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Alberta Votes 76% to Remain, Shifting National Focus to Climate Change



People line up to sign a petition that seeks to have a referendum on Alberta separation, in Stony Plain, Alta., Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026. Jason Franson/ The Canadian Press See report on page 2

PQ Minority Government raises questions about Quebec's future



Parti Quebecois Leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon speaks to supporters after winning the Quebec election in Montreal, on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes) See page 2 report and analyses by political observers

Alberta Votes 76% to Remain, Shifting National Focus to Climate Change

By N.A.Filipino Star Staff
EDMONTON — Monday's historic multi-question referendum has concluded with a landslide victory for Canadian federalism. Unofficial preliminary results from Elections Alberta confirm a 76% to 24% victory for the "Remain" option, bringing an emphatic conclusion to the intense constitutional debate. The decisive outcome follows a series of high-stakes, pro-Canada rallies—including a prominent stop at a Red Deer brewery where Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith tapped a keg and drank beer together to stump fiercely for national unity.

Mainstream political analysts note that while the immediate threat of constitutional separation has collapsed, the vote represents a massive structural shift in how the province will handle its relationship with Ottawa going forward.

The Strategic Voter and Next Steps

Data from across the province reveals that a vast majority of the 24% who voted "Yes" to the separation process operated strictly as "strategic voters". Many openly admitted they chose the separation option to send a powerful message of economic frustration to Ottawa regarding federal resource policies, using it as political leverage rather than a genuine desire to exit Canada. The immediate next step falls to provincial officials, who have until October 21, 2026, to finalize the official tallies across all ten complex ballot questions. Early projections indicate that while separation failed, voters heavily endorsed Smith's other nine proposals aimed at gaining provincial control over immigration limits and local judicial appointments.



Prime Minister Mark Carney has a beer with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith as he visits supporters of a Vote to Stay event in Red Deer, Alta., on Oct. 16 ahead of a non-binding referendum on Alberta sovereignty. (Todd Korol/Reuters)

What Analysts Say: Political Cooperation and Conflict

Political scientists from the University of Alberta emphasize that hardline separatists are unlikely to successfully block broader interprovincial cooperation, but they will remain a loud, permanent political irritant. Prime Minister Carney expressed that he was "thrilled" with the unity vote, while Premier Smith welcomed the mandate for a "stronger Alberta in a united Canada".

However, Smith now faces an intense internal political tightrope. Mainstream separatists within her own United Conservative Party (UCP) are furious with her softer stance toward Ottawa, and conservative - groups are already pushing for an early leadership review prior to the party's annual general meeting in November. Concurrently, Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi has claimed momentum, immediately pivoting his party's machinery toward the October 2027 provincial election.

Analysts warn that long-term conflicts of interest between Ottawa and the West will continue to intensify around three critical pillars:

• The Energy vs. Climate Fight:
Federal net-zero emission timelines and caps on oil production will keep Western alienation running high. Alberta is expected to continually deploy its Sovereignty Act to stall federal environmental mandates in court.

• The Shared Jurisdiction Battle:

If the remaining ballot questions on cutting local public services for newcomers pass, it will trigger an immediate constitutional showdown over immigration—a domain shared between federal and provincial authorities.

• The "Quebec Privilege" Grudge:

Moving forward, Western advocacy groups will continue to lobby for identical institutional autonomies that Ottawa routinely yields to Quebec, particularly regarding independent provincial pension plans and isolated tax collection networks.

PQ Minority Government raises questions about Quebec's future

By North American Filipino Star stafff
QUEBEC CITY — Two weeks following the provincial election, a profound shift in power is underway at the National Assembly as newly elected members prepare to take office. Premier-designate Paul St-Pierre Plamondon is finalizing his minority cabinet, heading a 59-seat Parti Québécois (PQ) government that breaks traditional governance patterns.

While the PQ maintains its long-term vision of cultural and linguistic sovereignty, the party's failure to secure a majority highlights a deeply divided electorate. With support for outright separation remaining low, public anxiety over immediate constitutional friction has effectively hemmed in the incoming administration. The survival of Plamondon's minority depends heavily on its ability to win policy support from a resurgent Official Opposition, signaling a volatile political landscape where constitutional maneuvering could easily stall legislative progress.

Immigration:

Aggressive Reduction Targets Face Legislative RealityThe most immediate policy friction for the incoming minority government centers on sweeping proposals to overhaul Quebec's immigration framework. The PQ has pledged to sharply lower the permanent immigration target from the previous baseline of 45,000 down to 35,000 arrivals annually. Furthermore, the administration plans a temporary moratorium on economic immigration processed directly from abroad, intending to source all economic permanent residents exclusively from temporary workers and international students already residing within the province.Crucially, the PQ aims to slash the total number of non-permanent residents from over 500,000 down to a strict cap between 250,000 and 300,000. However, because these aggressive reduction targets are currently pre-election promises rather than active legislation, the minority government faces a steep climb. Economists and prominent Montreal business groups have already issued warnings, stating that such rapid labor contractions could induce a "double shock" that shrinks the workforce and damages provincial finances. The PQ will be forced to negotiate extensively with rival parties when the National Assembly resumes sitting to pass any formal changes.


Quebec Liberal Leader Charles Milliard waves to families and supporters as he walks in to be sworn in at the legislature in Quebec City Monday, Oct. 19, 2026. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jacques Boissinot

Homelessness and Economic Stagnation Demand Action

Beyond the constitutional spotlight, municipal leaders and everyday citizens are demanding that the incoming government urgently address deteriorating social infrastructure. The Union of Quebec Municipalities recently released a stark report revealing that supporting the unhoused population costs the province $1.15 billion annually, underscoring that the cost of social inaction heavily outweighs the cost of structural investment.

Simultaneously, business organizations are urging the government to move past identity politics to focus on declining standards of living and economic stagnation. Montreal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada publicly congratulated the PQ but explicitly reminded the incoming cabinet that the metropolis remains the economic engine of the province, calling for rapid infrastructure funding and coordinated municipal support.

The overwhelming consensus from political analysts indicates that if the PQ spends its limited mandate picking fights with Ottawa to generate sovereignist leverage, it will fail to meet the concrete, progressive economic demands required to secure long-term prosperity.



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Sovereignty Divide: What Alberta's Decisive Vote Means for Canadian Unity and the Climate Era

Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi

This week, our country witnessed an extraordinary exercise in democratic participation. The long lines, high voter turnout, and passionate public debates surrounding Monday's multi-question referendum proved that local citizens are deeply invested in the governance, economic future, and constitutional position of Western Canada. With Elections Alberta reporting a decisive 76% majority in favour of remaining firmly within Confederation, a definitive path forward has been established. Our residents have signaled a desire for economic stability, unified trade, and regional cooperation at a critical time in global affairs.

However, looking past the immediate relief of a projected federalist victory reveals that the shockwaves of this vote extend far beyond our provincial borders. To truly understand the state of our federation, we must examine what this means for the newly elected minority government in Quebec, look closely at the contrasting motivations driving Canadian regionalism, and confront the massive environmental questions that sparked this friction in the first place.

The View from Quebec: A Tale of Two Movements

While Alberta just soundly rejected a path toward independence, Quebec is actively moving in the opposite direction. Earlier this month, the separatist Parti Québécois (PQ), led by Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, won a significant electoral victory to form a new minority government. Premier-elect St-Pierre Plamondon has explicitly committed to holding a third province-wide referendum on Quebec sovereignty by 2029 or 2030.

Before Monday's vote, separatist leaders from both Alberta and Quebec had actually discussed cooperation, sharing a mutual interest in clipping the wings of Ottawa's federal overreach. However, the 76% "Remain" victory in Alberta serves as an important warning to Quebec's minority legislature. It demonstrates that when faced with the hard, practical costs and economic uncertainties of leaving Canada, the vast majority of voters hesitate to pull the trigger. For a PQ minority government holding a fragmented popular mandate, building consensus for a successful sovereignty vote over the next few years will be a steep, uphill battle.

Movement Drivers	Alberta Separation	Quebec Sovereignty
Primary motivation	Economic & Fiscal: Equalization complaints, resource revenue control, and anti-tax libertarianism.	Federal interference in provincial jurisdictions like immigration and cultural funding.
Federal irritant	Federal environmental regulations, carbon policy, and resource infrastructure blocks.	Federal interference in provincial jurisdictions like immigration and cultural funding.
Geopolitical outlook	Open to closer economic ties, trade alignments, or absorption by the United States.	Deeply protective of autonomy and highly wary of global or continental assimilation

Energy Demands vs. Ecological Catastrophe

The core friction that brought Alberta to this referendum in the first place highlights a critical tension: the relationship between our massive energy needs and the accelerating environmental catastrophes caused by extracting fossil fuels. For decades, the global economy has demanded reliable energy, turning Alberta into an economic powerhouse. Yet, the pollution generated by human consumption has created undeniable climate dangers that our future generations will be forced to inherit. We are witnessing more frequent, localized ecological catastrophes—ranging from intense wildfires and prolonged droughts to devastating atmospheric rivers—all directly linked to global greenhouse gas emissions.

This friction came to a head when the federal government under Mark Carney stepped up efforts to meet international climate goals, pushing policies to decarbonize the grid and cap oil and gas emissions. Many Albertans viewed these federal mandates as a direct existential threat to their livelihoods and provincial resource rights, pushing the secessionist movement from a minor fringe into the mainstream political conversation.

The Climate Reality Check: Where Canada Stands

Are we actually meeting our obligations to reach the goals laid out by environmentalists? The short answer is no. Canada's legally codified commitment under the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act aims for an interim target of 20% below 2005 levels, moving toward a 40% to 45% reduction by 2030, and total net-zero emissions by 2050. According to data compiled by the Climate Action Tracker, Canada's climate policies are currently falling well short of these targets. Rather than steadily declining, domestic emissions have largely plateaued. Official forecasts from Environment and Climate Change Canada indicate that the nation is currently on track to reach only a 16% to 21% reduction by 2030, roughly halfway to our global climate promises. Prime Minister Carney has publicly acknowledged that under the existing trajectory, Canada will miss both its 2030 and 2035 climate goals, largely due to ongoing approvals for fossil fuel infrastructure.

A Shared Path Forward

As chroniclers of our community, we must recognize that a referendum of this magnitude highlights a deep regional desire for fairness and local autonomy. True leadership—whether in Edmonton, Quebec City, or Ottawa—cannot simply rely on a single victory at the ballot box. It requires listening to the valid anxieties of voters.The message from Albertans this week is clear: they want a stronger province, but they want to build it within a united Canada. The challenge for the next generation of leadership will be proving that our federal framework can successfully protect regional economies, defend distinct provincial cultures, and aggressively meet our environmental obligations to protect the future of our planet.

We thank every member of our community who took the time to study these complex issues and exercise their civic duty this week.

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."— Robert Swan

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THE PHILIPPINE ADVANTAGE: How Culture & Cuisine Conquer the Global Stage

Whether through the thunderous, high-energy rhythm of a world-class street festival or the bold, irresistible allure of native tropical flavors, the Philippines continues to prove its cultural soft power can rival any nation on Earth. By seamlessly bridging home-grown tradition with global culinary trends, the country is transforming its rich heritage into a highly competitive, universally celebrated masterclass in spectacle and taste.

P100M Pride: Cebu Ramps Up for a Sustainable, World-Class Sinulog 2027



Colorful performances bring the Cebu City Sports Center to life as dance troupes from Cebu schools come together to retell the history of the Sinulog Festival during the official launch on Jan. 9, 2026. | CDN Photo/ Airam Limatog

Cebu Eyes Up to 100M Budget for Grand Sinulog 2027 By CDN Digital (Summarized) CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City Mayor Nestor Archival announced on Thursday, Oct. 22, that organizers are eyeing a budget of 90 million to P100 million for the upcoming Sinulog 2027 festival. The proposed allocation aligns closely with previous years' spending as the city and the Sinulog Foundation Inc. (SFI) ramp up early preparations for the grand celebration.

While the final budget remains under review, Archival confirmed that the festival's massive prize pool will remain unchanged. This includes the highly coveted P3-million grand prize for the Ritual Showdown's Free Interpretation and Sinulog-Based categories. Previous street dancing prizes of P1 million for first place and substantial contingent subsidies—ranging up to P1.5 million for out-of-town participants—are also expected to carry over to the 2027 roster.The Sinulog Grand Parade is officially scheduled for January 17, 2027, at the Cebu City Sports Center, with cultural festivities kicking off earlier on January 7.

New Features and Green UpgradesIn a push to make the festival more engaging and safe, organizers are navigating potential extreme heat from El Niño by evaluating the installation of widespread water and misting stations. Additionally, the traditional festival fireworks are currently under heavy review. Citing high operational costs and environmental impact, Mayor Archival noted that organizers are strongly considering eco-friendly alternatives, such as a choreographed drone light display. New cultural events are also joining the lineup, including a live, on-the-spot painting contest showcasing the historical and religious themes of Sinulog.

Philippines Showcases Culinary Heritage at LA Times Food Bowl



By INQUIRER.net US Bureau (Summarized)LOS ANGELES — The Philippines is taking center stage at Southern California's premier culinary festival, the LA Times Food Bowl, held on October 23–24 at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica.

Under the banner "Eatsperience Philippines: Where Flavor Meets Culture," the interactive showcase is designed to introduce mainstream American audiences to the country's rich agricultural heritage.

Organized by the Philippine Consulate General, the Department of Tourism, and the Trade and Investment Center in Los Angeles, the exhibit explicitly spot-lights four powerhouse native ingredients: ube, coconut, coffee, and calamansi.

"Food is one of the most welcoming ways to get to know the Philippines," stated Philippine Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz. Beyond attracting food lovers, organizers aim to boost culinary tourism and forge deep commercial distribution pipelines for local brands within the highly competitive United States market.

Featured Brands & Flavors

Four standout businesses are anchoring Booth 41 to present these authentic tropical profiles:

• Nathaniel's: Serving up their signature sweet Pampanga desserts, including innovative microwavable halo-halo, buko lychee sherbet, and classic buko pandan salad

.• Century Pacific Food: Showcasing mainstream-ready pantry staples like Coco Angel Coconut Cream and Century Tuna Flakes infused with zesty calamansi.

• Nomsi: Sampling refreshing calamansi-based fruit juices blended with raspberry, peach, and sweet Philippine mango.

• Teofilo Coffee: Providing curated tastings of four distinct Philippine coffee varieties: Arabica, Robusta, Excelsa, and the intensely bold Liberica (locally celebrated as Barako).

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CJI Fall Campaign: Ecological Justice & Global Accountability

By Z.F. Kharroubi

(Montreal) On Sunday, October 18, 2026, Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) officially kicked off its cross-Canada tour, "Ecological Justice: It's not Complicated," with a packed public event at the parish hall of St. Kevin's Parish in Montreal.



Brex Arevalo, is an environmental planner, climate justice advocate, and researcher who has dedicated his career to promoting environmental and social justice in the AsiaPacific region.

Running from October 18 to November 1, this national tour marks the critical arrival of guest speaker Brex Arevalo, a prominent Filipino environmental planner, researcher, and climate justice advocate with nearly a decade of experience across the Asia-Pacific region, Arevalo, who serves as the Climate and Anti-Incineration Campaigner for the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), spoke passionately about his grassroots work alongside urban poor communities in Manila. His address focused on the devastating impacts facing marginalized populations living near former landfill landmarks like Smokey Mountain, whose health, livelihoods, and fundamental human dignity are directly threatened by destructive, large-scale industrial waste-burning and incineration facilities.The Core Call to Action: Holding Corporate Powers Accountable.

A central pillar of Arevalo's cross-Canada mission is advocating for systemic political policy shifts that target corporate abuses and human rights violations in the Global South committed by foreign operations—including Canadian entities— and international financial institutions like the Asian Development Bank in which Canada is a major shareholder. His campaign demands that home governments enforce strict, legally binding frameworks to hold multinational companies accountable for their overseas ecological footprint. By demonstrating that localized, community-led zero-waste models offer safer, far more sustainable alternatives to waste incineration, Arevalo's tour challenges Canada to re-evaluate its global economic impact. His message underscores a powerful truth that aligns with our community's own values: true social justice and national building cannot exist without defending human dignity and protecting the shared earth that connects us all.#



COMMUNITY VOICES UNITE: Publisher Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi joins guest speaker Brex Arevalo (2nd from the right), a leading environmental advocate from the Philippines, alongside dedicated members of the St. Kevin Parish community in Montreal on Sunday, October 18, 2026. The historic gathering marked the official launch of the Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) cross-Canada campaign, uniting local faith leaders and community members in a shared mission to advocate for strict corporate accountability, human rights protections, and ecological preservation across boundaries.

How to Hold Canadian Corporations Accountable: A Guide for Our Readers

Take Action: Send a Letter to Your Member of Parliament

You can help turn Brex Arevalo's call for justice into reality. Copy the template below, fill in the bracketed information, and send it to your local Member of Parliament (MP). Note: Mailing a letter to an MP at the House of Commons is completely free—no postage stamp required

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[Your Phone Number]
[Date]

[Name of your MP],
MP House of Commons
Ottawa, OntarioK1A 0A6

Subject: Urgent need for legally binding corporate accountability for Canadian companies operating overseas

Dear Member of Parliament,

I am writing to you today as a constituent to express my deep concern regarding the ongoing human rights and environmental abuses linked to Canadian corporate operations overseas, particularly within the mining and waste-management sectors in the Philippines.

Just this past week, a national speaking tour organized by Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) arrived in Canada, featuring prominent Filipino climate justice advocate Brex Arevalo. His testimony shed a stark light on how corporate practices by wealthier nations directly manifest as devastating environmental pollution, health crises, and the systemic displacement of vulnerable grassroots communities in the Global South.

Voluntary corporate social responsibility guidelines have repeatedly proven to be insufficient. As a country that prides itself on upholding human rights and ecological stewardship, Canada must enforce strict, legally binding frameworks to hold its multinational companies accountable for their overseas actions.Therefore, I urgently request that you use your platform as my representative in Parliament to support and advance legislation that will:

• Mandate corporate due diligence: Require Canadian companies to thoroughly identify, prevent, and mitigate human rights violations and environmental damage across their entire global supply chains and operations.

• Provide access to justice: Ensure that affected communities in the Global South have a meaningful legal pathway to seek justice and remedies in Canadian courts when Canadian entities cause them harm.

• Empower regulatory oversight: Strengthen the mandate of accountability bodies, such as the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), giving them the independence and power to properly investigate corporate malpractice.True global solidarity requires us to take responsibility for Canada's global economic and environmental impact.

I look forward to hearing your position on this critical matter and learning about the concrete steps you will take to advocate for corporate accountability in the House of Commons.

Thank you for your time, service, and attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]
[Your Printed Name]







ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWS

Tony San Juan, OCT

Philippine Consulate and UPAA Hold South China Sea Arbitral Award Forum in Toronto

The Filipino Canadian community in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) welcomed and learned for the first time through a community forum on the "2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea", a historic international law decision regarding the so-called ongoing "South China Sea/ West Philippine Sea territorial sigalot or dispute". The significant forum was held on September 19, 2026 (Saturday), at the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT), Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario, in commemoration of Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo).



U.P. Professor Jay Batongbacal with UPAA Prexy Agnes Manasan.

Professor Jay L. Batongbacal (JSD), Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea at the UP Law Centre, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines, conducted the lecture. The special afternoon gathering was sponsored by the Philippine Con-sulate General in Toronto, in partner-ship with the University of the Philip-pines Alumni Association-Toronto (UPAAT). After the one-hour present-ation, Professor J. Batong-bacal fielded questions during the Q & A segment.

The event was conducted in relation to Proclamation No. 316, S. 2017 of the Philippine government, declaring the month of September as the "Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month" or MANAMo, which means “your heritage” in Filipino, to synchronise maritime-related events and activities and foster unity and pride among Filipinos in preserving Philippine maritime heritage.

According to Philippine Consul Rodney Sumague, "this year’s MANAMo theme, “Karapatan sa Karagatan, Sama-sama nating Alagaan”, underscores the Philip-pines’ unwavering commitment to defend its legitimate maritime rights based on international law, and emphasises stewardship, cooperation, and shared responsibility in protecting its seas and maritime heritage."

Hence, as part of the September celebration, the Philippine Consulate organised the lecture, which was "intended to facilitate a deeper understanding of the signi-ficance of the 2016 Arbitral Award to Filipinos and what they can do to help defend Philippine maritime rights and promote a collective responsibility for the preservation of its maritime heritage." Coincidentally and sadly, however, a day before the scheduled lecture, according to Philippine news reports, the Philippines and the United States on Friday, September 18, 2026, condemned the China Coast Guard (CCG) for ramming a civilian vessel, a BFAR ship, on a humanitarian mission in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

The 2-hour afternoon program opens with registration, the reading of the land acknowledgement, and singing the national anthems. Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Honourable Kristine Leilani R. Salle, delivered her welcome remarks and introduced the guest speaker, Prof. Jay Batongbacal. Philippine Consul Rodney Jonas Sumague ably served as the program emcee and moderator. UPAA President Agnes Manasan, who helped organise the occasion, gave the acknowledgement and closing remarks. After which, a hearty merienda of pancit, lumpia, turon, ensaymada, sandwiches, pastries, and coffee was served during the photo ops and mix-and-mingle time.

Among those in attendance were notable Fil-Can community & business leaders, professionals, and social-issue advocates, including the Philippine Consulate staff, UPAA officers & members and the Filipino Centre Toronto executive officers headed by President Mary Ann S. San Juan. Definitely, it was a great learning experience for all the guests and attendees on a relevant but never-ending political issue impacting ang ating bansang Pilipinas.



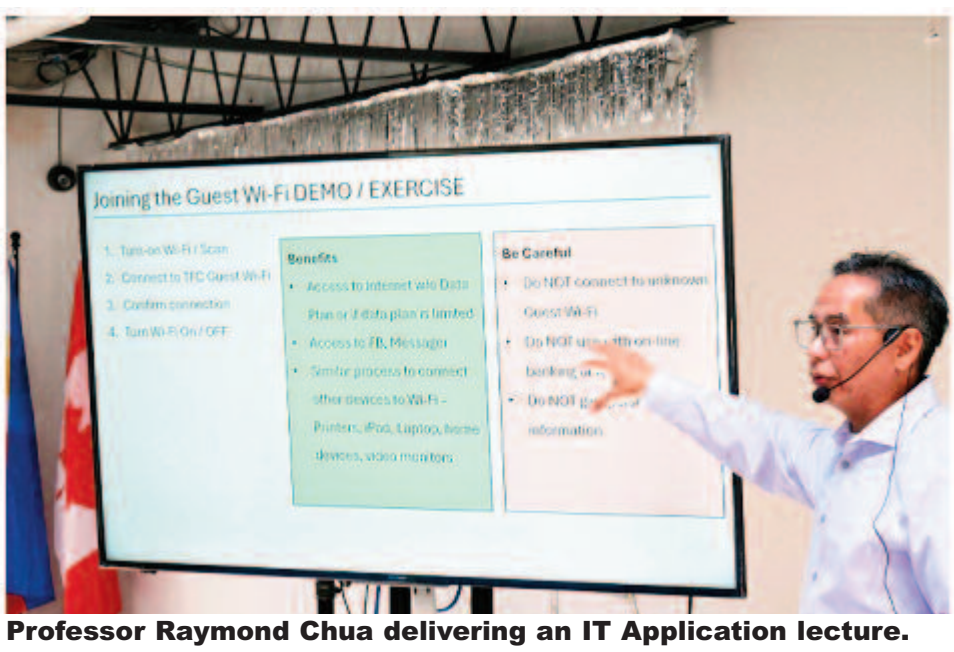
Consul R. J. Sumague moderating the Q & A with Prof. J. Batongbacal(seated front-middle).Photos by Agnes Manasan

Filcan Seniors attend digital lieracy and cyber security lecture

Who says that elderly people or seniors are no longer interested in learning, especially using modern technology tools? With the advent of computers, the internet, Facebook, YouTube and many other communi-cation infrastructures, seniors are characteristically and casually challenged, if not daunted, by the complexity of these so-called techno gadgets and paraphernalia.

People categorised as adults and considered seniors, or those about to become seniors, coming from the community willingly attended a lecture on a valuable learning development topic. On September 23, 2026, forty-five Filipino Canadians, mostly members of the Filipino Centre Toronto's Seniors Art Painting (SAP) group, enthusiastically attended an in-person presentation entitled: "Digital Literacy & Cybersecurity" with the purpose of: "Learning it, Doing More and Staying Safe ".

The informative event, which is part of the Filipino Centre Toronto's program for seniors in the community, was organised by Juanita "Nitz" Abalos-Rejdik, FCT Director and Owner-Manager of Sandbank Cottages and Boat Rentals. This is the second time FCT has offered this educational technology project with leadership



Professor Raymond Chua delivering an IT Application lecture. Photo: courtesy of Joey Baking

support from the Centre's executive team led by FCT President Mary Ann S. San Juan and the senior directors.

The 2-hour session was conducted by Raymond A. Chua, a Filipino-Canadian IT Professor at Seneca Polytechnic. Professor Chua has an MBA and MEd degree with a CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) industry designation. He is currently Managing Director at RCI Network and IT Solutions, which specialises in telecommunications consulting, network installations, and PC/server support. The company, with experienced professional staff, provides remote and in-person services that specifically meet business needs.

The main topics covered were 1) Spotting Phishing, SPAMs, and Scams 2) Using Guest Wi-Fi access 3) Passwords and online account security and 4) Using YouTube and AI. After the lecture, Chua said, "Let's discuss your ideas and experiences", and fielded questions from the participants. Professor Chua was assisted by Marc, a network/ IT professional, during the Q. & A. period.

Several participants readily described the session as a wonderful and meaningful learning experience for them, having been allowed to understand and appreciate something useful and good for their " heart and mind".

A Message to Our Kababayans
THE FILIPINO VOTE: A DUTY WE CAN NO LONGER IGNORE!

On October 26, 2026, every eligible Filipino-Canadian residing in the province of Ontario has a choice to make. Not just at the ballot box, but about what kind of community we want to be, and also what reasonable expectations and developments we want to achieve for ourselves and our families.

For too long, we have been one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, and yet one of the quietest..."parating tahimik", at the polls. "Pero sa Pinas, laging matapang at maingay! Ngunit kabaligtaran at kakaibang kilos dito sa ating pangalawang bayan." An embarrassing contradiction of sound behaviour and practice.

We are nurses, caregivers, teachers, technicians, factory workers, service providers, small business owners, and practising professionals. We pay taxes, we raise families, we buy goods, we buy homes, we buy cars, we send help back home, we work and work, and we help build this country every single day since arriving in Canada. Right?!?

Yet when decisions are made differently and directly impacting and affecting us in City Hall, Queen's Park, and on Parliament Hill, our voice is often absent or never heard. "Walang impluwensiya, wika nga." No clout, unarguably, if not sadly and sorely characterised.

We cannot complain about the cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, the skyrocketing apartment rents, the long wait times in healthcare, the credentialing that keeps our professionals unemployed or underemployed, or the absence of Filipino-Canadian representation in the halls of power--if we did not bother to vote and/or support a kababayan candidate in our ward or electoral riding.

Voting is not just a right. It is a civic duty, a noble duty. We exercise this responsibility every 3 or four years, so we have to be intelligent and diligently honest to engage and elect the candidate whom we believe will deliver the goods and the promise. Or else, we will have to suffer and wait for the next election call.

Many of us came from a country where our people and forefathers fought and died for democracy and freedom, including the right to vote. We line up for hours under the hot sun and humid air, "sa ating bayang sinilanganan", to cast our ballot. We should not take it for granted here in Canada, where we have that same precious right.

On October 26, 2026, come out and vote as one community!

Vote because your parents or your older siblings or relatives sacrificed to give you a better future in Canada, and this is how you honour that great sacrifice.

Vote because if you don't, someone else will decide for you---on your jobs, your schools, your roads, your hospitals, your benefits, your safety, and your future.

Vote because democratic representation is not given in open arms; it is earned.

Politicians listen to communities that show up. If Filipinos show up in numbers at the polling booth, every party and every candidate will have to listen to us... Filipino-Canadians, after the election, and when they start governing.

To our kababayans in Toronto, Ajax, Aurora, Brampton, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, Vaughan and other Ontario cities and towns: bring your family, bring your friends and neighbours, bring your elderly relatives, bring a first-time voter and those who are citizens and eligible to vote to use the right of suffrage,

We are more than 1 million strong in Canada and over 400,000 in Ontario. Imagine what we could do if all eligible Filipinos voted. We have the numbers to be the swing vote. Use it! Iboto natin ang mga Filipino- Canadian candidates for Councillors and School Trustees in your Wards or Ridings!

This October 26, 2026 (Monday), and beginning October 6, 2026 (Tuesday) for advance voting, stop complaining on the side-lines."Tigilan ang paghihimutok. Tigilan ang paulit-ulit na panghihinayang at pagsisisi sa huli. Itama ang nararapat gawin para sa iyo at sa iyong pamilya." Get out, step into the booth, mark your ballot, and make your vote count. Mabuhay tayo ! Mabuhay ang Pilipino!!!

(Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)





"The ultimate measure of good citizenship is balancing our priceless privileges with our profound responsibility to participate and vote."



Escalators at 17 Montreal metro stations, including Jean-Talon, will be replaced over the next five years. (Christopher Katsarov/The Canadian Press)

HELP WANTED

We are looking for a full time maintenance and cleaner. Must know how to paint and do general repairs. For a building in Côte St. Luc. Please call Michael at 514-927-6347

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22 Ideas for Resilience: How Filipino Youth Are Driving Local Change

By Valeria Munoz Saavedra

The Philippines has once again been ranked #1 among the world's most disaster-prone countries by The WorldRiskReport. From typhoons and floods to earthquakes, disasters are a reality for many communities across the archipelago. As climate change intensifies the severity and frequency of these calamities, building resilience requires not only preparedness but also innovative solutions.

Since its establishment in 1999, the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation (CDP) has worked alongside vulnerable communities in the Philippines to strengthen disaster resilience through participatory and community-based approaches. One example among the numerous initiatives, Disaster Risk Reduction: Youth Innovation and Empowerment through locally led solutions (DRR-YIELDS) is a project that focuses on strengthen-ing the leadership, innovation, and disaster resilience capacities of youth. The initiative is built on the belief that young people are not merely beneficiaries of disaster risk reduction efforts but are effective leaders of locally driven solutions.



Students at Tabas National High School Photo Credits: Justine Paulo Era, Communications Officer for DRR-YIELDS Project

The project has supported 22 youth-led innovations across participating communities, including 13 projects in Paracale and Mercedes, Camarines Norte, and 9 projects in Catubig and Bobon, Northern Samar. They range from a comic book detailing what to do during an emergency, to a monitoring device to detect when blast fishing occurs, to engineering a waste bin that collects recyclable water bottles in exchange for wifi.

During CDP's monitoring and evaluation activities in June, I had the opportunity to meet the student innovators in Camarines Norte. Beyond the projects themselves, what stood out most was the confidence and sense of ownership the students expressed. Many shared how meaningful it was to see their ideas move from concept to reality and how the experience strengthened their belief that they could make a positive difference in their communities. Their ingenuity has since been featured on Radio Filipinas and recognized by their barangay councils, further affirming the value of their contributions.

Another common theme among the innovators was that CDP's support was a key enabling factor in their success, highlighting how, when provided with the right tools, youth are capable of driving meaningful change in their communities.

Between September 7 and 11, 2026, youth convergences were held across participating municipalities and provinces, where students will showcase their innovations to schools, local partners, and community members. With an anticipated attendance of 600 people, these events will celebrate the young innovators while inspiring others to take action in their own communities.

Shifting the Paradigm: From Repeated Recovery to Proactive Prevention

As the global community converges for international climate negotiations, the Philippines continues to rewrite its strategy for climate adaptation by explicitly bridging the gap between systemic poverty and environmental vulnerability. In October 2026, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) officially convened the National Climate Resilience Forum (NCRF) 2026. The central theme of this year's high-level forum mirrors the foundational findings of the youth-led research coming out of institutions like McGill University: resilience can no longer simply mean surviving a disaster; it must mean preventing the vulnerabilities that cause them.

The urgency of this shift is underscored by a landmark joint report released by Greenpeace Philippines and the National Anti-Poverty Commission. The study, Here Comes the Sun, highlights a vicious "climate poverty trap" currently gripping the nation's agricultural and coastal sectors. Extreme heat stress and unpredictable weather patterns are disproportionately forcing small-scale farmers and fisherfolk to absorb rising adaptation costs out of pocket, systematically eroding their economic mobility.

To break this cycle, the NCRF 2026 roadmap stresses that true climate resilience is inseparable from economic development. Policy experts at the forum called for a complete structural overhaul—moving past short-term disaster relief goods toward localized, "anticipatory action" frameworks. By treating climate impacts as macroeconomic and fiscal shocks rather than isolated natural emergencies, the administration aims to roll out community-level solar grids, secure water infrastructure, and institutionalized social safety nets. This macro-level policy directly complements the grassroots coping mechanisms identified among Filipino youth, transforming spontaneous survival strategies into structured, state-supported shield programs.#

Source: Consolidated from the Climate Change Commission (CCC) Philippines National Climate Resilience Forum briefings, alongside socioeconomic impact data published jointly by Greenpeace Philippines and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) reporting on regional climate-poverty vulnerabilities.

Grounding Resilience: How Grassroots Innovation Meets Macro Challenges

While national frameworks outline a defensive strategy against climate vulnerabilities, the practical application of this research comes alive at the provincial level. In rural communities across the Philippines, the traditional cultural principle of bayanihan—communal unity and cooperation—has been structurally modernized by youth organizations to tackle the dual burdens of systemic poverty and ecological precarity. Working alongside research advocates, local youth councils (Sangguniang Kabataan) have transitioned from reactive relief networks into proactive climate adaptation units.

A primary example of this localized agency is the implementation of youth-led community seed banks and coastal mangrove reforestation initiatives in typhoon-prone provinces. These projects serve a dual economic and environmental purpose: restoring natural bio-shields against storm surges while securing community-managed food assets that stabilize local economies during localized market shocks. By taking direct ownership of ecological resources, these young advocates demonstrate that resource limitations do not equate to institutional helplessness.



Extreme weather and conflict have a particularly accute impact on female farmers in the Philippines. Credit: PWRDF, CC BY-SA

Furthermore, these grassroots projects act as a living repository of the "22 ways for resilience" documented by McGill University researchers. When youth actively lead mangrove planting or design off-grid, solar-powered community charging hubs, they validate a vital academic truth: resilience is not a passive, psychological coping mechanism. Instead, it is an active, iterative strategy where vulnerable populations leverage tight-knit social infrastructure to compensate for systemic economic gaps. Integrating these micro-level case studies next to the National Climate Resilience Forum milestones bridges the layout's narrative gap, painting a complete picture of a nation protecting its future from the top down and the ground up.#

Source: Adapted from official executive synthesis briefs of the Philippine Delegation's community-led adaptation framework updates presented at the Climate Change Commission policy updates and regional Pacific Pre-COP ministerial summits.

Voices of the Filipino Community in Quebec: Memorializing the Past, Building the Future

Fifth article in the series
By Fely Rosales Cariño
Edited for the series by Kimberly Gultia and Kazue Takamura

This essay is adapted by the author from a presentation delivered at Voices of the Filipino Community in Quebec: Memorializing the Past, Building the Future (April 10–11, 2026). It has been prepared for publication with a brief introduction and light editing.

Remembering the Past, Building the Future is a monthly series dedicated to preserving Filipino voices through autobiographical essays. Together, these first-person narratives create an enduring record of the people, journeys, and experiences that have shaped our shared history, connecting memories of the past with the lives and aspirations of the present.

What begins as an unexpected opportunity can sometimes change the course of a lifetime. In this personal reflection, Fely Rosales Cariño recalls her journey from the Philippines to Canada in 1966, the challenges of leaving family behind, and her experiences building a new life as an educator. Her story offers a glimpse into the experiences of Filipino immigrants whose lives and contributions have helped shape their adopted country.

In 1966, my sister Magdalena was corresponding with her friend Anita, a fellow dentist living in Saskatchewan. One day, I casually asked whether Canada needed teachers. The following week, Anita sent a page of advertisements for teaching positions. Almost playfully, I selected one and wrote to a school principal, Father Poulain, about possible employment.

I never really intended to leave the Philippines. I was teaching mathematics to Grades 7 and 8 at E. Rodriguez High School in Quezon City. More importantly, I had a beautiful little girl, Joy, who was only in Grade Two. But fate intervened. Father Poulain offered me a teaching position at St. Paul School in Alberta, along with airfare and assistance finding accommodation. Suddenly, what had begun as a casual inquiry became a life-changing decision.



From left to right: Fely Rosales Carino, Amelia Anam-Manon-og and Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi, Panel 1 speakers on April 11, 2026 at the Filipino Community Diaspora conference on the topic of ''Memorializing the Past, Building the Future."

My parents, both educators, agreed to care for Joy while I was away. Still, I cried every night at the thought of leaving her. I vividly remember our farewell at the airport. My parents and siblings were in tears, but Joy, unaware of the significance of my departure, was happily singing and dancing. Once aboard the plane, I could not stop crying.

I arrived in Alberta in September 1966, just as the leaves were turning beautiful shades of autumn. Coming from a country with only wet and dry seasons, I knew little about preparing for a Canadian winter. Fortunately, my fellow teachers helped me adjust. One even accompanied me to Edmonton to buy my first winter coat—a fur coat! Then came my introduction to hockey. During a school Fun Day, the teachers organized a hockey game and somehow decided that I should be a goalie. I knew practically nothing about the sport. Every time I moved, I fell, and someone had to help me stand again. The spectators cheered whenever I stopped a goal, but they also cheered when the opposing team scored against me! I certainly understood why they called it Fun Day.



A souvenir photo of Fely Rosales Carino taken during the visit of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal of the Canadian Parliament, photo taken by Al Abdon, FHSM chairman, November 22, 2019.

Food was another adjustment. My landlady worried that I wasn't eating enough, not realizing that I was accustomed to rice rather than potatoes. These everyday differences—in food, clothing, sports, and customs—were my introduction to Canadian life.

Over the years, my teaching career took me to several schools in Alberta and Quebec, where I had the opportunity to teach Indigenous children and young people. I later worked in special education and, in 1972, completed a Master of Education in Special Education at McGill University. I remained in education until my retirement.

Canada offered me more than professional opportunities. It became another home, where I learned to adapt without forgetting my roots.

But cultural exchange is never one-sided. Canada has enriched our lives, offering opportunities for Filipinos to build careers, support their families, and contribute to society. Filipino workers in hospitals, schools, businesses, and restaurants bring their talents and dedication to our adopted country. My story is one among countless stories of Filipinos who left their homeland and eventually found belonging in Canada. What began as a playful inquiry became a lifetime of experiences I could never have imagined.

Today, I am grateful to be living the best of both worlds, singing their best songs, and praying that our hearts continue to beat in harmony. Above all, I hope that we may be ambassadors for Christ, as we are called to be in 2 Corinthians 5:20, sharing His message of reconciliation. And I leave you with this blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24–26)

Montreal Academic Alliance Secures Data Pipeline for Manila Adaptation

Field research spearheaded by students and scholars from McGill University in Montreal has officially transitioned into an active template for national policy. In October 2026, academic networks in Montreal finalized a direct data-sharing alliance with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines. This systematic partnership ensures that qualitative field indicators of youth and community resilience are directly utilized to shape climate adaptation blueprints. On the ground, this alliance validates how vulnerable populations mobilize collective cooperation—bayanihan—to construct localized agricultural and ecological defenses out-of-pocket.

By tracking these spontaneous community-led adaptation frameworks, the Montreal-backed research initiative provides municipal governments with the exact data needed to shift domestic budgets away from reactive relief goods toward proactive, anticipatory structural grants.



McGill University has won a 2026 AASHE Award for its pioneering climate risk assessment. The cross campus strategy keeps the university on track to address all climate risks by 2030.


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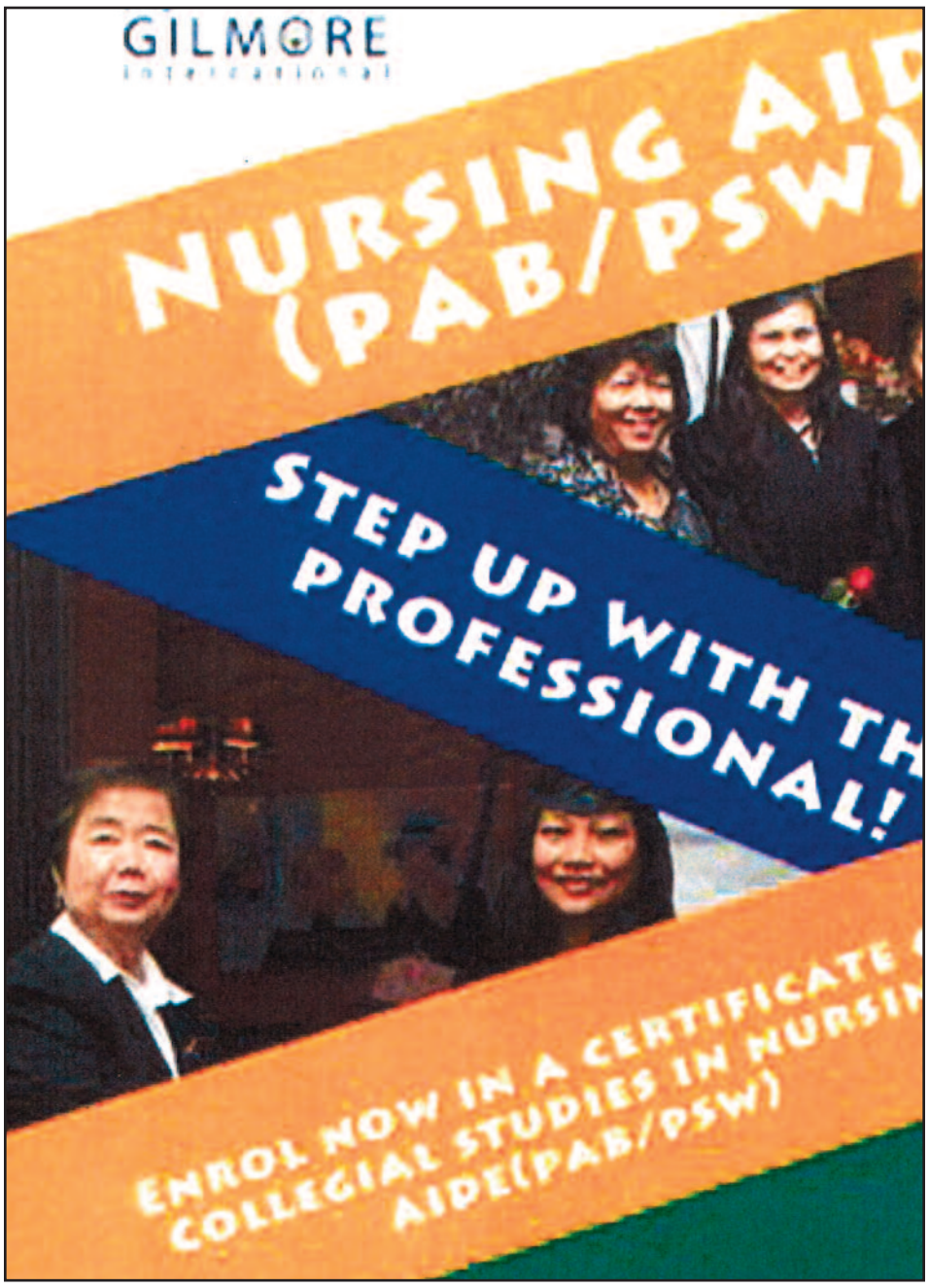
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Autumn Comforts: A Harmony of East and West

As the crisp autumn air settles over Montreal and the leaves complete their golden transition, our kitchens naturally become the warmest, most inviting rooms in the house. This season, our culinary journey bridges the rich, savory depth of the East with the rustic, time-honoured traditions of Western comfort food. Cooking with love means feeding both the body and the soul; these four recipes are guaranteed to bring warmth, comfort, and joy to your family table this fall.



Arroz Caldo (Ginger Rice Porridge)

THE EAST: Filipino-Asian Comfort Hearty Autumn Chicken Arroz Caldo (Ginger Rice Porridge)

Description: Nothing says soul food quite like a steaming bowl of Arroz Caldo. The intense warmth of fresh ginger combined with toasted garlic makes this the ultimate antidote to a chilly autumn evening.

• Prep time: 15 mins• Cook time: 40 mins• Yield: 4-6 servings

Ingredients:

• 1 lb chicken thighs, bone-in, cut into bite-sized pieces
• 1 cup jasmine rice (unwashed, for maximum starchiness)
• 2 tbsp fresh ginger, julienned (sliced into matchsticks)
• 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
• 4 cloves garlic, minced (plus extra fried garlic for topping)
• 2 tbsp fish sauce (patis)
• 5 cups chicken broth
• 2 tbsp safflower (kasubha) for a golden hue (optional)
• 2 hard-boiled eggs, halved
• Green onions and calamansi (or lemon) for garnish

Instructions:1. The Base: In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat. Sauté the onions, minced garlic, and a generous amount of ginger until fragrant and translucent.

2. The Sear: Add the chicken pieces and cook until the outer edges turn slightly brown. Pour in the fish sauce and stir well, letting the chicken absorb the savory flavor for 2 minutes.

3. The Simmer: Stir in the jasmine rice. Pour in the chicken broth and bring the mixture to a boil. Lower the heat, cover, and let it simmer for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent the rice from sticking to the bottom, until the rice grains are burst and the porridge is thick.

4. The Finish: Season with salt and black pepper to taste. Ladle into warm bowls and top with hard-boiled egg halves, crispy fried garlic, chopped green onions, and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.



French Apple & Herb Pork Chops

THE WEST: European Elegance Classic French Apple, Herb Pork Chops & French Canadian Tourtière

Description: Harvest season in Quebec means an abundance of fresh apples. This dish brings a classic European technique to your kitchen, combining the sweetness of fall apples with savory rosemary and thick-cut pork.

• Prep time: 10 mins• Cook time: 20 mins• Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

• 4 thick-cut, bone-in pork chops
• 2 crisp autumn apples (such as Honeycrisp or Cortland), cored and sliced
• 1 medium red onion, sliced into wedges
• 2 tbsp butter
• 1 tbsp olive oil
• 2 sprigs fresh rosemary or thyme
• 1/3 cup chicken stock or dry white wine
• Salt and coarsely cracked black pepper to taste



Canadian Maple Butter Tarts

Instructions:

1. The Sear: Season the pork chops generously on both sides with salt and pepper. In a heavy skillet, heat the olive oil and 1 tablespoon of butter over medium-high heat. Sear the pork chops for 4–5 minutes per side until beautifully golden brown. Remove chops from the pan and set aside.

2. The Harvest Mix: In the same skillet, melt the remaining tablespoon of butter. Add the sliced apples, red onions, and rosemary sprigs. Sauté for about 5 minutes until the apples begin to soften and caramelize around the edges.

3. The Pan Sauce: Pour in the chicken stock (or white wine), scraping up all the delicious browned bits from the bottom of the pan.

4. The Assemble: Return the pork chops and their juices back to the skillet, nesting them amongst the apples and onions. Simmer for another 3–4 minutes until the sauce reduces slightly and the pork is cooked through. Serve hot.

THE CANADIAN HARVEST: Sweet Fall TraditionTraditional Canadian Maple Butter Tarts

Description: No Canadian autumn page is complete without the rich, gooey, and comforting taste of pure maple syrup wrapped in a flaky pastry.• Prep time: 20 mins• Cook time: 20 mins• Yield: 12 tarts

Ingredients:

• 1 pack pre-made flaky pastry shells (or homemade pie crust cut into 12 rounds)
• 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
• 1/2 cup pure Canadian maple syrup (Grade A Amber works best)
• 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
• 1 large egg, beaten
• 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
• 1/4 tsp salt
• Optional: 1/3 cup pecans or raisins

Instructions:

1. The Setup: Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C). Place your pastry shells into a 12-count muffin tin and keep them chilled in the fridge while you prepare the filling.

2. The Filling: In a medium bowl, whisk together the melted butter, brown sugar, pure maple syrup, egg, vanilla extract, and salt until completely smooth and the sugar has mostly dissolved.

3. The Assembly: If you are using pecans or raisins, drop a few pieces evenly into the bottom of each pastry shell. Carefully pour the maple mixture over top, filling each shell only about 3/4 of the way full (the filling will puff up as it bakes).

4. The Bake: Bake in the preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes. The pastry should be golden brown, and the filling should be bubbling but still slightly jiggly in the very center. Let them cool in the pan for 10 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to set completely.

THE FRENCH-CANADIAN CLASSIC: Autumn Harvest Feast Traditional Quebec Tourtière (Savory Autumn Meat Pie)



Traditional French Canadian Tourtière (Meat Pie)

Description: A timeless French-Canadian staple, this deeply comforting meat pie is seasoned with warming autumn spices like cinnamon and clove. It is traditionally enjoyed as the weather turns cold, served alongside a sweet fruit ketchup or cranberry sauce.

• Prep time: 20 mins• Cook time: 1 hour• Yield: 6-8 servings

Ingredients:

• 1 lb lean ground pork
• 1/2 lb lean ground beef
• 1 medium yellow onion, finely minced
• 2 cloves garlic, minced
• 1 medium baking potato, peeled
• 1/2 cup chicken or beef stock
• 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
• 1/4 tsp ground cloves
• 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
• 1/4 tsp celery salt
• 1 pack double-crust pie pastry (top and bottom crust)
• 1 egg, beaten (for egg wash)
• Salt and black pepper to taste

Instructions:

1. The Potato Base:

Place the whole potato in a small pot of water and boil until completely tender (about 15 minutes). Drain the water, mash the potato smoothly with a fork, and set it aside. (The potato

See Page 18 Cooking with love



Social Tidbits Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Happy Fall, my beloved Tidbits readers! When we look around us, we see the leaves in their splendid array of colors. This tells us our season has changed. But He hasn't changed; Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:6). What a wonderful assurance to know that His steadfast love never ceases and His mercies never come to an end (Lamentations 3:22-23). And what else hasn't changed? We, Filipinos, always like to party and dance the night away. If you want to know where this is happening, you've come to the right place. Let's find out what the Filipino community is up to.

Heritage Meeting

There was a good turnout at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges. when Chairman Al Abdon of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) called for a meeting on September 15, 2026. As meticulous as he is, all items on his agenda were thoroughly discussed. Members enjoyed the mini snacks waiting for them and the yummy chocolates, courtesy of Minda Mazzone. We won't reveal what the Chairman has up his sleeve. Just know that it will be utterly enjoyable. Stay tuned for the exciting activities coming your way.

35th Anniversary, Kahirup (Hiligaynon)

The Kahirup (Hiligaynon) Association of Quebec (KAQ) held their 35th Anniversary Dinner & Ball at Olympia Restaurant on 3855 St. Jean on September 26, 2026. President Jeannette Pérignon saw to it that invited guests were the exceptional elites that include Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Honorable Jose Victor V. Chan-Gonzaga, MP Sameer Zuberi, Director General Marvin Rotrand (United Against Hate Canada), Councilors Milany Thiagarajah and Alexandre Teodoresco. And thanks for the support of many Filipino restaurants, Arthur Murray Dance Centers and many others in the Filipino community.

The Parade of Colors started the program with Martin Dorado, Richard Pérignon, and Jarred Caro. The National Anthems were then performed by the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble. Next was the presentation of the Kahirup Executive Board 2025-2027: President Jeannette Pérignon, Vice President Montealegre, Secretary Leah Baldelovar, Treasurer Nida Meriales, Asst. Treasurer Rose Ledesma, Auditor Ma. Eloisa Dee, Asst. Auditor Felix Panerio, PRO Amelia San Juan, Asst. PRO Marlyn Villanueva, Business Manager Freddie Espinosa, Asst. Business Manager Arthur Caro, and Peace Officers Martin Dorado, Richard Pérignon, and Jarred Caro. Important messages were then delivered by KAQ President Jeannette Pérignon (Welcome), Ambassador Chan-Gonzaga (Keynote), and Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal, FHSM Chairman Al Abdon (Inspirational). As a prelude to the dinner, Mrs. Elsa gave the invocation.

The fun part of the evening was worth the wait. Dancing was the main entertainment and was enjoyed by all. The delightful performers were Cynthia Brillantes (Kappa Malong-Malong folk dance), Jeannette Pérignon & Evangeline Ruance (Kuratsa), and Dr. Anh Nguyen & Antonio Conde (Country 2-step, Swing, and Tango). A shout out to the inimitable DJ Dennis Mayuga whose music always wants to make you dance, and the gracious emcee for the evening, Sharon Montealegre Hidalgo.

To the event's Overall Chairperson, Jeannette, you outdid yourself this evening, putting on a wonderful spectacle. Many would agree, specially those in my table: Founder Maggie Calcetas (Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec, FNAQ), Mike Castro (Pilipino Basketball Association of Montreal, PBAM), Christos & Lolita Sideris (President of Pangasinan Association of Quebec), Al & Cora Abdon (President, FNAQ), and Nico & Minda Mazzone (President, Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec, FFCAQ).

SWIS Meeting

The Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) held their social assembly at Marche de l'Ouest last September 28, 2026. This was an important meeting as SWIS President Lolita Odulio was overwhelmingly elected for another term.

Congratulations, Lolit. You deserve praise and SWIS members thank you for a job well done!

Now several issues were on the table which stirred up a lively discussion. Streamlining of the officers was mentioned and Christmas was tentatively scheduled on December 18, 2026. During the meeting, Andy Odulio and Felix Salazar had their fill of coffee to the brim while faithfully waiting for the adjournment. After concluding the items on the agenda, the group proceeded to Tiago restaurant where they savored a nice lunch. You did a good job, Lolit, in persuading other members to stay with the Board for another term. Noted also is the help of the Executive Board whose tireless work makes each gathering a fun get-together. For the Christmas party, plan what to wear now (no jeans please) and get ready to drive to Olympia for a very exciting program. DJ Dennis will be there to make a night to remember.

The Guardians

The Guardians celebrated the 2nd anniversary of their foundation at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges. Their program included the following: the entrance of flag bearers Ian Legania, Akira Gumanoy, and JJ Rabanal. They were joined by the Guardians Toronto and Guardians Montreal to lead the guests in singing Lupang Hinirang and O Canada. Mrs. Alona Amano gave the Invocation while Efren "Lakay' Fabro (event Chairman) gave the Welcome Address. Honored guests who gave messages were Jojo Laud (FAMAS President), and Marvin Rotrand (Director General, United Against Hate, Canada). Entertainment included songs rendered by Ms. Catherine Fabro, Caithlyn Fabro, and Sophia Maria Danzil Gaudia, Munting Maria Clara 2024. Dance numbers were performed by the Momshies Dance Group, Sampaguita Dancers, and Zumba by Leah Baldelovar. The Guardians Divas also gave a surprise number, to the delight of the crowd.

An important part of the program was the awarding of Certificate of Promotion and New Members. Promoted were several RMGs: Isabelle "GEMINI" de la Piedra, Bryan "AKIRA" Gumanoy, Ian Tirso "IAN" Legania, Sixto "SONNY" Gacutan, Nestor "DELADIA" Deladia, and Reymund "LASTRA" Lastra. The new members were MGs: Josie "ELIZEKE" Apuli, Marvin "TRIPLE 1"de Leon, Fredirico "JJ" Rabanal, and Hubert "DAXS" Sison. Closing remarks was given by FRMG Ismael "BANAUE" Calaunan. Thank you, Guardians for an exciting evening! Looking forward to the next event.

NONSTOP DISCO MIX: Dancing and Karaoke

The United Pilipino Women's Volleyball-Badminton Club of Montreal gave a party blast at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges on October 9, 2026. The non-stop disco mix gave the dancing aficionados plenty to cheer about. Dancing and Karaoke, Filipinos' favorite pastimes, drew an appreciative crowd of many volleyball and badminton players with friends, families, and guests. Founder Ria Fernandez was assisted to form this group by the guiding hand of President Gerry Danzil of the United Pilipino Seniors Association of Quebec (UPSAQ).

Other Filipino associations attended and were represented by their respective leaders: President Dario Boco (Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec, CCFAQ), President Gerry Danzil (UPSAQ), Cipriano "Boy" Galang, Julius Abad and Rowel Pangilinan.

The guests were treated to the golden voice of Julius Abad, Boy Galang, and Boy Blue soloist. Other performers included the Sampaguita dancers in their colorful costumes and the exuberant Momshies Dance Group. The dance floor boasted of nonstop disco, making everyone happy. See you next year and be ready with your dancing shoes.

And now I wish that we keep on thanking God for His nonstop guidance, blessings, and love. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord for His nonstop mercy and grace that never runs dry. I conclude with 1 Peter 5:10, "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

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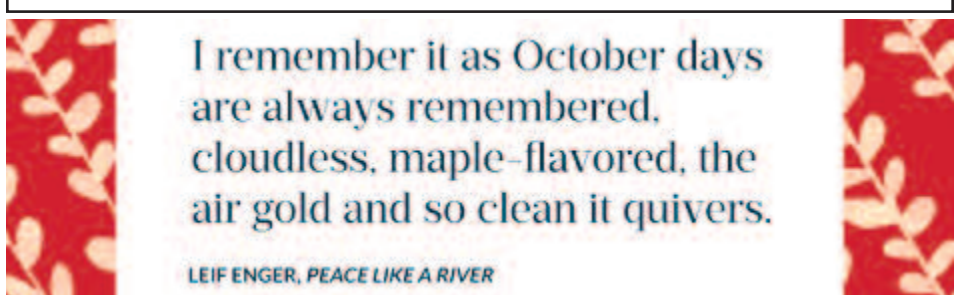

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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

How Jenela in Japan turned everyday life to online success



From care worker to content creator: Jenela Cachero, also known online as Jenela in Japan, says being genuine makes her followers engaged and gets them hooked. The ap-proach should also touch the heart.

Jenela in Japan, a content creator, shares bits and pieces of her life, including those in the Land of the Rising Sun, and her thoughts about family matters, like parenthood.

Known as Jenela Tuguinay-Cachero in real life, she has gained a following that's thrilled to know about her personal and professional endeavors.

At the recent launch of the brand, Améla (Made with Love), where she is the founder and chief executive officer, this paper asked about her advice for those who would like to try their hand at content creation through platforms like TikTok and Facebook.

"I love my work. I love what I do," said Jenela in a recent interview. "And just do (and pursue) what you like."

She added that they should do it with passion and not because of the financial gain. After all, the latter will come naturally. Establishing oneself and finding one's niche will also secure support from people and brands for collaboration.

Jenela shared that part of her success is believing in every brand that she works with.

"Never po ako nag-a-a-accept ng brand na hindi ko po talaga ginagamit (I don't accept brands that I'm not using)," said she. "I think that being is what we call integrity."

As for the quality of the content that entertains and engages her followers, she shared, "Feeling ko kung kaya na-hook sa akin yung mga tao, nandun yung makikita po sa akin yung (being) genuine or genuineness (I feel why people get hooked with the content is the sense of genuineness they see in me), and the approach is something that touches the heart."

Speaking of a heart that cares, Améla products such as mommy and daddy bags, which contain baby essentials, and baby carriers are conceptualized with the good intention to help parents do "real routines" that allow them to "move quickly" and "make everyday life feel easier."

Before she became a registered nurse in the country and a care worker in Japan, where her content creator era commenced, Jenela also participated in regional and national beauty pageants.



"Nag-jo-join po talaga ako ng pageants nung kabataan ko (I would join beauty tilts in my youth)," recalled she. "So, (it was my) sideline when I was in college, pang-add ng tuition, pang-baon (my winnings were used for my tuition and allowance)."

Since some local and international pageants accept moms as contestants, she might give it another try. The beauty-and-brains entrepreneur shared that there were those who reached out to her. Although she misses doing pasarela or runway walk, Jenela said, "I think, retired na ako (I'm already retired with pageantry)."

Asked about her advocacy, Jenela had this to say, "maybe (mine is to) provide safe and trusted products for parents."

Her motivation is to have seen a lot of mothers who want baby bags or practice babywearing to make their daily life easier, as one could gather.

Her story as a health professional-turned-content creator and businesswoman speaks of resilience, love for family and faith in God. It is also about empowering women.

"I think, for me, para magkaroon po ako ng (it's to have that) sense of fulfillment," said she when asked why it's important for women to chase their dreams beyond family responsibility. "If there's a chance to fulfill your dreams, do it, pero hindi lahat nabibigyan ng ganung means, hindi lahat nabibigyan ng ganung opportunity (but not everybody gets the means and the opportunity)."

She reiterated that if women have the opportunity, they should take it and follow what makes them happy.

Now that she's based in the Philippines, Jenela said she will still use her content creator name, Jenela in Japan.

"(The word) Japan (should remain and) not be taken out… (people) might forget my name Jenela, but they will never forget Japan. Sometimes they call me, 'Uy, it's Japan.' Anyway, it's really my trademark."

The content creator simply honors the name, Jenela in Japan, that has been responsible for her to expand horizons and achieve aspirations. ■

Heart Evangelista, John Prats set movie reunion after two decades



After months of teasing, former love team partners Heart Evangelista and John Prats will reunite in a movie to be directed by the latter.

The news was confirmed by Heart's agency Sparkle, which hosted a media conference at Cornerstone Studios, which will produce the project.

Sparkle announced that the movie will come out in February 2027, teasing the possibility of a Valentine's week release or even a birthday release for Heart and John, who were both born on February 14, a year apart.

The two were a reel- and real-life couple during the early 2000s, starring in projects such as "My First Romance" and "Ang Tanging Ina."

Heart has not appeared in a local movie since 2015's "Felix Manalo," though she had a supporting role in the American streaming film "The Wedding Hustler."

John similarly has not appeared in a movie since "3pol Trobol: Huli Ka Balbon!" in 2019, focusing instead on work behind the camera and directing live productions.

The two have remained on good terms and even had lunch together last March. John appeared on Heart's reality show "Heart World," where he confirmed that Heart was his first girlfriend.

The two also appeared in the music video for TJ Monterde's "Teka Lang," which John directed.

Heart teased last month that she would be collaborating with John again, which has now been revealed to be the upcoming film. ■



Kris Aquino to reunite with Boy Abunda 11 years after 'The Buzz'



Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda

Kris Aquino, the Queen of All Media, will be back on television to reunite with his good friend, the King of Talk Boy Abunda, 11 years since they were together on a show.

Abunda himself confirmed this on his talk show, "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda," with a fresh video clip of Aquino, saying that if she will ever return on television, the "queen" should be reunited with her "king."

"If you return, the one you return to should be the one with you, the king," she said in the clip.

"Thank you, Krissy. Kris and I are definitely back. Look out for that, our reunion face-to-face on television after 11 years," he said as he announced his pre-taped interview with her long-time TV partner.

"We talked a lot about Kris. This is a two-part event. We talked a lot about Kris — we talked about her health, her resolve to live, and her return to work," he further said.

Abunda said that they also talked about her love life, her political views, and how her sons Bimb and Joshua give her strength to overcome her multiple autoimmune diseases.

"What you will see in our interview is the Kris Aquino that we all missed. The Kris who is vibrant and full of life, and the Kris who hides nothing. The Kris who is very real," he said.

The two-part interview will form part of Abunda's week-long birthday celebration, where he will also feature other women who are close to his heart — Alice Dixson, Andrea Brillantes and Ruffa Gutierrez. Abunda's birthday is on Oct. 29.

Aquino and Abunda, who she previously called "the keeper of all my secrets," used to co-host the now-defunct showbiz talk show "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN during the early 2000 and ran for 15 years until it folded in 2015. ■

Showbiz Gossip Continued from p.15

Kim Kardashian marks 46th birthday early in the Philippines



Kim Kardashian

Television personality and entrepreneur Kim Kardashian flew over to the Philippines for an early birthday celebration.

Kim shared on Instagram photos of her recent trip to the country, particularly a private island where she went scuba diving and enjoying the sunset.

"Philippines Birthday Adventures," Kim wrote in her post's caption, this as she turns 46 years old on October 21. ■

Christina Nadin makes history as second Filipina to walk Victoria's Secret Fashion Show



Christina Nadin

Christina Nadin has officially earned her wings, making history as the second Filipina to walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show runway after Kelsey Merritt.

The Filipino-Irish-British model made her debut at the 2026 edition of the lingerie brand's signature fashion spectacle, held in Los Angeles on Oct. 18 (Oct. 19 in the Philippines).

Nadin turned heads in a bright pink bra, a metallic silver jacket draped over her shoulders, black flared pants, and statement jewelry, bringing a touch of rock-star attitude to the glamorous runway.

Her appearance follows Merritt's historic debut in 2018, when the Filipino-American model became the first Filipina to walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. ■

Pops Fernandez marks 60th birthday, 40 years in showbiz with milestone concert



Pops Fernandez

Concert Queen Pops Fernandez is set to celebrate two major milestones in her life and career with a special concert on November 26 at the Newport Performing Arts Theater.

Dubbed as a celebration of her journey, the concert will honor Pops' 60 years of life and four decades in the Philippine entertainment industry.

More than a showcase of her well-loved songs, the milestone event promises to take audiences through the different chapters of Pops' career — from her early years in show business to her emergence as one of the country's most enduring performers.

The upcoming concert will bring together music, memories, stories and special guests as Pops looks back on the experiences that shaped her career while also embracing the next chapter of her journey as an artist.

Music director Homer Flores will oversee the musical arrangements, while concert director Calvin Neria will lead the show's overall creative direction and stage presentation.

The concert is produced through the collaboration of DSL, EchoJham and Nexus Collaboration.

For many of her followers, the event is expected to be more than a night of entertainment. It will be an opportunity to revisit the songs and memories that have become part of their lives while celebrating an artist whose career has spanned generations.

Rather than simply looking back, Pops is also using the milestone to embrace the present and look toward the future.

After four decades of entertaining audiences and creating memorable moments onstage, the Concert Queen is inviting fans to celebrate with her as she marks six decades of life and a career that continues to evolve. ■

Sophia Laforteza to resume group activities with KATSEYE in January 2027



Sophia Laforteza

Filipina singer Sophia Laforteza is all set to return to KATSEYE on January 2027.

Group management HYBE and Geffen Records made the announcement via social media.

"We are happy to share that Sophia will resume group activities with KATSEYE beginning the first week of January 2027. Sophia has been prioritizing her health and well-being with our full support and resources. While Sophia will not be participating in THE WILDWORLD TOUR in North America or promotional activities for the remainder of this year, we look forward to welcoming her back as KATSEYE continues this next chapter together in 2027," the statement read.

The management also thanked the fans for their continued support.

"We are incredibly grateful to EYEKONS for the continued love, support, and understanding you've shown Sophia and KATSEYE. Thank you for standing by her, and we look forward to celebrating her return with you in the new year. Thank you," the label concluded.

Following the announcement, Sophia shared a heartfelt message on Instagram Stories, thanking EYEKONS for their patience and understanding as she focuses on her well-being.

"First, I want to thank you for your patience, kindness, and understanding. Your support has given me strength during this difficult time. I've been getting the care I need and learning how to better take care of myself," she said.

Sophia also reflected on the importance of self-care.

"I've learned so much about myself and what's best for my mind and body. I've realized that giving to others can be easier than giving to yourself, but I'm learning to do both."

The singer expressed sadness over missing the rest of the group's tour this year but acknowledged the need to prioritize her recovery.

"It pains me deeply that I won't be able to participate in the remainder of the tour this year. I'll use this time to continue training and work toward getting back to where I need to be. Sometimes, stepping back is necessary to move forward," she said.

Sophia remains hopeful about returning stronger and healthier. ■

Dingdong Dantes speaks out vs mockery: Platform comes with responsibility



Dingdong Dantes

Actor Dingdong Dantes condemned mockery and reminded public figures of the responsibility that comes with having a platform.

Dantes posed the reminder on his Facebook page on Thursday, Oct. 15. While he did not name anyone in his post, it was shared amid the backlash against the hosts of the Machong Chismoso podcast over their disparaging remarks about Kris Aquino's son, Josh Aquino, who is on the autism spectrum.

"Ang mikropono at entablado ay may kaakibat na pananagutan," Dantes said. "Hindi aliw ang panghahamak. Tungkulin nating itaas ang pamantayan, hindi lang ang volume."

Dantes had netizens nodding in agreement, with several Facebook users calling out the podcast hosts in the comments section and underscoring the value of respect.

Several celebrities including Boy Abunda, Mark Leviste, Michael Leyva and John "Sweet" Lapus have spoken up against the podcast hosts, condemning how the group mocked Josh and called him "walang kwenta."

The hosts have since apologized, and the group's contract with podcast network and production platform The Pod Network have been terminated.

Josh's mom, the Queen of All Media, has yet to publicly speak on the matter as of this writing. ■

Canadian national news briefs:

Carney Denies U.S. Election Meddling Allegations Ahead of Midterms

By National Press Desk

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Mark Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford dismissed a newly leaked diplomatic fact sheet from Washington accusing Canadian officials of trying to sway voters ahead of the upcoming U.S. midterm elections. The dispute traces back to high-profile trade missions led by Industry Minister Mélanie Joly, whose heavy engagement with American border states drew scrutiny from the Trump administration.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Toronto, Carney firmly stated that Canada's trade advocacy is strictly focused on protecting domestic auto manufacturing workers and securing cross-border critical mineral investments. "Today's action plan is cooperative federalism in action," Carney told reporters. "Canada is strong, united, and focused on defending its economic interests, not interfering in foreign ballots."

Feds Take Emergencies Act Dispute to the Supreme Court of Canada

By Constitutional Law Reporter

OTTAWA — The federal government



The federal government is taking its defence of its use of the Emergencies Act during the 2022 convoy protests to Canada's highest court. (Justin Tang/The Canadian Press)

has officially filed its case with the Supreme Court of Canada, seeking to overturn a previous judicial ruling that declared its 2022 deployment of the Emergencies Act unconstitutional.

This final legal appeal comes after the Federal Court of Appeal unanimously affirmed that the massive "Freedom Convoy" gridlocks fell well short of a true national security threat.

Government attorneys submitted arguments claiming that lower courts engaged in "second-guessing with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight," insisting the temporary powers were entirely targeted and proportional. Conversely, civil liberties groups are fighting to block the appeal, warning that the extraordinary powers granted under the act threaten democratic processes and should only be triggered by clear existential threats.

Military Medical Teams Deployed to Edmonton Following CFB Wainwright Tragedy

By National Defence Desk

OTTAWA — Following a devastating and tragic fire incident at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Wainwright on October 17, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has mobilized a massive, multi-provincial medical transport operation to support critically injured personnel. On Thursday, October 22, a CAF CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft arrived in Edmonton carrying 28 highly specialized civilian medical professionals with advanced expertise in severe burn care, flown directly out of Toronto.The Department of National Defence confirmed that 27 CAF members remain heavily hospitalized under constant monitoring, while 12 other service members have been safely discharged following initial treatments.

The military expressed deep gratitude to Acute Care Alberta and regional civilian first responders for their seamless cross-border coordination during the unfolding crisis.General Jennie Carignan, Chief of the Defence Staff, issued an official statement emphasizing that the military's immediate focus remains firmly anchored on supporting the grieving families of the fallen, their teammates, and the broader Canadian military community.

Meanwhile, military officials noted that despite the profound trauma being felt nationwide, the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry will carry onward with their primary training mandates to maintain operational deployment readiness. The Military Police are currently executing an independent investigation to establish the facts surrounding the fire.

Global Web Flaw Prompts Proactive Takedown of Federal Portals

By Technology & Cyber Security Monitor

OTTAWA — A critical, globally discovered software coding vulnerability has sent shockwaves through the federal public service, forcing cyber security officials to proactively take several high-traffic Government of Canada websites completely offline. The vulnerability, linked to widely used PHP software architectures, has exposed websites worldwide to millions of automated malicious hacking attempts. Portals for major federal entities, including Statistics Canada and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, experienced extended service disruptions as a direct result of the protective measures.

Testifying before a Senate committee on Thursday, Artificial Intelligence Minister Evan Solomon stated that the administration is treating the digital vulnerability with absolute urgency. "We took some websites proactively offline as an extreme precaution to safeguard vulnerable architecture," Solomon informed the committee, clarifying that security updates are actively being applied across all departments.

Crucially, the Communications Security Establishment confirmed that there is currently zero indication that any core Government of Canada information holdings or private citizen data systems have been breached or compromised. Technical teams are working around the clock to restore full, secure access to the affected web assets.



Minister of Industry Mélanie Joly speaks during National Defence: Mapping Canada's growth strategy, an event held by the Globe and Mail in Ottawa, on Wednesday. Justin Tang/The Canadian Press

Joly Issues Ultimatum to Stelco Over Mass Industrial Layoffs

By Canadian Business & Industry Report

TORONTO — Industry Minister Mélanie Joly took a hardline stance against corporate restructuring on Thursday, officially giving the American parent company of steel giant Stelco a strict 15-day ultimatum to reverse recent job cuts or face immediate federal legal action.

Speaking to reporters in Toronto alongside tech entrepreneur Raquel Urtasun, Joly announced that the government will aggressively enforce net-benefit corporate agreements if domestic manufacturing jobs are threatened.The high-stakes corporate standoff occurred directly alongside the launch of a new $1.75-billion federal venture capital funding plan aimed at driving early-stage technology investments across Canada.

While Joly framed the venture fund as a massive step forward for national competitiveness, local labor union leaders expressed immediate skepticism regarding the government's ultimatum to Stelco, openly characterizing the 15-day warning as an empty threat that fails to address deeper systematic economic fragmentation. Stelco's parent company has yet to issue a formal response regarding whether it will comply or challenge the federal time line in court.#

From Page 12 Cooking with Love

starch acts as a natural binder to keep the meat filling perfectly juicy)

.2. The Meat Filling: In a large skillet or heavy pot, combine the ground pork, ground beef, minced onion, garlic, and stock over medium heat. Cook the mixture, breaking up the meat finely with a wooden spoon, until the meat is completely browned (about 10–12 minutes).

3. The Autumn Spices: Stir in the salt, black pepper, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and celery salt. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and let it simmer gently for 15 minutes so the flavors marry beautifully. Remove from heat and stir in the mashed potato. Let the filling cool slightly.

4. The Bake: Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C). Line a 9-inch pie plate with the bottom pastry crust. Spoon the warm meat filling evenly into the shell. Place the top pastry crust over the filling, trim the edges, and crimp to seal. Cut a few small slits in the top crust to allow steam to escape. Brush the top generously with the beaten egg wash for a golden sheen.

5. The Golden Finish: Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until the pastry is beautifully flaky and deep golden brown. Allow the pie to rest for 10 minutes before slicing. Serve warm.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS:

A Monthly Digest of Global Trends & Geopolitical Shifts

The Tech Fracture: AI Exploits Age-Old Code to Trigger European Outages

A profound transformation in cybersecurity unfolded this month across Western Europe as hundreds of municipal, judicial, and corporate portals suddenly went dark. The widespread disruption stemmed from two critical, previously hidden vulnerabilities discovered within PHP, a core programming language powering a vast percentage of the global internet.



A screen displays the unavailable French government website, info.gouv.fr, as cyber agencies warn that websites may be taken offline while PHP prepares a critical fix, in Berlin, Germany, October 21, 2026. (REUTERS)

Security analysts confirmed that the underlying coding flaw had remained undetected for over a decade. It was ultimately uncovered not by human engineers, but by an autonomous artificial intelligence system scanning software logic at an unprecedented scale.

The incident has sparked an intense global debate among tech regulators. While AI is rapidly accelerating software development, it is simultaneously being weaponized to expose legacy digital vulnerabilities faster than human teams can patch them. Network operators have been forced to pull major public directories offline as a preventative safety measure while developers scramble to deploy emergency software updates, signaling a volatile new era of automated digital vulnerability.

Diplomatic Gambits: U.S. and Russia Pivot Toward New Ukraine

NegotiationsIn a striking development that has scrambled global alliances, the United States, Russia, and Ukraine are actively preparing to resume formal peace talks next month. These would mark the first formal, U.S.-brokered negotiations aimed at ending the four-year war since early February. The sudden diplomatic momentum follows a high-profile meeting at the Kremlin between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the visiting U.S. special envoy, Steve Witkoff. During the encounter, the American envoy drew international attention by openly praising the Russian president, signaling a dramatic shift in Washington's foreign policy approach.

However, the diplomatic overtures have done little to cool the active combat zones. Hours after the peace talks were announced, major aerial campaigns were launched by both sides. Russian ballistic missiles and drone waves struck twelve separate regions across Ukraine overnight, including the capital city of Kyiv, causing civilian casualties and heavy infrastructure damage.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin advisor Yuri Ushakov, and Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev attend a meeting with U.S. special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner in Moscow, Russia, on Sept. 5. Sputnik/Gavriil Grigorov/Pool/AFP via Getty Images

In direct retaliation, Ukrainian forces deployed a massive swarm of over 600 drones targeting Moscow and peripheral Russian territories, triggering a severe localized fuel crisis. Beyond the physical frontlines, both militaries have begun systematically targeting each other's critical data hubs, expanding the conflict heavily into the digital domain.

Escalate in the Gulf: Maritime Conflict Disrupts Global Energy Markets

Tensions in the Middle East surged to a critical threshold this month following a string of sophisticated attacks in the Persian Gulf. The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps reported striking four transport vessels engaged in ship-to-ship oil transfers, while three separate commercial cargo ships sustained heavy damage from maritime mines near the vital Strait of Hormuz. Adding to the regional volatility, an unexpected drone strike attributed to Iran-aligned Houthi forces struck Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Airport.

In rapid response to the escalating hostility, the U.S. State Department ordered the immediate evacuation of non-emergency government personnel and their families from Saudi Arabia. Simultaneously, reports have surfaced that the Pentagon and the Israeli military have finalized comprehensive contingency plans for a coordinated air campaign targeting Iranian drone arsenals and military infrastructure.

The friction instantly reverberated through global financial sectors. International oil prices surged dramatically on fears of sustained supply line disruptions through the world's most critical transit chokepoint. The energy anxieties spilled over into global stock markets, sparking a massive sell-off in technology and artificial intelligence equities. Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 index tumbled by 1.2%, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite plummeted a staggering 2.6%, marking their sharpest single-day contractions since mid-summer.

Global Overview: Climate Thresholds and New Sporting Horizons

• United Nations Abandons 1.5°C Climate Cap: In a sobering monthly report, the UN published its annual Emissions Gap Report, declaring that the international community has officially run out of time to permanently cap global heating at the 2015 Paris Accord target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial baselines. Officials are urging immediate, drastic reductions in greenhouse gases to reduce the severity of the climate overshoot

.• Civil Unrest Grips France: The French government has imposed sweeping protest bans in major metropolitan zones following a consecutive week of intense civil unrest. The widespread domestic riots, driven by rising living costs and degraded public services, have resulted in thousands of arrests and extensive commercial property damage across the country.

• U.S. to Host Inaugural FIFA Women's Club World Cup: In international sports, FIFA officials formally announced that the United States has won the bidding rights to host the first-ever Women's Club World Cup. Scheduled for the summer of 2028, the tournament will feature 16 of the world's elite football clubs.

Natural Disaster: Major 7.0 Earthquake Strikes Tibet, Spurring Large-Scale Rescue Operations



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, firefighters inspect an earthquake-hit village houses in Baqen County of Nagqu City in China's Tibet autonomous region, on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. (Xinhua via AP)

A powerful 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck China's remote Tibet region this month, leaving at least 16 people dead and injuring dozens more. According to regional state media, the violent tremors triggered the collapse of at least 339 residential homes and caused extensive damage to local infrastructure across rural mountainous areas.

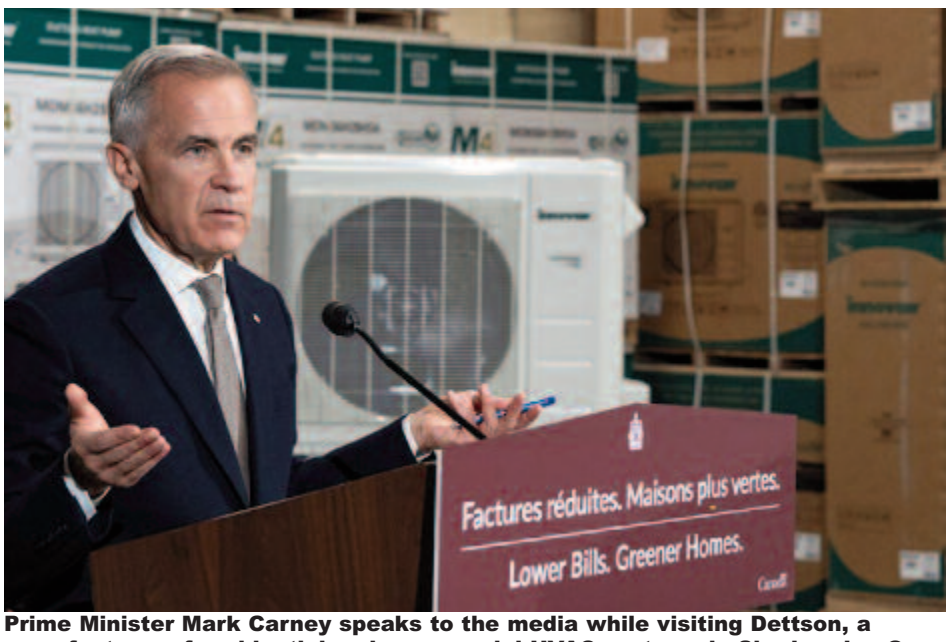
Emergency search-and-rescue teams, alongside Chinese military units, were deployed to the high-altitude disaster zone to navigate blocked roads, locate survivors trapped beneath the rubble, and distribute emergency winter tents and medical supplies. Local authorities warned that the rugged terrain and threat of secondary landslides remain a significant challenge for active humanitarian relief operations.

THE NORTH AMERICAN
FILIPINO STAR
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

OCTOBER 2026 Pictorial News



South African lawyer Navanethem "Navi" Pillay sits at the Nuremberg Forum in Germany following the announcement that she will be awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee is honoring her for her efforts to promote peace and international law.Daniel Karmann/picture alliance via Getty Images.



Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks to the media while visiting Dettson, a manufacturer of residential and commercial HVAC systems in Sherbrooke, Que., on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Christinne Muschi





pA Celebration of Peace and Expression, Honouring Global Harmony and Literary Excellence, placed side by side, these two historic milestones capture the ultimate heights of human potential. On the left is Anne Carson, first Canadian awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and on the right, we honour the Japanese grassroots organization Nihon Hidankyo, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their tireless, moving crusade to ensure global peace and unity



SPACE IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ONLY 80 GUESTS! SAVE WITH EARLY BIRD PRICING
• Early Bird Special (Now until Nov. 10th): $29
• Nov 11th to 18th: $35

AI: Fact vs. Fiction—Get the Real Story from Top Experts!

Celebrate our 37th Anniversary of Commitment to Excellence in Education with a night of cutting-edge knowledge and networking. Discover why the AI "killer robot" headlines are just scaremongering, and get the accurate facts directly from leading university professors.
• Thursday, November 28th• 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Doors open at 4:30 PM) •Gilmore Academy Social Hall (7159, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal, QC H3R 2M2)
• Includes a 1.5-hour expert seminar, gourmet finger foods, and a cocktail reception.
• SPACE IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ONLY 80 PREPAID GUESTS! Registration is required. Secure your spot instantly by sending an Interac e-Transfer to: zbk@gilmorecollege.com
⚠ CRITICAL: You must indicate your Full Name and Telephone Number in the message section of the Interac transfer. Ticket Pickup: No physical tickets will be mailed. Your prepaid tickets will be held for you at the entrance door starting at 4:30 p.m. on November 28th.

37 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

