

COP27 heralds new paradigm for climate change solutions



UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiel delivering the opening remarks at the COP27 assembly of global leaders in Egypt.

(Time - Nov. 20, 2022) - BY JUSTIN WORLAND. SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT

Island nations are under threat from rising seas. Drought threatens wide swathes of Africa. And flooding will inundate countries across the globe.

For years, the developing countries most vulnerable to climate change warned of these threats and demanded that their wealthier counterparts help pay to address these climate-induced losses. Wealthy countries, who have caused the problem with decades of burning fossil fuels unchecked, instead insisted that they would help vulnerable countries expand

clean energy and fund efforts to adapt to extreme weather. Paying to address so-called loss and damage, it seemed, represented a bridge too far.

This week, the dam finally broke. At COP27, the United Nations climate conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, that concluded early Sunday morning, delegates from countries around the world agreed to create a fund to funnel money from the Global North to the Global South to help pay for the mounting costs of climate-related damages. Nations also accelerated a program to provide technical assistance to vulnerable countries. And they called

for a reworking of institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to address climate-linked loss and damage.

All told, the result represents a groundbreaking shift in how the world understands climate policy. Yes, climate policy is partly about solar panels and wind turbines, elevating streets and building sea walls. But now it is officially, for the first time at this global scale, also about paying for the inevitable losses.

"This is the start of a new paradigm that truly accounts for the burdens of climate change," said Lia Nicholson, a negotiator representing the

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the conference's closing session. "Establishing this fund signals to the world that loss and damage will no longer solely be borne by those governments and people least responsible; today is a step towards climate justice."

This step forward brings the world into a new era of climate policy where paying to compensate for the worsening effects of climate change receives top billing in international climate discussions—and questions of

See Page 4 COP 27 heralds new



Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland delivers the fiscal update in the House of Commons, in Ottawa, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld

Canada's fall update on the economy and budget

Five things to know about the Liberals' fall economic update

OTTAWA - The federal Liberals unveiled their fall economic update Thursday — a 92-page mini-budget setting out Canada's fiscal situation and outlining new policies to tackle cost-of-living woes.

Here's a look at five highlights. The word "inflation" appears more than 100 times in the document, making clear the government's primary economic concern.

But beyond the top-line debt projections and the analysis of how Canada seeks to soften the impact of a

potential recession, the fiscal update offers key details that shed light on Liberal priorities.

1. FIONA RELIEF

The Liberals are expecting to spend \$1 billion in the current financial year toward provincial requests related to post-tropical storm Fiona, which savaged Atlantic Canada and eastern Quebec in late September.

That figure is on top of the \$300 million over two years that the

See Page 4 Canada's fall update



From the publisher's desk

Understanding global warming

Zenaïda Ferry Kharroubi

Besides the current inflation in a post pandemic world, we are facing the challenges of climate change. It goes without saying that we should all be concerned about the catastrophic events happening in many parts of the world such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, tornadoes, hurricanes, and droughts. These natural disasters are attributed to global warming which occurs when carbon dioxide (CO2) and other air pollutants collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation. Can we help reduce global warming in our personal life? The answer lies in understanding its causes and see how we as a private citizen can do something about it.

There are at least ten causes of climate change cited in various literature but we are citing only the top five causes:

1) Oil and gas - is used all the time in almost every industry. It is used the most in vehicles, buildings, production and to produce electricity. When we burn coal, oil and gases it largely adds to the climate problem. The use of fossil fuels is also a threat to wildlife and the surrounding environments, because of the toxicity it kills off plant life and leaves areas uninhabitable.

2) Deforestation is the clearance of woodland and forest, this is either done for the wood or to create space for farms or ranches. Trees and forests turn carbon dioxide into oxygen, so when they are

cleared like the stored carbon is then released into the environment. Deforestation can also occur naturally which has a greater effect because of the fumes released from the fire.

3) Waste - Humans create more waste now than ever before, because of the amount of packaging used and the short life cycle of products. A lot of items, waste and packaging isn't recyclable, which means it ends up in landfills. When the waste in landfills begins to decompose/break down it releases harmful gases into the atmosphere which contribute to global warming.

4) Power plants - burn fossil fuels to operate. Due to this they produce a variety of different pollutants. The pollution they produce not only ends up in the atmosphere but also in the water ways which largely contributes to global warming. Burning coal which is used in power plants is responsible for around 46% of total carbon emissions.

5) Oil drilling - is responsible for 30% of the methane population and around 8% carbon dioxide pollution. Oil drilling is used to collect petroleum oil hydrocarbons. In this process other gases are released into the atmosphere, which contribute to climate change and it is also toxic to the wildlife as well as to the environment it surrounds.

Perhaps, by understanding the causes of climate change, we may be able to see how we can help and do our share in reducing our carbon foot print.

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Latest updates regarding Covid and other health issues

Montreal, Nov. 14, 2022 - Although restrictions like masking have been lifted, health professionals still recommend wearing masks in crowded indoor gatherings or in going shopping. The College of Physicians recommends everyone to wear a mask as more and more children are in hospital with respiratory illnesses.

"We recommend that during the current period, we protect ourselves and others by voluntarily wearing a mask in public places," the College added.

Asked on Monday whether Quebec intends to issue a similar recommendation, a spokesperson for the Quebec Health Department said the province is analyzing the situation.

"We are indeed concerned about the circulation of respiratory viruses at this time," the spokesperson wrote in an email response.

"We remind you that wearing a mask is recommended in the presence of vulnerable people, such as the elderly, immunocompromised people and those with chronic illnesses," they added, "and in public places when it is difficult to keep a distance from others."

On Saturday, Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé shared a graphic on Twitter explaining what steps the province encourages people to take at the moment.

If someone has a fever, the graphic said, they should stay home. If they have a cough, sore throat or are congested, then they should wear a

mask in public until their symptoms dissipate.

"Many respiratory viruses are currently circulating and putting pressure on our health-care system," Dubé wrote. "It is essential to do the right thing."

Quebec lifted its mask mandate for most public spaces in mid-May and removed it for public transit users a month later.

A survey published this month by Quebec's public health institute, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), suggested few Quebecers are still wearing masks around others.

Overall, only 27 per cent of respondents said they still wear a mask in public transit, 22 per cent said they do at work and 21 per cent said they do while shopping. At the same time, 39 per cent of respondents said they were in favour of a return to mandatory masks wearing in closed public places.

Last Thursday, the Public Health Agency of Canada said people should be cautious, with respiratory viruses having a strong start to the flu season, immunity to COVID-19 decreasing and social contacts increasing with the removal of public-health measures.

In Quebec, hospitalizations related to COVID-19 have decreased in recent days, but the number of deaths continues, with two more people added to the total on Monday and another 10 over the weekend.

Source: Local news, Montreal Gazette

The Commission inquiry into the Emergency Measures Act

What started in late January as a weekend of planned protests against COVID-19 restrictions and the government evolved quickly into a weeks-long occupation of downtown Ottawa and the blockading of key Canada-U.S. border crossings.

After weeks of business closures, cross-border strains, incessant horn honking, and concerns about threats or acts of "serious violence... for the purpose of achieving a political or ideological objective," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took the unprecedented step on Feb. 14 of invoking the Emergencies Act for the first time since it became law in 1988.

In declaring a national public order emergency, officials were granted new powers that allowed officials to crack down on protesters' access to funds; enabled the RCMP to have the jurisdiction to enforce local laws; designated critical infrastructure and services such as tow-truck operators; and imposed fines and imprisonment on participants who refused to leave the protest zone.

On Feb. 23—once large-scale police operations took place resulting in numerous arrests, the laying of hundreds of charges, and the clearing

of blockades and rows of transport trucks in the capital—Trudeau announced the revocation of the extraordinary national powers, saying that the situation was "no longer an emergency."

This national inquiry was mandated under the federal Emergencies Act. The law explicitly stipulates that an inquiry had to be struck 60 days after the declaration of national emergency was revoked, or expired.

On April 25—right at the deadline prescribed under the law—the commission was established to conduct this independent public inquiry. That day, Trudeau announced that long-time judge and former Ontario Superior Court justice Paul Rouleau would lead the inquiry as commissioner.

In his opening remarks, Rouleau said that while he is not sitting as a judge, he will use his 20 years of experience as a judge to inform his approach to the inquiry.

"During these hearings, I will be hearing the bulk of this evidence for the first time, just like members of the public. To that end, I've made no

See Page 18 Commission Inquiry

The glorious years with VIF International Education Program: A memoir of teaching in the USA, Canada and the Philippines



Alvin Thomas Dahan Veloso

After four years in America teaching in Minnesota, South Dakota, Berkeley, California, and with a retirement in Canada after 27 years at Laval Catholic High School in Chomedey, Laval: The Visiting International Faculty Program of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, (V.I.F.) had recruited me to teach again in the U.S.A.

As a US designated Department of State Exchange Visitor Program sponsor, VIF over the years had placed thousands of international teachers in K-12 classrooms across the

United States from Australia, Canada, Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, England, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Nicaragua, Uruguay and the Philippines.

In 2016, the VIF name was changed to Participate Learning to reflect broad commitment to educator development and continued to provide schools and districts with leading-edge technology, comprehensive frameworks and support services. Teachers were now deployed in Virginia, South and North Carolina.

It was a moment of pride to be the first Filipino teacher selected from



French class students at the Syms Middle School in Hampton, Virginia.



VIF International Education Fellows at the NECTFL Conference on the teaching of Modern Languages at the Manhattan Hilton, New York City.

amongst thousands of worldwide applicants to join the corps of international educators in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for a week of orientations, workshops, conferences before reporting to designated schools and districts

Seeing the world through the prism of global educators was exciting, inspirational and culturally enriching. The years of association with the best teachers of the world had rekindled my spirit and rejuvenated once again my passion for teaching.

With culture as the cornerstone of pedagogy, world

See Page 5 The glorious years



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From Page 1 COP27 heralds new

how to pay for it enters the conversation in capitals of developed countries around the world. COP27 concludes a hard fought battle—but it also marks a beginning; and decisions made over the next few years will define what this new paradigm looks like.

The push for policies to address loss and damage dates back to the very beginning of U.N. discussions on climate change. In 1991, then the chair of AOSIS, the island nation of Vanuatu proposed a scheme to pay small island states when their land became unlivable as a result of sea level rise. From the beginning, those conversations were sidelined and kicked down the road by big developed countries whose negotiators feared that recognizing loss and damage would open up rich countries to unlimited liability. In major climate conferences over the coming decades, vulnerable countries repeatedly raised the topic with paltry results.

But ignoring a problem will not make it go away. Climate-linked damages have accelerated in recent years and many delegates gathered in Egypt agreed that the devastation of recent months made the loss and damage conversation impossible to sidestep. “We listened to the cause of anguish and despair resonating from one end of Pakistan to the other—a country with literally more than a third of its area flooded, a resounding alarm of the future that awaits us,” said Sameh Shoukry, the Egyptian Foreign Minister who served as COP27 president, as the talks came to a close.

And so over the past two weeks negotiators haggled over the details of what such a fund might entail. Crucial

questions involved who might receive funding and who should contribute. Developed countries remained adamant that the fund should be open to a range of finance sources—including from countries like China that have become big emitters, even though they weren’t 30 years ago when the U.N. climate process was established. At the same time, developed nations sought to prevent finance from going to countries like Saudi Arabia, which are technically developing countries but have access to far greater means than many of their more vulnerable counterparts. Both of these questions remain to be determined in the coming years. Delegates also debated how contributing countries might finance these programs. A suggestion from the European Union that taxes be levied on fossil fuels, air travel, and shipping to pay for loss and damage raised eyebrows across negotiation teams.

The establishment of a funding mechanism is the story of COP27, and a huge milestone,” says Cassie Flynn, head of climate policy at the United Nations Development Program. But “this is just the beginning of the journey on funding for loss and damage, and negotiators are going to have to face some questions very quickly around brass tacks: who provides into this fund, who can receive into this fund?”

No matter what happens, no one expects the new fund to provide sufficient finance to actually address the scale of the loss and damage challenge, and so a range of other solutions have been presented. Over the course of the conference, delegates discussed an insurance scheme organized by Germany to help cover certain losses, and the creation of a program known as the Santiago Network that will provide

technical assistance to vulnerable countries. A proposal from Barbados to alleviate the debt of cash-strapped developing countries as they struggle with climate challenges gained support from countries across the globe, rich and poor, large and small. The topic will rank high on the agenda in the months ahead of the IMF and World Bank’s spring meetings.

“there is no liability or compensation in the agreement.” In the coming years, it’s safe to assume that lawyers from the U.S. will fight tooth and nail to ensure the fund stays that way.

But the conversation will inevitably evolve. On Friday, Vanuatu announced that 86 countries now support its plan to request the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the



A flooded residential area in Jaffarabad, Pakistan, on Aug. 30 after floodwaters engulfed swathes of the country. Fida Hussain / AFP via Getty Images

“Loss and damage is a complex issue that impacts our immediate, medium, and long term,” Shauna Aminath, the minister of environment, climate change, and technology in the Maldives told other delegates on the morning of Nov. 20. “We need a mosaic of solutions.”

It may not be clear at first glance, but, between the lines, the COP27 deal also contained a win of sorts for big developed countries like the U.S. Those wealthy nations successfully fought back any attempt to be held formally liable; contributions to the loss and damage fund will be voluntary. After the decision had been finalized, a U.S. State Department official noted that

U.N.’s judicial body, to issue an advisory opinion on countries’ obligations to address climate change. Vanuatu plans to bring the issue to the U.N. General Assembly in December, and, if passed, the ICJ will take up the issue to offer an opinion that includes what rich countries owe for their historic emissions. It’s an opinion that could influence a range of court rulings around the globe.

“It will impact everything,” says Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu’s climate minister. “If you were sitting opposite someone, and you’re both equally aware that there are these legally defined obligations, perhaps there is now a shadow of a stick.”#

From Page 1 Canada’s fall update

feds announced in early October in the wake of the devastating storm, and its month-long matching of donations to the Canadian Red Cross.

The new money is expected to cover requests from provinces under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, under which the federal government covers up to 90 per cent of eligible provincial expenses in the three months following a disaster.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

In last spring’s budget, the government announced an accelerated deadline for \$33.5 billion in public infrastructure projects that had been promised in 2017. The fall statement says \$23 billion has been approved so far for 5,200 projects submitted by provinces and territories.

While territories have until March 2025 to allocate the money, the provincial deadline is March 2023 — otherwise the money will be reallocated.

Alberta and Manitoba only have one per cent of their funding envelopes left, representing \$50.5 million and \$13.6 million respectively. And though Ontario has used up all but four per cent, that still represents a significant amount of money at more than \$450 million.

On the other end of the spectrum, Quebec is the biggest laggard, with 37 per cent of its envelope or \$2.75 billion still available. The next-

biggest amount is British Columbia’s \$661 million, representing 17 per cent of its share.

Among the Atlantic provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador still has 38 per cent or \$213 million; Nova Scotia has 31 per cent or \$259 million; New Brunswick has 17 per cent or \$113 million and Prince Edward Island has 16 per cent or \$57 million.

3. CRYPTO CURRENCY CONSULTATIONS

The financial statement contains an announcement that consultations are launching right away — the same day as its release Thursday — on digital currencies “including cryptocurrencies, stablecoins and central bank digital currencies.”

Canada’s fiscal framework needs to keep pace with the rise of the currencies and how the digitization of money is “transforming financial systems in Canada and around the world,” the document says.

And the government is also seeking to understand the challenges digital currency poses to democratic institutions, with some types of crypto being used to avoid global sanctions and fund illegal activities.

The new consultations follow a legislative review announced in last spring’s budget. They also follow attacks on new Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre for his suggestion during the Tory leadership campaign that cryptocurrencies could help Canadians “opt out” of inflation — an

assertion that Liberals have ridiculed after the value of cryptocurrencies plummeted earlier this year.

In a separate process, the Bank of Canada has studied the potential for a central bank digital currency. It has said it doesn’t anticipate the need for it right now but wants to be prepared if that changes in the future.

4. TRUCKERS’ RIGHTS

Individual truckers may have formed the genesis of the “Freedom Convoy” protest that descended on Ottawa last winter and prompted the Liberals’ use of emergency powers to clear protesters — a decision currently being scrutinized at a high-profile public inquiry.

But Liberals are signalling their support for the industry with their mini-budget, putting \$26.3 million over five years toward orders, fines and prosecutions against non-compliant trucking industry employers.

The money seeks to address the ongoing issue of companies having truck drivers self-incorporate and operate as independent contractors instead of being classified as employees. This denies them labour rights including paid sick leave, health and safety standards and employment insurance and pension contributions, the document says.

The Canada Revenue Agency is also working to “encourage greater awareness” and “foster compliance” with tax rules that govern the use of

incorporated employees, something the feds say they will elaborate on in next spring’s budget.

5. IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

The fall statement unveils the amount of funding Liberals expect to put toward a new immigration strategy they unveiled earlier in the week.

On Tuesday, the government announced that it will seek to increase immigration to record levels, bringing in 500,000 arrivals in 2025. Liberals plan for the majority to be skilled workers who can help fill labour shortages in healthcare, manufacturing and the building trades.

Support for the processing of applications and settlement of new permanent residents will cost \$1.6 billion over six years and \$315 million in new, ongoing funding, the fall statement says.

With Liberals facing criticism for bottlenecks in Canada’s immigration process, another \$50 million will go toward the immigration department in the current fiscal year “to address ongoing application backlogs, speed up processing and allow for skilled newcomers to fill critical labour gaps faster.”

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Nov. 3, 2022.

From Page 3 The glorious years

language teachers were able to showcase their rich cultural heritage through music, songs, food, customs, traditions and folk dances just like the Cinco de Mayo Mexicans annually celebrate, and the Heritage Month Filipinos observe in June.

The VIF name was a trademark that embodied commitment to education, highly qualified teachers, service and leading-edge technology.



V.I.F. teachers from the Philippines, Spain, Peru, France, Germany, Venezuela, Mexico, Uruguay in New Jersey, U.S.A.

The Youngs who started the company in 1987 deserve all the accolades and acknowledgement for the remarkable success.

As the appointed local adviser for Northern New Jersey, and later in Virginia, I worked with teachers from Spain, England, Belgium, Germany, France, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, Uruguay and Argentina.

Over the year, five of us teachers from Spain, Canada and the Philippines were named Fellows as the NECTFL Mead Leadership presenters at the 49th Annual Northeastern Conference on Teaching Modern Languages at the Manhattan New York Hilton. The appointment was unexpected, but humbly appreciated as an expression of confidence in my professional credentials.

Along with colleagues from

Belgium and Germany, I taught French at the Byram Consolidated Schools, in a picturesque town of Stanhope in Sussex County. After three years, an exit was required for J-1 visa holders designating the United Kingdom for my next stop but was rerouted to Montreal when the school in London, England had abruptly closed.

In a twist of luck, V.I.F. recalled me with a new H1B visa given to select teachers as a pilot project with a path to American citizenship. I was sent to

Hampton, Virginia to teach French and Spanish at a middle school for three years along with a Canadian teacher from Nova Scotia, who taught Physical Education.

The middle schools in Stanhope, New Jersey and Hampton, Virginia were good. Students were enthusiastic and excited in learning a foreign language.

Notwithstanding the heart-breaks for leaving a young family in Montreal and the nostalgia for missing the Montreal Filipino community I had been associated for years, the sacrifices were worthwhile and rewarding.

The VIF experience had reignited my stamina and restored my pride as an educator. As a cultural ambassador, teaching became fun and pleasurable. #

After Anglade's resignation, Liberals select Tanguay interim leader until 2023



Quebec Liberal interim Leader Marc Tanguay waves to Liberal workers while applauded by the Liberal caucus and the Party president Rafael Primeau Ferraro, left, at a news conference at the Legislature in Quebec City, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. Tanguay was chosen by the Liberal Party and its caucus to replace Dominique Anglade who quit earlier this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jacques Boissinot

The interim leader of the Quebec Liberal Party (QLP) is Marc Tanguay, CTV News has confirmed.

The news comes three days after Dominique Anglade announced her resignation.

Tanguay, selected among the 19 members of the Liberal caucus, will fill in until a new official leader of the opposition is elected in 2023.

A lawyer by trade, he is the MNA for the Montreal riding of Lafontaine and was first elected in

2012. He was made official opposition House leader in October 2022.

The interim leader was chosen by party members and endorsed by the executive council.

FORTIN, DERRAJI SHOW INTEREST IN LEADERSHIP BID

Meantime, two MNAs are already positioning themselves to become the party's next leader.

Pontiac MNA André Fortin and

See Page 12 Quebec Liberals

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FIRST PERSON STORIES

The Search for the Way

There is someone, unborn, in the midst of what you believe to be yourself.
Who is this person?

(Inspired by Shítóu, 8th-century Chinese Chán Buddhist teacher and author)



Pete Guidote

The ascetic tries to rise above suffering by denying the physical body in search of his “real” inner self. The hedonist, on the other hand, tries to deal with suffering by indulging the body’s endless conscious desires to the neglect of the spirit (Freud’s “unconscious”) in him.

Many saints, philosophers, spiritual leaders born throughout these past centuries have wrestled with discovering this “unborn” someone in search of achieving oneness, wholeness of body and spirit. The unification of his duality. Many philosophers have proposed countless

ideas. René Descartes’ statement is one we are all familiar with: “Je pense, donc je suis.” (I think, therefore I am) written in 1637. (From here on, I wish to leave Descartes alone.)

True, I am a thinking man. Or, at least, I remember my sins of commission and omission. Do I sugarcoat those acts of omission and rationalize those of commission? If I am to be honest, the answer is yes.

Is the body, my “self,” a friend or a foe? The road to self-discovery, I accept, is fraught with difficulties, with myriad unsatisfactory paths. I make mistakes, many. Several of my mistakes hurt those I care about. Some hurt myself. Together, in truth, our mistakes make us all suffer. And we all hate to suffer.

Can I, do I, forgive myself. When can I say “I love you” to those whom I love? And to those whom I hurt?

Vulnerable: a word I most dread. Admission of self-vulnerability triggers emotions of fear of others and of aggression to both myself and others. It makes me guarded and aloof. When I reach that stage, my heart races, the body gets either cold or hot, and cognition gets cloudy. I am no longer calm nor at peace. I clench my fists tight, very tight. And, worse, I cease to be kind.

I need to unclench my fists, to open my hands. I must relax.

Remember to relax. For relaxing is an act of kindness, to myself. I try to remember not to make things go my own way (though I fail most times).

“An open hand grasps nothing; an open hand lets go. Open your hands and walk, innocent.” (Shitou)

I seek freedom from disagreeing with what is, to be free from wanting things to be other than they are: freedom from dissatisfaction, from suffering. I crave this freedom. I now recognize that the biggest obstruction to my freedom is my habitual emotional response to not getting what I want when I want it. This callowness is a veil, a fog that has to be lifted for that is getting in the way of being forgiving to myself, a roadblock to finding a purpose that gives a meaning to my life. That, as I see it, is the crux of the matter: to find one’s Way.

As I age, my search for the Way has not ceased; the seeking must continue even as my path becomes narrower, as my journey gradually tapers to just a point in time. The Way is elusive and full of distractions. “No hay camino, se hace camino al andar.” (Antonio Machado, 1875 – 1939). “There is no road, the road is made by walking.” There are only guidelines along the Way: the holy Books; St. Francis of Assisi’s Peace prayer.

I believe, profoundly, that “life” transcends itself not in “length” but in “height.” Or, in a more pedestrian way of speaking, it is not how many years we have lived, but how we have lived the years we have. The “height” that I speak about is to take that spirit, however intangible its facets may be, and polish them, as rough diamonds

are, so the luster of it will appear. Unpolished, that spirit remains suspended in the dark. . .bitter.. .hiding.

How many intangible facets must be worked on? How deeply attentive must one be?

From St. Francis of Assisi comes a clue, in his prayer:

where there is hatred...let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

These six facets are much fewer than a polished diamond’s 52. These are, namely: love, pardon, faith, hope, light, and joy. Shouldn’t these six criteria be used to judge if one’s life – mine and yours – has merit?

how much love poured in times of hatred?

how much pardon granted in times of injury?

how much faith proclaimed in times of doubt?

how much hope professed in times of despair?

how much light shed in times of darkness?

how much joy spread in times of sadness?

I believe beyond doubt that if this rough diamond within the self is polished, it will be no surprise if we experience a rebirth – of being “reborn” – with the ascetic and hedonist duality together in harmony within one authentic self.

Epilogue

Attention, taken to its highest degree, is the same thing as prayer. (Simone Weil)



Ang wikang Pilipino (Tagalog) sa pagsasalaysay ng agos ng buhay at gabay ng pilosopiya

ni Zenaida F. Kharroubi

Sa panahong ito, maraming mga bagay na nangyayari sa larangan ng siensya at mga natutuklasan na mahahalagang panglaban sa iba’t ibang uri ng sakit, mikrobyo at paglikha ng mga bagong invensyon na ating nagagamit araw-araw. Kung ating iisipin, malaki ang ating utang na loob sa mga taong nakatuklas ng bagong gamot, matinding bilis ng teknolohiya na ngayon ay laganap na ginagamit sa lahat ng industriya. Hindi natin namamalayan basta ang mga hindi pangkaraniwang karunungan ng mga taong nag-ukol ng kanilang buhay at maraming oras nang pagtatrabaho sa isang laboratorio kung hindi natin mababasa sa diaryo ang mga nabigyan ng Nobel Prize. Isa sa mga nabigyan ng premyong ito ay si Jennifer Doudna na kinilala siyang kasama sa pagtuklas ng CRISPR na ginagamit sa pagbabago ng DNA at tinatawag na “genetic revolution.”

Upang maisiwalat ng maliwanag kung bakit itong natuklasan niya ay talagang kahangahanga, narito ang paliwanag ng isang manunulat ng

pilosopiya sa isang artikulong may titulong “The Well” ni Jonny Tomson, isang kasapi sa John Templeton Foundation:

“A lot of science is done for the sake of science. There are people who will spend their entire lives devoted to the most esoteric of things, simply because they want to add to the world’s knowledge. This doesn’t mean science is without vanity. History is strewn with examples of people naming this chemical, that process, or those beetles after themselves. But, for the most part, a lot of science is done in the innocent assumption that all knowledge is good.

And yet, there is a thin line between innocence and naivety. For example, in our Interview of the week, we get a hint of something hugely disturbing. Jennifer Doudna, one of the minds behind CRISPR and Nobel Prize winner, tells us that we are on the cusp of a genetic revolution. It’s a revolution where we can edit or add to genomes to create all manner of things — from cute and perhaps long-extinct animals to nightmarish chimeras. Doudna makes

the wise observation that science rarely stays “pure” forever. Commercial interests (not to mention military ones) will always, inevitably, come knocking. A new technology is hardly off the shelf before someone, somewhere turns it to profit — or uses it to kill.

It raises an interesting question: Just because a thing can be done, does that mean it should be?

Sa aking palagay, totoo talaga na sa bawa’t bagay, mayroong kabutihan at kasamaan. May mga taong marunong at matulungin sa kapwa nguni’t mayroon din mga taong napakarunong nguni’t ginagamit nila sa sariling kapakanan at nagsasamantala sa mga taong mahina at walang lakas lumaban. Maraming halimbawa sa kasaysayan ng mundo ng mga taong malupit at nang-alipin ng mga tao dahil sa lakas at karunungan nilang ginamit upang masunod lahat ang kagustuhan nilang walang katarungan at karimarimarim kagaya ng ginawa ni Hitler sa mga Hudyo sa Alemanya at si Genghis Khan na maraming pinatay nang kumamkam siya ng mga territoryo upang magtayo ng isang malaking kaharian. Subalit mayroon naman isang dakilang lider na nakulong ng matagal dahil sa kanyang pagmamahal sa katarungan kagaya ni Nelson Mandela.

Sa panayam ni Jonny Tomson sinabi ni Jennifer Doudna na ang siensya ay bihirang manatiling “puro”

sa habang panahon. Nabahala si Tomson sa pagbabalang ito ni Doudna dahil maaring gamitin ang karunungan sa hindi mabuti at maaring maging dahilan ng pang-aabuso na makakaperhuwisyo sa karamihan.

Sa isang banda, hindi naman magandang laging isipin na ang mangyayari ay masama. Ayon sa sumusunod na mga kataga ng isang pilosopo, kailangan din nating magtiwala na mabuti ang mangyayari at hindi natin dapat ipag-aburido ang mga bagay na hind natin nasasakop:

To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your control that can lead you to be shattered in very extreme circumstances for which you were not to blame.

Martha Nussbaum

Philosopher (University of Chicago)

Ang magandang payo sa mga katagang nasambit ni Martha Nussbaum ay ang pagtiwala natin sa sarili at pang-unawa na hindi natin kayang alamin agad kung ano ang mangyayari sa kinabukasan. Kung may mga pangyayaring masaklap man, hindi natin ito kasalanan. Sa ganitong pag-iisip natin matatagpuan ang katahimikan o kapayapaan na minimithi nating makamtam habang tayo’y nabubuhay. #

VP Harris' visit reaffirms Philippines-U.S. relations

US Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre in a statement dated October 28 said that Harris' visit to Manila "will re-affirm and strengthen the US-Philippines alliance and underscore the breadth of our cooperation as friends, partners, and allies."

Kamala Harris, 58, is the first African-American to become US Vice President. She had been elected District Attorney of San Francisco, California Attorney General, and senator before becoming the 49th US Vice President.

Vice President Kamala Harris becomes the highest ranking US official to visit Palawan, home to dive resorts as well as a Philippine military base that Harris will visit on Tuesday, according to a senior administration official, putting her on the edge of the South China Sea, where China has been building military bases – some on islands claimed by the Philippines – in one of the most outward signs of its ambitions in the Pacific.

Harris met with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Monday, with the partners expected to discuss 21 new projects funded by the United States, including more defense sites around the Philippines in locations yet to be revealed – an indication to Beijing that Washington is forging tighter ties with Manila.

The projects are part of the



US Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff arrive at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila November 20, 2022.

Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the two countries, which allows US troops to use agreed locations in the Philippines for security exercises and joint military training, the White House said in a statement.

But US-Philippine defense ties run even deeper.

The country used to be home to two of the US military's largest overseas installations, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, which were transferred to Philippine control in the 1990s. A mutual defense treaty signed in 1951 remains in force, stipulating that both sides would help defend each other if either were attacked by a

third party.

Speaking to reporters Monday, Harris reaffirmed Washington's "unwavering" commitment to the pact. "We must reiterate always that we stand with you in defense of rules and norms,

closer relations with China during his six years in power.

Palawan is renowned as a scuba diving and island-hopping getaway, but it is also home to the Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, the center of the Philippine military command in charge of defending and patrolling its waters around the Spratly Islands.

The Spratly Islands lie in the southern portion of the 1.3 million-square-mile waterway – almost all of which China claims as its sovereign territory based on its interpretation of historical maps.

Other neighbors surrounding the resource-rich waterway also lay claim to parts of the area, including Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia.

Harris will cast US as 'better partner' for economic stability in Indo-Pacific on Asia trip

In 2016, a tribunal in The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines in a maritime dispute, concluding China has



Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., right, welcomes Vice President Harris to Malacanang Palace in Manila on Nov. 21, 2022. Ted Aljibe/AFP via Getty Images

(in the South China Sea)," Harris said, adding that any attack on Philippine vessels in the South China Sea would invoke mutual US defense commitments.

Sitting beside Harris, Marcos Jr. told reporters: "I have said many times, I do not see a future for the Philippines that does not include the United States, and that has come from the very long relationship with the US."

Ties between the two countries had frayed under former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who sought

no legal basis to claim historic rights to the bulk of the South China Sea.

Despite the ruling, Duterte attempted to forge closer ties with Beijing and made plans to cooperate on oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, a move which divided Filipinos over the legitimacy of enabling China's ambitions in the disputed territory.

Source: Condensed from report by CNN's Kathleen Magnamo, Nov. 21, 2022.

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ONTARIO Community News

By **Tony A. San Juan**
OCT-Retired

PCCT elects a new set of board of directors

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto (PCCT), at the Board Meeting on October 28, 2022, elected its new set of Executive Officers for the 2023-2024 term. Director Rainier Macandoc hosted the two-hour election meeting at his executive business office in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario,

Macandoc- Auditor. The three vice-presidents chosen will be responsible for Government & Trade Relations, Membership, and Public Relations, respectively.

The eight other members of the 15-person PCCT Board of Directors who were earlier chosen on October 1, 2022,



Board of Directors J. Baricuatro, L.Cana, J. Uy, V. Canton, G. Mirasol, P. Beloso & B. Garcia.

Canada.

Nestor Von Canton was chosen as PCCT President. Elected with N. Canton, were Cora De La Cruz- 1st Vice-President, Kim Villafuerte-2nd Vice-President, Christine Santos-3rd Vice-President, Lilac Cana- Secretary, Steve Pagao- Treasurer, and Rainier

are Julian Baricuatro, Philip Beloso, Robeco Clarete, Beethoven Crasco, Corrie L. Coutts, Bernard Garcia, Gisele Mirasol, and Jennifer Uy.

President-elect N. Canton thanked the members of the Executive Board and briefly explained his 4- point program which includes leadership and



PCCT Executive Directors with COMELEC Tony A. San Juan (9th) and Al Tupe, 10th, L to R, (back row)

"living up" to the established PCCT mission and mandate and focusing on new members' recruitment and training, small business development, and job creation.

Outgoing PCCT President Steve Pagao congratulated the newly-elected

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto (PCCT) was formed in 1991 with its general mission being business growth and community development, that is, to encourage and promote bilateral economic ties between Canada and the Philippines and bring



The 2023-2024 PCCT Board of Directors and Executive Officers

executive officers and also coordinated the early evening Board Meeting. Retired Toronto educator Tony A. San Juan and ABC Accountants President Al Tupe supervised the executive officers' election. A simple salo-salo of fried chicken, pancit palabok, fruits, bread, and beverages, with the usual selfies and group "kodakans" followed the election proceedings.

together people who share a strong common interest in building their business locally as well as internationally. Its mandate is to be the effective and successful "voice of business" in Toronto on all issues of concern to the Filipino-Canadian business community in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Five Filipino-Canadians win civic seats in Ontario

For the first time in the largest province of Canada, Ontario has 5 political candidates from the Filipino Canadian communities who won civic seats during the municipal elections on October 24, 2022. It was quite a promising political performance, indeed.

Five out of 11 Filipino Canadians in the winning circle are from different ridings in the Greater Toronto Area(GTA), They are Herman Vitoria, Rowena Santos, Liza Abarquez -Bower, Garry Tanuan, and Luz Del Rosario. Vitoria won for the first time as School Board Trustee while Councillors Santos & Bower, and Trustees Tanuan & Del Rosario are reelection winners. 6 other Filipino Canadians, namely Councillor candidates Grant Gonzales- Toronto-Davenport, Kristian Santos- Etobicoke North, Dan Cortez Manalo-Toronto Centre, Erlinda Insigne- Vaughan & Ramon Estaris- Ajax, and Elvira Caputolan, Toronto mayoral candidate, ran unsuccessfully.

Herman Vitoria. A long-serving Catholic high school principal and educational leader in Mississauga and Brampton won the election as Separate School Trustee for Wards 2 & 8 of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board (DPCDSB). An educator by training and profession, Herman Vitoria has been in the classroom and administration for 37 years having served for 7 years as Teacher and Department Head and for thirty years as high school Vice-principal or Principal at DPCDSB. In a statement, Vitoria said: "Many challenges face the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board I wish to bring to the Board a fresh perspective from someone who has been in the classroom and administration for 37 years."

Garry Tanuan is the longest-serving Filipino- Canadian Trustee at the Toronto Catholic School Board(TCDSB), Canada's largest Catholic school district. Garry was first elected as Trustee for Ward 8 in the 2012 by-election and has

been reelected twice in 2014 & 2018, and again this year 2022. He helped formed the TCDSB Filipino Advisory Committee, and currently is the Chairman of the Special Board Advisory on Race Relations Committee. Garry Tanuan, an electrical engineer by training and profession, is continuously advocating for effective diversity, inclusion, and equity policies, and practices in the School Board.

Luz Del Rosario was reelected as Trustee for Wards 6 & 11 in the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board. Luz was elected Vice Chairman of DPCDSB in 2020, the first Filipino woman to serve as Vice-chair of DPCDSB. She is a Certified Human Resource Professional(CHRP) and has completed a Bachelor in Commerce degree from the Philippines. First elected in 2006, elected again in 2014, and reelected in 2018, Luz Del Rosario will be serving her 4th term as Trustee in the City of Mississauga. "We have more

work to do to ensure our children receive a high quality of education" Del Rosario pledged.

Rowena Santos is the first Filipino woman City Councillor of Brampton in the Peel Region. A proud Bramptonian, Santos was first elected in 2018 to the City Council for Wards 1 & 5 and is one of few women on Brampton Council. Rowena holds an H.B.B.A. degree from the Schulich School of Business, and a Master's in Sustainable Development and Environmental Planning from the London School of Economics. Rowena was born to Filipino parents and raised in Brampton. She worked hard and was re-elected Rowena said: "She ran to continue serving her constituents and Brampton for a brighter future."

Lisa Abarquez-Bower, the first woman Councillor of Filipino heritage

See Page 12 Five Filipino-Canadians

Student groups revive electoral reform movement

Montreal, Nov. 22, 2022 - A Quebec student movement is mobilizing around hopes for reform of the voting system, saying they're concerned that the current system does not reflect the will of voters.

Student associations are determined to re-launch the debate and are organizing a demonstration in front of the national assembly on Nov. 29, the day the parliamentary session begins, to make the Legault government aware of their demands. Other actions are planned in the coming months.

Upset by the significant disparity in the Oct. 3 election between the popular vote and the number of seats won by each party, five spokespeople, most of them students, argued that it was wrong to claim that the subject was of no interest to anyone. It comes after Premier François Legault said recently that electoral reform was only of concern to 'a few intellectuals.' When he was first elected in 2018, he was in favor of electoral reform. In fact the Quebec Minister of Justice Sonia LeBel introduced Bill 39 as she said it was not necessary to hold a referendum on the matter. Instead, she proposed to use a budget of \$225,000 for education in order to explain what the electoral reform is about.

At a news conference in Quebec City on Tuesday, Nov. 22, student leaders argued that Quebecers are dissatisfied with the current system and are demanding changes. Essentially, to correct the situation, they say they are in favour of adopting a mixed-member proportional voting system with regional compensation.

They hope that the elected representatives of the different parliamentary groups represented in the National Assembly will join them next Tuesday to support their cause.

While in opposition, in the spring of 2018, Legault was also in favour of reviewing the electoral system. He pledged to reform the current first-past-the-post voting system if he took office.

During the first mandate, then Electoral Reform Minister Sonia LeBel, tabled Bill 39 introducing a mixed-member proportional system with regional compensation, but it was immediately shelved and never adopted.

Under the pretext that it was



Quebec Justice Minister Sonia LeBel responds to the Opposition during question period December 5, 2018, at the legislature in Quebec City. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jacques Boissinot. Bill 39 introduced the electoral reform but was later shelved by the Legault government.



not a priority for Quebecers, Legault flouted his 2018 promise.

Despite this, the student associations are not giving up and are asking the government to recall this bill.

In the Oct. 3 vote, the three opposition parties all received a similar percentage of the popular vote, between 14 and 15 per cent of support, but that popular will is in no way reflected in the distribution of seats in the national assembly.

vote, has none.

Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) took the lion's share of the seats, with 90 out of 125, or 72 per cent of the seats, with 41 per cent of the vote.

The organizations that took part in the press conference were the Mobilisation Citoyenne pour une Réforme du Scrutin (MCRS), the Mouvement Démocratie Nouvelle (MDN), the Coalition pour une Réforme Électorale Maintenant, the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec (FECQ) and the Union étudiante du Québec (UEQ).

The Journey to Electoral Reform

1922: the Quebec Conservative Party, which has been disadvantaged by Quebec's first-past-the-post system for the past 36 years, was the first party to call for a proportional electoral system.

1944 and 1966: Wrong winner elections in which one party wins more of the popular vote but another party wins more seats and forms government occurred in both 1944 and 1966.

1976: The Parti québécois is elected for the first time Reform had been a part of its platform since 1968.

1979: Under the Parti québécois, Minister Robert Burns' submits the Green Book One Citizen, One Vote in the National Assembly.

1984: In June 1983, the Commission on Electoral Representation, headed by the Chief Electoral Officer was charged with exploring the reform of the electoral system. The Commission submitted its report in March 1984, Pour un mode de scrutin équitable: la proportionnelle territoriale, recommending a regionally-based proportional system. The government drafted a bill and had the backing of the opposition leader, Claude Ryan. However, the PQ caucus decided not to proceed. The model emerging from this process became the foundation for other attempts to bring in electoral reform since that time.

See Page 19 Electoral reform

The Quebec Liberal Party (QLP) won 21 seats (since revised to 19), Quebec Solidaire 11 and the Parti Québécois, three. The Conservative Party, which won 13 per cent of the

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– Benjamin Franklin**

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Souvenir photo of French students in 2006 at 4950 Queen Mary Penthouse



Zenaida Kharroubi presents a certificate to Elena Calaro for having completed College Accounting 1 with excellent marks, Nov. 9, 2022.



Recipes selected from various sources

Cooking with love provides food for the soul.

Weeknight dinners Quick and tasty



Chicken Adobo

CHICKEN AND MARINADE

750g / 1.5 lb chicken thigh fillets , boneless and skinless (5 - 6 pieces)
3 garlic cloves , minced
1/3 cup (85ml) soy sauce , ordinary all purpose or light (not dark soy sauce, Note 2)

1/3 cup + 2 tbsp white vinegar
4 bay leaves (fresh) or 3 dried

FOR COOKING

2 tbsp oil, separated (vegetable, canola or peanut)

3 garlic cloves , minced
1 small brown onion , diced
1 1/2 cups (375 ml) water
2 tbsp brown sugar
1 tbsp whole black pepper (sub 2 tsp coarse cracked pepper)

SERVING:

2 green onions/scallions , sliced (garnish)

Instructions

Combine Chicken and Marinade ingredients in a bowl. Marinate for at least 20 minutes, or up to overnight.

Heat 1 tbsp oil in a skillet over high heat. Remove chicken from marinade (reserve marinade) and place in the pan. Sear both sides until browned – about 1 minute on each side. Do not cook the chicken all the way through.

Remove chicken skillet and set aside.

Heat the remaining oil in skillet. Add garlic and onion, cook 1 1/2 minutes. Add the reserved marinade, water, sugar and black pepper. Bring it to a simmer then turn heat down to medium high. Simmer 5 minutes.

Add chicken smooth side down. Simmer uncovered for 20 to 25 minutes (no need to stir), turning chicken at around 15 minutes, until the sauce reduces down to a thick jam-like syrup.

If the sauce isn't thick enough, remove chicken onto a plate and let the sauce simmer by itself - it will thicken much quicker - then return chicken to the skillet to coat in the glaze.

Recipe Notes:

1. Chicken thighs - do NOT substitute with breast. You need the fat in thighs in order for the sauce to reduce down to a glaze. Can also use bone in thighs, wings or drumsticks (add 3/4 cup water and simmer 30 minutes). The best way to achieve the closest result with chicken breast is to add 2 tbsp of any oil to the sauce, take the chicken out once cooked and reduce the sauce right down to become jammy, then smear it on the breast.
2. Soy sauce - use all purpose or light soy sauce. Do not use dark soy sauce - bottle will be labelled as such if it is. Dark soy is too intense for this sauce once reduced.

You probably won't need all the sauce because it is very strong in flavour. Save the leftovers and use it to make fried rice! It is perfect because it is so strong in flavour so a little bit goes a long way.



Coconut Chicken Curry

Coconut Chicken Curry is packed with delicious flavors and is an easy one-pot meal. This curry can be made in 30 minutes or less, making it the perfect weeknight dinner!

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons coconut oil separated
1/2 medium yellow onion diced (~1/2 cup)
3 cloves minced garlic (~1 and 1/2 teaspoons)
2 tablespoons finely minced ginger (from a 1 and 1/2 inch piece)
2 teaspoons yellow curry powder
3 tablespoons red curry paste (I use

Thai Kitchen; reduce or increase as desired for spice levels)

2 teaspoons ground coriander

1 large red bell pepper

1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast or thighs, cut into 1 inch pieces
Fine sea salt and freshly cracked pepper

1 can (13.5 oz.) full-fat coconut milk (NOT lite)

1 tablespoon lime juice

1-2 tablespoons brown sugar

2 teaspoons fish sauce, optional

1/4 cup cilantro and/or basil diced

Serve over/with: cooked basmati rice and naan bread with additional lime wedges

Optional: chopped peanuts or cashews

US - Metric

INSTRUCTIONS

Start by prepping ingredients: Dice the onion, mince the garlic, and mince the ginger. I peel the ginger with a spoon or vegetable peeler and then finely mince it. Thinly slice the red bell pepper into long vertical strips and then cut those strips in half horizontally.

Heat 2 tablespoons coconut oil in a large deep skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and saute for 3-5 minutes or until onions begin to turn golden. Add the garlic and ginger; stir to coat everything with the oil. Lower

the heat to low and add in the curry powder, red curry paste, and coriander. Stir often for 2-3 minutes or until lightly toasted and fragrant. Return the heat to medium high. Add in the remaining 1 tablespoon coconut oil and the red bell pepper. Stir for 1-2 minutes and then add in the bite-sized pieces of chicken. Sprinkle on salt and pepper to taste (I add 1 teaspoon fine sea salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper). Cook, stirring often for about 4-5 minutes or until the chicken is browned on both sides, but not cooked through.

Pour in the coconut milk, lime juice, and brown sugar (to taste; start with just 1 tablespoon). Stir until chicken is cooked through (juices run clear and it is cooked to 165 degrees F) and curry is slightly thickened (See Note 1). If desired, stir in the fish sauce. Serve over rice and/or with naan.

Garnish individual plates with cilantro, basil, and/or crushed

peanuts/cashews. Serve additional lime wedges by the side if desired.

RECIPE NOTES

iNote 1: If you want a thicker sauce, you can remove 1-2 tablespoons of the sauce to a small bowl and (with a fork) whisk in 1 tablespoon cornstarch until smooth. Whisk this mixture back into the curry sauce.

From Page 5 Quebec Liberals

Nelligan MNA Monsef Derraji both showed their interest in the job during a press scrum Thursday morning.

"I didn't come here this morning to close the door," said Fortin, who was considered in the last race to find a successor to Philippe Couillard in 2019-2020, but withdrew for family reasons.

Fortin, the only Liberal MNA elected from outside the island of Montreal, told reporters he was preparing to tour the regions soon.

"We have to get out of the traditional framework of the Liberal Party. We have to go where we are not expected," he said, adding that he was already receiving support to run.

Monsef Derraji said he was "not closing the door" and is also receiving support for his possible candidacy.

"There are many people who are encouraging me to go ahead," he added, saying he hoped the party would have a great "brainstorming

session" in the coming months.

Although the QLP obtained opposition status in the October election, it did so with just 14 per cent of the popular vote.

It has been noted by political observers that the decline of Liberal support started way before Anglade took over the leadership of the party by acclamation when the other candidate withdrew from the race. The opportunity to allow voters to have a clear idea of Liberal policies was missed when the convention of delegates could not be held due to the Covid pandemic. News reports pointed out that Anglade did not have any roots among Quebec voters outside of Montreal. She used to be the CAQ's president but left the party in 2015, citing differing views on immigration and diversity. On the other hand, the CAQ focused on promoting its nationalist agenda among French speaking voters in addition to the economy during the pandemic. Premier Legault proved that he does not need Montreal to win. #

Bower said.

Historically, in Ontario, at the municipal, provincial, and Federal levels, the past records of Filipino Canadian political candidates showed "not-so-encouraging" outputs, except for last month's election results. Pinoys and Pinays in the province are still hopeful that with determined unanimity and collectively, future elections would result differently, that is, making successful inroads and electing more Ontario Filipinos into political service and community representation. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

From Page 8 Five Filipino-Canadians

in the Municipality of Ajax, a suburb of Toronto, was reelected for the first time. Lisa was first elected in 2018 representing Ward 3 in the Town of Ajax. She was born in Ajax and is a single mother of 2. As a member of the Ajax Council, Lisa established the Ajax Homelessness Task Force through Community Development Council Durham. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences as Ward 3's Local Councillor for over 4 years. I could not have done it without your support and I am happy to for my re-election ",



Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Is the warm spell over? The sprinkling of rain is more prevalent now. It is a nice day when the sun bursts out defying the clouds and wind chills. The white stuff is here. Take out your winter wardrobe. Are you ready?

The Kahirup (Hiligaynon) Association of Quebec (KAQ) held its 31st Anniversary and Dinner Ball last October 1, 2022. It was celebrated at Hotel Universal, Sherbrooke East, Montreal. Since they didn't meet during the pandemic, they were determined to go all out to meet with each other and enjoy in person tête-a-tête. The KAQ is a big family. Membership comes from the 6 Western Visayas regions of the Philippines.

Their program began with the parade of colors led by Martin Dorado, Fernando Montealegre, and Richard Perignon. After the anthems, KAQ President Jeannette Perignon welcomed the guests. Then Elsa Montealegre came forward to deliver the invocation. After dinner, guests were entertained by selected performers namely: Dr. Anh Nguyen and dance teacher Antonio Conde of the Arthur Murray International Ballroom Dance school. Balladeer Freddie Espinosa sang Ikaw, and Manny Rosello belted a Yoyoy song, in the style of popular Filipino singer comedian Yoyoy Villame. The Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) Dance Troupe presented the folk dance Tiklos. The party was made memorable and successful because KAQ President Perignon infected the slew of officers with unparalleled energy and enthusiasm.

KAQ officers are Jeannette Perignon (President), Elsa Montealegre (Vice President), Leah Baldelovar (Secretary), Nida Meriales (Treasurer), Rosalinda Navarro (Assistant Treasurer), Ramon Bangilan (Auditor), Eloisa Dee (Assistant Auditor), Rose Ledesma (PRO), Marilyn Villanueva (Assistant PRO), Freddie Espinosa (Business Manager), Arthur Caro (Assistant Business Manager) and Peace Officers Martin Dorado, and Richard Perignon. Board of Directors are Jose Bostamante, Gemma Caro, Nora Antonio Cruz, Nelson Dosado, Rose Espinosa, Max

Handinero, Merly Labuson, Fernando Montealegre, Irma Osano, Felix Panerio, Teresita Peters and Melanie Somejo. Advisers are Carmen Caro (ex-officio), Edsel Canto, Consuelo Espinosa, Azur Paginado, and Melanie Sotero. Of course DJ Dennis Mayuga made the guests enjoy the dancing. To top it all, veteran MC Freddie Espinosa worked his magic to make for an enchanting evening.

As in Filipino parties, line dancing reigned supreme. Pinoy Pa Rin TV hosts Tenne Rose Dayandante and Michael Davantes were the emcees. They came with their TV team Oyie Olivar and Derwin Collantes. After dinner and a lot of dancing came the announcement of the Benevolent Community Service Awardees: Rhodora Guia and Raymundo Jonathan Foz (Benevolence), Elvie Parayno (Benevolence), Evelyn Calugay (Community Service), and Brigida Vergara San Jose (Community Service). Now comes the Scholarship awardees: Ma Carmeline Buyson (High School), Jamaica Joy Angela Gomez (High School), Mikaela Lambrakis (High School), Mai Van Houtte Cachero (Elementary), Jason Basilan (CEGEP) and Edgar Maldo (CEGEP) who also won the Best Essay competition. His piece was Carpe Diem - One Step at a Time.

The 38th Annual Awards Night for the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ) was held on October 15, 2022 at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal. PBSSQ founder Mrs. Natalie Pelausa was represented by her assistant, her dear daughter Dr. Ermelinda Pelausa. This was a very joyous occasion for the scholars and the community leaders. Finally, their efforts were not in vain. They were recognized and deservedly so. As in all programs, the event started with the national anthems. Then the PBSSQ President Josefa Nicolas greeted the guests, after which the 2022 executive council was presented.

If you open the PBSSQ printed programme, you will be met with Mrs. Natalie Pelausa's picture, smiling and holding a framed picture of her great grandson Orson Anthony Pelausa. Also

included in that page was her well-written "Reflections" followed by the PBSSQ prayer. Read these two pieces of Natalie's work and you will be filled with generous wisdom. Well done, Natalie!

In addition, we find President Josefa Nicolas's pretty picture accompanied by her hearty greetings. Going through the pages, I found my name among many others as the 2000 Community Service Awardee. I also discovered my husband's name, Dr. Jaime Carino in the section In Loving

activism in community affairs is well recognized. He joins organizations that promote cultural values. Oftentimes, he works until the wee hours of the morning to plan his next moves. He is methodical and keeps tracks of his plans. He demands perfection. It will not be a surprise if he is going to be the founder of UPF Montreal Chapter! Mr. Ryan Abenir, the UPF coordinator in Toronto kept in touch with AI, so he and his lovely wife Cora drove to Toronto to receive his prestigious award.

The Association of Filipino



Al Abdon (front row, center) holds the award he received from UPF on October 23, 2022 in Toronto.

Memory. Thanks, PBSSQ!

FHSM Chairman Al Abdon received UPF award

Last October 23, 2022 was the United Peace Federation awards night at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall and Event Center, 35 Brunnet Road, Mississauga, Ontario. What is UPF, you say? UPF is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to building peace which is centered on spiritual and moral values. Membership is world-wide. They come from all walks of life representing all races, religions, and nationalities.

Who qualifies for an award? Well, you know, words travel fast. It doesn't take long before good deeds become well known. Community leaders from different provinces in Canada may have heard about somebody in Montreal who satisfies their criteria of an Ambassador for Peace. Al Abdon fit what they were looking for to a T. Chairman of FHSM which he founded years ago, his

Seniors in Montreal (AFSM) Halloween Masquerade Ball Halloween may be over but guests can still remember the ghosts, pumpkins, skeletons, and the orange balloons that decorated the Grand Saloon of the Community Centre at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal last November 5, 2022. The night was crowded with friends who were hard to recognize because of their masks. Led by their President Precy Andal and Neneh Fabia who were too busy coordinating their tasks, the evening had just the right spooky vibes. William Fabia was turning like a top to see that everything was in order.

The programme began with the parade of colors. Flag bearers were Ruben Mendoza, William Fabia, and Filemon Dolormente. After the national anthems, President Precy Andal gave her opening remarks. Then the dancing began. The floor was always full. It was only broken by prepared entertainment

See Page 18 Social Tidbits

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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Toni Gonzaga grateful for 'unexpected blessings' in 20-year career



Toni Gonzaga feels 'very grateful and blessed' to be Shopee Philippines' newest brand ambassador.

As the newest ambassador of Shopee Philippines, Toni Gonzaga considered the partnership with the e-commerce platform "very special because it's a dream come true to represent a brand I've trusted for so many years."

She felt "really grateful" and "blessed" to be part of the Shopee media family, the host-actress-vlogger said during the 10.10 Brands Festival event held last week. "We are also grateful because since yesterday, we are trending. And today, we are grateful to our netizens for the mentions, for the engagements, you know. We are grateful for them because they are also one of the reasons why we are here where we are today."

The company trended on social media platforms after netizens criticized it for having Toni as brand ambassador amid reported laying off of employees in its Philippine branches. There were also viral posts that defended the host-actress and the company.

Toni, nevertheless, said she's "thankful for the trending na ginawa sa atin ng mga netizens because they helped us with the engagements,

mentions and they are also helping promote Shopee more. So we are grateful for that because you are promoting Shopee."

who was once a Shopee ambassador, to share the good news.

"Sobrang tuwang-tuwa siya... She said, 'Yehey! So happy for you.'



Toni stars in the 2022 Metro Manila Filmfest entry My Teacher with veteran comedian Joey de Leon and celebrity couple Loisa Andalio and Ronnie Alonte.

The endorsement, according to her, is "one of the biggest blessings that I consider this year."

When Toni found out that she would be the endorser, she immediately called her sister, Alex,

Because she knows that I have been a loyal customer and user of Shopee," she shared.

The former Pinoy Big Brother host has been a customer for almost six to seven years. She learned about

the shopping app through their "house angels." She recalled, "I was pregnant with Seve (at that time). I remember yung mga 'house angels' namin, they will get deliveries. Tapos parang mga small items, trinkets, small gadgets na nabibili nila so I asked them, sabi ko, 'Saan galing? Paano na-deliver sa bahay?'"

"Then they told me there's this app called Shopee, where you could just go online and search anything for your needs. Anything that you're looking for at a particular moment, tapos it will be delivered to you in three to four days," she further said.

As for her online shopping tips, she recommended that buyers should weigh carefully if the item is a necessity, reasonably priced and of great quality. The latest items she bought online were giveaways she had for the guests during her son's sixth birthday last Sept. 30.

Toni recently posted on Instagram a photo of Seve having a grand time at Enchanted Kingdom and greeted him a happy birthday.

"My dream for Seve is to grow up healthy, strong and happy. We order in Shopee together so it would be fun if he gets to be part of the family, too," she told The STAR in an e-mail interview when asked if it's OK with her to let Seve join Shopee as an endorser in the future.

She was further queried on the lessons she learned from the showbiz industry over the course of her decades-long career and answered, "Being in the business for two decades now has helped me become more grounded and appreciative of the small things. Believe in yourself, continue to be excellent at what you do and the blessings will follow you."

Toni has an upcoming movie titled My Teacher, an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) this year. The film is directed by her husband Paul Soriano and the cast members include Joey de Leon, Kakai Bautista, Ronnie Alonte and Loisa Andalio.

"My Teacher is a dream project with Tito Joey de Leon. He's been my mentor when I was just starting in the business. The film is our tribute to our great teachers and we can't wait to show you a heartwarming, feel-good and funny film," she said.

Meanwhile, director of Shopee Philippines Martin Yu said, "The 10.10 Brands Festival continues to enliven the promise of offering mas mura prices to Filipino shoppers. We have worked closely with our partner brands in bringing the best of brand deals to create a more meaningful year-end shopping experience."

The ongoing 10.10 Brands Festival is the second in the company's series of year-end shopping events.

Bella Poarch confirms divorce from husband, asks for privacy



Filipino-American TikTok sensation Bella Poarch

Filipino-American TikTok sensation Bella Poarch confirmed that she's getting a divorce from her husband Tyler Poarch.

In her Instagram account, Bella apologized to her fans for keeping her marriage a secret.

"I'm sorry if everyone thinks I've been keeping a secret. I will address my divorce when I am ready to speak about it," Bella said.

socials and posting certain obligations that need to be fulfilled. I will be taking a break from social media. Thank you," she said.

US online tabloid TMZ reported that they obtained documents that Bella filed documents in Los Angeles to end her marriage to Tyler.

Though it's not reported that the social media personality

Hi everyone,

I'm sorry if everyone thinks I've been keeping a secret. I will address my divorce when I am ready to speak about it. In the meantime please respect mine and Tyler's privacy.

My team will be taking over my socials and posting certain obligations that need to be fulfilled. I will be taking a break from social media.

Thank you ❤️

- Bella

She also asked for privacy as she will take a break from social media.

"In the meantime please respect mine and Tyler's privacy. My team will be taking over my

is already married, Bella said that "irreconcilable differences" was the reason behind the divorce.

Documents obtained by TMZ said that Bella and Tyler tied the knot back in January 2019. ■

Liza Soberano's bonding with Blackpink's Lisa, Jennie goes viral amid 'laos' claims



Liza Soberano with Blackpink's Lisa

Actress Liza Soberano became viral recently amid "laos" claims when photos of her "fangirling" with Blackpink members Jennie and Lisa at the backstage of the Korean all-girl group's concert in Los Angeles trended online.

In her Instagram account last Monday, Liza posted a photo of her with Jennie.

"I'm the happiest girl @jennierubyjane," Liza captioned the post.

Liza's record label Careless Music, meanwhile, posted a photo of Liza, Destiny Rogers and Lisa.

"Careless queens with the one & only @lalalalisa_m," the record label captioned the post.

Liza also filled her Instagram story videos of Blackpink in concert.



A known Blink, Liza has been vocal for her love and support for the Korean all-girl group. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

'Love is all around': Carla Abellana shares life, love lessons after split with Tom Rodriguez



Actress Carla Abellana

Kapuso actress Carla Abellana said that she still believes in love after her breakup with husband Tom Rodriguez.

In her recent interview with Luis Manzano on his YouTube channel, Carla said love definitely still exists.

"Yes, of course. Kung walang love, wala tayong buhay honestly. Kaya nga tayo nasa Earth because God loves us. There's your family love, the love of my dogs, the love of your friends," Carla said.

today," she said.

"No matter how everything is organized or laid out, there are times na talagang unpredictable ang buhay. As much as you plan or perfect your life, may times talaga na you'll get caught off guard," she added.

After all that happened in her life, Carla said she learned so much from her experiences.

"There are times talaga na you have only yourself to help you. I'm not saying naman na lahat tayo we're alone, but there are times na when you



Carla Abellana with Luis Manzano during her interview.

"So, love definitely, oo naman. Love is all around. It definitely exists," she added.

Carla said that not everything we planned in our life would push through.

"We may make plans or we see everything. Nandito tayo sa mundo, tayo nagpa-plano, tayo nag-aasikaso lahat. But sometimes, life just hits you na hindi mo talaga alam what's going to happen tomorrow. 'Yung parang what you have is just

can only depend on yourself o 'yung sarili mo lang 'yung tutulong sa sarili mo. At saka aminin natin, 'yung support system natin hindi naman 'yan nandiyan 24/7 sa 'yo, 'di ba? Hindi naman 'yan nakakakabit sa 'yo forever,"

Carla confirmed her breakup with Tom last July after months of speculations. The ex-couple tied the knot last October 2021. ■

Dingdong Dantes gives peek at new family home



Dingdong Dantes has treated fans to more glimpses of his family's new home, revealing it took him two decades to finally be able to build the house.

The actor showed himself taking a dip in their pool through his Facebook page on Sunday, Nov. 20. A woman whose face cannot be seen clearly was also included in the photo while she was petting a dog.

"Ang tahanan ng aking

ipapamana ang mabubuting ala-ala."

(My family's house. It was built after a few years but [I] worked hard for it for two decades. [It will be] taken care of, filled with love, and be handed down with good memories.)

Dantes and his actress wife Marian Rivera earlier announced that they have moved into their new home with their children Zia and Ziggy.

Dantes and Rivera got married in December 2014, then welcomed Zia



Dingdong Dantes, Marian Rivera and their kids Zia and Ziggy.

pamilya. Naitayo nang ilang taon, pero dalawang dekadang pinagsikapan," he said. "Pagkakaingatan, ipalalaganap ang pagmamahalan, at

in November 2015. The couple announced Ziggy's birth in April 2019.

Why aging is a source of anxiety for Sam Milby



Sam Milby

Getting old is equivalent to becoming irrelevant in show biz, so much so that even an A-list actor like Sam Milby has admitted that this makes him feel anxious sometimes.

“Case in point,” Sam began, “in my most recent teleserye, ‘A Family Affair,’ I play the eldest of four brothers, while in my show before that, ‘Ang Sa Iyo Ay Akin,’ I am a father to a 20-year-old. This was taped during the pandemic so we couldn’t hire actors below 18. That was kind of hard to accept, although technically, I can actually be his father. You see, it’s really the Philippine market in general. Its audience is quite young.”

Sam added: “While I do experience worries, I think it’s something that I’ve always had even when I probably shouldn’t have worried about things. It’s actually the price I pay for being in show biz. It’s not a very stable job, and the ever growing competition—because the pool of actors is growing and the fact that we have a young market—does increase the pressure and anxiety that you may no longer have projects in the next few years.”

Lost franchise

The actor said the fact that his home network, ABS-CBN, has lost its franchise, “only increases that fear. But I try not to let that fear overtake the positive outlook that I have of the future. After all, I’ve been super blessed in my last 17 years in the business,” said Sam during a media gathering to launch him as ambassador of cosmetic brand

Beautederma’s new health booster effervescent tablets under the Reiko and Kenzen product line.

Sam also pointed out that it didn’t help that the Kapamilya network’s supposed partnership with TV5 failed to push through. “I thought it would’ve been a big boost for ABS-CBN. It’s good that the network is surviving. It continues to put on great projects. That’s what’s good about the company. You are assured that it will come up with good products.”

Sam said that quite a number of his fellow Kapamilya actors have decided to leave the company, what with the network’s current financial situation, and also the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global workforce.

“The company understands that work is work. I think that as long you explain to your bosses your situation, there shouldn’t be any bad blood,” said Sam, citing his good friend Rayver Cruz as an example.

Good relationship

“He left before the pandemic, but he made sure to meet with the bosses. He will always have a good relationship with ABS-CBN, and I think that’s what’s really important. Just don’t burn any bridges and show your appreciation to the station that has given you so much love, work and blessings.”

As for Sam, he is “definitely staying in spite of the offer from a rival network.” He stressed: “I don’t know if I want to talk about offers. I will stay for as long as I am wanted here. The network has made me who I am. I appreciate the love it has

given me. It has changed my life.”

Also at the media gathering, Sam was asked the persistent question on whether he already has plans to settle down with 2018 Miss Universe Catriona Gray, his girlfriend of over two years.

“A lot of my fiends are married now and have kids. John Prats (his best friend) has three kids. I also want to have my own children. I’m excited to be a dad. I don’t want to answer for Cat, but I already told her about this. If ever, I want to have

one boy and one girl,” he shared with reporters.

However, there’s one thing that Sam said he really wishes for before pushing through with any wedding plans. “Show biz is not a stable business. I am the man of the house, and so I want to feel that stability in terms of let’s say 10 to 5 years down the road. I want to be able to support my family,” he declared. ■

Pia Wurtzbach highest-paid Filipino on Instagram — study



Pia Wurtzbach

Miss Universe 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach is the highest-paid individual on Instagram in the Philippines, according to a recent study.

Chicago-based online lender NetCredit.com created an algorithm to find the highest earners on Instagram from every country.

From a list of each country’s most-followed personalities, NetCredit.com used figures from British engagement company Hopper HQ’s “Instagram Rich List 2022” to estimate fee-per-ads of each individual, then counted the number of sponsored posts in

2021 multiplied by the estimated ad fees.

The data showed that Pia earned nearly \$3.67 million (P213 million) from Instagram ads in 2021, the second-highest in Southeast Asia behind BLACKPINK’s Lisa from Thailand who earned \$8.76 million (P508 million).

Overall, the highest-paid earner on Instagram is football star Cristiano Ronaldo who earned \$85.2 million (P4.95 billion) in 2021 from ads. His rival Lionel Messi was close behind him in second, with \$71.96 million (P4.18 billion) earned the same year. ■

From Page 2 Commission inquiry

findings and reach no conclusions about the issues that I have been entrusted to deal with," he said. "I intend to take a judicial attitude to my job. By that I mean that independence, impartiality, and fairness are my touchstones as commissioner."

The commission's mandate is to examine the circumstances that led to the use of the Emergencies Act and the measures taken through it to deal with the emergency situation, and come away with findings regarding the "appropriateness and effectiveness" of the measures taken by the government.

The inquiry's hearings were delayed by a month after commissioner Rouleau required surgery for a recently arisen health issue, but he has committed to completing the commission's work "in a timely manner," noting that as of September he had already made



Members of the public, legi teams and media listen to Commissioner Paul Rouleau deliver his opening remarks at the Public Emergency Order Commission Inquiry, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyd.

"significant progress" obtaining and reviewing documents, conducting interviews, and preparing for the start of the public hearings.

However, in his opening statement on Oct. 13, Rouleau made

really that graceful. Here is a list of the repertoire: West Side Story, Portrait of Terry Fox, Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew, Swinging on the Moon, Amazing Grace, Reciting the act of Remembrance Rose Roy, The Homefront, Christensen, Senegal Vaughan Wiliamns and R.A.T March Past, Davis. If you were in this concert, you will be reminded of the pieces that frequently played in the top nightclubs in the Philippines. I'd like to thank Al and Cora Abdon for the invite. I enjoyed immensely. To me, good music transcends one's being.

It is not unusual that Marvin Rotrand, the National Director of the B'nai Brith's League of Human Rights, Canada, was able to gather prominent government officials from different provinces such as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Yukon. He does his calling seriously. Thanks to him who assembled all the prominent panelists. You can always trust Marvin whose persuasive abilities knows no bounds. He didn't have difficulty with his platform; they all agreed to participate. Our Filipino representative was Ramon Vicente who did very well.

Anthony Housefather, MP, Mount Royal, Quebec, urged everyone to attend Remembrance Day to honor our veterans for sacrificing their lives in service to our country. He was present at a ceremony at Côte Saint-Luc with Mayor Mitchell Brownstein. Also, he was invited to speak on the B'nai Brith panel on combating antisemitism and racial discrimination, alongside some impressive line of speakers. Due to his many invitations, he sometimes sent his assistant Chelsea Craig to go on his behalf.

I would like to close with the following verses, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:8-9).

See you next issue and God Bless!

ground zero for convoy trucks and protests—members of the public are able to attend the hearings in-person or watch live online.

The commission is also seeking submissions from members of the public until Oct. 31, and has published a series of guidelines to help inform this input on how the invocation of the Emergencies Act impacted Canadians.

Once the public hearings conclude, the Commission counsel—the panel of legal advisers—will make presentations and submit overview reports that will include summaries of the preliminary facts to be placed into evidence and provide context for more evidence to follow.

The policy phase of the commission's work will begin on Nov. 28, and will continue for one week. This phase of the inquiry will consist of a series of round-table panel discussions with experts in various fields. Each panel will focus on a common theme or set of questions, with input from the groups and individuals who have been granted standing.

The inquiry is required to submit its final report to the government with all of its findings and recommendations in both official languages by Feb. 6, 2023. It then must be tabled in the House of Commons and Senate by Feb. 20, 2023. #

Source: Condensed from files from CTV News' Judy Trinh, Glen McGregor, and Spencer Van Dyk.

The two most important days of your life is the day you are born and the day you figure out why.
Mark Twain

From Page 13 Social Tidbits

numbers, among which were the following: Opera singer Mishaël Eusebio from Toronto, Ontario, a surprise number by Lyn Lopez, Amit Larson, Vangil Ruane, Lynn Watts, and Ermelinda Alluro. Another surprise number was a folk dance choreographed by Jeannette Perignon. The other folk dancers were Helen Andal Pham and Malou Andal. What interested the guests was the much enjoyed raffle time. Prizes were wines, cash, and good-for-two dinners from famous Filipino restaurants. Also, much applauded was the costume contest. There were many contestants that they were just assigned numbers. There was a table occupied by members and officers of the Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS). Among them were Elvie Maximo, Cely Dagsaan, Nora Arcalas, and Maming Transfiguration. There was so much laughter and so much fun!

306 Maple Leaf Wing Concert Band Commemorates Remembrance Day

The 306 Maple Leaf Wing Concert Band honored Remembrance Day by hosting their first Military Concert at Rideau Funeral Home last November 6, 2022. There were 31 band members. Here are their instruments: flute, trumpets, saxophone, clarinet, tuba, drums, trombone, French horn, and English horn. The concert was very interesting not only because the pieces were familiar to us but also because of their style of playing. Some played with their notes. Some have memorized them. I saw only 3 or 4 young ones. Most of them are retired and spent their Monday nights practicing for two hours. WOW! That's a lot of hours. If you were in the audience, you'll feel nostalgic. Some of the pieces will remind you of places in the Philippines. They may even remind you of who you were with. Hahaha. I stop here. As always, the conductor makes or breaks the concert. This elegant conductor (unfortunately, I didn't catch his name) was on cue and explained what they were going to play next. The two ladies seated behind Jeannette Perignon and I were lavish in their praises for the conductor. I heard them say, "He is hot, man!" He was

considerable emphasis on just how limited the timeline is for this commission to complete its work, and the inability of an extension, given the statute set for this work.

"Just how tight are the timelines? Let me try and put it in context for you. The Air India Inquiry was established on May 1, 2006. It took just over four years to issue its report on June 17, 2010... The inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was established in September 2016, and issued its report almost three years later, on June 3, 2019," Rouleau said. "This commission on the other hand... has only 300 days."

Six weeks of "factual hearings" are happening between Oct. 13 and Nov. 25. The hearings will begin each weekday at 9:30 a.m. ET. There are approximately 30 days of testimony expected during this time period.

Taking place in a room inside Library and Archives Canada on Wellington Street—which was the

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'It's just amazing': Family reunited with Toronto soldier's photo more than 100 years later

Jon Woodward. CTV News Toronto
Videojournalist, Published Nov. 11/22

The discovery of dozens of well-preserved glass plate negatives of Toronto-area soldiers from the First World War has given a family a new link to their past through a photo they have never seen before.

Sgt. Frank Shrubshall was killed in action in one of the last battles of the war, and his two young daughters Helen and Violet grew up in Toronto without their dad, remembering him through a grainy photo published in a newspaper.

But an image of the sergeant was in a collection of dozens of negatives discovered recently, showing him in detail standing in a new uniform, about to go to the front lines.

CTV News Investigates got in touch with Shrubshall's descendants and shared the photo with them in an emotional reunion.

"It's just amazing," said Shrubshall's grandson, Charles Pipe, in an interview with CTV News. "It's really hard to describe anything like that. It brings such a moment, especially coming up to Remembrance Day."

Shrubshall's photo was among dozens of glass photographic plates that were taken over 100 years ago, and were recently discovered in the estate of Corporal Bob French of the Queen's Own Rifles.

French requested they be sold on a consignment arrangement by the Canadian Society for Military Medals and Insignia, said the society's Juan Jose Besteiro, who said he believed they have immense historical value.

"It's definitely not something you



Charles Pipe, the grandson of Sgt. Frank Shrubshall

see every day," Besteiro said. "These are the last vestiges of some people who fought for Canada, sacrificed their lives for our country. This is a great way to honour them and remember them."

It wasn't initially clear how the men were related, but CTV News traced many of them to an area in west Toronto around the Anglican Church of St. John's, where a memorial to at least 10 of them still stands.

Despite using Canadian military records and other clues, about half of the men depicted could not be uniquely identified, meaning there may be more to discover.

Besteiro was overjoyed that Shrubshall's descendants could see the photo and remember their ancestor's service and sacrifice.

"This is great we were able to bring such joy and connect historically to see a face they had not seen in such a long time," he said.

Pipe said his mother and aunt grew up in Toronto knowing their father



Sgt. Frank Shrubshall is seen in this undated image. (Canadian Society for Military Medals and Insignia) On the right, his wife Edith Shrubshall and children.

through medals he left behind as a corporal and then a sergeant in the 126th Peel Regiment.

His attestation papers show he was born in England in 1861 and lived on Medland Street in Toronto's west end, where he worked as a CPR locomotive engineer.

He enlisted at 34 and was declared fit for duty on March 13, 1916, the records say. He received a field promotion to Sergeant and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal as he fought with the 126th Peel Regiment in many of the battles that forged Canada's identity more than 100 years ago.

"It would have included Vimy Ridge and Passchendale as well as the final push, the last 100 days, when he would have died," said Theresa Iacobelli of the Canadian War Museum, who looked up Shrubshall's records.

Records show Shrubshall was killed in action, "killed instantly by a machine gun bullet during the advance



on the Drocourt-Quéant Line on the morning of September 2, 1918."

The armistice that ended the First World War was signed on November 11, 1918.

"The battle was a great success but it came at a high cost," Iacobelli said. "During that battle, 5,600 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded, including men from Shrubshall's battalion. Thirty-nine from that battalion themselves were killed."

The records show that Shrubshall lived with his wife Edith on Medland Street in the city's Junction neighbourhood. A family photo shared by Pipe shows Edith and her two children -- and not Frank Shrubshall.

Looking at details in the recently discovered photo, Pipe said the face he sees feels familiar.

"I look at it and see my brother in it. His name was Frank as well. He was named after him. He's no longer with us," he said.

From Page 9 Electoral reform

1998: Another wrong winner election.

1999: Mouvement pour une démocratie nouvelle (MDN) (Movement for a New Democracy) is founded.

2002: Quebec Government published a discussion paper in October 2002 on The Reform of the Voting System in Quebec.

2002-2003: Estates General on the Reform of Democratic Institutions (the Bélard Commission) visited 20 towns in Quebec and held 27 public hearings. They voted, by a 90% vote of those 825 people, for proportional representation. Their preferred model was Mixed Member Proportional. In March 2003 they presented their Report. In July 2003 the new government of Jean Charest began work on a mixed member system, aided by the 140-page Report of Prof. Louis Massicotte.

2004: The Quebec government presented a draft bill proposing an MMP system with very small regions. The 127 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) would be 77 members elected locally, and 50 in "top-up" regions. The regions would mostly comprise only five MNAs each: three constituencies and two regional seats. Voters would still cast only one vote. The candidate with the most votes in the local riding would be elected, as is currently the case. The

remaining regional seats would be awarded to under-represented parties.

2005-2006: A Select Committee of the National Assembly began proceedings in November 2005, and sat jointly with a randomly selected Citizens' Committee. They were to study and make recommendations on the draft bill introduced in December 2004. They held public consultations in 16 cities across Quebec.

In April 2006 the Citizen's Committee presented to the National Assembly a detailed report in which it rejected the government bill and proposed a MMP system similar to that used in Germany, with a two-vote system. The Citizens' Committee faulted the bill particularly for proposing very small regions with high thresholds which would not accurately reflect the popular vote, and a single-vote system that would perpetuate the practice of strategic voting.

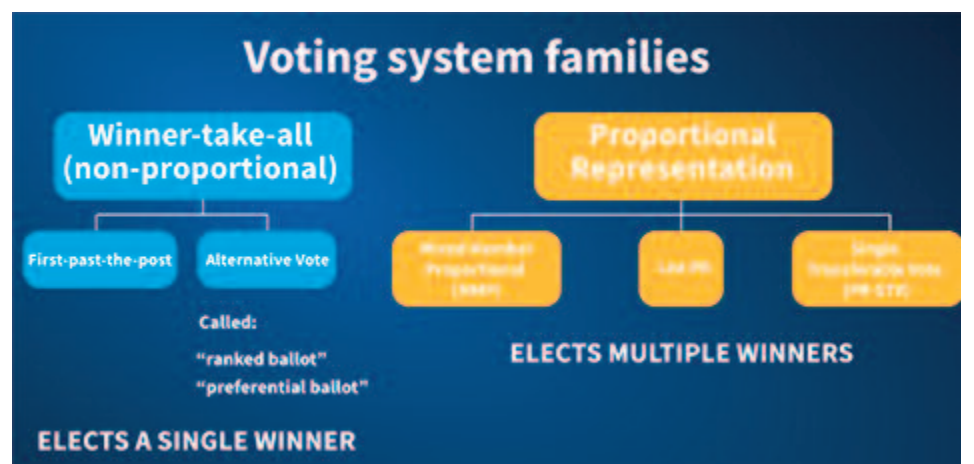
2007: The Report of Quebec's Chief Electoral Officer on a compensatory mixed system was made public. It reviewed a number of options for the design of a mixed proportional model for Quebec, leaning towards a nine-region model with an open list system giving voters the choice of using their second ballot to vote for a party or one regional candidate. Electoral reform is abandoned due to opposition from the PLQ (Quebec Liberal Party) caucus and

municipal councillors.

May 2018: Following the efforts of MDN to bring together civil society groups and opposition parties, all opposition parties sign an agreement committing to drafting legislation in the year following the election of Oct. 1, 2018.

October 2018: The CAQ elected and formed a false majority government. The government has reiterated its

- Reflect the popular vote
- Maintain a link between electors and representatives
- Respect every region's current political weight
- Promote stable governments by measures regulating motions of non-confidence
- Offer an accessible system that is easy to apply and understand
- Contribute to a better representation of



commitment to introduce a bill for proportional representation by October 2019.

2019: The Government of Quebec funds MDN to do education. All parties in the Quebec legislature pass a motion affirming core principles to guide electoral reform:

women, youth and ethnocultural communities.

If the students who demonstrate for electoral reform continue to raise awareness of both government and the public, perhaps electoral reform may be realized for future elections.#

CLIMATE CHANGE PICTORIAL NEWS



President Biden with Pacific Island leaders in Washington on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2022 Credit...Kenny Holston for The New York Times - The United States and 14 Pacific Island nations signed a broad partnership agreement on Thursday at a summit in Washington, putting climate change, economic growth and stronger security ties at the center of an American push to counter Chinese influence in the region.



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told countries gathered at the start of the COP27 summit in Egypt on Monday they face a stark choice: work together now to cut emissions or condemn future generations to climate catastrophe.



"The modelling suggests that under conditions where anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions peak during the 2030s and decline to zero by 2100, global temperatures will be 3°C warmer and sea levels 3 metres higher by 2500 than they were in 1850," according to an excerpt from a paper by researchers of the Norwegian Business School in Oslo. 2500 is a long way off, but it suggests the bill will come due eventually, unless globally societies extract 33 gigatonnes of carbon from the atmosphere from "2020 onward".



High waves hit the Lake Michigan shoreline near North Avenue in 2020. The harmful effects of climate change are a threat to the Great Lakes and the rest of the U.S. For those living near the Great Lakes who think they are somewhat insulated from the effects of climate change, a 1,695-word draft of a National Climate Assessment report released Monday, Nov. 7, 2022 included some sobering news: Lakes face a growing threat of hazardous algae blooms. That includes Lake Michigan, the source of drinking water for Chicago and many suburbs. (Chicago Sun Times, Nov. 10, 2022)



Buildings sit in the water along the shore following hurricane Fiona in Rose Blanche-Harbour Le Cou, N.L. on Tuesday September 27, 2022. The parliamentary budget watchdog says climate change has already begun to hurt the Canadian economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Frank Gunn