy Pa Rin), Caring Tabunar (President, Seniors in Motion), Rebecca Aguilar, Dolly Belandres, Elma Bulatao, Jane Cayan, Filomena Fabia, Eppie Gevero, yours truly and many more. Along other items discussed during this meeting, Mayor Beis also expressed his condolence and sympathy on the Vancouver Lapu Lapu Festival tragedy.

### Seniors' All-night Disco

May 10, 2025 was another red letter day for the Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec (CCFAQ). It was their Independence Party held at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges. They named their event the Seniors All Night Disco. And that was what really happened – all night dancing! The evening was dominated by line dancing numbers, many of which were led by Cipriano Boy Galang. Though I don't do vigorous dancing, I delighted in watching the graceful moves and the passion of the dancers on the floor. I found them spectacular to watch.

CCFAQ President Dario Boco was surrounded by his friends doing something fun they like to do, indulging in their favorite 'inuman' (social drinking) with 'pulutan' (side dish). The crowd enjoyed great food and desserts. Congratulations to President Dario Boco and his Executive Board.

### Israel Independence Day Celebration

Many Filipinos showed their unwavering support for Israel on May 1, 2025, on a wonderful spring weather as they celebrated their 77th Independence Day. The rally, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, was held in the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough, known as the hub of Montreal's Jewish community. In light of events of the past few years (Hamas attack on Israel on Oct 7, 2023), distinct police presence helped to make people feel safe. A few protesters aside, it was certainly peaceful. As Henry Lovgren (spokesperson, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) observed, "You can see at this rally that it's completely peaceful," he said. "We see Jews from all different walks of life gathered here on this beautiful day full of positivity and light." As well, newly re-elected Mount Royal MP and vocal advocate for Israel, Anthony Housefather stated, "I don't think anything here is wrong. People are just celebrating that Israel exists as a country and that the people of Israel are strong and have made a prosperous state." (Montreal Gazette).

According to Joel Goldenberg of The Suburban, the event drew 8,000 Montrealers starting "at Macdonald Park in Côte des Neiges-NDG, and a joyous parade of blue and white—with superb security provided by the SPVM—paraded down Dupuis to Décarie Blvd., Plamondon, Westbury and finally to Van Horne Park." The parade was led by Marvin Rotrand (Director General of United Against Hate Canada). People waving the blue and white Israel flags flooded the

neighborhood and passing cars honked to show their solidarity. Others present were Roberto Mandin and Jane Cayan (photographers). One of the organizers was Orlan Racacho who helped a lot in the preparations before the parade. Among those who marched were Filipinos represented by Minda Mazzone (FFCAQ President), Ramon Vicente (President, Family Services), Jeannette Perignon, Rebecca Aguilar (FHSM), and yours truly.

As I read my bible, I am reminded of Genesis 12:1-3 which says, "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Indeed, God's promise is fulfilled in Israel, now a great and blessed nation.

Let's all pray for God's blessing everyday. And in today's climate of unrest as we see in some parts of the world, let's ask God for peace. As I conclude this month's column, may I share the word of God, the only true source of peace: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You (Isaiah 26:3) . . . Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27).

Until next issue! God Bless!

**Do you wish to be fluently bilingual and get your dream job? Enroll in our intensive French language courses. Call anytime at 514-485-7861**



**Gilmore College International is planning to organize food tours starting soon. To join, please call 514-485-7861 and leave your name & phone no.**



**Advertise - Call 514-485-7861 Business feature free write up with 1/4 ad min. in exchange.**

### SAAQ Certified

## MOON DRIVING SCHOOL

**5775 Av. Victoria, Suite- 218, Mtl.**

**Complete Course.**

**Price - call for Winter super special.**

**Payable in six installments. One FREE Book.**

**Website- moondrivingschool.com**

**Tel- 514-965-0903. 514-340-1323.**



# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Liza Soberano turns heads at Gold House Gala 2025



**Liza Soberano**

Liza Soberano made a stunning appearance at the 2025 Gold House Gala, held May 10 (Sunday, PH Time) at The Music Center in Los Angeles.

The Filipina-American actress graced the gold carpet in a mint green gown designed by Zhaoyi Yu, featuring a sculptural, wave-inspired silhouette.

Styled by Katie Qian, Soberano completed her look with delicate silver jewelry and a sleek updo, embodying a blend of modern sophistication and classic Hollywood glamour.

In an Instagram post, Soberano reflected on the

significance of the event, writing, "Each year, the Gold Gala reminds me why community matters. Honored to be among the bold, brilliant, and beautiful."

The Gold House Gala celebrates the A100 list, recognizing the 100 most impactful Asian Pacific leaders in American culture.

This year's honorees included Bruno Mars, Nicole Scherzinger, and Darren Criss.

Attendees were treated to a dinner prepared by Filipino chef Maynard Llera, a 2024 James Beard Awardee, further highlighting the event's celebration of Asian Pacific excellence. ■

### Jessica Sanchez returns to 'America's Got Talent' after 20 years



**Jessica Sanchez**

Jessica Sanchez is set to return to the "America's Got Talent" stage nearly two decades after first competing as a 10-year-old contestant.

The Filipino-Mexican singer, who joined the talent show's inaugural season in 2006, will appear in the upcoming 19th season of AGT, which premieres May 27 on NBC.

Sanchez was eliminated in the semifinals of her original run but later found mainstream success as the runner-up in the 11th season of "American Idol."

In a recent social media post, Sanchez reflected on how her first AGT experience helped shape her

path.

"Being 10 years old on AGT played such a massive role in me believing in something bigger than myself," she wrote. "What a huge blessing it is to be able to come back and chase after my dreams again after 20 years. Can't wait to see what God has in store for me".

Details about her upcoming performance remain under wraps, but her return has already stirred excitement among fans and fellow artists online.

Sanchez, now 28, has since released original music and performed internationally. ■

### Bella Poarch returns to Philippines after 14 years



**Bella Poarch**

Filipina-American content creator Bella Poarch has returned to the Philippines after 14 years.

In her TikTok account, Bella

posted a video of her comeback in the country.

"It's been 14 years since I went back to the Philippines and there's no way I'm going to cancel over a sty," she said.

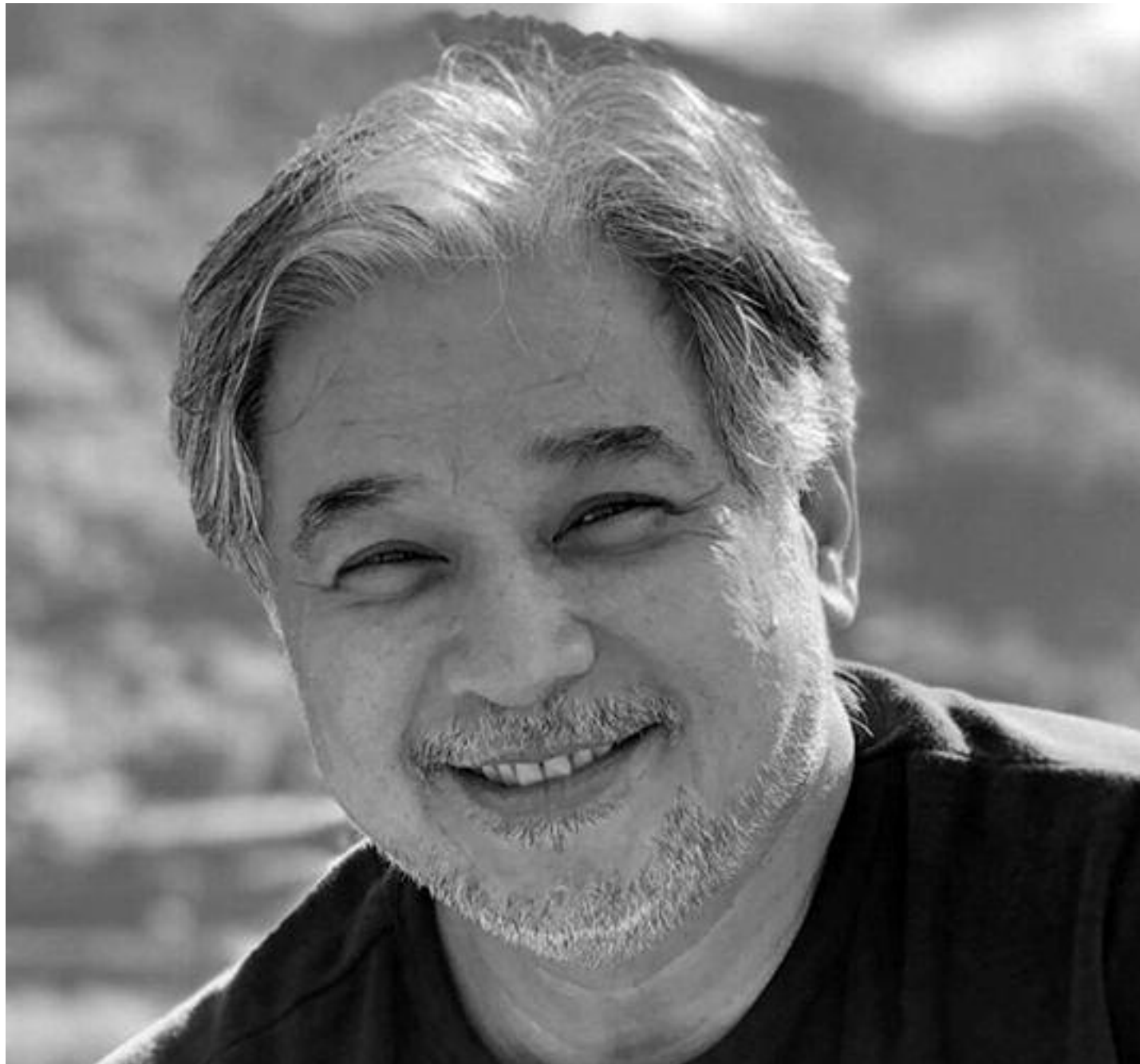
Bella went straight to the hospital for eye surgery after she landed in the country.

"I had an important shoot in a week so I decided to get a last-minute surgery. The surgery went so smooth, and I am so grateful for the Filipino nurses and doctors that took care of me," she said.

Bella then traveled to Bohol, saying: "When we got to our hotel in Bohol we were greeted with a surprise." ■



## Seasoned actor and director Ricky Davao dies at 63



**Ricky Davao**  
1961 - 2025

The entertainment industry is mourning the death of seasoned actor and television director Ricky Davao, who died on Thursday. He was 63.

Davao, born Frederick Charles Caballes Davao on May 30, 1961, was a prominent figure in Philippine entertainment with a career spanning over four decades.

Davao began his career as a dancer with the Vicor Crowd before transitioning to acting in film, television, and theater. He was known for his role as a fictionalized Bongbong Marcos in the play Bongbong at Kris in the 1980s and for portraying villainous characters in television dramas, including *Mula sa Puso*.

Aside from acting, Davao also worked behind the camera as a television director. He served as a juror at the ASEAN International Film Festival Awards in 2013 and participated in the Pinoy Playlist Music Festival in 2019.

Davao graduated with a degree in industrial management engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology. He was the son of the late actor Charlie Davao and Emma Marie Abiera. He was previously married to actress Jackie Lou Blanco, with whom he had three children. He had been in a relationship with Malca since 2021. ■

## After election loss, Luis Manzano hints at return as game show host



**Luis Manzano**

Fans are abuzz as it appears that Luis Manzano is set to return to TV hosting, after his failed bid for the Batangas vice governor's post.

The actor-TV host sparked speculations after he made a poll on his social media pages on Thursday, May 15.

"Ano mas trip ninyo bumalik? 'Rainbow Rumble,' 'Deal or No Deal,' or 'Minute to Win It'?" he asked his followers, referring to the now-defunct game shows he hosted.

(Which do you prefer to return to television? "Rainbow Rumble," "Deal or No Deal," or "Minute to Win It"?)

Manzano's fellow celebrities gamely answered via the comments section, with his wife Jessy Mendiola and fellow TV host Melai Cantiveros voting for "Rainbow Rumble."

Actor-model Daniel Matsunaga exclaimed "Minute to Win

It," while both actor-director John Prats and courtside reporter Aiyana Perlas said all three should be revived.

Manzano's fellow host Robi Domingo, meanwhile, suggested "It's Your Lucky Day," the noontime show they hosted in 2023 as a temporary replacement for then-suspended "It's Showtime."

Some netizens also suggested "Game Ka Na Ba?" and "I Can See Your Voice" which he also hosted. A few gave unsolicited advice to Manzano as well, discouraging him to enter politics.

Manzano lost the Batangas vice gubernatorial race to incumbent Gov. Dodo Mandanas. Despite this, the TV host declared that this is just the "start of his journey" with the Batangueños.6 ■



**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15***Kylie Verzosa dazzles on the red carpet of Cannes Film Festival****Kylie Verzosa at the Cannes Film Festival, 2025.**

Kylie Verzosa is back on the red carpet of the Cannes Film Festival 2025, and she didn't hold back on the sparkles this time.

On Instagram, the Miss International 2016 shared her second look for the prestigious festival, which is a Tony Ward Couture creation.

The black gown features a fully embellished silhouette with a deep V-neckline adorned with silver

crystals, creating a shimmering and gradient effect.

"A magical night walking with [Tony Ward Couture]," Kylie wrote in the caption.

Earlier, Kylie donned an attractive yellow ensemble by Filipino designer Mark Bumgarner for her first look at the Cannes Film Festival red carpet. ■

**Sofia Andres bombarded with applications after 'PA who can read mind' post****Sofia Andres**

Sofia Andres received hilarious applications after her job posting for a personal assistant "who can read my mind" — a statement that she later clarified was just a joke.

The actress and celebrity mom earlier shared via her Instagram Stories that she was looking for a personal assistant who "can read my mind, organize my chaos, and remind me where I left my coffee (and my schedule)."

"Must be 10 steps ahead, stylishly sharp, and allergic to 'I forgot.' Think that's you? Slide into the inbox—applications open, excuses closed," she added.

This drew mixed reactions from netizens on social media, prompting Andres to make another

post about it.

"Makalagot uy! Walay sense of humor... Chill ra!" she said in Cebuano, which translates to "Nakakainis naman! Walang sense of humor. Chill lang!" in Filipino. (It's annoying! No sense of humor. Just chill!)

She also underscored that she is a mom and that she keeps forgetting things.

Nonetheless, Andres finds the responses to her job posting amusing as she showed some of the applications she received via her e-mail.

Andres did not immediately disclose if she already has a prospective personal assistant. ■

**Dolly de Leon breaks down her 'Avatar' twin characters****Dolly De Leon**

Actress Dolly de Leon gave a little insight into how she is portraying her characters in Netflix's live-action series adaptation of "Avatar: The Last Airbender."

The streaming platform announced that Dolly was cast as Lo and Li, the non-firebending twin advisors of Princess Azula, portrayed by Elizabeth Yu.

Dolly explained in an interview that it was personally important for her to take on the dual role, beginning with the fact that it is her first time playing twins.

"And to have that influence over the main antagonist, big deal para sa akin 'yun," Dolly said. The award-winning actress pointed out that Azula is not necessarily a villain.

"[They] helped shape Azula into the person she became, so malaking bagay para sa'kin 'yun."

Dolly is not the only new Filipino actor joining the series, as thespian Jon Jon Briones was tapped to play swordmaster Piandao in the show's third season.

Other newcomers to the series are Madison Hu, Dichen Lachman, Lily Gao, Terry Chen, and Tantoo Cardinal, who join previously announced cast additions Miya Cech, Chin Han, Hoa Xuande, Justin Chien, Amanda Zhou, Crystal Yu, Kelemete Misipeka, Lourdes Faberes, and Rekha Sharma.

Dolly received global recognition for her scene-stealing performance in "Triangle of Sadness." She is also known for starring in "Iti Mapukpukaw," "Verdict," "A Very Good Girl," "On the Job: The Missing 8," and the upcoming second season of "Nine Perfect Strangers."

"Avatar: The Last Airbender" recently wrapped up production on its second season and immediately proceeded with shooting the third and final season.

Season 2 will see Filipino-Canadian Gordon Cormier's Aang, the titular Avatar, and his friends explore the Earth Kingdom, particularly the walled city of Ba Sing Se. ■



## Nadine Lustre takes legal action vs ‘relentless, malicious attacks’



Nadine Lustre

Nadine Lustre filed a complaint for violation of the Safe Spaces Act amid the “relentless and malicious attacks” against her on social media.

The actress’ filing was supported by incoming ML partylist Rep. Leila de Lima, whom Lustre endorsed during the recent midterm elections.

“We at ML Partylist express full support for Nadine Lustre as she files a complaint for violation of the Safe Spaces Act in response to the relentless and malicious attacks she has endured,” De Lima said in a statement released on her social media pages on Thursday, May 22.

While further details on the complaint were not immediately disclosed, De Lima underscored how Lustre’s taking legal action is vital at a time when social media is being used to “silence those who speak for justice and reform.”

“These platforms are being used to dismantle meaningful discourse and replace

it with anger and disinformation. We believe in freedom of expression. But this freedom should not be used against truth, dignity, and democracy,” De Lima stressed.

“Expression becomes dangerous when it is driven by disinformation and personal malice. Much of what is being said on social media today is not considered an opinion. These are part of a deliberate effort to harass, discredit, and instill fear,” she stated.

De Lima further noted that Lustre’s case is a “stand for truth and accountability.”

“Make no mistake: we will push back against this kind of behavior. This is unacceptable. This should not be overlooked,” she continued.

Addressing Lustre, she added, “Thank you very much, Nadine, for your courage and determination. With every step you take, the fight for a humane, just, and democratic society grows stronger.” ■

## “Final Destination Bloodlines” breaks opening weekend records in PH



Filipino-Canadian Kaitlyn Santa Juana leads the cast of “Final Destination Bloodlines” (Warner Bros. Pictures)

“Final Destination Bloodlines” broke opening weekend records in the Philippines.

Deadline.com reported that “Final Destination Bloodlines” topped the global box office this weekend with \$102 million.

Half of the box office gross came from international markets, including the Philippines, which ranked third among markets

outside the US for best opening performance for the film.

The report added that “Final Destination Bloodlines” bagged first place in 53 overseas markets. The top five were Mexico (\$5.5M), UK (\$5.3M), Philippines (\$3.4M), India (\$3M) and France (\$3M).

As per Warner Bros. Pictures, “Final Destination Bloodlines” broke multiple opening

weekend records in the Philippines.

The \$3.4 million opening weekend box office haul became the biggest opening weekend in the Philippines this year to date.

“Final Destination Bloodlines” also broke the opening weekend record for an R-16 movie in the Philippines, and now has the second highest Philippine opening weekend figure for a horror movie of all time.

(From left) Teo Briones, Tinpo Lee, Kaitlyn Santa Juana, April Telek, Alex Zahara, Richard Harmon, Anna Lore, Owen Patrick Joyner in “Final Destination Bloodlines”

Rated R-16 without cuts, “Final Destination Bloodlines” takes audiences back to the very beginning of Death’s twisted sense of justice. Plagued by a violent recurring nightmare, college student Stefanie (Kaitlyn Santa Juana) heads home to track down the one person who might be able to break the cycle and save her family from the grisly demise that inevitably awaits them all.

The newest chapter in the bloody successful horror franchise is directed by Adam Stein and Zach Lipovsky. Santa Juana leads a talented cast that includes fellow part-Filipino Teo Briones (son of actor JonJon Briones and brother of Isa Briones of “The Pitt”), Richard Harmon, Owen Patrick Joyner, Anna Lore, Rya Kihlstedt, with Brec Bassinger, and the late Tony Todd.

“The fun of ‘Final Destination’ is all those little elements that lead up to the deaths,” said co-director Stein. “And those elements are all inanimate, which means that it’s basically up to the filmmakers to bring it to life. It’s really the filmmaking that is the villain that’s chasing the characters. It’s all those insert extreme closeups of things that are hitting other things to create the chain reaction. So, it’s a joy for directors. Getting to bring that into the world, getting it in the camera, putting it in the edit in a way that brings Death to life is just so much fun.” ■



# First trickle of aid in 3 months after Israel allows limited food into Gaza

**UN says decision to allow of handful of trucks in 'a drop in the ocean' as Israeli prime minister declares goal of taking 'all' of Gaza.**

Jazeera, May 19, 2025) Israel's military and the United Nations say a few UN trucks carrying humanitarian aid have been allowed into the besieged Gaza Strip, the first

hunger. We cannot stand that. We will not be able to support you'.

"Therefore, to achieve victory, we need to somehow solve the problem," Netanyahu said, stressing



**Palestinians, struggling with hunger due to Israeli embargo, wait in line to receive hot meals distributed by the charity organizations as Israeli attacks continue, in Jabalia Refugee Camp in Gaza City, Gaza on May 17, 2025. [Mahmoud Issa - Anadolu Agency]**

such delivery in nearly three months.

UN aid chief Tom Fletcher on Monday said Israeli authorities had cleared nine aid trucks to enter Gaza through the Karem Abu Salem crossing (known as Kerem Shalom in Israel), calling it "a drop in the ocean" when so many more supplies are needed to address a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis.

The figure is far short of the more than 500 trucks that entered Gaza daily before the start of the war in October 2023. Food security experts last week warned of famine amid accusations that Israel is using starvation as a weapon of war.

"Significantly more aid must be allowed into Gaza starting tomorrow morning," Fletcher said in a statement.

The UN secretary-general's spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, confirmed the limited aid will be distributed through the world body's mechanisms but also reiterated the amount of aid crossing into Gaza "is not enough".

The Israeli decision on Sunday to allow "minimal" aid into Gaza came as it launched an intensified ground offensive during an ongoing heavy bombardment that has killed hundreds of people over the past week.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video address pressure from international "allies" was behind the move.

Israel's "greatest friends in the world", he declared without mentioning specific countries, had said there is "one thing we cannot stand. We cannot accept images of hunger, mass

the aim of the intensified offensive is for Israel's forces to "take control of all" of Gaza.

Still, far-right members of his coalition government slammed the aid decision, with National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir calling it a "grave mistake".

Sanctions threat

It came as the leaders of Britain, France and Canada warned their countries would take action, including possible sanctions, if Israel does not halt its renewed military offensive in Gaza and lift aid restrictions.

"The Israeli Government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable and risks breaching International Humanitarian Law," a joint statement released by the British government said, also expressing opposition to any attempt to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank.

"We will not hesitate to take further action, including targeted sanctions," it added.

Separately, 22 donor countries also issued a joint statement on Monday urging Israel to "allow a full resumption of aid into Gaza immediately".

"Whilst we acknowledge indications of a limited restart of aid," Gaza's population "faces starvation" and "must receive the aid they desperately need", it said.

The statement was signed by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland,

Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

'Two million people are starving' Israel has been accused of weaponising hunger and using the blockade to try to ethnically cleanse Gaza.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a US-based Muslim and Arab rights group, said the decision to allow a handful of aid trucks into the territory is an effort to buy goodwill as Israel continues a relentless military campaign that has killed more than 53,000 people over the past 19 months.

"This is a completely insufficient, psychotic PR stunt by Netanyahu's genocidal government, which is determined to occupy and flatten Gaza, and then expel any Palestinians. Speaking at the opening of the annual World Health Assembly on Monday, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that Israel's block on aid has driven up the risk of famine.

"Two million people are starving," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned, noting that 160,000 tonnes of food are "blocked at the border just minutes away".

He said the WHO and other UN agencies stood ready to deliver aid into Gaza – if and when entrance is allowed. "People are dying from preventable diseases as medicines wait at the border, while attacks on hospitals deny people care and deter them from seeking it," Tedros added.

On Sunday, the Health Ministry in Gaza said the Indonesian Hospital, one of the largest partially functioning medical facilities in northern Gaza, had ceased work because of Israeli attacks.

As Israel intensifies its offensive across Gaza, sources told the Reuters news agency there has been no progress in a new round of indirect talks in Qatar's capital, Doha between the Israeli government and Hamas, the Palestinian group that headed an attack in southern Israel on October 7, 2023 that killed an estimated 1,139 people, with more than 200 also taken captive.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

**The chain reaction of evil — hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars — must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation." — Martin Luther King**



**Mrs. Elisabeth Prass, MNA for the D'Arcy McGee riding met with the new Philippine Ambassador to Canada, her Excellence Ms. Maria Andrelita Austria during an official visit to the Quebec National Assembly. They discussed the Filipino presence in the province, as well as the growing community in Côte-des-Neiges district.**



## Without waiting for Trump, E.U. and Britain impose new sanctions on Russia over Ukraine



**President Vladimir Putin in Sochi, Russia, on Monday, after a telephone conversation with President Donald Trump.**



**European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the E.U. headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday.**

Without waiting for Washington, the European Union and Britain announced a new raft of sanctions against Russia on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin exchanged a friendly, if fruitless, phone call about ending the war in Ukraine.

The measures will crack down on Moscow's so-called "shadow fleet" — around 200 vessels used to transport Russian oil exports globally — the 27-nation bloc and London said in separate statements. They are the 17th set of European sanctions imposed on Russia since it invaded its neighbor in 2022, the E.U. said.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a post on X that it was "time to intensify the pressure on Russia to bring about the ceasefire."

The coordinated efforts came in direct response to Russian drone attacks on Ukraine over the weekend, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in a separate

statement issued by his government Tuesday. "Delaying peace efforts will only redouble our resolve to help Ukraine to defend itself and use our sanctions to restrict Putin's war machine," he added.

Thanking his European allies, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an overnight address that it was "important that America continues to be involved in the peace process."

"Russia fears American involvement," he said, adding that many lives could be saved if the U.S. "pressures Putin to end the war."

Thanking his European allies, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an overnight address that it was "important that America continues to be involved in the peace process."

"Russia fears American involvement," he said, adding that many lives could be saved if the U.S. "pressures Putin to end the war."

Source: NBC News May 21, 2025

## Canada summons Israel's ambassador after diplomats fired at in West Bank

Canada said Wednesday it is summoning Israel's ambassador after the Israeli Defence Forces fired shots in the vicinity of a diplomatic delegation in the West Bank that included four Canadians.

The IDF says no one was injured in the incident.

"Relieved to know our team is safe," Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said in a post on X.

"I have asked my officials to summon Israel's Ambassador to convey Canada's serious concerns. We expect a full investigation and accountability."

Prime Minister Mark Carney said the incident was "totally unacceptable."

"It's some of many things that are totally unacceptable that's going on in the region," he told reporters in Chelsea, Que. after a cabinet planning forum.

In a statement, an IDF spokesperson said the diplomatic group touring the city of Jenin "deviated" from its approved route and soldiers fired warning shots to get it to move away from an area they were not permitted to visit.

"The IDF said it launched an inquiry into what happened and will speak with the affected diplomats to update them on its findings."

Jean-Noël Barrot, France's foreign minister, said in a social media post the situation is unacceptable and Israel's ambassador to France has been summoned to explain it.

Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Antonio Tajani said he is also calling on the Israeli ambassador in Italy to explain the incident.

In a joint statement issued earlier this week, Prime Minister Mark Carney, British Prime Minister Keir



**Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said on Wednesday that she is summoning the Israeli ambassador over Israel Defence Forces' warning shots near a diplomatic tour in the West Bank**

Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron threatened to impose "targeted sanctions" on Israel in response to its renewed military offensive in Gaza and the "wholly inadequate" amount of food aid allowed into the enclave.

The letter also stated the leaders' opposition to "any attempt" to expand Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

Carney on Wednesday would not say what "concrete action" Canada would take if Israel ignores the

leaders' request, but suggested any measures would be part of a joint response with France and Britain.

"The intention of the clear language — not just of ourselves, but France, the United Kingdom and many other countries — is that Israel ensures that adequate humanitarian aid gets to the population there, many of whom are on the brink of starvation," he said.

Carney added he informed U.S. Vice-President JD Vance during their meeting in Rome last weekend that the joint statement was coming, but said it was a "one-way conversation."

The Trump administration has directed U.S. policy to staunchly support Israel in its military aims against Hamas, while also pushing for



**Israeli Ambassador to Canada Iddo Moed. Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press**

a ceasefire and the return of all hostages taken in the Oct. 7, 2023 attack that ignited the current conflict. In a social media post late Monday evening, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Carney, Starmer and Macron of "offering a huge prize" to Hamas with their joint statement.

Hamas, which is listed as a terrorist entity in Canada, welcomed the letter in an online statement Tuesday, calling it "a significant step in the right direction."

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre said on X this week that Hamas' statement shows Canada must take the opposite of its current approach to the conflict.

"Threatening Israel with sanctions and 'further concrete actions' while a terrorist group on their borders holds their citizens hostage and refuses to stop attacking Israel is wrong," he said.

On Tuesday, the U.K. issued sanctions against what it called three individuals, two "illegal settler outposts" and two organizations "supporting violence against Palestinian communities" in the West Bank.

Canada has sanctioned people and individuals for extremist settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank in the past. The most recent round of sanctions was announced in September of last year.

With files from Global News Sean Boynton May 21, 2025



# THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## May 2025 PICTORIAL NEWS



Prime Minister Marc Carney (center) with the group of Liberal MPs who went with him to the Vatican City to attend the inaugural mass of Pope Leo XIV on May 18th. (From the FB post of MP Francis Scarpaleggia)



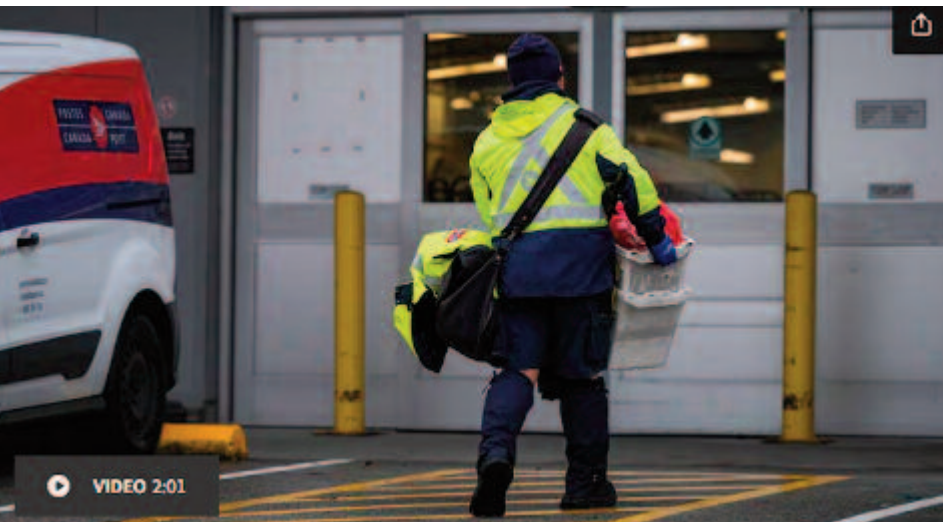
Premier David Eby says the Mental Health Act will be reviewed, and he will call a public inquiry should more answers be needed following a criminal investigation. (Ben Nelms/CBC)



King Charles III and Queen Camilla look at the Key to Canada House which was presented to the King by High Commissioner for Canada, Ralph Goodale, during a visit to Canada House, in London, on May 20. Arthur Edwards/The Associated Press



Prime Minister Carney and President Donald Trump meeting at the White House, May 6, 2025 (Adrian Wyld, The Canadian Press)



Weekend work remains a big obstacle in negotiations between Canada Post and its workers, who have threatened to walk off the job May 23 in what would be their second strike in less than six months. The union has informed management that employees plan to hit the picket line starting Friday morning just after midnight, halting delivery of nearly 8.5 million letters and 1.1 million parcels per weekday. The Canadian Press



A temporary memorial at a park near Kensington Community Centre in Vancouver, where attendees placed flowers, cards, and handwritten notes. (Hunter Soo/CBC)