

Budget 2025 narrowly passed, avoiding a snap Federal election



Prime Minister Mark Carney with other Liberal MPs during the vote on the budget, November 6, 2025. Spencer Colby/The Canadian Press

Prime Minister Mark Carney's government narrowly passed a crucial budget vote Monday, (Nov. 17) with four MPs abstaining and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May backing the budget. Members of Parliament voted 170 to 168 on the confidence motion that could have toppled the minority government and triggered a federal election. Conservative MPs Shannon Stubbs and Matt Jeneroux, as well as NDP MPs Lori Idlout and Gord Johns, were recorded as abstentions. Just hours before the vote, May said she

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Quebec government's new bill regulates doctors' pay



People demonstrate against a legislation that changes doctors conditions in front of the legislature in Quebec City, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jacques Boissinot

Quebec's Bill 2, which was adopted in October 2025, is facing backlash from doctors for its new pay system, which links a portion of their salaries to performance targets, and for imposing large fines for protests. In response to the ongoing controversy, the government recently suspended

See Page 8 Bill 2

Ensemble Montreal leader elected mayor of Montreal



First press conference of Soraya Martinez at City Hall,

As polls suggested before the elections, Ensemble Montreal's leader, Soraya Martinez Ferrada, was supported by the majority of Anglophone and Allophone voters. In fact, her party will compose the majority in the new municipal government, ending the eight-year run of Projet

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would back the budget because Carney offered assurances he's committed to meeting Canada's climate targets in the Paris agreement. The federal Liberals in Ottawa are currently two seats short of a majority government.

Leading up to the vote, both the opposition Bloc Quebecois and Conservative Party had said they would vote against the budget.

This meant that the Liberals needed support from either two opposition Members of Parliament or for four opposition members to abstain from voting in order for the budget to pass.

In the end, two NDP members and two Conservatives abstained from voting on the budget. House Speaker Francis Scarpaleggia also does not vote on such pieces of legislation.

The abstentions allowed the budget to pass in the House of Commons, the lower chamber of Canada's Parliament.

In a statement, Carney said, "Tonight, the House of Commons has voted to pass Budget 2025. It's time to work together to deliver on this plan — to protect our communities, empower Canadians with new opportunities, and build Canada strong."

Carney will depart to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, before proceeding to the G20 leaders' summit in Johannesburg, where he is expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, the vote exposed the fragile nature of the minority government which will face similar confidence measures next year. The average length of a minority

government is 18 months and there is a high likelihood of a midterm election being triggered next year.

According to the Royal Bank of Canada, Minister of Finance and

It also introduces a new Capital Budgeting Framework, to separate spending that contributes to capital formation (called "capital investment") from day-to-day operating spending.



Minister of Finance François-Philippe Champagne and Prime Minister Mark Carney go inside the House of Commons for the tabling of the federal budget on Parliament Hill on Tuesday. Justin Tang/The Canadian Press

National Revenue François-Philippe Champagne released the federal budget on Nov. 4, 2025, entitled "Building Canada Strong," against a backdrop of a moderate economic slowdown, trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainty.

The budget plans to build, protect and empower Canadians through strategic investments in housing, infrastructure, defence, productivity and competitiveness, while reducing government spending through a Comprehensive Expenditure Review to achieve \$60 billion in savings and revenues over five years.

fled the Pinochet regime in Chile.

She ran a steady campaign with the slogan "Listen and Act" — a clear jab at Plante's reputation among her critics for pushing ahead with a progressive agenda on initiatives such as bike paths.

Martinez Ferrada says her first priority is tackling the city's transit strike. One of Martinez Ferrada's first promises, back in August, was to conduct an audit of the city's cycling network, which was expanded under Plante, and eliminate any found to be dangerous.

She also promised, within 100 days of taking office, to conduct an inventory of construction sites to improve traffic flow, reform the city's approach to affordable housing and boost funding to help deal with homelessness.

But fixing Montreal's biggest problems could be easier said than done.

Big city, big problems

Montreal is facing a housing crisis, a financially strapped public transit system and growing complaints about traffic on the roads.

These issues were also a priority for Plante when she was elected eight years ago. She was unable to solve them, and near the end of her time in office lamented that

the provincial government and many others were unlikely to share her views on issues like bike paths. Rabouin and Craig Sauv , a first-time mayoral candidate, both ran on promises to continue to strengthen the cycling network and together secured roughly 44 per cent of the vote.

In her victory speech, Martinez Ferrada again touched on the need to build relationships with other mayors and other levels of government — as well as Montrealers who didn't vote for her.

She also talked about her own experience growing up in Montreal as a child of immigrants and learning to build relationships of her own.

Speaking briefly in Spanish, Martinez Ferrada said her grandfather used to tell her to "look beyond the horizon." She said Montreal now needs to do the same. Federal governments couldn't do more to help.

"The major issues in this campaign — issues like housing and homelessness — cannot be tackled only by the municipal government," Daniel B land, a political science professor at McGill University, told CBC News.

"These are complex issues and municipalities have limited powers."

five-year Personal Support Workers refundable Tax Credit and automatic tax filing for seniors/low-income households, there were several measures introduced that seek to improve the fairness and integrity of the tax system; however, no changes to the calculation of the registered retirement income fund (RRIF) minimum amount were proposed. Business changes include further expansion and acceleration of tax depreciation for clean energy, as well as integrity measures impacting tiered corporate structures subject to refundable tax on investment income.

There are many features of the budget that may sound too complex for most people but it is quite helpful to read a summary of the analysis made by the Conference Board of Canada which should give some clues to the nature of Budget 2025:

The 2025 budget is a clear and welcome shift in priorities. It takes advantage of Canada's strong fiscal position in an effort to seize the upheavals in the world's relationship with the United States. The new, deficit-financed initiatives are aimed in the right direction — building the infrastructure the country needs—even though it de-emphasizes important areas such as affordability, skills development and healthcare initiatives.

The federal government is investing in Canada's future but it's too early to tell if the high costs will pay off in the long run, and whether they will translate into the kind of accelerated growth our country needs.

With files from various sources such as Yahoo News, Lethbridge, Hindustan Times, and the Conference Board of Canada.#

Both the provincial and the federal governments have challenges of their own.

In Quebec City, the Coalition Avenir Qu bec (CAQ) government is dealing with its own crises and is only 11 months away from a provincial election, with polls showing them trailing well behind the Parti Qu b cois.

Justine McIntyre, a former city councillor and political analyst, said the relationship between Plante's administration and the CAQ had been strained.

"It will be an opportunity for a reset," she said.

With files from CBC News

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From Page 1 Ensemble Montreal

Montreal headed by Valerie Plante who decided not to run for re-election. Luc Rabouin who replaced her as leader received 144,235 or 35.05% of the popular vote while Soraya received 178,618 or 43.40% of the total registered voters of 1,135,883. She beat him by 8%,

The turnout during this election across Quebec is 38.7 per cent of eligible voters down from participation rates varying from 44.8 to 47.2 per cent in the four previous elections.

After eight years under Val rie Plante and her party Projet Montr al, Montrealers voted in favour of change.

Soraya Martinez Ferrada, who stepped down from her post as a federal cabinet minister to run for mayor, was projected to win with 43 per cent of the vote.

Her party won over several boroughs from Projet and appeared poised to take a majority of seats at city council.

"Tonight, Montreal sent a clear message — we need change," Martinez Ferrada said in her victory speech.

It was a convincing win for Martinez Ferrada, who arrived in Montreal at age eight when her family



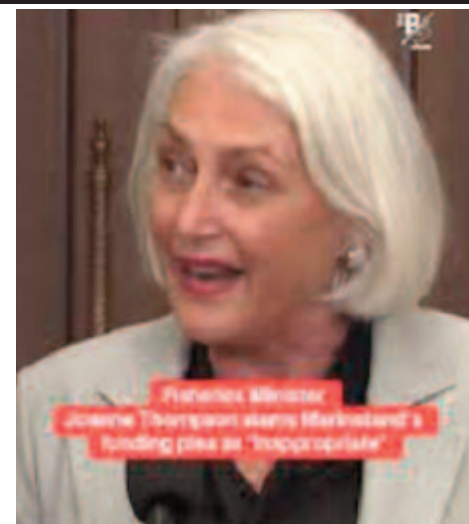
**November 11 -
Memorial Day to
reflect and
remember lessons
from history**

Zenaida Kharroubi

So far, there have already been two world wars, and so many other regional conflicts that seem to be happening in many other parts of the world at different times. Have we ever known any time at all when we do not have any kind of conflict happening anywhere? What has always been the cause of wars - is it greed for territory, leadership by dictators, ambitions of strong men with hidden agendas, suppression of the freedom of the press, or a combination of all these factors? What have we learned so far

As Christmas is fast approaching, let's all hope and pray that humanity's goodwill shall always prevail everywhere all throughout the year.#

Let's be honest: the real issue is not the captivity of animals born and raised in facilities like Marineland, but the lack of funding after provincial



Some argue marine mammals must be free, but animals have long served human purposes — for food, warmth, work, companionship, and yes, entertainment. Dolphins and belugas are intelligent and social. Performing can stimulate them and strengthen bonds with their trainers.



Rather than ban all marine shows, the government should support ethical, well-regulated facilities. If whales are indeed suffering, Sclosures, revising federal laws that restrict responsible animal performance, and recognizing the role these shows play in education, conservation, and joy — especially for children.

If the park were allowed to reopen, with proper oversight, these animals could continue performing in shows — something many appear to

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John Leo Lete

**Local Journalism Initiative
National Ethnic Press &
Media Council of Canada**

Montreal, November 3, 2025 —

In a landmark election result, Stephanie Valenzuela has emerged victorious in the borough mayoral race for the Côte-des-Neiges Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (CDN-NDG) area of Montreal, becoming the Borough's new mayor and marking a historic moment as the first Filipino Canadian to hold such an office in the city.

Victory and significance

Valenzuela ran under the Ensemble Montréal banner and secured the mayoral seat for the Borough with 16,452 votes, representing approximately 50.46% of the vote in her district. By comparison, the incumbent from the opposition party, Projet Montréal, received 10,412 votes (31.93%).

Her campaign emphasized two main priorities: affordable, dignified housing, and a sharp focus on basic municipal services, including safer, cleaner streets and stronger community engagement.

The election win marks not

Stephanie Valenzuela makes Another History as the First Filipino-Canadian Mayor of the CDN-NDG Borough

only a personal milestone for Valenzuela but also a symbolic one for the Filipino community in Montréal and for immigrant-led representation in municipal politics.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Philippine Embassy both issued statements congratulating her win.

Background & profile

Valenzuela is a first-generation Filipino Canadian: she was born and raised in the Côte-des-Neiges neighbourhood of Montreal, the daughter of immigrant parents. She holds degrees in Political Science and International Development from McGill University.

Her community involvement has included volunteering with shelters and neighborhood initiatives and serving earlier terms in municipal politics (including as a city councilor) before this mayoral win.

What this means for the Borough

With a diverse and multicultural population—CDN-NDG is one of Montreal's most ethnically heterogeneous boroughs—Valenzuela's victory signals a shift toward more inclusive representation and a local government more attuned to immigrant communities.

Among her stated aims:

- Enhancing housing affordability, especially amid rising rents and limited supply.
- Strengthening basic services: roads, sanitation, municipal cleanliness, and safety.
- Promoting community-based engagement, especially with non-English and non-French speaking



Stephanie Valenzuela, newly-elected mayor of CDN-NDG Borough. She was previously the councilor for Darlington District. (Photo from Ensemble Montreal)

residents.

- Ensuring her platform is rooted in listening to residents and delivering tangible improvements, rather than purely symbolic change.

Her win also contributes to the broader shift in Montréal municipal politics: the defeat of several incumbents and the rise of Ensemble Montréal in boroughs previously dominated by Projet Montréal.

While her election is a major milestone, Valenzuela faces significant work ahead:

- Delivering on her promises in housing and service delivery, two areas where Montreal boroughs have struggled.
- Bridging the gap between campaign expectations and administrative

realities— especially in a borough with deep socio-economic divides and infrastructure needs.

- Maintaining trust and accountability in a diverse electorate that expects both symbolic representation and pragmatic outcomes.

Valenzuela's victory will likely inspire greater participation from underrepresented communities in Montreal's civic life. For her borough and for the city, the next four years will test whether this new leadership can turn representation into responsive governance. As Valenzuela herself said in the aftermath of the win: "The work has just begun."#

Mother of Stabbed Montreal Teen Calls for Stronger Measures Against Gender-Based Violence in Schools

MONTREAL, October 23, 2025 — The mother of a 14-year-old Filipino student who was stabbed outside her high school in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) district is calling for stronger institutional responses to harassment and gender-based violence involving youth, saying her daughter repeatedly sought help before the attack occurred.

Speaking publicly for the first time at a press conference hosted by the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS), the mother, who identified herself only as "Ping" to protect her family's privacy, said she feared the case would not lead to meaningful action unless parents and school authorities acknowledge rising safety concerns among young girls. "I'm here to voice out, not to keep silent," she said, adding that her priority is ensuring support for victims and accountability from institutions.

Incident Near School

The stabbing took place on Oct. 7 at approximately 9 a.m. near



Community and women's organizations gather for a press conference at the Filipino Associations of Montreal and Suburbs building in Montreal, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025. (CityNews)

École secondaire Saint-Luc and its annex on Terrebonne Street, between West Broadway Avenue and Westmore Avenue.

According to the family and community advocates, the 14-year-old girl was confronted by a 17-year-old

male who had reportedly made persistent romantic advances toward her since December 2024.

Police say the suspect allegedly attacked the girl with punches before using a knife. She then escaped into the school building after

a staff member heard her calling for help and opened the door. Emergency services transported her to the hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. According to the family, her backpack may have prevented more extensive wounds.

The teen has since undergone surgery on her right eye and is receiving further treatment from an ophthalmologist, a plastic surgeon, and an infectious disease specialist. Ping said her daughter continues to experience blurred vision and has been diagnosed with a small fracture.

Legal Proceedings

Montreal police arrested the 17-year-old suspect shortly after the incident. He has been charged with attempted murder and possession of a weapon. Youth Court has ordered a psychiatric evaluation, and a follow-up court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 3. No details about the accused have been released due to youth protection laws.

See page 7 Mother speaks out

Terry Fox Park in Dollard-des-Ormeaux Gets Major Climate-Resilient Upgrade

The city of Dollard-des-Ormeaux confirms that major work is underway at Terry-Fox Park: the existing stormwater retention basin, formerly open to the surface, is being replaced with a fully underground retention basin, designed to handle increasingly intense rainfall events.

What’s happening

The project involves replacing the open basin at Terry-Fox Park with an underground storage facility, better suited to modern climate challenges. According to the city’s “Info-Work” update, construction of the underground retention basin and a new walking path began around October 9, 2025, with an estimated completion date of November 14, 2025.

The city’s webpage notes that the “main installation work is almost completed” as of early November 2025.

Why it matters

The upgrade is a direct response to more frequent and intense rainfall across Québec, which puts more pressure on stormwater systems. The city explains that “when large amounts of water fall in a short period,

they must be absorbed or redirected quickly.”

The underground basin will temporarily store rainwater during major storms, reduce surface runoff, and relieve pressure on the broader storm-sewer network.

The city notes that flooding “doesn’t always occur where the rain falls” but often in areas where other parts of the network are overloaded; increasing capacity at this park helps the system as a whole.

What stays the same

The surface, the park will look largely unchanged: “Although the new basin is completely hidden underground ... the park on the surface remains unchanged.”

The city emphasizes that despite the infrastructure upgrade, the user experience of the park will not be disrupted long-term.

What’s next & things to note

Final steps of work are scheduled in the coming weeks following installation of the main basin.

Construction may cause minor disruptions (machinery, signage, temporary path closures) in the short



Installation of a state-of-the-art underground stormwater retention basin at Terry-Fox Park in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, enhancing the park’s resilience to heavy rainfall while keeping the surface space safe and accessible for visitors. Photo by Strollermom

term as the work wraps up. Once operational, the facility will help the borough prepare for future “extreme precipitation” events and contribute to the city’s broader resilience-building efforts (including the “Oasis Program”).

For park users and residents in Dollard-des-Ormeaux: Expect smoother drainage in and around the park during heavy rainfalls.

Less visible large open basins

Center for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR) said it is assisting the family and has launched fundraising efforts to cover medical and mental health needs, as well as potential alternative educational options if the teen is unable to return to her current school. CRARR executives called for strengthened victim support services, clearer school intervention policies and legal recognition of gender-motivated violence involving youth.

Advocates also urged schools to take harassment complaints more seriously when reported by minors.

Broader Context

The case has renewed discussion regarding safety protocols in schools, particularly involving non-domestic gender-based violence, stalking, and digital harassment among students.

Advocates say young victims may minimize their complaints or fear negative consequences when reporting inappropriate behaviour. The incident also highlights questions surrounding how schools monitor escalation risk, support reporting

or ponds mean a safer and more accessible park setting.

The project signals the city’s proactive approach to climate adaptation and infrastructure upgrade.

Small inconveniences during construction (detours, noise, machine presence) may occur. The city invites users to follow posted signage and instructions.#

From Page 6 Mother speaks out

Harassment Allegations Prior to Attack

Ping told reporters that her daughter repeatedly reported the boy’s behavior to teachers months before the incident, stating that she had rejected his advances because of her age and focus on school. The mother said the teen received text messages, was followed in person, and experienced attempts at unwanted physical affection. She questioned whether school officials took the complaints seriously enough to prevent escalation.

“She said, ‘No, I’m young. I want to study more. I’m not ready for a boyfriend,’ Ping said, adding that her daughter clearly communicated her boundaries.

Continuing Trauma and Impact on Daily Life

Since the attack, the teen has remained at home and has expressed fear about returning to school. Ping said her daughter remains “in a nightmare” and continues to express fear that the suspect may harm her again. The mother, who works at a daycare, has taken leave from her job to manage medical appointments and legal procedures, saying her daughter requires constant supervision and emotional support.

“When the ambulance came, she covered her eyes, shouting, ‘He’s there, he’s going to attack me again. I’m scared,’” Ping recounted.

Community Response and Calls for Reform

Representatives of several community and women’s advocacy organizations attended the press conference, including groups from Montreal’s Filipino, Muslim, women’s rights, and racial justice networks. The

mechanisms, and communicate with parents when repeated concerns are raised.

Mother’s Message

Ping said she hopes speaking publicly will help prevent similar cases. “We must not be silent,” she said. “We must not stay indifferent. There are people who will help us — we are not alone.”#

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ONTARIO

Filipino-Canadian Community News

Tony A. San Juan, OCT

A Bit of Philippine History How Filipinos Got Their Christian Surnames: The 1849 Claveria Decree

November 21, 1849, is a date of great cultural significance to Filipinos and those with Filipino ancestry. As Catholics and Christians, the day commemorates the historic Governor General Claveria Decree, from which many Filipinos derived and were given their family names. Thus, for over 175 years, Filipinos have used their Christian names, commonly with a baptismal name first, followed by a maternal name in the middle and the paternal surname last, up to the present time. Before the 1849 Claveria edict, the use of surnames in the Philippines was inconsistent. "Indios", or as native Filipinos were called then, were usually identified by single names, or were frequently tied to their locality, occupation, or physical characteristics.

Historically, from the days of the Spanish conquest, since 1521, some Filipinos have received Spanish names. For example, Rajah Humabon, ruler of Cebu, was christened Carlos Valderrama in honour of King Charles I of Spain, while his chief consort, Hara Humamay was given the name Juana, after Charles' mother, Joanna of Castile. However, most people in the islands had no surnames, which was confusing. In the early days of the Spanish colonial era in the Philippines, as native Filipinos converted to Christianity, many such natives also started taking on Spanish names of Catholic saints, symbols, sacraments and feasts and even the names of Popes. There was, as yet, no definitive system for administrative purposes, so that it was not uncommon for native Filipinos to take two or three names and change these whenever it took their fancy.

Moreover, neither were uniform surnames for members of the same family required, so that siblings would often have different surnames. In practical terms, this was a nightmare for the Catholic church and the Spanish bureaucracy. Inheritances were difficult to prove, and it was problematic to ascertain if couples asking to be wed were close relations

or not. To complicate matters further, discrepancies like family members holding different surnames would hinder some of the colonial government's activities, such as taking a census and tax collection.

The Claveria Decree. To address the lack of a standard naming convention and other factors, on November 21, 1849, the 71st Spanish Governor General, Narciso Jose Anastacio Clavería y Zaldua issued a decree, the "Catálogo alfabético de apellidos" (Alphabetical catalogue of surnames or "Alpabetikong katalogo ng mga apelyido"). The Claveria Decree required native Filipinos to all have surnames. This was part of a process of creating a national civil registry. A catalogue of Spanish and local surnames was sent out to towns all over the country, and from these, those who did not have surnames were either issued these or obligated to choose from the catalogue.

Claveria's catalogue or book included long lists of Spanish and local surnames given to the chiefs of the provinces and to the different towns, and gave them to the locals who had no surnames. In many towns, all the names for people in that town began with the same letter of the alphabet. Spanish names are the majority found in the books' list of legitimate surnames. Because of the mass implementation of Spanish surnames in the Philippines, a Spanish surname does not necessarily indicate Spanish ancestry, which can make it hard for Filipinos to accurately trace their lineage.

Surname Selection Rules. Because the decree was intended to address administrative problems, "rules were established so that Filipino families would all have consistent surnames." Although the bulk of the surnames provided by the catalogue were Spanish, there were also others taken from local languages such as Tagalog, Ilocano, Hiligaynon, Cebuano, Kapangpangan and Pangasinense. There were also Hispanized Chinese names. For

religious reasons, newly-Christianised Filipinos often chose the now-ubiquitous surnames of de los Santos, de la Cruz, del Rosario, and Bautista. Dissemination of Surnames. According to the decree, a copy of the catalogue, which contains 61,000 surnames, was to be distributed to the provincial heads of the archipelago. From there, a certain number of surnames, based on population, were sent to each barangay's parish priest. The head of each barangay, along with another town official or two, was present when the father or the oldest person in each family chose a surname for his or her family. A surname is given to only one family per municipality to reduce any issues about surnames being associated with an ethnic background or group affiliation. The dissemination of surnames was also based on the recipient family's origins. For example, surnames starting with "A" were distributed to provincial capitals, "B" surnames were given to secondary towns, and tertiary towns received "C"

surnames. The result: To this day, there are many families in provincial towns that share the same first letter in their surname.

Impact on the Filipino Genealogy. The Clavería Decree significantly altered the way Filipinos identified themselves, creating a structured system that genealogists rely on today. The standardised surnames can make it easier to trace family lines, as the records became more consistent after 1849. However, this decree also introduced challenges, as many families adopted entirely new surnames, disconnecting them from their ancestral names and, in some cases, their heritage. Also, the sudden change in surnames can obscure earlier family history, making it difficult to connect pre-Clavería ancestors with their descendants. Sources: Google; Wikipedia: Governor General Narciso Claveria, and "Catalogo alfabético de apellidos".

Filipino-Canadian Community Hub Holds 5-Flag Raising Rites

On an early Sunday afternoon, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), a popular not-for-profit community-based socio-cultural service centre in Toronto, Ontario, conducted a multiple-flag raising ceremony on October 19, 2025. The official flags and emblems of Canada's Red Maple Leaf, the Watawat ng Pilipinas, the Ontario's Royal Union Flag, the City of Toronto's blue & white twin towers symbol, and the Filipino Centre Toronto's banner were hoisted to the delight of the approving audience.

For the first time in its 25-year

the 2-hour session was a memorable and meaningful engagement. Among the speakers and guests were Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre-Don Valley East, Jean Yip, Member of Parliament for Scarborough -Agincourt, Hon. Raymond Cho, MPP for Scarborough North way and Minister for Seniors & Accessibility, Doly Begum, Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough Southwest, Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Andrea Hazell, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood, and Ernie McCullough,



FCT 5-Flag-raising Event guests, politicians, business, community leaders and members. (Photo by Jose Joey Baking of LM Confidential)

history, the FCT Board of Directors and Officers significantly held the patriotic event at fresco just outside its one-storey office building at 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Toronto. The flags were representative symbols of common values, experience, understanding, honour, and success. "Unity, Peace, and Shared Purpose" was the theme of the significant gathering. FCT Board Member Philip Beloso conceptualised the idea and helped organise the maiden rites.

Attended by prominent politicians, dignitaries, community and business leaders, staff and volunteers,

Director of Sheppard East BIA.

Ably hosted by Philip Beloso, FCT Board Director and Event Committee chair, the rites started with an opening remark and prayer by FCT Board Chair Efren De Villa, followed by reading the Land Acknowledgement by Theresa Lumanlan, FCT Vice President, and the singing of the National Anthems. FCT President & CEO delivered her remarks and proudly thanked the guests, organisers, donors, volunteers, and participants of the historic milestone.

Complimenting their

See Page 9 Community Hub

BALITA SA WIKANG Tagalog

ni Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi

Ayon kay Bongbong Marcos, ang pamilya ay nababahala tungkol kay Imee Marcos



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Sen. Imee Marcos —INQUIRER/ MARIANNE BERMUDEZ / SENATE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION BUREAU

MANILA, Philippines — 24 nobyembre 2025 - Ang drama ng pamilyang Marcos ay nagpapatuloy nang inamin ni Presidenteng Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. na siya at ang kanyang mga kamag-anak ay na-aaburido tungkol sa kanyang kapatid na si Sen. Imee Marcos sa matagal na panahon.

Sa kanyang press conference nitong Lunes, 24 nobyembre, sinabi niyang ayaw niyang iladlad ang maruming damit (dirty laundry) ngunit nagpahayag pa rin siya ng kanyang pagka-aburido tungkol sa mga ipinapakitang ugali ni Imee na hindi wasto.

Itong mga ipinahayag niya ay pagkatapos ng isang linggo nang si Imee ay nagbintang sa kanya na siya'y umiinom ng droga habang may "corruption rally" ng Iglesia ni Cristo. Pagkatapos nito, ang opisina ng pangulo ay nagbigay ng pahayag na hindi totoo ang bintang na ito at idinagdag pa na ang mga nagparatang ay mga desperado.

"Ayaw na ayaw kong magladlad ng maruming damit sa publiko," ang

sabi niya. "Sasabihin ko lang na kami at mga kaibigan namin ay talagang aburido tungkol sa aking kapatid na ito. Ang babaeng nakikita ninyo sa TV ay hindi ko kapatid," sinabi niya sa press conference.

Nang tinanong siya kung nakausap niya si Imee, ang sagot niya ay hindi sila nagkikita at nag-uusap dahil hindi na sila magkasamang naglalakbay at hindi na parehong nakikihalobilo sa politika o iba pang bagay, kaya sumagot siya na "hindi," sa tanong kung nakausap niya si Imee.

Ang reaksiyon ni Imee

Mabilis sumagot si Imee sa kanyang kapatid. Sa loob ng isang oras, nagbigay siya ng pahayag na sagot niya sa social media: "Bongbong, ako ito. Nakakakita ka ng mga bagay, kapatid. Patotohanan mong mali ako. Nais kong maniwalang mali ako," salitang magkahalong Ilocano at Pilipino.

Ang alitan ng magkapatid ay lumawak mula noong 2025 midterm elections pagkatapos ng pag-alis ni Imee sa partido ng administrasyon. Siya'y sumapi sa partido ni Sara Duterte,

ang dating alyado ng pangulo na naging katunggali.

Sa isang banda, si Imee ay naging masugid na tumutulong sa mga Duterte at siya'y gumanap ng importanteng posisyon sa negosyasyon ng UniTeam alliance noong eleksyon ng

2022.

Sinabi ng mga analysts na ang pag-aaway ng magkapatid ay maaring maging sinyal ng malalim na paglalaban sa politika sa darating na mga panahon. *Isinalin mula sa balitang Ingles sa Philstar Global*

Hatol na habang buhay kay Alice Guo, dating alkalde ng Bamban, Tarlac



Dismissed Bamban, Tarlac mayor Alice Guo faces the Senate probe on illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) on Sept. 9, 2024.

Guilty sa human trafficking
MANILA, Philippines — Pinatawan ng habambuhay na pagkakakulong ng Pasig City Regional Trial Court ang pinatalsik na alkalde ng Bamban, Tarlac na si Alice Guo o Guo Hua Ping at pito pang kapwa akusado dahil sa kasong qualified human trafficking kaugnay ng isang Philippine Offshore Gaming Operation (POGO) sa Tarlac.

Nasa 16 ang akusado sa kaso at walo ang convicted.

Sa inilabas na desisyon ni Pasig RTC Branch 167 Presiding Judge Annielyn Medes-Cabelis, guilty sa nasabing kaso si Guo at pitong iba pa na pinagmumulta rin ng tig-P2 milyon.

Nabatid na dumalo si Guo sa promulgasyon sa pamamagitan ng online hearing habang nakapiit sa Pasig City Jail Female Dormitory.

Iniutos na rin ang paglipat kay Guo sa Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) sa Mandaluyong City, habang ang iba pa ay sa Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) sa Muntinlupa City.

Batay sa pahayag ng isang prosecutor ng Department of Justice (DOJ), forfeited na ang Baofu Land

Development Inc., sa Tarlac na ituturing na pag-aari ng gobyerno.

Ang kasong Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, na inamyendahan ng Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 at Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 ay kaugnay sa pagkadiskubre ng mga ilegal at criminal activities sa POGO hub sa loob ng Baofu Land Development Inc., sa Tarlac, na isinampa ng PAOCC at Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG).

Nailipat ang kaso sa Pasig court mula sa Tarlac court matapos hilingin ni dating Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla upang maiwasan umano ang pagiging bias, o posibleng impluwensya ng dating alkalde ng lalawigan.

Noong Hunyo 2025 nang paboran naman ng Manila RTC Branch 34 na mapatalsik si Guo sa puwesto sa pamamagitan ng instant petition for quo warranto na inihain ng Solicitor General matapos mapatunayang si Alice Leal Guo at Guo Hua Ping ay iisang tao.

Galing sa balitang isinulat ni Ludy Bermudo - Pilipino Star Ngayon November 21, 2025



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Albert Maganaka
Ph.D. Candidate in Educational
Studies, Faculty of Education,
McGill University

The United States of America occupied the Philippines from 1898 to 1946. During debates on how to govern the newly acquired territory, former President William McKinley stated, "There was nothing left for us to do but to take them all and to educate the Filipinos, uplift, and Christianize them." (Minneapolis Tribune, 1898). This statement reflects the U.S. colonial agenda, which deeply influenced the country's education and religious systems. Today, its legacy is evident in the Philippines' linguistic profile. In 2024, the Philippines ranked 22nd out of 113 countries where English is not the first language, and second in Asia after Singapore (Education First, 2024).

Building on this history, a qualitative study explored how language, faith, and identity intersect among Filipinos in Canada and the Philippines. Through purposive sampling, seven participants—three in Montreal, one in Dawson, B.C., and three in the Philippines—shared personal stories about how English, introduced through American missionary efforts, shaped their spiritual journeys and personal growth. Although the participants—aged up to 71—did not live during the colonial era, they reflected on how its enduring legacy influenced their educational and religious experiences.

Participants described how missionaries used English not only for religious instruction but also to access education, foster personal growth, and facilitate intercultural connections. For

Spiritual Journeys in English: Filipino Stories of Language and Faith

Instance, Norma, 66, a retired professor in North Cotabato, recalled her time with Youth with A Mission at Mindanao State University, where American missionaries supported her spiritual and language development. "It broadened my knowledge of English and provided excellent opportunities to practice speaking," she said. This indicates that missionary-led instruction was both spiritual and developmental, enhancing linguistic skills and future opportunities. Edward, 56, a math teacher in Ottawa, added, "Learning English opened many doors. It was a bridge to Higher education, since many top universities use English. It also helped me secure teaching jobs in the U.S. and Canada as I'm fluent in English."

Cris, 48, an early childhood instructor in Dawson, B.C., expressed gratitude for missionaries who taught English and served as early educators, advancing education in the Philippines. "Remarkably, several older individuals from Indigenous mountain communities became fluent in English and went on to become teachers." Charlotte, 43, a caregiver in Montreal, emphasized that using English to spread Christianity was effective, given Filipinos' welcoming nature and respect for English speakers. "By using English, they made the Gospel more appealing." Lucy, 54, a pastor in Cotabato province, disclosed, "The Gospel has had more positive than negative impacts. When it was shared in English, many Filipinos naturally picked it up. Today, English is spoken not just by the educated but by the general population."

The study also found that English remains a vital spiritual resource. Participants regularly engage with English-language Bibles, sermons, and devotional materials. Charlotte, who studied Christian Education in English, found that the language deepened her understanding of the Bible. Eppie, 71, a retired researcher in Los Baños, Laguna, shared, "Most biblical tools are more accessible in

English, helping me grasp the meaning behind verses and their historical context." Cris revealed that daily Bible study in English enhances her spiritual insight and language skills. "It improves my grammar, vocabulary, and understanding of etymology and history. It also fosters self-reflection, critical thinking, and reading comprehension." She also uses English extensively in ministry and prefers writing reflections in English for its conciseness. Rowena, 49, a nurse in Montreal, conveyed that English enables her to minister to patients from diverse backgrounds, allowing her to embody Christ's compassion in her daily work.

This study highlights the dual role of English in Filipino faith communities: as a spiritual tool that enriches religious understanding and ministry, and as a colonial legacy that invites critical reflection. Participants described English as a resource that deepened their faith, expanded educational and professional opportunities, and enabled intercultural connections. These largely positive

From Page 1 Bill C-2

parts of Bill 2 in a bid to restart negotiations with physician federations, as reported in early November 2025.

Quebec's federation of family doctors latest group to launch legal challenge against pay reform law

Federation wants law suspended, says impacts have been 'catastrophic'

The Canadian Press · Posted: Nov 22,

The federation representing family doctors in Quebec has launched a legal challenge against a new law that sets physician pay according to performance metrics.

The federation filed its appeal for judicial review on Friday and wants the law to be suspended until a hearing on it can be heard.

The law known as Bill 2 has been in place since Oct. 25 and ties salaries to the number of patients served and their degree of vulnerability.

The federation says the law has already had catastrophic impacts, prompting some to leave Quebec, take early retirements or turn to the private sector.

In an announcement on Facebook on Friday, it further warned the law could prompt clinic closures, jeopardizing the public's ability to access essential care.

Federations in Quebec representing medical specialists and residents, along with the association representing pharmacy owners, have also filed their own legal challenges against the law.

Why physicians in Quebec are outraged over Bill 2

In the early hours on Saturday, Oct. 25, without meaningful debate,

narratives contrast with concerns that scholars like Pennycook and Makoni (2005) raise, warning that missionary-led English instruction can marginalize local languages and cultural traditions. Although this study did not explore the role of Indigenous or local languages, future research and faith-based initiatives should consider how these languages contribute to spiritual expression and community empowerment. Educators and missionaries should reflect on how language choices shape faith, identity, and inclusion—and to explore more linguistically inclusive approaches that honor the full spectrum of cultural and spiritual voices.

(Editor's note: Mr. Maganaka presented this research at the Christians in English Language Teaching Conference hosted by Biola University in California, USA, on March 7, 2025, and at the Qualitative Analysis Conference in Quebec City on June 18, 2025. His work contributes to ongoing conversations about language, colonial history, and the role of faith in shaping personal and communal identities.)

the Quebec government adopted Bill 2 — legislation to overhaul compensation for doctors in the province, introducing what critics describe as "Soviet-style" monitoring and fines up to \$20,000 a day for "concerted action" protesting the changes.

As a result, more than a thousand physicians in Quebec City Opens in a new window did just that, with more protests planned in other cities. Three physicians with the province's health authority Opens in a new window resigned.

So did Quebec's Social Services Minister Opens in a new window, whose daughter — a specialist in maternal-fetal medicine — wrote an open letter in Le Devoir Opens in a new window saying she is considering leaving a "deeply broken" health system to practice in Ontario.

Since the introduction of Bill 2, in fact, Ontario and New Brunswick have both seen a surge of applications from Quebec doctors.

A province where more than two million Quebecers lack access to a primary care provider and ER wait times are the highest in the country cannot afford to add another barrier to access to care. Here's a primer on why Quebec doctors are up in arms, and why the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is standing by them to protect patients as well as the profession.

What is Bill 2 in Quebec?

Bill 2 imposes a new contract on Quebec physicians, who have not had a collective agreement since March 2023. Under this new law, 10% of physicians' salaries will be tied to performance targets set by the

See Page 19 Why physicians



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Coalition calls on Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada to move forward in honoring Black community leaders in City's place names

A month after longtime civil rights activist Dan Philip died last year, Montreal's city council unanimously adopted a motion agreeing to designate a location in his honor.

But in the year and a half since, those who worked closely with the former Black Coalition of Quebec president say they've heard nothing more from the city.

With a new mayor now elected, civil rights advocates are urging the city's new administration to commit to honoring Philip and other deceased Black community leaders for their contributions.

"Promises are gathering dust on the shelves while important figures in our history still await the recognition they deserve," Max Stanley Bazin, Black Coalition of Quebec president, said during a news conference Monday.

The conference came after more than a dozen community groups, including prominent ones representing the city's Black community, wrote to Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada to request a meeting and urge her to act.



The four speakers at the press conference: L to R: Mark Henry, President Jamaica Association of Montreal; Max Stanley Bazin, President Black Coalition of Quebec; Marvin Rotrand, Director-General, United Against Hate Canada; and David Foster, President St. Lucia Canada Foundation.

calling on the city to return to an idea that Martinez Ferrada's Ensemble Montréal had previously supported: renaming the entire Place des Festivals after Peterson.

Dan Philip, former president of the Black Coalition of Quebec, was among the first to support the effort to

has contributed passes away, they will be considered as well," Rotrand added. "When they see the city passing motions and years go by with nothing happening, they begin to feel it's not genuine."

Martinez Ferrada's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

The news conference brought together several of the groups that signed the letter, with each speaking to how the three men contributed to shaping Montreal into the city it is today.

David Foster, the president of the St. Lucia Foundation of Canada, stressed that Philip devoted 40 years of his life to fighting against inequality and injustice.

Foster appealed directly to Martinez Ferrada, saying that honoring Philip along with the others is the least the city can do.

"If we forget these names ... we forget much of Montreal's history," Foster said. "We can't afford to risk that."

Source: Montreal Gazette article
By Jesse Feith, Nov. 17, 2025



Partial photo of the audience that attended the press conference

In addition to honoring Philip, they are requesting the city name a location after former Jamaica Association of Montreal president Noel Alexander, who died in 2021 after decades of advocating for improved police relations in the city.

They are also asking the city to review its plan to honour legendary jazz pianist Oscar Peterson with a new downtown square.

Announced in 2021, the project aims to name a new green space on McGill College Ave. in his honor. Although initially planned to be completed by 2025 because of other major work in the area, the space has yet to open.

Instead, the groups are now

From Page 6 Community Hub

respective special messages, the 2 MPPs and four MPs presented Certificates of Appreciation to FCT Board Members Efen De Villa, Mary Ann San Juan, Theresa Lumanlan, Wendy Arena, Philip Belloso, Frank Cruzet, and Joy D'Aoust. A mid-afternoon merienda of cheese, pies, cookies, suman, fruits, pastries and beverages was satisfactorily served to the guests. On the occasion, MP for

halt police street checks that target visible minorities and Indigenous people. Black community leader Dan Philip was 'one of the strongest voices for civil rights.

"We can see no gesture more appropriate than naming this location that is the heart of the annual jazz festival for the musician whose entire life made jazz and Montreal synonymous," the letter states.

While the idea gained traction at the time, then-mayor Valérie Plante said both her administration and Peterson's family agreed they wanted to find a new location to name after him instead of renaming an existing one.

Speaking alongside the groups

Scarborough- Agincourt Jean Yip announced that the Federal Government's International Development Department, through 3 Philippine NGOs, has recently released a total of \$ 650,000 "for humanitarian assistance to support emergency and disaster relief efforts in the country". Thanks to MPP Doly Begum and Toronto Councillor Jamal Myers for donating the Ontario and City of Toronto flags, respectively.(Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

on Monday, former Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand said the letter is a way of getting the new administration to engage with the community's requests and recognize their significance.

Although certain locations across Montreal have already been named after other Black community



Members from the Filipino-Canadian community pose with Marvin Rotrand after the press conference, November 17, 2025.

leaders, Rotrand said acting on the requests would "correct a feeling of disappointment and abandonment."

"The Black community just wants to be assured that if someone who

Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives — Michelle Obama






Anthony Housefather

Member of Parliament - Mount Royal
Député - Mont-Royal



This month, we pause to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation. As we wear our poppies with pride, we reflect on their courage, dedication, and the lasting legacy of their service.

Ce mois-ci, nous prenons un moment pour rendre hommage aux hommes et aux femmes courageux qui ont servi et continuent de servir notre grande nation. En portant nos coquelicots avec fierté, nous réfléchissons à leur courage, leur dévouement et à l'héritage durable de leur service.

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Recipes selected
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various sources

**Cooking
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Last month, we featured dishes from the Bicol region such as Bicol Express, Laing and other recipes that have coconut milk which is a common ingredient in this style of cooking. This time, we are featuring some of the best recipes from Pampanga province known as Kapampangan dishes.



Kilayin ng Kapampangan

INGREDIENTS:

½ kilogram laman (pork meat)
¼ kilogram liempo (pork)
¼ kilogram pork liver
¼ kilogram pork lungs (baga), finely chopped/minced
½ cup vinegar, divided (¼ cup for marinade and remaining for cooking)
5 cloves garlic, chopped
2 pieces onion, chopped
2 pieces siling haba (long green chili peppers)

1 dahon ng laurel (bay leaves)
2 tablespoon patis (fish sauce)
Ground pepper (pamintang durog)
cooking oil
½ cup water

INSTRUCTIONS:

Marination: In a bowl, marinate pork liver with ¼ cup vinegar and let it stand for 30 minutes or longer. Set aside.

In a large pan, heat oil and add minced lungs. Fry it until it becomes crispy. Frying lungs can be a risky business. Be careful when frying these minced lungs because oil may splatter, so it is safe to use a pan cover. Transfer crispy fried lungs into a bowl and set it aside for the last minute of cooking.

In the same pan, add oil to sauté garlic and onions. Let it cook until fragrant and onions becomes soft. Add pork liempo and pork meat and continue to fry for about 10 minutes or until golden brown in color. Season with patis and generous amount of ground pepper. Mix and toss it well. Pour in water and ¼ cup vinegar, let it

cook but do not stir the vinegar until it boils. Add siling haba and dahon ng laurel. Simmer over low heat for about 30 minutes until meat becomes tender.

Then discard vinegar from the marinated liver and add it to the simmering pan. Let it cook for additional 15 minutes. Finally, add back the crispy fried minced lungs and toss it until just combined. Season with salt and pepper according to taste preference. Serve it hot and enjoy!



Authentic Kapampangan Sisig

The process of making the popular present-day Kapampangan Sisig involves boiling and then grilling the meat. It is then chopped into fine bits and the rest of ingredients are added. Grilled chicken liver is also added for flavor and creaminess.

INGREDIENTS

1 pound pork belly - sliced about half-inch thick
salt and pepper
3 pieces chicken liver
1 big red onion - finely chopped
½ lemon or 3-4 kalamansi
1-2 chili peppers - minced or ¼ tablespoon chili flakes
½ tablespoon soy sauce
⅓ teaspoon ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Season pork belly slices with salt and pepper. Let it marinate for at least 30 minutes.

Grill pork belly and chicken liver until well done. Pork skin should be crispy. Once grilled, chop the pork belly and chicken liver into small fine pieces. In a bowl, combine the chopped meat, onions, lemon juice and chili pepper. Season with soy sauce and pepper.

Warm it in a pan with a bit of oil if desired. Alternatively, heat a sizzling plate and add some butter or margarine. Add the Sisig and serve while still sizzling hot.



Kapampangan Morcon

INGREDIENTS:

For the Roulade:

1 lb ground pork
1 lb ground beef
Pig's caul fat for wrapping (enough to encase the meat mixture)
1 large onion, finely chopped
1/2 cup grated cheese (cheddar is common)
1/4 cup raisins
1/4 cup chopped pickled relish or sweet pickles
2 hard-boiled eggs, quartered lengthwise
1-2 pieces of chorizo de Bilbao, sliced lengthwise (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
For Simmering:
2 tbsp cooking oil
1 large onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup tomato sauce
1-2 cups beef broth or water
1 bay leaf (optional)
2-3 tbsp liver spread (optional, for the sauce)

Instructions

Prepare the meat mixture: In a large bowl, combine the ground pork, ground beef, chopped onion, grated cheese, raisins, and pickled relish. Season with salt and pepper. Mix well to combine all ingredients evenly.
Assemble the morcon: Lay the pig's caul fat flat on a clean surface. Spread an even layer of the meat mixture over the caul fat. Arrange strips of the hard-boiled eggs and chorizo (if using) in a row near one edge.

Roll the morcon: Tightly roll the meat mixture, using the caul fat to encase the filling entirely, similar to a log or a large sausage.
Sear the morcon: Heat cooking oil in a large pan or casserole over medium heat. Carefully place the rolled morcon in the pan and sear all sides until lightly browned. Remove the morcon and set aside.

Simmer the morcon: In the same pan, sauté the chopped onions and garlic until fragrant. Pour in the tomato sauce and beef broth (or water), and add the bay leaf. Bring the mixture to a boil. Cook until tender: Gently place the seared morcon roll back into the pan with the sauce. Lower the heat, cover, and simmer for about 1.5 to 2 hours, or until the meat is thoroughly cooked and tender. Add more water if the sauce dries out.

Finish the sauce and serve: Remove the morcon from the pan and let it rest for a few minutes before slicing. If using, stir in the liver spread to the remaining sauce and simmer for another few minutes until the sauce thickens. Slice the morcon into 1-inch thick rounds and pour the sauce on

top.

Serve: Serve the Murcon Kapampangan hot with steamed rice.



Pork Asado Kapampangan

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons oil
2 large potatoes - peeled and cut into slices
2 pounds pork shoulder - cut into 3-4 big chunks
2 cloves garlic - minced
2 medium or 1 large onion - chopped
1 cup tomato sauce
¼ cup lemon juice or calamansi juice
½ cup soy sauce
1 bunch dried thyme or oregano
10-12 pieces peppercorn
2-3 cups water
3 ounces (small can) liver spread
½ cup grated cheese

Instructions

Heat 2 tablespoon oil in a pot over medium-high heat. Fry the potato slices in a single layer until lightly browned. Remove from oil and set aside.

In the same pot, add another tablespoon of oil. Sear the pork shoulder cuts until browned. Remove from oil and set aside.

Still, in the same pot over medium heat, saute garlic and onions until limp and aromatic. Pour the tomato sauce, calamansi or lemon juice, and soy sauce.

Add the pork cuts, dried oregano, and peppercorns and cook for a minute or two, turning the cuts from time to time. Add the water and bring to a boil.

Once it starts to boil, cover the pot with the lid and turn the heat to low. Let it simmer until meat is fork-tender, about 45-60 minutes.

Remove cover add the liver spread and turn heat up to reduce the liquids to a thicker sauce. Add the grated cheese and cook for another 2-3 minute. Serve with rice while warm.





Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Hello to my lovely tidbits readers! Though Thanksgiving already passed, let's always be grateful to God for His daily blessings that we tend to overlook like food, shelter, clothing and so much more. At the very least, if you woke up today, you have the Author of life to thank. And I am thankful to you, faithful readers, who inspire me to write. Now let's look at what the Filipino community is up to.

Team Ensemble Montreal

We have a winner. Congratulations to Mayor Stephanie! Don't you just like her new title? The pride of Montreal Filipinos, Stephanie Valenzuela, is a McGill University graduate with a Political Science Degree. She made history by winning in this month's local elections. She previously represented the district of Darlington, borough of Cote-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grace (CDN-NDG) where she was born and raised by Filipino immigrants. On being the first Filipino Canadian Borough mayor in Montreal, Philippine Ambassador Rodolfo D. Robles had this to say: "The Filipino diaspora across Canada celebrates the historic win of Stephanie Valenzuela as the first Canadian of Filipino heritage to be elected to the City Council of Montreal." On meeting Valenzuela several times, Robles is confident that she will be a strong voice for the 35,000 Filipinos in Montreal. (Philippine Embassy in Ottawa)

Stephanie's win was decisive. According to the tally of the 2025 Montreal municipal elections, she

bested her incumbent opponent Gracia Kasoki Katahwa by over 6000 votes. On a personal note, she is pregnant with her first child. Now aged 34, she had reservations at first about running for mayor. However, she stated that "Balancing the campaign with my pregnancy was something I really had to think through. But the support of Dean and the thought of my little girl gave me the courage to take on this challenge." (Rachel Reid Ramon, Canadian Filipino Net)

Another Filipino favorite who emerged victorious was Sonny Moroz who ran a successful reelection campaign, winning his bid as Snowdon Councilor with 62% of the vote. As the city's only Jewish city councilor, Sonny credited the mobilization of the Jewish community who "came out in droves in support of change just like other communities who felt they were not listened to, despite promises by the administration" (The Canadian Jewish News, Nov 3, 2025). Both Sonny and Stephanie ran under Ensemble Montreal, with Soraya Martinez Ferrada winning as Montreal Mayor. Sonny and Stephanie's victory highlight the unwavering cooperation between the Filipino and Jewish communities. We have much to celebrate!

What's the secret to their success? Behind the scenes were many supporters, notably Marvin Rotrand (Director General, United against Hate Canada) who distributed a list of voters to call and bring out the vote for Ensemble Montreal. Marvin is

organized, intense, and formidable. For my part, I myself received such lists. I might have called around two hundred household voters especially during the last two weeks of the election. I had to return those lists to him for further scrutiny, to see who has or hasn't voted. Marvin, the election wizard, made his instructions very clear. Many supporters also went knocking on doors to remind voters of advanced voting (October 24, 2025) and the election (November 2, 2025). It seems to me that in every endeavor, Marvin is at the top directing his ground crew. When fighting elections, you want Marvin on your side.

HALO HALO

No, this is not the snack section. It's a 'little bit of everything' section. Friends Hans Wilgehof and Adoree Silva from Ottawa had a lunch reunion at a Scores Restaurant in downtown Montreal a few weeks ago. Joining them were their buddies Cely Dagsaan, Ciony Nueva, Cesa Gladych, Vicky Laya and their other friends. These get-togethers occur whenever Hans and Adoree are in town visiting from Ottawa.

And what's up with the United Pilipino Seniors (UPS)? Having talked to UPS President Gerry Danzil, he related about the party they held several weeks ago. One of the highlights was the selection of Miss UPS. The winner will be crowned on January 10, 2026 at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal. Stay tuned.

And did you hear about Nola Manuel, Montreal's line dancing guru? Well, her dance classes are expanding. She has a 4-5pm class at the Coolbrook Chalet on 260 Spring Gardens, Dollard des Ormeaux. This follows the Wednesday bingo of the Seniors of West Island (SWIS). She also has a new group in Vaudreuil plus the group she started with the Filipino Canadian Association of West Island (FCAWI).

Home away from home

Did you know that I was confined at St. Anne de Bellevue Hospital (rehabilitation unit) in St. Anne

de Bellevue for about two months? This was due to a fall in my bathroom that resulted in a fractured ankle. I thank God everyday for the friendly and caring staff who performed beyond the line of duty making me feel at home. I wish they could hear me; I'd like to give a shout out to the special Filipina PABs Marie and Joanne, Nurses Katrina, Tracy, and Marie, PABs Steve and Jennyfer, Spa Lady Melanie, Fitness teacher Marco, and last but not least Physio-therapists Myriam and Isabelle. They are all efficient. I often wondered how they can remain smiling from beginning to end of their shift. The best part of my stay was that each patient had their own private room; mine was quite large being a corner unit. My daughter Joy made daily visits. She sometimes played the piano that was in an open area and the residents seemed to enjoy listening to the live music. On my last weekend before my discharge, she was invited to play during the Sunday Mass with a priest officiating. She played only church hymns which many of the older residents seem to recognize. I learned that St. Anne's Hospital used to be a hospital mainly for the veterans, thus, there were ceremonies commemorating Remembrance Day. I'd like to remember what God has done for me. I thank Him that I'm already home to continue my recovery. I thank Him for this column where I can share His word and His comfort and His encouragement.

In closing, may I urge that we "give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted" (Isaiah 12:4). And in keeping with Remembrance Day, "beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His precepts, and His statutes" (Deuteronomy 8:11). Furthermore, "this is what love for God is: to keep His commands. And His commands are not a burden." (1 John 5:3)

Until next issue. God Bless!

1st Alberto Abiera Scholarship awarded to Gilmore College International

(Marvin Rotrand's Facebook post, Nov. 17, 2025) - Yesterday would have been Alberto Abiera's 91st birthday. When Tata Bert, as he was affectionately known, passed away unexpectedly a few days shy of his 90th birthday, community members rallied to find a way to have Bert's name live on.

Bert was one of the pioneers of the Filipino community in Quebec. He was a founder of so many of the important organizations that provide services to the community and which everyone now relies upon. But these organizations did not always exist. Bert played a huge role in founding and sustaining them, allowing them to grow into important institutions.

Bert believed in education. He urged newcomers to improve their skills promoting continuing education and helping many receive their diplomas. His commitment to adult education led his admirers to set up the Alberto Abiera Scholarship Foundation.

The Foundation has begun fund raising, has set up an Executive



Bert Abiera's favorite project was the installation of Dr. Rizal's bust in Montreal for the Phil. Centennial Celebration in 1998.

Board and adopted statutes. It is still in its early stages but has begun its work to promote Bert's efforts to help people improve their lives. The Board intends to grow the fund in future years.

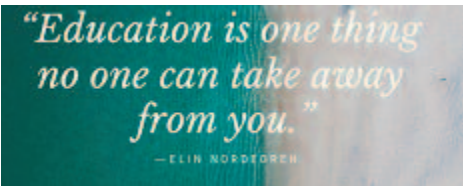
Yesterday, to mark Bert's birthday, the Board awarded its first grant. That went to Zenaida Kharroubi

and Gilmore College International. The grant to Gilmore College is in recognition of its important work in providing continuing education to adult students of Filipino origin and heritage in Montreal. The Board members wanted the community to know of its esteem for the work of Gilmore which has just marked its 36th anniversary on November 1st. The College has given opportunity to many who would otherwise have been unable to register and benefit from an adult education curriculum. Gilmore College has conformed to the values that Bert held dear and the Scholarship Foundation was pleased to recognize its positive

benefit to the community.

Gilmore College is in many ways unique, being a private college that offers instruction to young adults for a wide array of skills as well as language courses in English, French, Spanish, and Filipino.

We congratulate Mrs. Kharroubi for her accomplishments which also include her role as publisher of the North American Filipino Star.



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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Bea Alonzo finds her happy place



Bea Alonzo embraces calm and balance as she talks about finding happiness and self-discovery following her solo birthday trip to Madrid

Fans have noticed Bea Alonzo is glowing these days, and the actress credits her radiance to a calm, balanced life and a recent solo trip to Madrid.

"Well, it's just because I'm happy," Alonzo said. "Happiness keeps you pretty!"

The award-winning actress described her current state as a combination of life experience and the people around her. "I don't know if it comes with age or experiences or the people you surround yourself with, I think that's very important. Personally, right now, it's a certain type like there's a newfound that comes with that happiness, so it's okay!"

Alonzo recently traveled to Spain alone after her birthday on Oct. 17.

"It's not really a gift for

myself, but I traveled to Spain alone," she said.

Asked why she traveled without her boyfriend, Vincent Co, Alonzo explained, "For one, I like doing it. I like to travel alone. Everyone knows that I'm already a resident there. You feel as if you're really one of the locals. Another thing is I get to enjoy the weather. So, it's like my happy place."

Regarding her next projects after the successful GMA soap *Widows' War*, she said, "Right now, I'm more focused on my business and my personal life, of course. But when the right project comes along, even if I'm in a calm state now, I will get out of my shell to do something!"

Alonzo described 2025 as a year of self-discovery.

"There's also kindness to

myself and helping myself find the right pace, which I currently enjoy," she said.

Asked about changes in her lifestyle now that her love life is at peace, she said, "Well, I can say that I'm still the same. My lifestyle is not dependent on my partner. I live on my own terms. I'm not dependent on other people. To be honest, I don't want to talk about my love life in my interviews. I can only speak for myself."

"I worked so hard to obtain the life I have at this point. There are various aspects to consider. There is the monetary side and the mental. So, to find somebody to enter your life, you should complement each other. Lifestyle-wise, it's still the same. The only difference is that now, things are calmer," she added. ■

On her own terms



Samantha da Roza

Samantha da Roza, daughter of former top model Cathy da Roza and grandniece of Miss Universe 1969 Gloria Diaz, is ready to make a name for herself in the entertainment industry.

Da Roza, 24, said she grew up under Diaz's "tough love," which instilled in her confidence and discipline.

"She's very supportive but tough. She'll tell you right away what needs to be improved," Da Roza said in an interview with Manila Standard Entertainment. "She's a perfectionist and very detail-oriented."

The young actress shared that her grand-aunt's influence encouraged her to pursue her passions in acting, singing, and business.

"She always told me to go beyond, not just in showbiz but in other industries," she said. "Her advice is to be 'delulu,' to believe you're the most beautiful and most talented in the world."

While she acknowledges her showbiz lineage, Da Roza said she wants to prove herself through hard work.

"I'm proud to be a nepo baby, but not the kind people usually talk about now," she said. "I'm carving my own path as an actress and entrepreneur."

Now managed by Leo V. Dominguez Management, Da Roza stars in *Isla Babuyan* alongside Lotlot de Leon. She said her theater background helped her prepare for her debut role.

"I tried to apply everything I learned in theater, and Miss Lotlot served as my mentor," she said, adding that one of her most memorable scenes was a monologue shot in just two takes.

A graduate of Multimedia Arts from De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Da Roza is also preparing to launch a jewelry line inspired by Japanese and Italian designs in time for Christmas. ■

Why Manny Pacquiao has to leave Netflix reality series 'Physical: Asia'



Manny Pacquiao has withdrawn from the Netflix competition series "Physical: Asia," citing a prior commitment in the Philippines that required him to leave the program earlier than planned.

In the fifth episode of the series, Pacquiao apologized to

Philippines," he added.

Pacquiao served as the original captain of Team Philippines in the newest installment of the "Physical: 1001" franchise, which now features country-based teams competing in large-scale physical challenges.



his teammates and viewers for his departure while the competition was still ongoing.

"I have to leave the competition and return to the Philippines because of another obligation in my home country," Pacquiao said during the episode.

The octuple champion did not disclose the nature of the commitment.

"I also want to apologize to my team. As a team captain, I was really proud to have the opportunity to represent the

Former CrossFit Games athlete Justin Hernandez will take over as team captain following Pacquiao's exit.

Beginning Episode 6, Team Philippines will continue the competition with Hernandez, Fil-Am sambo athlete Mark "Mugen" Striegl, strongman Ray Jefferson Querubin, national rugby player Justin Coveney, hurdler Robyn Lauren Brown, and CrossFit athlete Lara Liwanag.

"Physical: Asia" is currently streaming on Netflix. ■

KC Concepcion opens up on reason behind seven-year hiatus from showbiz



After seven years away from the spotlight, KC Concepcion has finally revealed what led her to step back from showbiz.

In a heartfelt interview on Fast Talk With Boy Abunda, the actress said that the passing of her grandmother, Elaine Cuneta, deeply affected her emotional and physical well-being.

"May nabasa po akong libro, Secrets of The Millionaire Mind. It says there, 'Your thoughts turn into feelings and your feelings turn into actions and your actions turn into results.' So kung ang thoughts mo ay nagiging negative na, ganoon na rin ang magiging resulta ng choices mo sa buhay," [So if your thoughts are becoming negative, the same will be the result of your choices in life.] she said. "Nawala din kasi si Mita Elaine noon... nag-cope talaga yung buong family." [Mita

Elaine also disappeared then... the whole family really coped.]

KC admitted that grief took a toll on her health and happiness, prompting her to rest and take time away from work.

Now, she's in a much better place—especially after reconciling with her mom, Sharon Cuneta.

"Masayang-masaya dahil after a while, sobrang okay na kami ni Mama. Sobrang nagmamahalan kaming pamilya," [I'm so happy because after a while, Mom and I are doing really well. Our family loves each other so much.] she shared.

When asked about returning to music, KC smiled and teased, "Abangan niyo na lang po. I don't know kung puwede na pag-usapan." [Just wait and see. I don't know if we can talk about it.] ■

Actor Dido de la Paz dies at 69



Dido de la Paz

Broadway star Lea Salonga is makinCharacter actor Dido de la Paz died today, Saturday (Nov. 22), at the age of 69, his family confirmed in a statement shared on social media.

"Dear family and friends, it is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dido de la Paz. A father, a brother, and a friend to many," his son Jan-B said on his Facebook page.

"Further details regarding the wake will be posted on Monday. Thank you and God bless," he added.

While the cause of death was not immediately stated, Dido opened up in 2022 about his battle with cancer. At the time, Dido said the cancer cells had spread to his brain and that undergoing chemotherapy was no longer an option for him.

"I have started to feel pain and discomfort from places I haven't felt pain before. I need medication but have no resources. I would gladly work even thru pain, but there is no work to be had," he said at the time.

The actor had also been using his social media pages to ask for prayers and financial help.

De la Paz starred in numerous films including "Geisha of Death" (2015), "Bagman" (2019), "The Heiress" (2019), "Essential Truths of the Lake" (2023) ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15***Jinkee Pacquiao introduces her first grandchild, Clara**

Jinkee Pacquiao marks a new chapter in her life as she embraces her role as a grandmother to Clara, the daughter of her eldest son Jimuel Pacquiao.

Jinkee Pacquiao recently shared a heartwarming moment with her fans as she proudly introduced her first grandchild, Clara—the daughter of her eldest son Jimuel Pacquiao with his partner, Carolina.

In an Instagram post, the wife of boxing legend Manny Pacquiao expressed her joy and

love for her newborn granddaughter by sharing her first few moments with her.

The first-time grandmother posted photos of baby Clara, showing she's cradling the little one in her arms.

Jinkee wrote in the caption, "Hello, Universe! My name is Clara." ■

Pia Wurtzbach, Marian Rivera named among Philippines' most elegant women

Marian Rivera and Pia Wurtzbach were named two of the Philippines' most elegant women for 2025, receiving honors at Tingting's List: The Elegant Filipinas on Nov. 5 at Shangri-La Makati.

Nine other women from various fields were also recognized for their contributions to their communities, including Crystal

Jacinto, Annette Gozon-Valdes, and Sharon Cuneta. Each recipient received the Leaf of Elegance trophy, crafted by artist Arnel Papa.

Now in its sixth year, Tingting's List celebrates Filipino women who inspire and uplift others and serves as a fundraiser for charitable causes. ■

Survivor TV series scouts Dinagat Islands for new season

A pristine cove in the Dinagat Islands

The rugged and pristine terrain of the Dinagat Islands may soon be the setting for an international television event, as producers of the popular reality series Survivor plan to scout the province for its upcoming season.

In a letter to provincial officials, John Bel Martinez of Philippine Film Studios, Inc. (PFSI), the local co-production partner for the international franchise, outlined plans for location scouting between December 2025 and January 2026. The search is for remote islands with minimal human footprint, ranging from lightly touched environments to completely uninhabited natural reserves.

In an interview Saturday, Governor Nilo Demerey Jr. welcomed the prospect, calling it a "tremendous opportunity" for the province.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Dinagat Islands to be showcased on the global stage," he said. "We have islands that are pristine, untouched, and naturally breathtaking. These are perfect for the kind of immersive and rugged

experience that Survivor is known for."

He highlighted the project's potential to boost sustainable tourism and raise global awareness about the province's ecological richness. PFSI, which has facilitated Survivor productions for such countries as France, Sweden, and the United States, is known for working in challenging locations.

Martinez assured in his letter that the company would work closely with local officials and communities to ensure the process aligns with environmental and cultural sensitivities.

"We are ready to assist PFSI in identifying suitable sites and providing logistical support. This project could be a game-changer for Dinagat," Demerey said, pledging the provincial government's full cooperation.

If selected, a Dinagat Islands season would be a milestone, transforming the province into a prime destination for international adventure tourism and eco-conscious filmmaking. ■

Filipino Film “How to Get Away from My Toxic Family” Draws Sold-Out Crowds in First-Ever Canada Premiere Tour



A sold-out Movie Premiere Night of “How to get away from my toxic family”. From left to right: Host Adiva, Producer Reachill del Castillo of Flair Events, Writer Ogie Diaz and Celebrity Guest Loi Villarama. Photo credit to CCH Photography Montreal

By Cristy Celeste Hunter

The powerful Filipino drama “How to Get Away from My Toxic Family” has successfully completed its first-ever Canadian Movie Premiere Tour, capturing the hearts of audiences across the country, headed by the Tour Manager Reachill Del Castillo of Flair Events Production. The tour opened on November 7 in Montreal, followed by November 8 in Ottawa, November 9 in Toronto, and concluded on November

organization led by well-known Filipino personality Ogie Diaz. The foundation supports breast cancer patients and survivors, providing essential assistance to those undergoing treatment. Proceeds from the Canada tour will go directly toward this advocacy, adding a meaningful humanitarian mission to the film’s impact.

“How to Get Away from My Toxic” Family follows the story of Arsenio, a dedicated chef who returns

expressing anger, sadness, hope, joy, and compassion. At moments, viewers felt compelled to “jump into the movie” to defend Arsenio, particularly as he faced repeated emotional burdens. Gasps and tears filled theaters during unexpected scenes, including the death of a key character.

Some audiences expressed personal reflections such as “Sana mapanood ng pamilya ko” (“I hope my family watches this movie”), highlighting how the story resonates with many who struggle with familial pressure. The film also opens conversations about boundaries, reminding viewers that while love and tradition are important; they should not erase one’s need for self-care and emotional space. Despite the conflicts portrayed, the movie emphasizes that love persists at the core of every family relationship.

During one of the premiere nights, a discussion arose about the film’s title and the portrayal of Filipinos.

It was noted that Filipinos are among the most generous people in the world, always ready to give and help. This spirit comes from the deep-rooted tradition of “Bayanihan” which symbolizes unity, kindness, and communal support.

In response, Ogie Diaz explained that while the movie portrays the real experiences of many OFWs (including encounters with toxic family behaviors) it equally highlights the Filipino traits of perseverance, hope, gratitude, and the desire to keep moving forward despite hardships. He also shared that the title was inspired by his fondness for the series How to Get Away with Murder.

Its open ending invites audiences to imagine Arsenio’s next chapter, leaving many hoping for a Part 2.

Critics praise How to Get Away from My Toxic Family for its authenticity, emotional depth, and cultural relevance. More than entertainment, it



Movie Premiere Sponsors and Supporters (Photo credit to Domz Ramos Photography)

15 in Edmonton, with every premiere night sold out. One of the writers of the movie, Ogie Diaz, and a celebrity guest Loi Villarama (of “I-Chika mo na dali”), with Mr. Oliver Carnay were present in each premier.

Warmly welcomed by Filipino communities nationwide, the film also drew significant attention from non-Filipino viewers, thanks to its English subtitles, which allowed a broader audience to appreciate the story’s emotional depth and cultural context. Local businesses throughout the tour provided generous sponsorships, helping bring the premiere events to life in each city.

But beyond nationwide promotion, the tour carried a deeper purpose: to raise funds for the “Kasuso Foundation” in the Philippines, an

to the Philippines after years of working in Dubai. Hoping to begin a new life and open his own restaurant, he instead confronts the harsh realities of toxic family dynamics. The film shines a powerful light on the emotional struggles faced by many Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), who often shoulder immense pressure and expectations from their families back home while enduring isolation and hardship abroad.

Audiences across Canada found the film deeply relatable. Many shared that working and living far from home is never easy, and that families sometimes forget the emotional battles that come with being alone in a foreign country. Throughout the screenings, audiences reacted strongly to the film’s twists and emotional scenes;



Taken during the sponsors appreciation night at LaMesa by P'lengke (Left: Ogie Diaz / Right: Loi Villarama). Photo credit: Domz Ramos Photography.

A non-Filipino viewer shared his sentiments, saying he found it hard to believe Filipinos could be described as “toxic,” given their reputation for being hospitable, caring, loving, compassionate, kind, and hardworking. I emphasized to him and mentioned that Filipinos are naturally beautiful inside and out—a sentiment met with agree-

serves as a heartfelt reminder of the sacrifices made by OFWs and the importance of both love and healthy boundaries within families. #

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Prime Minister Carney opens the second phase of REM: Québec's largest public transit project in 50 years

November 14, 2025
Montréal, Québec

Changes in the global trading system are causing massive disruptions and uncertainty for Canadians. Canada's new government is on a mission to enable \$1 trillion in investments over the next five years so we can give ourselves more than any foreign government can take away. Central to that plan is building new local infrastructure and stronger communities.

Today, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, was in Montréal to mark the opening of the next phase of the REM network. Stretching from downtown Montréal to Deux-Montagnes, the new 30-kilometre extension adds 14 stations to the network, expanding REM service to nearly 50 kilometres and a total of 19 stations. The fully electric system now links the North and South shores to downtown Montréal, with stations on the West Island.

The REM is the largest public transit project undertaken in Québec in half a century. Once fully completed, the network will extend 67 kilometres across 26 stations, including from downtown Montréal to the international airport. It will accommodate up to 170,000 users per day, cut greenhouse gas emissions by 100,000 tonnes annually – the equivalent of removing 30,000 cars from the road each day – and make it possible to reach the airport from downtown by train in just 25 minutes.

The project is also generating significant economic benefits for the Greater Montréal Area, including 34,000 jobs during construction, 1,000 permanent jobs, and over \$2 billion in wages once the network is fully operational.

This network is expanding even further, with extensions to Anse-à-l'Orme and Montréal-Trudeau International Airport expected to open in spring 2026 and in 2027, respectively. In July 2025, the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) announced a \$1 billion loan to Aéroports de Montréal for a new building that will directly connect the airport terminal to the REM network – part of the largest infrastructure transformation in the airport's history, which will expand capacity, improve service, and enhance the passenger experience.

Projects like the REM and the Montréal airport transformation demonstrate Canada's ambition to build at the speed and scale this moment demands – investing in the infrastructure, industries, and workers that drive growth, boost productivity, and build Canada strong.

Quotes

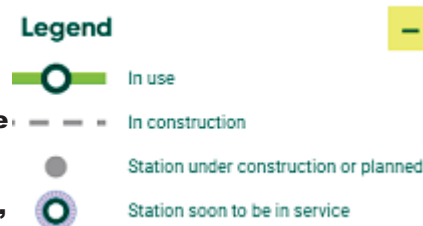
"The REM is a world-class infrastructure project that connects Montréal, creates thousands of high-paying careers, and catalyses innovative partnerships between the public and private sectors. As

Québec's largest public transit project in half a century, the REM is testament other."

— The Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of



The Réseau express métropolitain (REM) is an automated light metro system. The network is currently in partial operation between Brossard station on the South Shore and Gare Centrale station in the heart of downtown Montréal. Construction continues towards Deux-Montagnes, Anse-à-l'Orme and Montréal-Trudeau Airport. Once fully built and in service, the network will boast 26 stations and 67 km of track across Greater Montréal.



to our ambition to build big, build bold, and build Québec strong so we can build Canada strong."

— The Rt. Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada

"The progress being made on the next phase of the REM network is evidence of how we can build our communities strong. With this project, we're helping Montréal grow to meet future demand while building stronger, more connected communities. This upgraded infrastructure helps businesses run more smoothly, makes it easier for people to get to work, and supports new jobs."

— The Hon. Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada

"The REM project and its connection to Montréal-Trudeau International Airport mark a transformative investment in how people move in and around Montréal. This transit link will ease congestion, strengthen our economy, and make travel smoother, faster, and more sustainable for everyone, from daily commuters to visitors from around the world."

— The Hon. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

"The opening of the REM to Deux-Montagnes is excellent news for citizens and businesses in Greater Montréal. It will offer faster and more environmentally friendly travel, improving quality of life and everyday mobility, while promoting sustainable urban development. It will also contribute to the economic growth of Greater Montréal, supporting the development of strategic sectors, in particular by connecting employers and workers from one shore to the

a \$1 billion loan to Aéroports de Montréal to advance the largest infrastructure transformation in the history of Montréal-Trudeau International Airport.

The federal government is supporting a range of other transformative projects in the Greater Montréal Area:

Alto High-Speed Rail: Canada's first high-speed railway, spanning approximately 1,000 km from Toronto to Montreal and Québec City. Reaching speeds of up to 300 km/hour, this would cut travel times in half and connect close to half of Canada's population. This is a project that could create 51,000 jobs during construction and inject up to \$35 billion into our GDP – with a target of 25 million tonnes in emissions savings.

The Contrecoeur Terminal Container Project, in Contrecoeur, was referred to the MPO in September. The project will expand the Port of Montréal's capacity by approximately 60%, to give Eastern Canada the trading infrastructure it needs to keep goods moving, meet growing demand, and diversify trade routes. This project will create 5,000 jobs during construction and 1,000 permanent jobs during operation, generating up to \$140 million per year in added commercial value across Canada.

Budget 2025 announced support for the new Centre sportif de Montréal-Nord through the new Build Communities Strong Fund – part of the government's plan to upgrade and expand community infrastructure across the country. This new sports complex will give residents modern spaces to train and swim, improve access to recreation for youth and families, and strengthen local infrastructure in a fast-growing neighbourhood.

Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Quick facts

REM is the result of extensive partnership between the Government of Canada through the CIB, CDPQ Infra, REM inc., the Government of Quebec, Aéroports de Montréal, and Hydro-Québec.

The Government of Canada invested \$1.28 billion into the REM network, and another \$400 million to directly connect the airport terminal to the REM network, so Montréal residents and visitors can get from downtown to the airport by train in just 25 minutes. This station is expected to open in 2027.

July 2025, the CIB announced



Today the REM Deux Montagne line opened and I joined MNA Michelle Setlakwe and TMR Mayor Peter Malouf as well as members of the TMR council to inaugurate the Mount Royal REM station. It is a beautiful building and when all the lines are completed we will be able to use the REM to go downtown, to the airport, to the West Island and South Shore. (November 14, 2025 FB Post of MP Anthony Housefather).

Ukraine allies give cautious welcome to 'modified' peace framework

(Nov. 24, 2025) European allies of Ukraine have given a cautious welcome to efforts to refine a United States peace proposal initially criticised for appearing to be weighted in favour of Russia's maximalist demands.

The leaders of Germany, Finland, Poland and the United Kingdom were among those agreeing on Monday that progress had been made in the previous day's talks between Washington and Kyiv in Geneva that yielded what the US and Ukraine called a "refined peace framework".

Still, the European leaders stressed that work remained to be done.

"It was possible to clear up some questions, but we also know that there won't be peace in Ukraine overnight," said German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, adding that the peace plan initially drafted by the US had been "modified in significant parts".

He welcomed the "interim result".

"The next step must be that Russia must come to the table," Merz said from Angola, where he was attending a summit between African and European Union countries. "This is a laborious process. It will move forward at most in smaller steps this week. I do not expect there to be a breakthrough this week."

US President Donald Trump had blindsided Kyiv and its European countries last week with a 28-point peace

plan criticised by some as a Russian wish list that called for Ukraine to cede more territory, accept limits on its military and abandon its ambitions to join NATO.

Britain, France and Germany responded by drawing up a counterproposal that would cease fighting at the present front lines, leaving discussions of territory for later, and include a NATO-style US security guarantee for Ukraine, according to a draft seen by Reuters news agency.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that the peace plan now contained fewer than 28 points and incorporated "correct elements", stressing that he would discuss "sensitive issues, the most delicate points" with Trump.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that Ukraine's allies in the "coalition of the willing" – a broad term for about 30 countries supporting Kyiv – will hold talks about the negotiations on Tuesday by video.

The German Foreign Office said that the chief diplomats of Germany, Finland, France, the UK, Italy and Poland consulted Monday with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on further steps towards ending the war.

Also attending the summit in Angola, European Council President Antonio Costa said there was "new momentum" in negotiations.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the

Quebec remains the only province without an independent arbitration mechanism — a process that helps other provinces and territories resolve matters and improves patients' access to care. The CMA continues to reiterate its call to implement one.

How does the Quebec government justify Bill 2?

The Quebec government says the reforms are necessary to improve access to care.

During his 2018 election campaign, Premier François Legault promised all Quebecers access to primary care, though he conceded four years later that it was "not possible." The government now promises every Quebecer access to a health professional by the summer of 2026 — just before the next provincial election.

The province offered an additional \$400 million (\$100 million per year over four years) to increase the availability of operating rooms. They're also offering a total of \$200 million (\$50 million per year over four years) for family medicine groups (GMFs).

They're also adding a total of \$120 million (\$30 million per year over four years) to add professionals to the Centres de répartition des demandes de services (CRDS), which refer requests for specialist consultations, allowing the hiring of nearly 300 people to reduce waiting lists.

The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2026.

With files from Canadian Medical Association website

European Union would "engage further tomorrow with our partners from the coalition of the willing".

Big progress'

On Monday, Trump indicated Sunday's talks had gone well.

"Is it really possible that big progress is being made in Peace Talks between Russia and Ukraine??? Don't believe it until you see it, but something good just may be happening," the US president wrote on Truth Social.

Trump had given Zelenskyy, who is under the doubled pressure of Russia's continued advance on the front line and a corruption scandal that has tainted his administration, until Thursday to agree to a framework to end the war. He also accused Zelenskyy of showing "zero gratitude" for peace efforts.

Still, The Ukrainian president welcomed Trump's "constructive" approach on Monday.

Earlier that day, he said on X that Ukraine would "continue working with partners, especially the United States, and look for compromises that strengthen but not weaken us".

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk also said on Monday that negotiations were a "delicate matter" since "no one wants to discourage Americans and President Trump from having the United States on our side in this process".

The Kremlin said it had not been informed of the results of the Geneva talks, but that it was aware that "adjustments" were made to the US proposal.

In a call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday,

Russian President Vladimir Putin repeated his view that the initial US plan could "serve as a basis for a final peace settlement".

During the call, Erdogan said Türkiye was ready to support efforts to bring Russia and Ukraine together, including helping to facilitate direct talks between the two.

Grim reality

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has decimated the east of the country, forcing millions to flee their homes, ravaging towns and cities, and killing tens of thousands in Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

On Monday, the nearly four-year war continued to grind on, with Russian forces keeping up their deadly and devastating strikes on civilian areas while making battlefield advances in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhia region.

Russian drones hit residential areas of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, overnight, killing four people and wounding 13, including two children, authorities said.

On Monday, Russian forces struck the city of Pavlohrad in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region with drones, wounding three people and damaging industrial facilities, according to regional authorities.

That morning, Russian shelling killed a 61-year-old woman in Kherson, according to the military administration of the city in southern Ukraine.

With files from Al Jazeera News (abridged version)

From Page 9 Why physicians

province — with payments clawed back if they don't meet them.

Some of the targets include ensuring 75% of emergency department patients are seen within 90 minutes and 97% of surgeries are completed within a year of assessment. The contract also imposes capitation on family physicians, paying them a fixed sum per patient. There's currently a shortage of approximately 1,200 general practitioners in Quebec.

Why are the targets for doctors in Bill 2 controversial?

Physicians say the law shifts responsibility for improving access to care onto the profession — already stretched thin — rather than addressing systemic issues like understaffing.

Dr. Gabrielle Voisine, an emergency physician who spoke at a protest in front of Quebec's National Assembly on Nov. 1, called the law "the final nail in the coffin of the health-care system."

Both the Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec (FMSQ) and the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) will file court challenges to Bill 2.

The CMA also strongly opposes it, warning the law "risks exacerbating the sense of discouragement and disengagement" in the profession and "could push many physicians to retire early or leave Quebec for other provinces, further weakening an already strained health care system."



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NOVEMBER 2025 PICTORIAL NEWS



Green ribbon cutting ceremony to open the McGill station, located in the tunnel linking Place Montreal Trust to the Eaton Center, Nov. 14, 2025



Montreal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Quebec Premier François Legault, Prime Minister Mark Carney and Charles Emond, President and CEO of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, right, pose for photos with municipal and provincial politicians after arriving by the REM at the ceremony inaugurating the Deux-Montagnes line of the REM in Deux-Montagnes on Friday Nov. 14, 2025. Photo by John Mahoney /Montreal Gazette



Ottawa Christmas market opens this weekend, Friday, Nov. 21, and ends on Dec. 31, 2025. The holiday celebration continues all weekend in the ByWard Market, with the Outdoor Holiday Market, a horse-drawn wagon, carollers and a daily light show.



In recognition of the educational services rendered to the community for the past 36 years, the Alberto Abiera Scholarship Foundation selected Gilmore College International as the first recipient of its award and presented a cheque for \$500 to its founder and director-general, Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025 which coincides with Abiera’s 91st birthday. Photo shows Marvin Rotrand and Editha Fedalizo during the presentation ceremony held at Gilmore College International’s headquarters on Cote des Neiges.



The Board of Directors of the Alberto Abiera Scholarship Foundation pose for souvenir of the cheque presentation ceremony, on Sunday, Nov, 16, 2025 shown from left to right: Svetlana Suarez, Rey Balansi, Marvin Rotrand, Editha Fedalizo, Gerry Danzil, and Paul Imperial. Minda Mazzone is not in the photo as she was in Toronto receiving an award. Alberto Abiera, who passed away last year, known as the Godfather of Montreal, and former publisher of the Filipino Star which he founded in Nov. 1982, but ceased its operations in Nov. 1997 after finding it difficult to continue and sought the assistance of Zenaida who revived the paper under a slightly revised name by adding North American to its name in April 1998. Svetlana’s FB post sums up the meaning of this award: “Today, November 16, should have been Godfather’s or Alberto Abiera’s 91st bday. To Zenaida Kharroubi of Gilmore College, being chosen as the first recipient of the Bert Abiera’s memorial fund is a significant honor. Your journey reflects the qualities that meant so much to the person we are remembering today. May this support bring encouragement, hope, and a continued sense of purpose. Congratulations!”