# THE NORTH AMERICAN

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Montreal's only Filipino-Canadian newspaper

# Carney sees possibilities for Canada in his speech at the 80th UN General Assembly



Prime Minister Mark Carney met with world leaders and business leaders during his trip to the United Nations in New York this week. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press)

Published Sept. 24, 2025 -Kelly Geraldine Malone, Canadian Press - Prime Minister Mark Carney said there are many possibi-lities for Canada after attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York this week, where U.S. President Donald Trump continued his skepticism of multilateralism and questioned the institution's purpose.

"In every moment where there's a crack, where there's a rupture, there is possibility — and it's our responsibility, it's our opportunity as Canada in this moment to find it," Carney told media Tuesday evening. "And after my visit to the United Nations General Assembly, I can assure Canadians that there is light, there are many possibilities."

Carney earlier Tuesday listened to Trump's roughly hour-long speech at the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly, where the president complained about the United Nations and preached about his "America First" policies that have abruptly upended geopolitics and sent shock waves to countries around the world.

"What is the purpose of the United Nations?" Trump asked as he criticized the institution for being full of "empty words."

Trump said the United Nations has tremendous potential, "but it's not even coming close" to living up to it. He was particularly aggrieved that there were issues with an escalator and



Prime Minister Mark Carney delivers a speech as he takes part in a high-level international conference for the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two-state solution during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025. This year marks the 80th anniversary of UNGA. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press)

address.

"These are the two things I got from the United Nations: a bad escalator and a bad TelePrompTer," he

The president later reassured diplomats concerned over the tone of his grievance-filled speech. Earlier this year, Trump ordered a review of the United States' involvement in the United Nations, withdrew from its Human Rights Council and froze U.S. funding.

He told Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that he may disagree with the United Nations sometimes, but

TelePrompTer ahead of his he is also "so behind it because the potential for peace at this institution is great."

> Trump, in his speech, also pushed back on U.S. allies, including Canada, who took part in a coordinated effort to recognize a Palestinian state. Trump said the move would reward Hamas for the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

> Carney did not have a one-onone meeting with the president. He did attend a reception on Tuesday night for world leaders hosted by the president.

> The prime minister used the General Assembly to meet with CEOs

See Page 2 Carney at the UN

## **An emotional Jimmy Kimmel** returns to late night after show's suspension - See p. 2



After a six-day suspension, late-night host Jimmy Kimmel broke down in tears during his return to TV with a monologue focused on the importance of maintaining the right to free speech while still poking fun at the Trump administration.

### **Quebec joins Alberta** ending free COVID-19 shots, may charge \$180 per dose



By Alessia Simona Maratta Global News Posted September 18, 2025

COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be free for the general public in

Quebec starting this fall. The province's health department confirmed the policy change on Wednesday, and is the Quebec joins Alberta See Page 3

From Page 1 Carney at the UN and world leaders in an ongoing effort to diversify Canada's trade and economic opportunities in the wake of Trump's efforts to realign global trade through devastating duties. Carney met with leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

During a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Carney noted that since the two had spoken on the phone, "our two countries, our officials, have begun to engage much more regularly, much more constructively."

"We have an opportunity in a world that is changing rapidly," Carney told Li. "We have an opportunity to bring that partnership back and bring it



At #UNGA80, Prime Minister Carney met with Laurent Saint-Cyr, President of the Transitional Presidential Council of Haiti. They discussed the ongoing crisis in Haiti and Canada's support for peace, security, and good governance.

# An emotional Jimmy Kimmel returns to late night after show's suspension

Jimmy Kimmel returned to the air on Tuesday, addressing for the first time a controversy that sidelined his late-night show and intensified the debate around free speech in the United States.

sending love to his family and asking for compassion, and I meant it. And I still do," Kimmel said.

Kimmel praises Kirk's widow

Disney and ABC suspended Kimmel's show last week after the host



Fellow comedians Jon Stewart and Jimmy Fallon mocked U.S. President Donald Trump Thursday after Jimmy Kimmel Live! was pulled off the air on Wednesday by ABC following Federal Communications Commission pressure. While Trump is not backing down, even Republican Sen. Ted Cruz is raising concerns the situation has gone too far.

Kimmel opened his monologue with a joke characteristic of his show — "As I was saying, before I was interrupted" — but took on a somber tone as he addressed the days that have passed since he was suspended from his slot.

"This show is not important," the host said, taking the stage in Los Angeles wearing a blue tie with red stripes.

"What's important is that we get to live in a country that allows us to have a show like this."

It was one of the most highly anticipated late-night openers in recent years. During his 15-minute monologue, Kimmel repeatedly defended Americans' First Amendment right to speak freely and said he had heard from Americans who believe in its protection from both sides of the political aisle.

"It was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man. I don't think there's anything funny about it. I posted a message on Instagram the day he was killed, said "the MAGA gang" had been "desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them, and doing everything they can to score political points from it."

On Tuesday, Kimmel said it was not his intention "to blame any specific group for the actions of what it was obviously a deeply disturbed individual."

"That was really the opposite of the point I was trying to make, but I understand that to some that felt either ill-timed or unclear, or maybe both, and for those who think I did point a finger, I get why you're upset," he said. "If the situation was reversed, there's a good chance I'd have felt the same way."

He also mentioned Kirk's widow, Erika, who publicly forgave the accused shooter who killed her husband at a memorial on Sunday.

"That is an example we should follow.... It touched me deeply. If there's anything we should take from this tragedy to carry forward, I hope it can be that," Kimmel said.

An hour before the show began, Trump threatened potential legal action against the network.

"I think we're going to test ABC out on this. Let's see how we do. Last time I went after them, they gave me \$16 Million Dollars," he wrote on Truth Social, referring to the \$15 million ABC agreed to pay toward his presidential library to settle a lawsuit over an anchor's inaccurate on-air assertion about Trump's civil liability in a rape case.

"This one sounds even more lucrative."

Kimmel did not stop with his usual needling of Trump that night. He mentioned the president having said the show failed to get good ratings, then quipped: "I do tonight."

"[Trump] did his best to cancel me. Instead, he forced millions of people to watch the show. That backfired bigly. He might have to release the Epstein files to distract us from this."

to a new level, across a range of areas."

The prime minister has worked to restore diplomatic efforts that were strained when Canada — largely to align with the United States — hit China with targeted tariffs on key industries like steel and electric vehicles. In return, China targeted Canada with duties, particularly on canola, which has hit Prairie province farmers.

Before his departure from New York, Carney is set to attend a UN summit focused on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy. He is also scheduled to meet with the prime minister of Jamaica.

Advetising in your local newspaper is an excellent idea to support your own community and fellow Canadians.

talked it through. At the end, even though they didn't have to, they really didn't have to, this is a giant company, we have short attention spans, and I am a tiny part of the Disney Corporation. They welcomed me back on the air, and I thank them for that," Kimmel said

Critics and supporters thanked for free speech stand

Kimmel also thanked the former colleagues, fellow late-night hosts, celebrity names and "everyone" else who contacted him with messages over support. He was emotional thanking the audience for the same.

"I also want to thank all of you," he said. "Who supported our show, cared enough to do something about it, to make your voices heard so mine could be heard. I'll never forget it."

Kimmel also singled out several politically right-leaning personalities and politicians who condemned his suspension, despite their personal disdain for the host, as a



The late-night host later joked that Disney had asked him to read a message on the show as a condition of his return, asking people to reactivate their subscriptions to Hulu and Disney+. He then thanked his network bosses for allowing him "to stretch the boundaries of what was once traditional for a late-night talk show" over 23 years in his role, but did say he was "not happy when they pulled me off the air."

"I did not agree with that decision, and I told them that, and we had many conversations. I shared my point of view, they shared theirs. We suppression of free speech.

"Maybe most of all, I want to thank the people who don't support my show and what I believe but support my right to share those beliefs anyway," the host said, including names like conservative commentator Candace Owens and Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in his list.

"It takes courage for them to speak out against this administration and they did and they deserve credit for it. Our government cannot be allowed to control what we do and do not say on television and we need to stand up to it."

# **Building Canada** strong and free

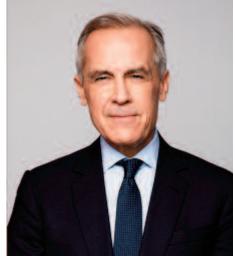
FROM THE

PUBLISHER'S DESK

# by adopting change and taking action

#### Zenaida Kharroubi

Mark Carney is Canada's 24th Prime Minister. He was elected Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and sworn in as Prime Minister in March 2025. After winning his seat in the snap elections on April 28, 2025 representing Nepean, Ontario, he has been extremely busy in his position as he has a full load of responsibilities in building



**Prime Minister Marc Carney** 

Canada strong and free in facing the challenges posed by Trump's global war. He is keenly interested in ensuring that the country is able to adopt the necessary changes and to take effective actions in implementing sound economic policies as well as in finding new ideas to cope with the inevitable changes caused not only by the current U.S. president but by the advances of technology and the impacts of climate change.

Prime Minister Carney has a Ph. D. in Economics and a working experience in managing the Bank of Canada during a period of tough times and the Bank of England during the BREXIT period. It appears that he has both the education and the experience to run the government of Canada with the assistance of other provincial leaders and other experts who do market analysis and issue academic reports periodically. It is quite interesting to make our readers aware of their findings, not only to make us feel more confident in our government but also to make us more prepared in making our own financial decisions in terms of purchasing what we need in our daily life and to do our part in protecting our planet.

A quantitative analysis of Trump's tariffs showed how Canada can best respond. We have quoted the part of the report that is selfexplanatory:

Tariffs on U.S. goods can inflict more damage on the U.S. economy than on Canada under a limited but strategic set of circumstances. First, when Canada has adequate opportunities to substitute away from U.S. goods (i.e., a suitable domestic or non-U.S. alternative is available) we fare better. Alcohol imports from the U.S. are a perfect example of an opportunity to substitute away from the U.S. Canada has many options for alcohol other than the United States, including through interprovincial trade or from other countries.

Second, tariffs have a greater impact on the U.S. than in Canada if we have industries that are negatively impacted by U.S. tariffs and we have

sufficient production capacity to meet our needs. Steel production in Ontario and Quebec are both negatively affected by U.S. tariffs and could export to other regions instead of the United States. Reciprocal tariffs on U.S. steel leads to a greater negative impact on the U.S. than in Canada.

Our analysis also hints at goods on which we should avoid imposing tariffs. These include goods used for investment purposes (e.g., machinery). These tariffs may negatively affect the United States, but they make investment in Canada more costly and further erode our productivity. As a result, the damage to our economy exceeds the damage to the U.S. economy, and lowers our global competitiveness.

Finally, we should avoid tariffs on goods that rely on highly integrated supply chains between Canada and the United States. Vehicles fit this description, despite Canada having many options for importing vehicles from outside of the United States. Our vehicle sector is too highly integrated with the United States to avoid the negative impacts of tariffs on Canada. In fact, the negative impact of vehicle tariffs was so disproportionately large on Canada, that they fall outside the figure.

The optimal response could extend beyond what was analyzed here. Policymakers do not need to be limited to a 25% tariff on a particular suite of goods. For example, raising the tariff above 25% on alcohol and tobacco may enhance the level of damage on the U.S. economy relative to Canada's.

This analysis points to a potential path forward for Canada in this difficult and unprecedented situation. First, the analysis clearly shows that we, as Canadians, have to stick together because Trump's tariffs affect us all. We can't afford to be split along regional

Quebec joins Alberta From Page 1 second province, after Alberta, to end the free vaccinations for its entire population.

Only specific groups will continue to be eligible for subsidized vaccines, including people with chronic health conditions, those aged 65 and older, and health-care workers.

The department says most of the population has already been exposed to the virus and that healthy adults with COVID-19 immunity no longer need to be prioritized for lines, as Canada and Canadians are prone to do. Second, we need to trade more east-west than north-south – either build on what we can do within Canada and trade across provincial lines, or develop new markets in Asia and Europe. And third, to the extent that we hit back, we need to hit back on those sectors that hurt the American economy more than our own.

This was not a trade war that Canada sought or started. But by preserving our unity, building stronger national and global east-west relationships, and implementing smart strategic response, we can still come through this stronger as a country.

(Source: PPF Fellow Mark Cameron leads PPF's Canada-U.S. project; Jotham Peters is Managing Partner at Navius and Brianne Riehl is Managing Director — both specialize in energyeconomy models.)

In the speech delivered to the 80th UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Carney's words encouraging and make us feel confident that we shall find a way to cope with the challenges of the tariffs that may affect us in our pockets but the fact that Trump's global war made all Canadians develop a deeper sense of nationalism should make us all feel proud. This brings to mind the words in our national anthem:

O Canada!

Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command. With glowing hearts we see thee rise. The True North strong and free! From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

vaccination.

According Quebec's to association of owner-pharmacists, a dose of the vaccine costs between \$150 and \$180.

Alberta announced its plan back in June, after the federal government put the provinces in charge of buying COVID-19 vaccines, as is routine with other immunization programs.

For more information, consult Quebec's Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) release

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# Canada Post workers walking off the job after government demands reforms

Government authorizes corporation to end home delivery, close some post offices

Darren Major, Kevin Maimann
· CBC News · Posted: Sep 25, 2025
5:33 PM EDT |

The union representing Canada's postal workers has called for a cross-country strike in the wake of the federal government announcing major reforms to Canada Post.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) said it was "outraged and appalled" by the changes laid out Thursday.

"In response to the government's attack on our postal service and workers, effective immediately, all CUPW members at Canada Post are on a nationwide strike," CUPW said in a statement.

Joël Lightbound, the minister responsible for Canada Post, detailed a number of changes, including authorizing Canada Post to end home delivery. About four million addresses still receive that service.

The government is arguing that the changes are necessary to keep the Crown corporation — which is on track to lose \$1.5 billion in 2025 — afloat.

"The bottom line is this: Canada Post is effectively insolvent," Lightbound said earlier Thursday.

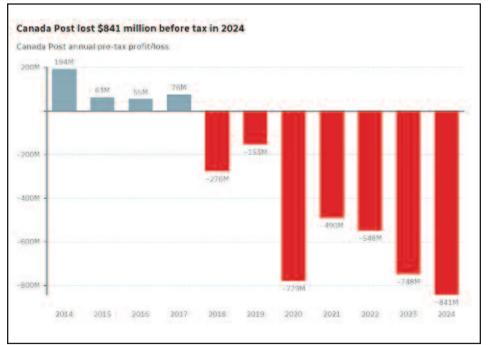
"It provides an essential service to Canadians, and in particular to rural, remote and Indigenous communities, and Canadians are rightfully attached to it and want it saved. However, repeated bailouts from the federal government are not the solution."

The Crown corporation has 45 days to submit a cost-savings plan to the government.

CUPW pushed back against



Postal workers walk the picket line in front of a Canada Post facility in Medicine Hat, Alta., on Thursday, after their union said employees were going back on strike. (Eli Ridder/CBC)



postal workers," the union's statement said.

CUPW argues that part of the corporation's financial crunch is due to "uncertainty" around the ongoing labour dispute. Negotiations for a new

negotiator, told CBC's Power & Politics that a new collective agreement would help stabilize Canada Post.

He suggested that a recent increase to stamp prices had already

increase fell short of its demand for 19 per cent.

While the union said it was willing to work with Canada Post to allow weekend delivery and the addition of part-time workers, it said the corporation walked away from the negotiating table.

Before the strike was announced, mail carriers told CBC News the government's decision ignores the important work they do for their communities, and that they worry for residents along their routes.

"It's a little sad that an institution that is kind of in everyone's community will eventually wither away," said Daniel Bryant, who has been a mail carrier in Toronto for 20 years.

Bryant says he gets to know the people along his route and performs wellness checks on residents in need. He'll knock on their doors to chat, see how they're doing and put them in contact with others if needed.

Helen Karrandjas, another Toronto postal worker, says the news makes her feel like Canada Post workers are seen only as delivery personnel.

A 2023 National Institute of Ageing white paper titled "Special Delivery" found that programs checking in on seniors have been successful in Japan, France and the Isle of Jersey, U.K., and suggested a similar program could be an additional revenue source for Canada Post.

Karrandjas said it feels like a "waste" not to use Canada Post's nationwide community network to expand its services, rather than reduce them, at a time when the country's population is aging.

"I'm a little bit baffled from that perspective," she said.



The union representing Canada Post workers says its members will be on nationwide strike in the next 24 hours, describing the situation as 'fluid.'

the proposed changes and disputed that they're needed to get Canada Post out of the red.

"The changes announced by the government, including converting four million addresses to community mailboxes, a reduction in mail delivery service standards and the abandoning of the rural moratorium, are drastic and will negatively impact the public and collective agreement have been ongoing for more than a year and a half.

A strike and lockout lasted more than a month during the busy holiday period last year, ending only after the labour minister asked the Canada Industrial Relations Board to order employees back to work.

Jim Gallant, a CUPW



The federal government laid out its plan to save Canada Post. Part of that plan includes allowing them to end home delivery — something the Liberals ran against in the 2015 election. The minister responsible for Canada Post, Joël Lightbound, now says that was 'probably' a mistake.

begun to bring in more revenue for Canada Post.

"We need something that's sustainable, not a sunset industry, and it's there and there's money to be made," he told host David Cochrane. Earlier this month, the union said the government's offer of a 13 per cent pay

Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.



#### **CRARR**, Groups urge Montreal to add anti-hate crime measures to policy

A coalition of community religion, gender, and sexual orientation organizations is urging the City of Montreal to amend its newly adopted anti-racism and diversity policy to directly address hate crimes and extremism, warning that its current form leaves critical gaps.

or gender identity.

The organizations called on the City Council to:

 Explicitly include antisemitism and Islamophobia under Guiding Principle #2 of the



Community leaders and advocacy groups call on the City of Montréal to address hate crimes and extremism in its new anti-racism policy during a press conference.

At a press conference held last Sunday, the Black Community Resource Centre, the Chinese Association of Montreal, the Canadian Council of Muslim Women - Montreal

Chapter, and the Filipino Family Service of Montreal joined the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) in raising alarm over the omission of hate-related measures from the policy.

The new policy on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), adopted by the City's Executive Committee on August 14 and slated for full council approval this week, sets out commitments in five priority areas: city administration, urban safety, cultural equity, economic and territorial equity, and inclusive public participation. Yet, critics note, the document makes no mention of combating hate crimes or extremism offline or online.

serious about equity and safety while ignoring the very real threat of hate crimes and organized extremism." said CRARR executive director Fo Niemi.

According to Montreal police data, reported hate crimes rose by 6.2% in 2024 compared to 2023, while hate incidents increased by 18.1%. The top grounds cited in these cases included race, ethnic or national origin,

Add commitments to addressing hate crimes and hate incidents in the section on "Urban Security without Profiling."

 Collect and release disaggregated data on victim and offender profiles, as well as the type and location of offenses.

•Increase resources for the SPVM Hate Crimes Unit to enhance its intervention capacity,

 Support for victims, reporting mechanisms, and community outreach.

City Councillors Sonny Moroz and Stephanie Valenzuela, who attended the press conference, pledged to advocate for these amendments. "We must ensure Montreal's antiracism policy reflects the realities our communities are

facing," Moroz said.

Advocates stressed that the "Montreal cannot claim to be omissions are more than symbolicthey risk undermining public confidence at a time when communities most affected by racism, religious intolerance, and extremism are seeking stronger protections.

> "The city has a chance to lead with clarity and courage," Niemi said. "That requires naming the problem and committing to action."

### **Jamaica Association of Montreal** & Partners (JAM) Introduce **Rugby for Community Safety**

September 5, 2025 - the Jamaica Association of Montreal (JAM), the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), and the McGill University Rugby Football Club (MURFC), with the support of McGill University Athletics and Recreation,

training is open to all youth in Montreal aged 12 and above who are connected to community organizations that have partnered with CRARR and JAM through the Together Against Violence basketball project. By building on the success of the



An Interview photo of Fo Niemi, Executive Director of the **Center for Research-Action on Race Relations** 

have launched a new initiative called Rugby for Community Safety to promote youth engagement and community resilience through sport.

The project is inspired by the Greater Manchester Police's youth violence prevention initiative in

the United Kingdom, which uses rugby as a tool to reach disad-vantaged youth and provide positive alternatives to crime. Adapting this model to Montreal, the local partners aim to create opportunities for young people to develop teamwork, discipline, and inclusion, while addressing broader concerns about safety and violence in the community.

Funding for Rugby for Community Safety is provided by the Ville de Montréal, Employment and Social Development Canada, and private donors. This financial support allows the program to be free of charge for participants and accessible to young people from diverse communities.

As part of the launch, a free rugby training session will be offered on October 4, 2025, at Percival Molson Stadium. The session will be conducted by players from the McGill University Rugby Football Club. Registration details will be made available next week.

basketball program, Rugby for Community Safety expands the use of sport as a means of prevention, empowerment, and community development.

Organizers note that this initiative underscores the value of partnerships between community groups, educational institutions, and municipal and federal governments in addressing youth violence. By combining resources and expertise, they aim to provide young people with safe, structured, and meaningful opportunities for growth.

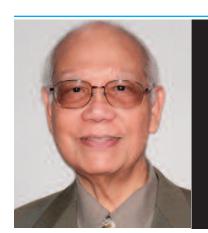
With Rugby for Community Safety, the Jamaica Association of Montreal, CRARR, and McGill University are strengthening their commitment to using sport not only as recreation, but also as a pathway to safer and more inclusive communities.

**Education** is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Malcolm X

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### **ONTARIO**

Filipino-Canadian
Community News

Tony A. San Juan, OCT

# Minister Kristine Leilani R. Salle is the new Philippine Consul General in Toronto

With the rank of Ambassador, Mrs. Kristine Leilani R. Salle, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva will assume the post of Philippine Consul General in Toronto, Ontario on September 18, 2025, according to a reliable source. She will take over the position of ConGen Angelica Escalona who left in April 2025 for an assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

As listed in Linkedin, the social networking website for people in

International Economic Relations and from January 2021 to January 2023, she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary/Executive Director, Office of Migrant Workers' Affair. For five years and six months (2018 to 2023), she served as a Career Minister at the Department of Foreign Affairs and in January 2023, she became the Philippine Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Geneva, Switzerland.

A graduate of De La Salle University-Manila, Salle obtained her Bachelor Arts (BA) in political science in 1992. She finished in 2002 a Post-



Mrs. Kristine Leilani R. Salle, Philippine Consul-General in Toronto

professional occupations , Philippine Ambassador K. L. R. Salle is described as an "Experienced Diplomat with a demonstrated history of working in diplomacy and international relations. Skilled in Foreign Affairs, Politics, Policy Analysis, Political Science, and Government. Strong community and social services professional."

In 2003 Salle received diplomatic assignments in Rome, Italy and London, United Kingdom, starting as Third Secretary and Vice Consul rising to Minister and Consul. In 2018 she worked for one year and eleven months as a Special Assistant at the Office of the Undersecretary for

graduate Diploma in Globalization and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands. In 2015, she completed a Master's degree in Diplomacy and Security Studies, With Merit, from the University of Sterling in Sterling, Scotland.

Welcome to Toronto, Canada, Her Excellency, Ambasador Kristine Leilani R. Salle! Good luck and God bless.

"In faith, there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't." Blaise Pascal

# **Knights of Rizal Central Canada Region Celebrate Commanders' Ball 2025**

Celebrating significantly and purposefully, the officers and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Central Canada Region, in their splendid KOR regalia, proudly paraded before their guests, families, and friends, officially opening their "Commanders' Ball: An Evening with the KOR Supremo" on September 6, 2025, at La Primavera Hall, Woodbridge, Ontario.

Among the leading attendees were KOR Supreme Commander. Sir Raymundo del Rosario, with his wife Nelia del Rosario, and former and current Canada Regional Commanders, Sirs Lapulapu Cana, Jimmy Marasigan, Joe Damasco, Dr. Romy Sinajon, and Frank Crawford. Also in attendance were official representatives of the KOR chapters from the USA, Windsor, and Montreal and the generous sponsors and prominent leaders of community, business, social, and professional organizations in the Greater Toronto Area(GTA). Other associated associations such as the Ladies of the Knights of Rizal (LKOR) led by Bing Marasigan, the Alliance of Knights of Rizal (ALKOR) headed by Ining Calaguio, Kababaihang Rizalista's Rose Cruz, and the Rizal Youth Council with Clarisse Princess Crawford, warmly participated too in the 5-hour celebration.

Ably and jointly hosted by Event co-chairs Sirs Joseph Redoblado, Chris Marfil, and Jerome Peralta, the evening ceremonies commenced with the Land Acknowledgement, followed by National Anthems singing, Rizalian Oath and Pledge, and opening prayer and blessing ,aptly led by Sirs Chris Marfil, Jerome Peralta,and Pastor Manzo,respectively. Sir Frank Crawford enthusiastically delivered his welcome remarks and introduced the guest of honour.

KOR Supreme Commander Sir Raymundo del Rosario, KGCR, LM, delivered his well-applauded address, reporting on the status of the 114-year old prominent organization. Among other things, he cited developments in the new policies, programs, chapters, initiatives, and activities being pursued by the KOR nationally and internationally.

Special messages were presented by PhilippineConsul Rodney Jonas Sumague and the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, and greetings from Prime Minister Mark Carney, MP for Mississauga Streetsville & Minister Rechie Valdez-read by MP for Eglinton - Lawrence Vince Gasparo, MP for York Centre Roman Baber, MPP & Minister Michael Kerzner, and Rizal Youth Council head, Lady Clarisse Crawford.

During the celebration, MP Vince Gasparo was knighted by Supreme Commander Munding del Rosario, assisted by senior KOR officers. Three promising officer Knights received Distinguished Service Awards and promoted to ranks, namely Sirs Joseph Redoblado, Chris Marfil & Christian Rey. Sirs Alecs Trinidad & Hermie Hernandez were given "Distinguished Service Cross while 14 Knights were cited with "Certificates of Appreciation" for their contributions to KOR 's life and operation. A Posthumous Recognition was read by Sir Febs Hangdaan.Sirs Richard Saldana and Fr. Christian Rey gave the closing remarks and the closing prayers.

The Order of the Knights of Rizal (KOR), as described by Sir Lapulapu Cana, is "a fraternal organization which aims to study the teachings of the Philippines' foremost national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, and to inculcate and propagate his ideals and philosophies among all classes of the Filipino people." Formed on December 30, 1911, it was granted a special charter through Republic Act 646 on June 14, 1951 by President Elpidio Quirino. Non Omnis Moriar!



# **BALITA SA WIKANG Tagalog**

ni Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi

#### Balita tungkol kay Rodrigo Duterte sa pagkasakdal sa kanya sa International Court sa Netherlands

Ayon sa balita ng AP news, nitong 23 ng Septiembre 2025, ang International Court ay nagbigay ng mga detalyeng nagsasaad ng " crimes against humanity" laban sa dating pangulo ng Pilipinas na si Rodrigo Duterte na kasalukuyang nasa Hague, Netherlands mula pa noong Marso 2025 nang siya ay dinakip sa tulong ng pamahalaan ng kasalukuyang pangulo ng Pilipinas na si Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

May mahigit sa 76 na tao ang



mga namatay mula noong panahong si Duterte ay gobernador ng siyudad ng Davao hanggang sa panahon ng siya ay pangulo ng Pilipinas.

May 15 pahina pinaglistahan ng mga sakdal laban kay Duterte na ibinunyag sa publiko ng International Court noong Hulyo 4, 2025, kabilang dito ang kanyang paguutos sa kanyang mga alagad sa pagpatay sa mga taong pinagsuspetsahang "drug dealer" o kaya "users."

Ang unang kaso o "charge"

sa kanya ay ang tungkol sa 19 biktima na namatay nang siya ay gobernador ng Davao noong taong 2013 at 2016. Ang ikalawang kaso ay 14 taong namatay dahil sa tinatawag na "targeted killing" noong 2016 at 2017 nang si Duterte ay presidente. Ang ikatlo ay ang pagpatay sa 43 tao noong pananon na tinatawag na "clearance operations" noong 2016 at

Si Duterte, at ang abogado niya at pamilya ay hindi nagbigay ng kanilang reaksyon sa "allegations" ng International Court, kagaya rin ng dati na hindi umaamin si Duterte sa mga paratang sa kanyang pagpapapatay sa maraming Pilipinong pinagsususpetsahang 'drug dealer" o 'drug addict''

Ang court hearing ni Duterte ay maaring maipagpaliban ng ilang araw dahil kailangang suriin pa kung siya ay maaring humarap sa Corte. Dahil sa kanyang edad, medio mahina na ang kanyang pakiramdaman at kalusugan.

Sa isang banda, ang kanyang anak na si Sarah ay hindi na matutuloy na ma-impeach dahil bumoto ang maraming senador na ilagay na sa 'archives'' ang mga artikulo ng kanyang 'impeachment' kaya hindi na siya mabibigyan ng kahit anong parusa sa anomang pagkakamamali niya na ipinaratang sa kanyang pagwaldas ng malaking halagang ibinigay sa kanyang departmento ng edukasyon





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### **Ile-Bizard Library closing 18** months, satellite branch to open

By John Leo Lete, Local its cultural development. Journalism Initiative, NEPMCC

Montreal, September 15, 2025 Île-Bizard-Ste-Geneviève The Library will close this fall for an 18-month renovation project that borough officials say will modernize

Borough officials say the work reflects Montreal's broader effort to update its public library network with more welcoming, flexible, and technologically equipped spaces. "This renovation will give residents of all



The Île-Bizard–Ste-Geneviève Library closes for major upgrades, with a satellite branch ensuring continued access to books and programs

the facility, improve accessibility, and better serve the community.

The library, located at 500 montée de l'Église, will shut its doors on September 15, 2025. Collections will be moved in the weeks following, and beginning October 21, a satellite branch will open at the pavillon Vincent-Lecavalier, directly behind the main building. The temporary space will offer essential services such as loans and returns, renewals, card subscriptions, and access to the full Nelligan catalog, though with a smaller on-site collection.

renovation project, expected to last until winter 2027, will include a complete redesign of the children's section, the creation of quiet reading areas, improvements to the exhibition and activity room, and the installation of new automated return and sorting systems.

When it reopens, the facility will also have a new name: Bibliothèque Éliane-Labastrou, in honor of the community leader who helped establish Île-Bizard's first library in 1972 and who played a major role in ages a library that is modern, inclusive, and better adapted to their needs," the borough said in a statement.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to use the satellite branch and take advantage of digital services, including e-books, audiobooks, and online reservations, through the city's library system.

The revamped Bibliothèque Éliane-Labastrou is scheduled to reopen to the public in early 2027.#



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# Stalled contract talks mean STM strike could be extended, union warns

By Harry North

Updated September 24, 2025 5:41 PM

The union representing Montreal transit maintenance workers warned Wednesday that more strike days could be added after accusing the city's transit agency of not negotiating in good faith.

More than 100 maintenance employees of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) demonstrated outside the agency's head office. Four more strike days can be exercised by the union between now and Oct. 3., unless a deal between maintenance workers and the STM is struck.

Bruno Jeannotte, president of the Syndicat du transport de Montréal-CSN, said discussions with a mediator were continuing, but had not yet reached the stage of appointing an "We've been waiting months. If there's no movement, we'll increase the mobilization and the strike."

Enault emphasized that subcontracting remains the sticking point. He argued the STM is looking to save money by outsourcing maintenance tasks that unionized workers already do.

In a statement, STM spokesperson Renaud Martel-Théorêt said intensive negotiations had begun this week.

He said the union sought wage hikes of about 25 per cent over five years, along with bonuses and other conditions.

Martel-Théorêt said it would cost the STM \$300 million more than its budget. The STM is offering 12.5 per cent over five years, including an



Maintenance workers protest outside STM headquarters during second day of strike action on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025. Pierre Obendrauf Montreal Gazette

side first, and then we will move after reached, service reductions will that." reached, Service reductions will continue: Friday, Sept. 26; Monday,

Despite the tension, the agency said commuters were better prepared than during the first strike day Monday thanks to clearer communication, though it acknowledged the service disruptions caused "a lot of headaches."

Labour Minister Jean Boulet told TVA that an arbitrator could be named as early as Thursday morning if both sides agree to it.

On Wednesday morning, some métro users interviewed by The Gazette appeared largely unfazed by the reduced service.

"So far so good," said Nathalie, a commuter at Berri-UQAM station. "You have to be careful of the schedules going home, though."

That view was echoed by several others canvassed at downtown stations, who expressed little resentment toward striking workers. One worker at the Lionel-Groulx station told The Gazette that "people know what the issues are. They may be frustrated but we have no other recourse.

#### When métro and buses will run

Unless an agreement is

reached, service reductions will continue: Friday, Sept. 26; Monday, Sept. 29; Wednesday, Oct. 1; and Friday, Oct. 3. Métro hours on strike days:

When métro and buses will run Unless an agreement is reached, service reductions will continue: Friday, Sept. 26; Monday, Sept. 29; Wednesday, Oct. 1; and Friday, Oct. 3. Métro hours on strike days: Open: 6:30-9:30 a.m. Resume: 2:45-5:45 p.m. Resume again: 11 p.m. to closing STM said signs will be posted at each station to show the last train time. Riders on the platform by then should be able to board. Reduced bus hours means no service during: 1:15 a.m.-6:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m. 6 p.m.-11:15 p.m. Bus service runs during: 6:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m. 3p.m.-6 p.m. 11:15 p.m.-1:15 a.m.

Buses already on the road when service pauses will finish their routes. You can get more information, such as when the last train is scheduled to leave a certain station, on the STM's strike information website.

This story was originally published September 24, 2025 at 10:34 AM.



STM maintenance workers protest outside the headquarters during second day of strike on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025. Pierre Obendrauf Montreal Gazette

arbitrator. "We are making progress on certain points," he said.

François Enault, a vicepresident with the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), said the dispute centres on subcontracting, atypical schedules and wages.

"We're ready to try to find an agreement. But right now the employer is not acting in good faith," he said.

inflation-linked adjustment. Martel-Théorêt added that since last week the STM has not received any further details from the union regarding its wage demands.

Enault responded that money is not the first issue on the table. He said: "When you do negotiations, before we talk about money, we have to talk about all the other things."

"They have to move on their



Members of the STM maintenance workforce gather outside the Frontenac transport centre in Montreal on Sept. 22, 2025, as they begin a planned strike affecting metro and bus services across the city. (Adriana Gentile, CityNews)



# Trump says Ukraine can win back all land from Russia, shifting war stance

By Sean Boynton Global News Posted September 23, 2025 3:35 pm Updated September 23, 2025 6:52

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday he believes Ukraine can win back all the territory it has lost to Russia, a dramatic shift from his earlier suggestions that Kyiv should make concessions in order to secure peace.

Trump stated his new position on the war he has struggled to end, despite vowing to do so, in a social media post soon after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"After getting to know and fully understand the Ukraine/Russia Military and Economic situation and, after seeing the Economic trouble it is causing Russia, I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"With time, patience, and the financial support of Europe and, in particular, NATO, the original Borders from where this War started, is very much an option. Why not?"

He said Russia "has been fighting aimlessly" in a war "that should have taken a Real Military Power less than a week to win," calling Moscow "a paper tiger."

"Putin and Russia are in BIG economic trouble, and this is the time for Ukraine to act," Trump continued.

"In any event, I wish both countries well. We will continue to supply weapons to NATO for NATO to do what they want with them. Good luck to all!"

Zelenskyy was in New York to meet with world leaders at the UN to ensure economic and military pressure is kept on Russia to bring the three-and-a-half year war to an

Prime Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday co-hosted an event at the UN with Zelenskyy focused on securing the return of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia during the war, and the UN Security Council



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday urged countries at the United Nations to increase pressure on Russian politicians, officials, judges and others "involved in child abductions." Zelenskyy and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney were co-hosting an event at the UN General Assembly to raise the issue of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia during its war with Ukraine.

was also hosting a special session on Ukraine.

It was not clear from Trump's post if he was abandoning his efforts to broker a peace agreement between Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

More than a month ago, Trump and the White House said they had secured commitments from Putin to meet with Zelenskyy after a summit between the American and Russian presidents in Alaska. Following those talks, Trump dropped his demand for an immediate ceasefire and suggested there could be some "land swapping" under a future deal.

Zelenskyy himself said he was ready to meet Putin for the first time while meeting with Trump and European leaders at the White House days after the Putin summit. Europe, Canada and other allies began drawing up future security guarantees for Ukraine that would be part of a larger agreement that would end the

Yet Putin hasn't shown any interest in meeting with Zelenskyy and Moscow has only intensified its bombardment of Ukraine, frustrating

The U.S. president's new tone also marks a shift from the stance taken by some Republicans and top officials in the administration, including U.S. Vice-President JD Vance, that the U.S. should extricate itself from the war in Ukraine and that Kyiv should accept land concessions to quickly secure

In his speech to the General Assembly earlier Tuesday, Trump said the war in Ukraine was making Russia "look bad" because it was "supposed to be a quick little skirmish."

"It shows you what leadership is, what bad leadership can do to a country," he said. "The only question now is how many lives will be needlessly lost on both sides."

As the fighting rages on, Trump said the "biggest progress" toward ending the conflict "is that the Russian economy is terrible right

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said in its latest assessment Monday that "some Russian defense industrial enterprises are reportedly struggling to expand their production and workforces due to economic constraints," citing Russian opposition

signs from union banners to caricatures of Marie-Claude Léonard, STM's Chief Executive Officer. The rally comes as STM employees stage a understand, we have no movement, for series of rotating strikes that will continue until Oct. 5, restricting both metro and bus service across the city.

On strike days - Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays, the metro is limited to three time windows: 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., 2:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., and after 11 p.m. until closure. Bus service is also significantly reduced.

François Enault, president of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), addressed

media. Those reports said wages in the Russian defence sector have declined for the first time since the full-scale invasion began in 2022.

At the same time, Moscow has prioritized funding its drone operations, and Russian officials in occupied territories of Ukraine have openly boasted about training children there in the development and operation of military drones.

"Putin has stolen Ukrainian children," Carney said at Tuesday's UN meeting with Zelenskyy and other leaders, decrying "tactics" used to indoctrinate and change the citizenship of those children.

Drones have been responsible for deadly Russian attacks on Kyiv and other cities in recent weeks. The UN reported Monday that the number of Ukrainian civilian casualties from those drone strikes increased 40 per cent so far this year compared to 2024.

Trump told the world body that the U.S. would impose additional sanctions and other economic measures against Russia, but only if European nations do the same and fully cut themselves off from Russian

**European Commission** President Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday while meeting with Trump that EU members were looking to approve plans on blocking Russian oil and natural gas exports and laying new sanctions by the end of the year.

Trump said a "very strong round of powerful tariffs" would "stop the bloodshed, I believe, very quickly."

At his meeting with Zelenskyy, Trump told reporters he would share his thoughts on Putin and whether he trusts him to finally enter peace negotiations in "about a month."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine agreed with Trump's call for European nations to further halt Russian energy imports.

"We need more pressure, more sanctions now with (the) United States, first of all (and) Europe," he said in opening remarks ahead of the meeting.

the ongoing negotiations in a press scrum.

"If the employers don't sure we'll increase the mobilization and the strike," he said.

Quebec Labour minister Jean Boulet told reporters in Quebec City that he is ready to step in if both sides agree to arbitration. However, union officials rejected that option on Wednesday.

Unless a deal is reached, the strike will continue until Oct. 5. (Abridged version of news report to space limitations.)

### STM strike day 2: Montreal underground businesses, taxi drivers struggle, as workers rally

By Zachary Cheung and Claudia Beaudoin Posted September 24, 2025

Hundreds of transit workers gathered outside the Société de transport de Montréal's (STM) headquarters at Place Bonaventure on Wednesday, demanding higher wages and an end to subcontracted work.

The demonstration began at 12 p.m. with speeches at the office

entrance starting a 12:30 p.m. Lunches were handed out as drums and megaphones echoed across the street. Union workers denounced the stalled negotiations, pointing to subcontractors as the major sticking point. The crowd chanted "solidarity" after the closing statements and began marching down Gauchetière Street.

Protesters carried a variety of

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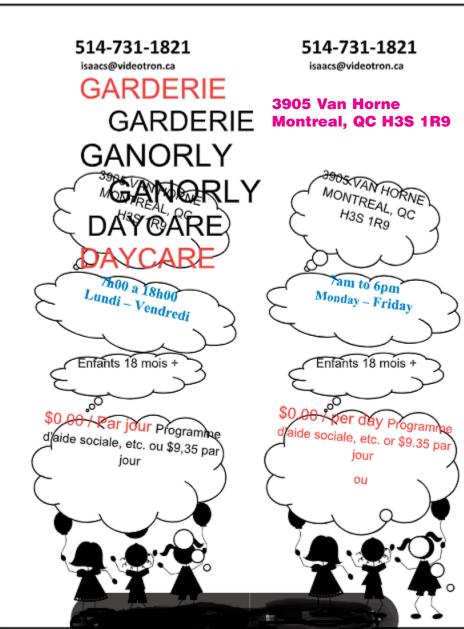


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# Philippine's regional cuisines best recipes



#### Pinakbet (Ilocos)

Pakbet or pinakbet is a popular vegetable dish that originated from one of the northern provinces of the Philippines, Ilocos. The vegetables used on this dish are usually grown in the back yard of every villager and are available almost all year long. Bitter melon, eggplant, okra, and string beans are just some of the vegetables that make-up this delightful dish. Pakbet is cooked in a clay pot called "Palayok" and Anchovy sauce (bagoong isda) is used to add flavor.

- Ingredients: 4 pieces round eggplant cut in half
- 2 pieces small bitter melon ampalaya, quartered ½ bundle string beans cut into 2 inch
- length
- 1 piece sweet potato kamote, quartered
- 8 pieces okra
- 1 piece tomato cubed
- 1 piece onion cubed
- 11/2 cup water
- 1 lb bagnet
- 1/4 cup Anchovy sauce bagoong isda Instructions
- 1) In a large pan, place water let boil 2) Put in the anchovy sauce and wait for the mixture to boil once more
- 3) Add-in the vegetables starting with the sweet potato then put-in the okra, bitter melon, eggplant, string beans, tomato, and onion and simmer for 15 minutes
- 4) Add the bagnet or lechon kawali (cooking procedure available in the recipe section) and simmer for 5 minutes

Serve hot. Share and Enjoy! How to cook bagnet: Make the bagnet



**Bagnet - Crispy pork belly** 

To start, you need to prep all the ingredients for your Pinakbet Ilocano. Before making this dish, it's best to have already started on your crispy pork belly. Frying it may take some time, so I advise starting on it in advance. This will give you an easier time when you have to add it in later. Bagnet, known locally in Ilocos as chicharon, is a deep-fried pork dish known for its crunchy skin and a golden-brown color. Although it's similar to lechon kawali, Ilokanos prepare bagnet differently to make it uniquely their own. They first boil a slab of pork, then air-dry it for a couple of hours before deep-frying it multiple times to achieve its crispy state. Albeit a tedious process, this is what makes bagnet one of the best food in Ilocos - and in the entire country.

Freshly-made bagnet is prepared daily at Vigan City Public Market and makes for the perfect pasalubong. If you're craving some of this pork goodness while still in the region, dine at Cuisine de Iloco and try their different iterations of bagnet.



**locos Empanada** 

llocos empanada ingredients include rice flour (or glutinous rice flour) and annatto powder for the characteristic orange dough, along with water, salt, and Vigan longganisa for the filling, plus grated unripe green papaya, cooked mung beans, salt, pepper, and a whole egg cracked in the center before frying. Optional additions for the filling include onions and seasoning, and the empanada is typically served with a dip of llocos vinegar.

Dough

2 cups rice flour

1/2 cup water

1/2 tsp salt

1/4 cup annatto oil (see notes below)

1 green unripe papaya, grated 6 pcs Vigan style longaniza, removed from the casing

2 stalks spring onion, chopped

6 fresh eggs

freshly ground black pepper Others

oil, for deep frying wax / baking paper Instructions

1) Combine rice flour, water, salt, and annatto oil in a bowl. Knead till smooth, then divide into balls.

2) Grab one ball of the dough, using two large square wax paper, place the dough in the middle then flatten it to a circle shape until it is thin.

3) Place an equivalent amount of one Vigan longaniza and papaya mixture in the middle, crack a piece of fresh egg in the middle then add some chopped spring onions on top. 4) Season with a bit of salt then fold and seal edges then deep fry immediately in a 160C preheated oil in a flat wide pan. Cook until crisp, this would take around 4 minutes per side then place in a paper towel lined plate. Serve.



Igado (pork stew with liver and kidney)

Origins of Igado:

This is a unique spiced dish made with a variety of seasonings, as well as a couple of vegetables to complement the meat ingredients. It is also pretty popular for its use of pig innards, as I mentioned earlier. But we will go deeper into the components for this dish later on.

Studies show that Igado was influenced by Spanish cuisine, which you might already be able to tell from its name. "Higado" means liver in Spanish, and some say that Filipinos heard it as "Igado," hence its name today.

What matches Igado: You can choose whatever side dish you like for Igado. But because it's pretty flavorful and rich, you may want to opt for food with lighter flavor. After all, you don't want to overpower the already tasty mix of flavors in Igado. This is why the recipe is well-known as a great "ulam" or viand to have with a fresh batch of rice Ingredients:

1/2 lbs. pork tenderloin sliced into 2inch strips

1/2 lb. pork liver sliced into 2-inch

1/2 lb. pork kidney

1 Knorr Pork Cube

1 red bell pepper cut into strips

1/2 cup green peas

1 carrot julienne

3 laurel leaves

1 onion minced

5 cloves garlic minced

6 tablespoons soy sauce

5 tablespoons white vinegar

1 1/4 cup water

4 tablespoons cooking oil Salt and pepper to taste Instructions

Boil the kidney with 4 thumbs of ginger for at least 30 minutes. Let it cool down and slice into 2-inch strips.

Heat 2 tablespoons of cooking oil in a pan. Sauté the pork liver for 2 minutes. Remove from the pan and

Pour the remaining oil in the pan. Once hot, sauté garlic and onion until the latter softens.

Add the pork kidney. Cook for 1

Add the pork tenderloin. Sauté until the outer layer turns light brown. Pour the soy sauce and vinegar into the pan. Let the liquid boil. Stir.

Add the laurel leaves and pour water. Let boil. Reduce the heat between low to medium setting. Continue cooking for 40 minutes.

Add Knorr Pork Cube. Cook for 8 minutes.

Add the liver back into the pan. Stir and continue cooking for 3 minutes. Put the bell pepper, carrot, and green peas.

Season with salt and ground black pepper. Cook for 2 minutes. Transfer to a serving bowl. Serve hot with rice. Share and enjoy!



**Dinengdeng (Fish with** vegetables)

Ingredients:

1 whole milk fish sliced and grilled 2 to 3 cups malunggay moringa leaves, cleaned

2 cups squash flower

12 to 15 pieces small to medium sized

1 bundle string beans sliced into 3 inch pieces

See Page 13 Cooking with love



Summer is in full blown splendor. Sometimes it's cloudy. Sometimes it's windy. But most of the time it is sunny and bright. Aren't you enjoying the sunshine in all its glory? I am reminded of Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Until we're ready for Fall, let's just hope it stays like this as long as possible. For the Filipino community, summer is full of activities. Let's take a look.

#### **Family Day**

On August 14, 2025 the Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) held their Family Day event at the DDO Centennial Park on 3000 rue Lake. It was also a day to acknowledge the August birthday celebrants Connie Fabro, Tina Oana, and Dory Isada. There was picture taking, impromptu dancing and of course lots of potluck! The presence of guests Cesar and Tess Manuel (Proprietors of

From Page 12 Cooking with love

2 pieces medium ampalaya bitter gourd, cored and sliced 2 to 3 tablespoons bagoong isda unprocessed fish sauce 1 knob ginger sliced 2 medium tomato chopped 1 medium onion chopped 3 cups water Instructions Bring water to a boil in a large cooking pot. Add the ginger, onion, and tomato. Cook covered for 5 minutes. Pour-in the bagoong isda. Stir. Add okra and string beans. Stir and add the ampalaya. Cook in medium heat for 7 to 10 minutes. Put-in the squash flower and malunggay leaves. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes. 3 to 5 minutes to add flavor to the

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### **Social Tidbits Montreal Community** News **Fely Rosales Cariño**

'Pansitan') was a welcome sight, bringing with them their famous pancit. For this event, we have to thank SWIS Chairman Lolit Odulio, former Chairmen Roger Ajero & Connie Fabro and the efforts of the Executive Board. It's always a delight to be together and consume our potlucks away amid jokes and laughter. And what a potluck: dinuguan, sinigang, baked fish, steamed vegetables, dinengdeng etc. And for dessert there was a variety of fresh fruits, ginataan, and various cakes. One thing I noticed: the premises include an air conditioned washroom! Where can you find that? Official Launch of Ensemble

### **Montreal**

On August 18, 2025, many Filipinos applauded the Official Launch of Ensemble Montreal's team running for the municipal election slated on November 2, 2025. Here are the candidates for Mayor: Soraya Martinez

dish.

Add the grilled milk fish. Let it stay for 3 to 5 minutes. Share and enjoy!



#### **Ilocano dessert - Dudol**

Dodol is a dense, sweet confection made primarily from rice flour, coconut milk, and jaggery or molasses. The coconut milk and grated jaggery are mixed to dissolve the jaggery, strained, then combined with the rice flour mixture and cooked over a slow, continuous fire until very thick and dark. The mixture is then poured into a greased mold, cooled, and sliced to serve.

Language courses: French, **English, Filipino** PARLEZ-VOUS Other courses available in Accounting & Office Management - Inquire at: zbk@gilmorecollege.com



Ferrada (Montreal) and Stephanie Valenzuela (CDN-NDG). Stephanie is the pride of the Filipino community, being the first Filipino elected as City Councilor for CDN-NDG Borough, Darlington District. Other candidates running for Councilors are Milany Thiagarajah ((Darlington), Yvonne Nguyen (CDN), Peter Shatilla (NDG), Alexandre Teodoresco (Loyola), and finally, we have the ever helpful and endearing Sonny Moroz (Snowdon). For more information on the election, you may refer to one who knows it best, Marvin Rotrand (Director General, United Against Hate Canada) or read his take on "How Municipal Elections Work", (August 26, 2025). Thanks for your expertise, Marvin.

#### Kaibigan

Next event was the Panday Tinig's presentation of 'Kaibigan' at the Segal Theater on 5170 Chem. de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Montréal. Panday's pianist, Edith Fedalizo, emceed the event. Outstanding was her twinkling blouse due to its sparkles. Conductor Paul Imperial had a solid grip on the singers' performance., giving a professional effect. Panday, we are awaiting your next show!

#### **Super Fiesta Extravaganza**

For this two-day event held on August 23-24 at Mackenzie King Park, we owe a debt of gratitude to the

Ingredients: 500g sugar 500g palm sugar (chopped) 8 cups coconut cream 500g glutinous rice flour 5 cups coconut milk Instructions: Add coconut cream in a pan over medium-low heat. Cook for 20 mins or until some oil begins to separate.

Add in the sugar and palm sugar, and cook until dissolved.

Mix together the glutinous rice flour and coconut milk in a bowl, then pour

famous duo, Tenne Rose Dayandante and Michael Davantes, hosts of the popular Pinoy Pa Rin TV show. We also saw the Ensemble Montreal candidates giving their platform and inspirational speeches. There were tents galore and new faces walking around the grounds while non-stop performances in songs and dances were being shown on stage. It was a busy and fun afternoon. No doubt surrounding neighbors also enjoyed the Filipino restaurant booths and some merchandise such as dresses. bags, and many more.

To close, I just want to update you, my loyal socialites. Yours truly was enjoying her bath but as I stepped out the tub, I slipped and had a fractured ankle. All tests at the Lakeshore Emergency were good. I was later transferred for rehab to St. Anne de Bellevue Hospital, where I'm writing to you. I am the recipient of the kindness of the staff; many are Filipino nurses and PABs. I hope and pray to be up and running, as I don't want to miss out on all the parties.

I rest my hope in Jeremiah 29:11 which states, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." And to you, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

the mixture into the pan. Cook for another 2 hrs, stirring frequently.

Once the mixture has thickened to the desired consistency, remove from heat and set aside to cool for 5 mins. Transfer to a container and wait until completely cool.

To serve, use a greased knife to slice into squares, cleaning the knife after each slice.

Note: if the coconut oil in the Dodol congeals, you can reheat it in the microwave, then cool for 30 mins before serving.

#### **Montreal Mayoralty Candidates, November 2025 elections**



Luc Rabouin **Projet Montreal** Leader since March 15, 2025



Soraya Martinez-Ferrada **Ensemble Montreal** Leader since Feb. 28, 2025 Leader since July 17, 2025



Craig Sauvé **Transition Montreal** 

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# **FILIPINO STAR**

# SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

# Heaven Peralejo on taking chances and finding balance



Heaven Peralejo winning her Best Actress Award from the the Film Academy of the Philippines in 2023.

At 24, actress Heaven Peralejo is finding balance in her personal and professional life while managing the opportunities and challenges of her career. At a recent press gathering, she said this principle guides her in both work and everyday life.

"It's knowing when to play and when to pause. We have to find joy in small things. Fun doesn't have to be reckless," she said, noting that this mindset helps her keep a sense of grounding despite the pressures of show business.

Part of that philosophy, she explained, comes from her belief in moderation and knowing when to draw boundaries.

"It's okay to enjoy, actually. But you need to know your limits and when to pause. Sometimes



www.filipinostar.org

you also need space to disconnect and be present," she added.

That message of responsibility connects to her latest endorsement, as the new ambassador of online casino app Playtime, which she described as more than an online hub for games.

"It champions entertainment at its core. I love that it encourages people to enjoy but at the same time with responsibility and heart. It's a community where we can connect, collaborate, celebrate, and enjoy together," explained Heaven.

Looking back, the actress said her career has unfolded through different stages, each with its own lessons.

"I've had so many chapters in my life, and this one is really special. I'm so honored to be part of this family. Together, let's make every moment memorable," she shared, adding that the risks she has taken have shaped her into the artist she is today.

"I don't believe in regrets. Everything happens for a reason. Joining Viva and being part of Playtime—those are the best risks I've ever taken," Heaven continued.

She also opened up about her hopes for the future, including a dream project with her fellow Playtime ambassador and seasoned television host Vic Sotto.

"It's a dream of mine to work with Bossing Vic Sotto. Hopefully someday we can do a film together," she said.

At the same time, she is preparing for the release of her upcoming film I Love You Since 1892, which will premiere on Sept. 6 on Viva One, expressing her excitement for people to finally watch it.

She also shared that she has learned to view her journey with a sense of gratitude, especially for the people who continue to support her.

"I want to thank my fans for being with me through everything. They inspire me to keep going and to do my best," Heaven stated.

# Jessica Sanchez Wins 'America's Got **Talent' Season 20**

The American Idol runner-up was also nine months into her pregnancy when she performed in the show's season finale.



Jessica Sanchez

Jessica Sanchez has been crowned America's Got Talent Season 20 champion, marking a triumphant redemption 13 years after finishing as runnerup on the eleventh season of American Idol in 2012.

The 30-year-old Filipino-American auditioned this season in July

and performed "Beautiful Things" by Benson Boone. She earned the coveted golden buzzer from judge Sofía Vergara, which sent her straight to the live shows. She then advanced all the way to the ultimately finale, defeating freestyle rapper Chris Turner and singer-songwriter R&B/soul artist Jourdan Blue.

> Despite being

months pregnant, Sanchez still slayed the stage like she meant it. show's For the AGT finals, she performed With a Smile."

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It's perfection. You look like a little below: nine pregnant angel. You look

beautiful. Your voice — I've never heard anything like that. Bravo, Jessica," said an ecstatic Vergara after her performance.

Sanchez also delivered a stunning rendition of JVKE's "Golden Hour," accompanied by Chilean aerial duo Sirca Marea. Along with the title, she walked away with the USD 1 million grand prize.

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Sanchez also appeared on the very first season of AGT, which makes it a full-circle moment for her as the show celebrates 20 years. She is also the first former contestant in the talent show competition's history to return and capture the crown.

Meanwhile, the starstudded finale also featured special appearances by the alumni and performers, including Leona Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars' "Die Lewis, Ciara, and The Script frontman Danny O'Donoghue.

> She released her most recent single, "Two Lines," on "I mean, what can I say? September 16. Listen to the track

# Dingdong Dantes 'angry' at corruption in PH: 'Taxes I've paid have been played with'



**Dingdong Dantes** 

Dingdong Dantes has joined the growing list of celebrities who have voiced their frustration over the allegedly rampant corruption in the Philippines as he reflected on where his taxes go and the future that awaits his children.

Through a lengthy post on his

Facebook on Saturday, Sept. 13, Dantes weighed in on the various issues currently happening all over the world: war, killings and protests, among others.

"And here we are, in the Philippines, caught in what I believe is the vilest controversy of our time. We face challenges rooted in systemic issues—corruption and inequality that have crippled our development and clouded our hope," wrote Dantes.

"Early this week, while watching the hearings with my wifeas stories of corruption unfolded—we asked ourselves: What kind of future will our children inherit? Will they grow up in a society that values truth, integrity, and compassion, or one that normalizes deceit and greed?" the actor continued.

Dantes admitted that he felt many negative emotions all at once as he extended his sympathies to those who are most affected by rampant injustice and corruption.

> "I have never felt so

disillusioned, anxious, disturbed, and angry all at once. Not just because I now know the taxes I've paid have been 'played' with (pun intended) but because the very institutions meant to secure our future may also be the same ones denying it to our children," he expressed.

"And while I have the space to wrestle with these questions, millions of Filipinos are literally drowning in despair—carrying the daily weight of injustice, corruption, and broken systems. Their suffering is not abstract; it is the lived consequence of corruption that has stalled our nation's progress," Dantes continued.

The "Rewind" emphasized that such wrongdoings should not be normalized, as he urged the public to make contributions to change the system.

"We-this generation, standing between the past and the future—should know better. And that is why we cannot close our eyes now. Dialogue is important, but it must lead

to action. And that action begins with accountability. Those entrusted with responsibility must be held to the highest standard—not to serve themselves, but to choose what is right," he stated.

"Still, while we wait for our leaders to act, we cannot sit still. Change begins in the small, conscious choices we make-in our homes, in our communities, in our conversations...in our stories. It happens when we espouse honesty, treat others with respect, and support efforts that uplift," he continued.

Dantes ended his post with a future conversation with his kids where he hoped he could say "that we gave them a future worthy of their courage."

Other celebreties such as Carla Abellana, Edu Manzano, Anne Curtis and many more have also expressed their frustration over corruption in the use of funds for flood control projects.

#### Showbiz Gossip Continued from p.15

# ON THIS DAY: Anne Curtis launches her singer era with debut album 'AnneBisyosa'





A Childhood dream turned reality: Anne's 2011 debut album.

From dominating television, film, and fashion, Anne Curtis stepped into a whole new spotlight as she officially released her debut studio album AnneBisyosa on September 23, 2011. On this day 14 years ago, AnneBisyosa solidified Anne Curtis as not just an actress or host, but a true allaround entertainer. Her music debut stands as a reminder of what

makes her so beloved: her willingness to dream boldly, to laugh at herself, and to share her joy with her fans no matter the risk. It was more than an album but was a cultural moment that captured Anne's authenticity and fearless personality, the very qualities that made the Madlang People fall in love with her even more.

# Ogie Alcasid's more than three million reasons to keep singing



OPM's beloved singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid.

OPM icon Ogie Alcasid has reached a new milestone on Spotify, surpassing 3 million monthly listeners — achieving his goal of reaching a new generation of music listeners.

"For many years, yung spotify listeners ko, ano lang yan 450,000 to 500,000. That is my core audience. Kaage natin. Di naman nag Spotify masiyado. Inisip ko na paano palakihin, how can I entice them. what I did was I started writing new songs,

and started re-doing old songs, which nag traction," he said in an interview held in Quezon City, Friday.

The singer-songwriter credited the resurgence of his music to younger artists who continue to breathe new life into his classic hits. Among them is Rob Deniel, whose performance of "Nandito Ako" during the Wish Awards tribute honoring Alcasid as the KDR Icon of Musical Excellence went viral.

# Rufa Mae Quinto opens up on Trevor Magallanes' death



Actress and comedian Rufa Mae Quinto has set the record straight regarding her late husband Trevor Magallanes' sudden death.

In a video posted on her YouTube channel, Rufa Mae revealed that based on the investigation conducted by authorities, Trevor died from natural causes

"Gusto ko lang sana na i-clarify din ang lahat ng mga gusto kong i-clarify, Para

ko, ang soul ko, pati ang soul ng asawa ko, ang soul ko, pati ng anak namin. Sudden death po ang nangyari. Wala pong suicide o foul play na nangyari sa asawa ko. Bata pa siya pero gano'n kasi talaga siguro," Rufa said.

("I just wanted to clarify everything, so that my husband's soul, my own, and our child's can all be at peace. His passing was sudden, but there was no suicide or foul play involved. He was still young perhaps but that's just how it is)

The actress also mentioned that she didn't want to disclose any other information about it due to the overwhelming grief and trauma she and her daughter Athena are experiencing.

"Ayoko sana i-share kasi ayokong maging trauma ito sa anak ko 'pag nakita niya balang-araw. Pero para na rin magka-closure ako, ang anak ko, ang pamilya niya at pamilya namin," she added.

(I don't want to share it because I don't want it to be traumatic for my kid if he sees it one day. But it also gives me, my daughter, his family, and our family, closure).

Rufa also clarified that their divorce was never finalized.

"Nagmahalan po kami. Mula umpisa na nagsama kami, never kami naghiwalay. On the very first day, alam ko na na siya ang mahal ko. Last year, nag-away kami...pero nag-ayos kami. Kaya kami hindi nag-divorce kasi narealize din niya na asawa niya 'ko," Rufa said.

(We truly loved each other. From the very beginning, we were never apart. I

knew I loved him from the very first day. We had a rough patch last year and argued—but we reconciled. That's why we never divorced; he also came to realize that I was his wife.)

At the end of her video, Rufa also explained talks about her supposedly getting Trevor's money.

"Baka maraming nag-iisip na masaya ako dahil kinubra ko pera or winithdraw ko na agad. sa totoo, wala po akong nakuha. Maraming proseso 'yan — application forms, schedules. At hindi naman isang bagsak yata ang bigay," she said.

(Maybe many people think that I'm happy because I got money or I immediately withdrew it. In fact, I didn't get anything. There are a lot of processes — application forms, schedules. And it's not like they will give it all in one go)

Trevor's older brother Jesse also made an appearance on the video.

"With the sudden death of my brother... it's really tough for them right now. I'm here just to help out, spend our time with these two, and show our love from America," Jesse said.

Trevor's death was made public last July. ■

Heart Evangelista says threats barred her from attending Sept. 21 rally



**Heart Evangelista** 

Heart Evangelista cried foul some netizens apparently threatened to strip her if she would attempt to attend the nationwide protests against corruption last September 21, prompting her absence from the rallies.

The actress-fashion influencer seemed vexed as she addressed questions about her skipping the protest, through her Instagram Live on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

"Why wasn't I in the rally? You think I didn't want to be in the rally? You think I don't have a voice? You think I'm not frustrated" she asked. "You think hindi ako napipikon? Pikon naman din ako ah. Bakit, hindi ako Pinov?"

"I'm not in the rally [and it's] because you said, a lot of people said na huhubaran niyo ako kung pupunta ako sa rally," she disclosed. "How cruel can you be?"

Evangelista then stressed she has been "nothing but a hardworking citizen" and that she has complied with her obligations. She also noted that she shares the same sentiments as many Filipinos, describing the current circumstances in the country wife of a public servant. as "unfair."

"I do hope na sana may mangyari... Sana gabayan ni Lord yung mga nakaupo para gawin nila kung ano yung tama," she added. "Do not stay silent. Speak up."

#### Professional integrity

During her live, Evangelista spoke as well about the accusations against her professional integrity, revealing she has already been exploring legal remedies regarding the matter.

The fashion personality further expressed dismay over how her hard work as an "independent woman" is apparently being diminished just because she is a "mere political wife."

"When you start coming for my professional integrity, I crumble into pieces because... I have been working since I was 13 years old. That 27 years of working non-stop," she turning emotional. "Pinagtrabahuhan ko 'yung meron ako, e."

Evangelista also pointed out that she and her husband, Sen. Chiz Escudero, have signed a pre-nuptial agreement, hence their "complete separation of assets." This is apparently in response to those questioning her lifestyle amid being a

"I have been having meetings with my attorney, and definitely I will not take it sitting down-what some people have been saying about me, not even allegedly," she said.

"Everything I do is proper. Everything is well-documented," she continued. "I just wanted to come here to air out and tell you how upsetting it is, at ako pa yung naging casualty. Ako pa yung naging political tool of entertainment."

Evangelista then addressed her friends who advised her not to speak up, saying she understands them but that she needs to protect her "bread and butter."

"I wouldn't be this angry if I had it easy," she stressed. "I am upset. I am going to take legal actions... This is my job. This is my lifeline."

#### Skipping fashion week

Evangelista also disclosed that she will not be attending the Spring and Summer 2026 Fashion Week, making an apology to her fans who have been looking forward to her attendance to the event.

"I don't think it's the right time for anyone, especially for our country, to be going to fashion week because I think we need to be here," she said.

# Manny Pacquiao leads Team Philippines in competition show 'Physical: Asia'



Manny Pacquiao in a poster for "Physical: Asia."

Team "Physical: Asia," a franchise of "Physical: 100," where physicallygifted individuals compete in grueling challenges to win the top prize.

This was announced by the streaming service in a release, where Pacquiao will lead a six-person team featuring the national team sambo athlete Mark Mugen, strongman Ray Jefferson Querubin, national team

Manny Pacquiao will lead rugby player Justin Coveney, national Philippines in Netflix's team hurdler Robyn Lauren Brown, and crossfit athlete Lara Liwanag.

"Each six-person squad is anchored by a national superstar who embodies the competitive spirit of their homeland," Netflix said.

Aside from Pacquiao, the superstar athletes leading the teams are Dong-hyun "Stun Gun Kim" (South Korea), Yushin Okami "The Reaper" (Japan), Robert



Whittaker (Australia), Superbon Orkhonbayar (Thailand), Bayarsaikhan (Mongolia), Recep (Turkiye), and Kara "Executioner" (Indonesia).

According to producer Jang Ho-gi, "Physical: Asia" will raise the stakes by bringing an element of "national pride" among the teams.

"At its heart, the Physical series is about raw competition that transcends disciplines

generations. By bringing national pride into the equation, the battles will be more intense, more emotional, and more unforgettable than ever,"

"Physical: Asia" expands on the hit show's original premise, where this time, athletes from select countries will now be divided into sixperson teams to compete in a series of physical challenges in hopes of winning the championship. However, if one person on the team fails the challenge, the whole team gets eliminated.

"The series blends elite athleticism with cultural tradition, spotlighting disciplines from combat sports and ball games to track and field — alongside heritage events like Korean ssireum, Mongolian wrestling, Turkish oil wrestling, and Muay Thai. Physical: Asia is more than a clash of athletes; it's a showcase of heritage, pride, and mastery physical on unprecedented global stage," the streamer said.

The series will premiere in October 2025.

# Israel is guilty of war crimes, Palestine's Abbas tells UN General Assembly While the Palestinian Authority president spoke via videolink,

world leaders met without him to discuss the war in Gaza.

By Abby Rogers Published On 25 Sep 2025

Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has decried Israel's use of starvation as a weapon, calling out "the extremist Israeli government" for its continued settlement projects that make a future Palestinian state virtually impossible.

The 89-year-old addressed world leaders gathered for the United Nations General Assembly via videolink on Thursday after being refused a visa by the United States to travel to New York.

speak to you today after almost two years in which our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip have been facing a war of genocide, destruction, starvation displacement," Abbas said.

#### **Addressing genocide**

The Palestinian leader began his speech by denouncing Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, which has killed at least 65,419 people and wounded 167,160 since October 2023, according to local health authorities. Thousands more are believed to be buried under the rubble of homes and office buildings devastated by Israeli air strikes.

A total of 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks, and roughly 200 were taken captive to Gaza.

"What Israel is carrying out is not merely an aggression," Abbas said.

"It is a war crime and a crime against humanity that is both documented and monitored, and it will be recorded in history books and the pages of international conscience as one of the most horrific chapters of humanitarian tragedy in the 20th and 21st centuries."

The UN outlined Israel's plans to destroy life in Gaza in a report released on Tuesday, which found that Israeli forces have "systematically destroyed" civilian life across Gaza over the past two years.

"Since October 2023, Israeli officials have demonstrated a clear and consistent intent to establish permanent military control over Gaza and to change its demographic composition while systematically destroying Palestinian life in Gaza," the report said. It cited Israeli demolition of wells, sewage-pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants as well as the destruction of educational institutions, mosques and cemeteries.

Last week, a UN inquiry found that Israel's war on Gaza is a genocide, a landmark moment after nearly two vears of conflict that critics have called a war of vengeance without any specific goals.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas delivered his speech to the United Nations electronically, after his visa to the US was denied [Angelina Katsanis/AP Photo]

Israel's assault on Gaza intensified this week with at least 85 Palestinians killed across the territory on Wednesday.

#### **No role for Hamas**

Despite the ongoing hostilities, Abbas was clear about Hamas. He soundly rejected the group's actions on October 7, 2023, saying the targeting of civilians and taking of captives does "not represent the Palestinian people, nor do they represent their just struggle for freedom and independence".

Abbas insisted "Hamas will not

settlements."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu moved forward last week with a settlement expansion plan in the West Bank that would make any future Palestinian state virtually impossible.

The Israeli leader signed an agreement to move forward with the project, which would bisect the West Bank, saying he was fulfilling his promise that "there will be no Palestinian state".

Abbas called this plan "a blatant violation of international law and relevant Security Council

Abbas outlined several of the Palestinian Authority's positions, including the need for an immediate and permanent end to the war in Gaza, the release of all captives and prisoners on both sides, and the need for a guarantee that residents of the Gaza Strip will be able to remain on their lands without displacement.

"No matter how much our wounds bleed and no matter how long this suffering lasts, it will not break our will to live and survive," Abbas said at the end of his speech.

#### Where do negotiations go from here?

Abbas was careful not to criticise the US government, but notably, he was not in attendance in New York.

"What's interesting is that there's really active diplomacy going on here, and Palestine is not present for that either," Al Jazeera's James Bays said after Abbas's address, referring to a meeting this week between US President Donald Trump and Arab and Muslim leaders. From that meeting came a 21-point peace plan presented by Trump that includes a provision to stop Netanyahu from full annexation of the West Bank, Bays reported, quoting US special envoy Steve Witkoff.

While this may be a notable step forward, it is a step that was negotiated without Abbas.

"It is a plan that has been negotiated without the Palestinian Authority. Is the Palestinian Authority, under the Trump plan, going to play a role in the future of Gaza and, for that matter, the West Bank?" Bays said on Thursday from UN headquarters in New York.

Martin Griffiths, director of the Mediation Group International and a former top UN official, told Al Jazeera it's ominous that no Palestinians appear to have been consulted about the proposal.

"I think it was very telling that in the Steve Witkoff comments, he made no mention of the Palestinians. I mean that is a red light, in my view, if you don't include the people under consideration, and it tells us something profound about the possible plan,"

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Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas speaks during the **United Nations General Assembly [Timothy Clary/AFP]** 

have a role to play in governance," resolutions". saying Hamas and other factions will part of a state-building process.

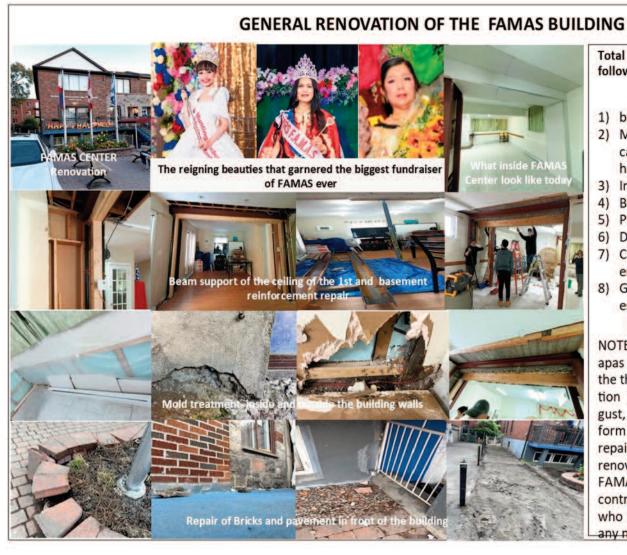
#### Israel's illegal settlements

Abbas turned his attention to Israel's settlements in the occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law. He said: "The extremist Israeli government continues to implement its settlement disease through illegal settlement expansion and developing projects for annexing

"Our people in the West Bank, have to hand over their weapons as including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip, are still living through the tragedies of the Israeli aggression and occupation for decades," Abbas said in his speech. "Years that our people have spent under occupation, killing, arrests and settlement and the theft of money, property and lands, and this still continues without any deterrent or accountability."

While concluding his speech,

# THE PHILIPPINE COMMUNITY CENTER UNDERWENT A MAJOR RENOVATION



Total Expenditure in the repair of the following;

- 1) beams,
- Molds Treatment 3) Painting, Electrical, Maintenance, Toilet repair & Exhaust Fans
- 3) Inside and outside the Center
- 4) Broken Glass Windows/Screen Doors
- 5) Plumbing including basement
- 6) Driveway & Sidewalk repair
- Cracked Foundation under the kitchen
- Garbage Disposal (Janitorial Expenses)

Grand total expenses: \$ 57,283.00

NOTE; The famas President Nida Quirapas was expressly given the authority by the the Board of Trustee (BOT) by Resolution No. 01-07-2024 dated 14th of August, 2024, at the FAMAS Center, to perform or execute the above-mentioned repairs,

renovations and maintenance of the FAMAS Center, as well as to enter into a contract/agreement with contractors, who will be willing to initiate or perform any necessary job to be undertaken

Safeguarding a Legacy: How the FAMAS Executive Board 2023–2025 Preserved the Heart of Montreal's Filipino Community

By Raffy Aquino Lacaden, Vice President for External Affairs, FAMAS Executive Board 2023– 2025 | Pilipino Star, Montreal

For over half a century, the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) has been a cornerstone of the Filipino community in Quebec. At its center stands the FAMAS Center, a place that has hosted countless birthdays, community meetings, cultural showcases, and historic milestones. The Center is more than just a building—it is where stories, traditions, and memories of generations of Filipinos in Montreal live on. In 2023, however, the stability of this beloved place was called into question.

#### The Discovery: A Call to Action

What began as a simple observation of cracks on the wall turned into something far more serious. Out of concern, President Nida Quirapas called for a professional inspection of the FAMAS Center. The inspection revealed a combination of structural cracks, foundation concerns, and even mould, all of which required urgent attention. The safety of the building, and the future of its role in the community, were at stake.

The Executive Board of 2023–2025 quickly realized that the challenge before them was not only about repair—it was about preservation.



#### Unity in Urgency

With support from Member of Parliament Anthony Housefather, a second inspection was carried out by a structural engineer. The findings confirmed the scale of the problem. Repair and stabilization would require a total renovation cost of \$60,000.

For an organization powered almost entirely by volunteers, this was no small challenge. Yet, as has always been the case in the Filipino community, challenges became an opportunity to unite. An emergency stakeholders' meeting was convened, where allies from across Montreal joined hands with FAMAS. Community members, leaders, and organizations pledged their support in various

It was a clear message: the FAMAS Center was not just a building—it was a community legacy w

#### Fundraising with Purpose

To raise the needed funds, the Executive Board turned to the community with cultural events that combined celebration and purpose.

The Mrs. FAMAS 2024, the Gandang Lola Pageant 2024, and the Munting Binibining Pilipinas 2025 became more than just pageants—they became lifelines. These events showcased beauty, wisdom, and youth, while strengthening community ties. Families came together, talents were celebrated, and at the same time, funds were raised for the survival of the Center.

The fundraising effort was a testament to the community's generosity and resilience.

10-year property tax exemption: Perhaps the most significant win was securing a decade-long exemption on property taxes—a relief that ensures financial sustainability. These steps were not only about the present but also about handing future boards a stronger foundation—both literally and financially. orth saving.

#### **Building for the Future**

The work of the 2023–2025 Executive Board went beyond emergency repairs. We sought to ensure sustainability and stability for the years to come.

- Income-generating assets: New tables and tents were purchased to be rented out, creating a steady stream of revenue.
- Cabana construction: A secure storage space was built for these assets, protecting the community's investment.

10-year property tax exemption: Perhaps the most significant win was securing a decade-long exemption on property taxes—a relief that ensures financial sustainability.

These steps were not only about the present but also about handing future boards a stronger foundation—both literally and financially.

orth saving.

#### A Legacy Handed Forward

As the term of the Executive Board 2023–2025 concludes on August 31, 2025, we look back with humility and gratitude. The work was challenging, but it was also rewarding. Together, with the guidance of President Nida Quirapas and the dedication of every officer and trustee, we safeguarded a vital symbol of Filipino life in Montreal.

"This building is not just for us—it is for generations to come," said President Quirapas.

And with unity, determination, and love for community, that vision has been secured.

Written by Raffy Aquino Lacaden, Vice President for External Affairs, FAMAS Executive Board 2023–2025—not only as a record of history, but as a message of unity, responsibility, and hope for future generations of Filipinos in Montreal.

# FILIPÎNO STAR

## SEPTEMBER 2025 PICTORIAL NEWS



Protesters march during a 'Stop Trump Coalition' mass demonstration against the state visit to the UK by President Donald Trump in London, September 17, 2025. Andy Rain/EPA/Shutterstock

A crowd gathered in central London to protest Trump. Many of the protesters held anti-Trump signs and Palestinian flags.

The protest, organized by the Stop Trump campaign, planned to march towards Parliament later in the afternoon.



UK Hosts President Trump And First Lady Melania Trump For State Visit – Day Two

U.S. President Donald Trump, (2nd R) First Lady Melania Trump, (R) King Charles III and Queen Camilla (L) arrive for the State Banquet hosted by King Charles III and members of the Royal Family at Windsor Castle during the state visit by the President of the United States of America on September 17, 2025 in Windsor, England. It is his second state visit to the UK and is accompanied by the usual pomp and pageantry.

