

# Canada is likely to exceed the U.S. infection rate in coming days



**People wear face masks as they cross a street in Montreal, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues in Canada and around the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes (See story on page 3)**



**Prince Philip - Born: June 10, 1921, Mon Repos, Corfu, Greece Died: April 9, 2021, Windsor Castle, Windsor, United Kingdom**

Prince Philip, the longest royal consort in history, passed away peacefully at Windsor Castle in the morning of Friday, April 9, 2021 in the presence of his family. Since then, tributes from all corners of the world have been relayed to the Royal family. The British people mourned his loss and many offered flowers at Buckingham Palace. Almost everyday,

several television stations, news outlets carried some stories about his life and contributions to the Royal family as a revered institution in the United Kingdom. Photos of Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth remind us about their beautiful relationship since their marriage in 1947.

A long list of world leaders paid tribute Friday to Prince Philip and

## Prince Philip dies at 99, receives tributes from world leaders

offered their condolences to Queen Elizabeth and the rest of the Royal Family.

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau praised Prince Philip, as a "man of great purpose and conviction" and a "beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather."

"It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh," said Trudeau. "A man of great service to others — first as a decorated naval officer and later as a dedicated leader in the areas of community engagement and philanthropy — the Duke always sought out the best in people and challenged them to strive for greater heights."

"Prince Philip maintained a special relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces and over the years became Colonel in Chief of six

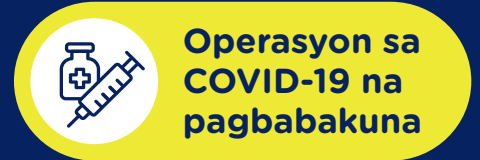
Canadian units. In 2011, he was named honorary general of the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as honorary admiral of the Royal Canadian Navy."

U.S. President Joe Biden offered condolences from himself, his wife, Jill, and the people of the United States, recognizing Prince Philip as a man who "saw our world change dramatically and repeatedly" during his lifespan.

Former U.S. president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, also offered condolences to the monarch and the entire Royal Family.

"He represented the United Kingdom with dignity and brought boundless strength and support to the sovereign," Bush said in a statement. "Laura and I are fortunate to have

# Lahat tayo ay nais malaman ang higit pa tungkol sa COVID-19 na pagbabakuna



## BAKIT DAPAT AKONG MAGPABAKUNA?

Pumoprotekta ito laban sa COVID-19 at tutulong sa iyo na makaiwas sa pagkakasakit. Kahit na maraming tao ang gumagaling nang hindi ginagamot, ang ilan ay maaaring mamatay dahil sa COVID-19 o makaranas ng mga problema sa puso o baga tulad ng pneumonia. Maaari ring maapektuhan ang nervous system.

## Ituloy natin ang pagprotekta sa ating mga sarili!

Sa pagdating ng mga buwan, hangga't hindi pa nababakunahan ang karamihan ng populasyon, mananatili ang COVID-19.



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## From the Publisher's desk

### The power of words on human behaviour

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Words, in any language, are powerful in communicating any kind of message - to persuade and to advocate for a cause. They are even more powerful when they are uttered by a leader, or anyone recognized as an authority in a particular field. It seems that words can be used for both good or evil. A recent example of how words can lead into violence is former President Donald Trump's claims that the election was stolen that led to the deadly attack on Capitol Hill. The prevalence of fake news and conspiracy theories have promoted more hate against religious and racial groups. Moreover, there have been known cases of how a cult leader used the power of words to abuse his followers.

It is a fact of life that we are all affected by many forces around us. Starting from the early years of our education, we develop our own values based on what we have learned from our parents, our teachers and peers as well as what we read in newspapers, books, magazines, and social media. We can also be influenced by our leaders in different human institutions. The impact on us varies according to our personal experiences, education, critical thinking skills and cultural backgrounds. However, the most disturbing consequence of words is on the rise of racism in all aspects of our lives. We can easily give examples of how much hate and violence have resulted from all types of racism - systemic, anti-Asian, anti-

Semitic, etc. Racism as a word can be defined as an attitude towards others who are considered less human, less valuable than another. Generally speaking, we can say that the ugliness of human behaviors can be summed up in the current social, political and economic issues of our times but what currently stands out is police brutality which is related to racism. Hence, calls for reforms are being raised by many anti-racism advocates to defund the police or establish other forms of providing security to citizens. The global pandemic has intensified the urgency of finding a solution to these raging issues because changing peoples minds is more difficult if not impossible to do whereas a virus can be controlled by vaccinations.

As can be gleaned from history since the ancient times, there have been some changes in our view of human relations but we all know that we still have a long way to go before racism can be completely eliminated. Radical changes are required to all our institutions as well as to the way we think about ourselves in order to be aware of our own embedded prejudices and become anti-racist.

A grim reminder that words really matter and powerful is the fact that the "holocaust began not with concentration camps, but with hateful rhetoric." Indeed, there is no greater crime than "man's inhumanity to man."

## Conversations about Filipino women's experiences for a documentary film project

I am a film director from Montreal. I want to connect with women from the Filipino community here in Montreal as part of a research for a documentary film project called "Back Home." Born from a Filipino mother and a Quebecois father, I wish to reconnect with my roots and learn more about the culture. I am looking forward to meeting and talking with women about their experience here in Montreal and about their life back in the Philippines.

I am looking for Filipino women who live in Montreal and work as caregivers, nannies, housekeepers, nurses, etc. I am also looking for mothers who came to Montreal without their kids and family.

If you are interested to talk with me or if you have any questions about



my project, you can contact me at: metivier.marianne@gmail.com 514-836-1513

Many thanks and wishing to meet you soon. Salamat,

Marianne Métivier

## Rotrand holds press conference to seek increase of SPVM services against anti-Asian hate crimes



Councilor Marvin Rotrand

Montreal, April 13, 2021 - A coalition of community organizations representing racial and religious minorities today once again called on the City of Montreal to beef up the SPVM's hate crimes unit and adopt best practices that are working successfully in cities such as Toronto Vancouver and New York.

The call came in light of rising reports of hate crimes and hate acts, including the shooting at an Islamic community center last week.

According to Bryant Chang, Vice-President of the Chinese Association of Montreal, there have been too many persons of Chinese and other Asian origins who have been insulted, spat at and assaulted.

"City Council's motion last year denouncing anti-Asian racism was excellent," said Chang, "However, words have to be backed up with actions and clearly improving police response is prime among them."

For her part, Minda Mazzone, President of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec, indicates that Filipinos have been victims of anti-Asian racism as well.

"The victims of recent brutal attacks in New York and California were Filipino. Members of our community are now afraid that physical violence will happen here," she said.



Fo Niemi, Exec. Director, CRARR

"When hate and violence touches our doors, we will not be intimidated, and we will not go softly into the night. We will stand shoulder to shoulder and reject hate and intolerance in the strongest terms. It has no place in Quebec society. We believe that Montreal's police hate crime unit must be more effective," said Yusuf Faqiri, Quebec Director of Public Affairs of the National Council of Canadian Muslims, referring to last week's shooting.

A motion introduced by Councillor Marvin Rotrand at City Council last month, which calls for more effective response to hate through better community outreach by police officers of diverse backgrounds, and better data collection, was sent for study to the Public Security Commission. The Commission has yet to begin any work on the motion, and it is unlikely that it will return to Council with a report before the end of the current mandate in September. Rotrand has resubmitted the motion for a vote on April 19.

"Increase in hate crimes and hate acts demand leadership and resources. This is not a partisan issue, and I call on all city councillors on both sides of the aisle to act together

See Page 13 Rotrand conference

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*The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star nor its editors.*



From Page 1

Prince Philip

enjoyed the charm and wit of his company, and we know how much he will be missed."

Barack Obama, the former president, 59, posted a tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh on Instagram on Friday that included a photo of the pair alongside their wives, former First Lady Michelle Obama and Queen Elizabeth, respectively, during Obama's time in office.



**President Obama, Queen Elizabeth II, Michelle Obama and Prince Philip pose for a photograph in the Oak Room ahead of a private lunch at Windsor Castle on April 22, 2016. (BBC)**

In his statement, President Obama reflected on Philip (who retired from his public duties in August 2017) and the Queen's "grace and generosity" during the first meeting between the couples.

"When we first met His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, he and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had already been on the world stage for more than half a century — welcoming leaders like Churchill and Kennedy; Mandela and Gorbachev," Obama said. "As two Americans unaccustomed to palaces and pomp, we didn't know what to expect."

"We shouldn't have worried," he added. "The Queen and Prince Philip immediately put us at ease with their grace and generosity, turning a ceremonial occasion into something far more natural, even comfortable. Prince Philip in particular was kind and warm, with a sharp wit and unfailing good humor. It was our first introduction to the man behind the title, and in the years since, our admiration for him has only grown. We will miss him dearly."

"As the world mourns his loss," Obama added, "we send our warmest wishes and deepest sympathies to the Queen, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and everyone who knew and loved this remarkable man."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson mourned Prince Philip (who retired from his public duties in August 2017) in a statement, remarking that he "earned the affection of generations here in the United Kingdom, across the Commonwealth and around the world." "Like the expert carriage driver that he was he helped to steer the royal family and the monarchy so that it remains an institution indisputably vital to the balance and happiness of our national life. He was an environmentalist, and a

champion of the natural world long before it was fashionable," Johnson said.

For the next eight days, the Queen will refrain from carrying out any royal duties as she enters a mourning period and funeral plans are set in motion. Affairs of state will also be put on pause.

Following the eight days, a further period of official royal mourning is expected to continue. While the country is expected to go into a period

of 10 days of mourning, the royal household will do so for 30 days and guardsmen will be seen with black armbands on their tunics during that period.

Philip is survived by the Queen, his wife of 73 years, their daughter Princess Anne and their three sons: next-in-line-to-the-throne Prince Charles, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

Philip also leaves behind eight grandchildren, including Prince William and Prince Harry, and nine great-grandchildren, including Prince George, Princess Charlotte, Prince Louis, Archie and Princess Eugenie's new baby boy, August, whose middle name is Philip. (Notes from various news sources)

## **Buckingham Palace Announces Plans for Prince Philip's COVID Secure Funeral On Saturday April 17**

BY VICTORIA MURPHY - Town & Country, April 10, 2021 - Prince Philip's funeral arrangements have been in place for many years and approved by the Duke of Edinburgh himself. However, due to the pandemic they have been extensively revised, and Buckingham Palace has now announced new plans for a service which will be "much reduced in scale and with no public access." It will all take place out of public view inside the grounds of Windsor Castle, but will be televised.

Palace officials confirmed today that Philip's funeral will take place on Saturday, April 17 at 3 p.m. local time. It will be a ceremonial funeral but the ceremonial elements will be significantly scaled back, with no public processions, and the royal



**A 41-gun salute is fired to commemorate the death of Prince Philip at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia (EPA)**

household will adhere to all government guidelines, meaning that only 30 people will be in attendance at the event. Current regulations require social distancing to be observed among people not in the same household or support bubble as well as face coverings to be worn by those attending funerals.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said today that, despite the changes, the arrangements "still very much reflect the personal wishes of the Duke" and that the plans have been approved by the Queen. A precise guest list will be released later next week, but a royal spokesperson confirmed that Prince Harry is planning to attend. It is understood that Meghan, who is expecting a baby due in the summer, made every effort



**Prince Charles, heir apparent to UK throne and the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip paid tribute to his 'dear Papa' as details of Duke's funeral emerged. (Credit: AP)**

to travel alongside him but did not receive medical clearance from her physician.

There will be a national period of mourning up until and including the day of the funeral - meaning that flags

will continue to fly at half mast on official buildings. One minute of silence will be observed before the funeral service begins at 3 p.m. The royal family has now entered an official two-week period of royal mourning which will be observed by the family and their households as well as troops who are committed to ceremonial duties. Royal family members may be seen in public during this time at engagements that are considered appropriate.

Prince Philip is currently lying at rest in the private chapel at Windsor Castle, where he will remain until the day of the funeral when he will be moved to St George's Chapel and interred in the royal vault following the service. His coffin will travel on a customized Land Rover, which was described by one official as having been chosen due to Philip's interest in design. The coffin will be covered in the flag of his personal royal standard along with a wreath of flowers and his naval cap and sword.

A spokesperson said that, while there was a period of mourning, it was hoped that the coming days would be an opportunity to "celebrate a remarkable life." However, the palace is also reiterating guidance to the public not to gather at royal residences and to consider making charity donations instead of laying flowers. "People turning up at Windsor next Saturday will not be able to see anything" a spokesperson said.##

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# Canada is likely to exceed the U.S. infection rate in the coming days

The assumption that we would fare better than our neighbours to the south held true through much of the pandemic's first year. Not anymore.

By Patricia Treble (Macleans)  
April 8, 2021

On April 6, Canada's rate of new COVID-19 cases came as close as its ever been to that of the United States since the beginning of the pandemic, as Canada posted 180.8 cases per million population, while the U.S. posted 195.7 per million population. And our case count is rising so fast—up 28 per cent in the past week alone—that we're likely to exceed the plateauing U.S. rate in the coming days.

Those numbers come as a jolt. For the past 13 months, Canadians have taken comfort in the idea that our government-funded health care system is decidedly better than the confusing public-private system south of the border, which, while being the most expensive in the world, still leaves around 30 million working age Americans without health insurance. "It's hard not to beat the U.S. on health care," says Trevor Tombe, an associate professor of economics at the University of Calgary.

The assumption that Canada would be better at handling a public health crisis was reinforced through much of the pandemic's first year. COVID-19 rolled across regions of the United States, the country's health care systems buckled under the stress. More than 31 million Americans have been infected with COVID-19 while nearly 600,000 died; in contrast, Canada, with one ninth the population, has



**Nurses greet patients at a COVID-19 walk-in clinic in Montreal, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020. (THE CANADIAN PRESS / Paul Chiasson)**

reported 23,000 deaths and one million cases. And so, however bad things got in Canada—including the horrors in our long-term care homes—they never looked as bad as south of the border. In November, Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott defended the province's rising case rate by comparing it to Florida's even worse numbers. On Jan. 8, America's worst day of the pandemic, the U.S. reported 757.6 new cases of COVID-19 per million population. Canada's worst came just one day later, when we reported 255.1 cases per million population, both on a seven-day rolling average.

In fact, we were never that superior, at least compared to fellow

Commonwealth nations Australia and New Zealand. As John Ibbitson wrote in the *Globe and Mail*, "Canada's handling of the pandemic has been average. Middle of the pack. Uninspired. But not awful." Our fixation on comparing our situation to that south of the border is so all-encompassing that Canada barely noticed when the once stratospherically high rate of new cases in the United Kingdom dropped below ours on March 17.

And let's not begrudge the Americans their due. Under the leadership of former president Donald Trump, the pandemic lay waste to region after region, and even the country's nascent vaccination rollout was hobbled by a lack of planning. In

contrast, President Joe Biden and his team of health care experts marshalled all the resources of the federal government to vaccinate as many residents as possible. Americans have also benefited from the bounty of a protectionist vaccine policy (no exports are currently allowed): 171 million doses have been put into arms to date, and the country has a vaccination rate of more than four million doses a day.

In contrast, our vaccination efforts were hobbled by slow deliveries of doses in the first quarter of the year. And while overall case and death counts in the U.S. have dropped sharply, ours have risen to the point that many Canadians are once again under stay-at-home orders. Last summer, David Frum wrote two laudatory pieces in *The Atlantic* about his experience travelling to Canada for an extended stay and then returning to the "state of denial" in the United States. Now, the same magazine's current piece on our handling of the pandemic is titled, "Canada's vaccine-rollout problems."

Tombe has been tracking the Canadian vs. American vaccine performance on Twitter. His latest statistics show that, "at Canada's current pace of vaccination, the share of people with one or more doses increases by 0.47 per cent per day. The U.S. increases this share by 0.53 per cent per day. For Canada to reach the current U.S. share would take 36 days." In addition, Tombe points out that the United States, with its abundance of doses, is far

See Page 6      Canada is likely

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2020 has been an exceptionally trying year for everyone. We were confronted with a worldwide pandemic, the likes of which has not been seen in our lifetime. While no government is perfect, and in retrospect there are things we could have done differently, I am proud of the way our federal government has stepped up to support Canadians during the pandemic.

My job has been to support my constituents which included providing a constant stream of information; answering your questions; helping individuals and groups with their own files; and obtaining funding and grants. It also meant helping our Government construct and refine programs like the CERB, CEBA, CEWS, CECRA and their successors. It meant fighting for improvements, such as helping to lead the charge for national standards in our long-term care facilities.

Throughout the first 5 months of the pandemic, my staff and I worked 7 days a week to ensure that all phone calls and emails were responded to within 24 hours.

I published a daily update (now weekly) to provide important information to the thousands of constituents who provided us their email addresses. Those updates are also posted on my Facebook page. I encourage everyone who does not yet receive my updates to please email us at [Anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca).

We also had volunteers contact as many residents of the riding as possible, particularly seniors.

Throughout the year, we tried to help resolve the thousands of files that we received from the riding's businesses, non-profits and organizations. We also assisted them in applying for funding and grants. Simultaneously, Parliament was also functioning and I was also representing you in Parliament, on Committees, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and in the Liberal caucus.

In all the years that I have served as an elected official, this one has been the most challenging but also the most rewarding. I have never before been able to assist so many people directly in such a short time frame and, hopefully, make a positive difference in their lives.

I appreciate the incredible sacrifices everyone has made this year and for this holiday season let us hope for a joyous and HEALTHY 2021.



# Anthony Housefather

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# Family of Filipino mother found dead at Lakeshore Hospital calls for Coroner's inquiry

Montreal, March 22, 2021- A Filipino family is calling on the Quebec Government to launch a coroners' inquiry following the suspicious death of their mother at the Montreal-area Lakeshore General Hospital last month.

Candida Macarine, an 86-



**Candida Macarine**

year-old Filipino grandmother was taken by ambulance to the Pointe-Claire hospital due to respiratory difficulties on February 26, 2021. The family was notified of her death the next day, on February 27, 2021, due to cardiac arrest.

Macarine was a well-known member of the local Filipino community. She was active with St. Kevin Church and was twice given a Mother of the Year award for two years in a row by a local Filipino Association.

It was only on the eve of her funeral that the family found more information about her death, through a news report. According to a CBC report, Macarine was placed in an isolation room pending medical examination of possible COVID-19 infection, where she would later be found "dead and cold" on the floor. The family was never told about the circumstances of her death, despite questions to hospital staff, including the head nurse in the ER to which family members never received clear answers.

"It's shocking that we were never told about our mother being found dead on the floor. Imagine having to guess about her death in the CBC story," said Placido Macarine, one of the deceased mother's sons who lives in Alberta.

"We buried our mother three weeks go and to this day, we still don't have any clue as to what happened. How can my mother rest in peace? Why hide the information from the family? Is there a coverup? Where is transparency and accountability?" Macarine said.

For Gilda Macarine, who herself is a nurse, the hospital's handling of her mother's death raises many painful questions.

"The hospital has shown total disrespect for us and for the public. I think that we are treated this way

because we're Asians, as if we don't have the right to information," Gilda added. "This is reprehensible conduct on the part of senior hospital management," she said.

The family is calling for a coroner's inquiry because the hospital's internal investigation cannot

Director Fo Niemi said.

"After the death of Joyce Echaquan and Mireille Ndjomouo while under hospital care, we must also ask whether and how race has been a factor in Ms. Macarine's death and in the way the family has been treated to this day," he added.



be trusted. CRARR urges the Quebec Government to appoint such an inquiry.

"Candida Macarine's death while under hospital care must be examined by a coroner. After almost one month of stonewalling, how can the family or anyone believe any information coming from the hospital at this stage?" CRARR Executive

"In seven months, three women – one Indigenous and two racialized – died in Quebec hospitals under disturbing circumstances. Is there a pattern here?," he concluded.

Information: Fo Niemi Executive Director, CRARR: 514-808-6119

From Page 5 Canada is likely

ahead of Canada when it comes to giving out second doses. Already 64.4 million Americans fully vaccinated compared to around 750,000 Canadians.

Yet, while cases counts are worsening, the immunization effort in this country is getting better. That current 36-day gap between Canada and the U.S. was 68 days on March 12, according to Tombe. On April 7, Canada administered 231,000 doses of vaccine, according to data from the COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group. That new daily record is roughly the equivalent of two million doses in the United States. "Canada ranks eighth out of 37 OECD countries in terms of the share of the population that is at least partially vaccinated," Tombe tweeted in his April 7 thread. "In terms of total doses per 100, Canada is 20th."

Tombe uses nine specific graphics to track our vaccination progress, ranging from a map showing the percentage of population with at least one dose in all states and provinces to a historical chart tracking the number of doses received in Canada vs. the number administered. "There are so many different metrics to evaluate vaccination programs that we should be very wary about people making overarching claims," he explains, saying that it's important not just to see what politicians or experts are highlighting, but also what they aren't. In such a complex, fast-moving environment, no one should take oversimplified answers too seriously, he believes. That surely applies to our rivalry with the United States over our current rate of cases, as well. ##

## Federal budget gets positive, if cautious, reception in Quebec

Adam Kovac

CTV News Montreal Digital Reporter

MONTREAL -- Business associations, minority groups, unions and other special interests reacted to the federal Liberal's budget on Monday, with some praising its initiatives in childcare, and others saying it falls short in other areas.

Quebec Finance Minister took to Twitter to express support for the extension of pandemic economic support measures such as the Emergency Wage Subsidy, rent assistance and the Canada Economic Stimulus Benefit. But he criticized the budget for not including a permanent 35 per cent increase to healthcare funding, calling it a "missed unique opportunity."

In a statement, the Quebec Association of Childcare Centres (AQCPÉ) welcomed the budget's inclusion of largescale investment in affordable daycare. The budget pledges \$30 billion over five years, with an aim towards a 50 per cent average reduction in fees for preschool daycare spaces next year. The government's goal is to have an average fee of \$10 per day across the country, other than Quebec, which has its own system in place.

AQCPÉ executive director Genevieve Belisle called the inclusion

"great news for families," but said Quebec Premier Francois Legault must work towards making Quebec the first North American territory that offers a network of universal, affordable educational services for pre-school children.

"The Canadian government recognizes the major impact, both social and economic, of quality, accessible and affordable educational childcare programs," she said. "There is now no obstacle for the government of Quebec to complete this vision and offer all families who want it a place in a childcare centre."

Girard also congratulated the federal government for recognizing "the quality of the Quebec daycare service program, and we appreciate the financial compensation that must be paid for us unconditionally."

The budget was also met with approval by Quebec Manufacturers and Exporters (MEQ), which represents 1,100 manufacturers across Quebec. The group nodded in particular towards investments in the Strategic Innovation Fund, an extension of the government's wage subsidy and support for companies to transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. However, MEQ president Veronique Proulx criticized the Trudeau administration for failing to

address Quebec's ongoing labour shortage.

"With this budget, the elephant in the room is certainly the lack of measures to address the labour shortage," she said. "Quebec manufacturers are already lagging far behind in terms of productivity and with more than 17,500 vacant positions in the sector, the lack of workers will certainly be one of the biggest obstacles to sustainable growth."

There was also a mixed reaction from the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador, who welcomed \$18 billion earmarked towards combatting COVID-19 among Indigenous people, education services, health and social services and other areas. But Chief Ghislain Picard said more money is needed to put towards housing.

"When we work to improve living conditions by investing in housing, we contribute, at the same time, to solving important issues on other levels, such as health, education and economic development. For example, increasing the housing stock will certainly contribute to making our communities less vulnerable in this period of pandemic," he said. #



## Community Leaders Form "Filipinos For Liberals" Coalition in Canada

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

Historically, for more than 15 years since the retirement of the first Filipino elected to the House of Commons, Liberal MP Rey Pagtakhan of Winnipeg, Manitoba, the Filipino communities in Canada have not had any real political voice and representation in Canada's Parliament. Albeit we have sitting Members of Parliament who are considered to be allies and also supporters in key posts in the governing Liberal Party, it is desirable that Parliament should better reflect its citizens and it is time to have someone from the Filipino communities who make up so many in Canada.

Filipino Canadians, according to one community leader, "know and believe they can meaningfully contribute to making society better for all Canadians". Collectively, Filipinos in the diaspora "want to make a difference, to inspire positive change, to make lives better, to make government work better, and in so doing to uplift the profile of their growing community and desire to make them proud of those accomplishments by a fellow Filipino Canadian", said another leader.

To address this recurring situation and in response to the dreams and hopes of bringing qualified Filipino Canadians into the hallowed halls of Ottawa and/or Queen's Park, dedicated, determined, and responsible individuals accordingly, must take concerted and coherent political actions. Thus, this will be a great cause and a challenging part of answering the long-held but unrealized desire of many Filipinos who belong to the 4th largest ethnic minority group in this country "to have their own" on the national or provincial levels of government.

On March 10, 2021, a number of like-minded Filipino Canadian community leaders in Ontario have decided to bring into focus and rationalize the community's goal and aspiration of being democratically and realistically represented. Expressing similar manifestations and interests these leaders are establishing a collective movement in order to propagate, preserve and promote the proven values and principles of the Liberals. Those values are "more support for the middle class, women, youth, and the indigenous communities, a real climate plan, a forward-looking immigration agenda that values the contributions of immigrants, particularly Filipinos, in growing the economy and strengthening the Canadian society" following the pandemic.

Thus, in an exploratory zoom meeting, a number of Filipino Canadian community leaders in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) discussed ideas and have unanimously decided to form a coalition, called "Filipinos For Liberals". This is a group of politically-oriented people thus far, scattered across electoral ridings, and agreed that now is the time for a formal



**Dr. Pagtakhan is a retired children's lung specialist and pediatric professor, author of several papers and chapters for medical journals and books, widely lectured, and the first Filipino Canadian elected to Canada's Parliament (MP - Winnipeg North) and appointed senior cabinet minister in the Government of Canada.**

coalition to better focus their collective support of the Liberal agenda in the community. The movement is alive and it is thriving. Sabi nga ng karamihang kababayan : "Oras na! Panahon na !"

The "Filipinos For Liberals" is being formed and is excited to better manage the movement, focus resources, educate, inform, and train, and is inviting Filipino Canadians to join and be part of it. They will be reaching out to other leaders in the community to be part of the organization and they are hoping to hear back from others who want to be part of the movement. In so doing the coalition expects members for the various levels of support — from just donating to the party all the way to running for office, and everything and anything in between.

Moving forward with great enthusiasm and expectations, the "Filipinos For Liberals" movement, has designated an organizing committee to pursue its goals. With a temporary coordinating committee at the helm, followed by sessions establishing mission, vision, constitution, membership requirements, and the election of executives, the coalition will be safely on its track. This way, the formation of the organization will be more inclusive, more broad-based, with buy-in from more members on most or all decisions on the establishment, in values, on policy development, and other relevant concerns. Let us wake up the sleeping Tamaraw!, cried the organizers.

For further information, Liberal friends and supporters are encouraged to directly contact: Norma Carpio at 905-257-1059 or Conrad Corpus at 416-319-0053

or email: ffilipinofriends.ca. ( Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

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## The Filipino Heritage Council of Canada sets virtual cultural event and essay-video competition

In celebration of "Canadian Multiculturalism Day" and "June Filipino Heritage Month", the Filipino Heritage Council of Canada (FHCC) will present a virtual cultural event on June 27, 2021. The theme of the online activity is "Filipino Canadians Celebrate Canada" with its focus on building and strengthening Canada through community advocacy and support on equity, diversity, and anti-racism initiatives.

The FHCC is duly registered with the Federal Government as a not-for-profit, volunteer-run Canadian organization and is composed of Filipino Canadian professionals, community leaders, youth, and volunteers. It was established with the avowed purpose of engaging in programs and projects that will propagate, promote and celebrate the rich and vibrant heritage of Filipino Canadians as well as building organizational capacity and productively participating in nation-building.

The significant online event will highlight the contributions of Filipino-Canadians to Canadian society while at the same time featuring some traditional Filipino songs, folk dances and entertainment numbers by local talents to provide viewers with an appreciation of Filipino culture and traditions. The virtual show will also include messages from dignitaries and sponsors, interviews with prominent Filipino Canadians of inspiration, and the winning student-youth essay-video as well. It will be broadcast on OMNI Television on two days – June 27 and June 29, 2021, and will also be posted and available on social media, specifically YouTube, Facebook, and the FHCC website. Another airing is earmarked for FILIPINO TV -FTV channel on a date to be announced later.

One of the main components of the online event among other things, is an "Essay-Video Competition". The Ontario-based FHCC has launched on April 7, 2021, the Essay-Video Competition. It is aimed at promoting the role and contributions of ethnic communities,



specifically the Filipino Canadian community in helping build this great country. The contest is open to all Canadian students and youth from 13 to 18 years of age. Each entry must focus on the topic "Meaningful Impact of Interacting with Filipinos and Filipino Culture". Winners will receive cash prizes of C\$1,000, \$750, and \$500. Entries must be received from April 7, to May 30, 2021 (11:59 PM)

All Canadians and members of Filipino Canadian communities including their families, relatives, and friends are urged to encourage eligible students in their household to participate in the contest. Participants will need to abide by certain rules established by FHCC. Only one entry per household will be accepted. FHCC members and members of their immediate families will not be allowed to participate. Entries must not have any racial undertones, no vulgarity, and no depiction of violence or incite to violence.

Contestants are to submit the download link (social media compatible-YouTube, Facebook) to fhccvideo21@gmail.com and must be accompanied by the name, residence address, and telephone number of the participant. The details for further information or any query regarding the competition can be directed to fhccquery@gmail.com. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

## Quebec Superior Court upholds most of religious symbols ban, but English-language schools exempt

Government plans to appeal, saying exemption will create a more divided Quebec

Jonathan Montpetit, Benjamin Shingler · CBC News · Posted: Apr 20, 2021

Quebec's secularism law violates the basic rights of religious minorities in the province, but those violations are permissible because of the Constitution's notwithstanding clause, a Superior Court judge ruled on Tuesday.

But the ruling by Justice Marc-André Blanchard also declared that the

most contentious parts of the law — the religious symbols ban for many government employees — can't be applied to English schools.

The desire of English school boards to foster diversity by choosing who they hire is protected by the minority-language education rights in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Blanchard said in his decision.

Crucially, that section of the

See Page 12 Quebec Superior

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# Personality Couple of the Month

By Fely Rosales Cariño



## Ester and Ramon Vicente

It is with great delight that I present to you April's Celebrity Couple . . . drum roll please ... Ramon "Monching" and Ester Vicente of West Island, Quebec!

Ramon is one of six children of Pastor Ramon Vicente (UCCP) and Fortunata Vicente, an elementary school teacher. His siblings are: Minerva Santos, Amuerfena Casia, Angelita Lejeune, Zenaida Garcia, and Ramon Vincente III. Ramon is from Cavite, Philippines. He finished high school at the University of the East (UE) Manila, Philippines. After completing his Education Degree, he taught at Trece Martires High School in Cavite City until 1970. He came to Canada in 1971. After meeting the former Ester Nuguid from Quezon City, he laid claim and never let her go! Tinalian niya siya kaagad. They got married on April 15, 1972. Belated Happy Anniversary greetings from all your business partners and friends! The Golden Anniversary is in sight !!! Hope we will be invited to this milestone.

Ramon, a singing delight, is one of the founders of the Blacksmith Band of Montreal which he now leads. Two cherished moments of the band were their performances during former

President Corazon Aquino's visit to Ottawa, and former President Fidel Ramos' visit to Montreal years ago. For you love birds out there wishing to get married or planning your anniversaries or parties in general, give the Blacksmith and a call!

Ester graduated from the University of Santo Thomas (UST), the oldest university in the Philippines. She worked at the Montreal Children's Hospital, Quebec as a medical technologist.

The handsome couple have four lovely children. They are Anna, who with her husband performed as acrobats with the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil. They performed with precision, grace and style. Wow... very few can execute this feat! They experienced their happiest when they went on the Quidam Tour (the 9th stage show by Cirque du Soleil). Mark graduated from the National Ballet School. He started his career by teaching Zumba to the Filipino community. He now lives in Amsterdam. Frances is an advanced certified Jivamukti Yoga instructor. She is the studio manager of Luna Yoga in Old Montreal where she also teaches yoga.

Elizabeth spent several years as an Alouette cheerleader. Now, she is a Portfolio Manager with a prestigious financial company in Montreal.

While their children thrive in their own niche, the Filipino community is blessed with the services of Ramon and Ester, endowed with innate leadership abilities. Ester served as president of the Filipino Canadian Association of West Island (FCAWI) for one term. Ramon then ran as president and eventually became FCAWI President, as well, for two terms.

Ramon was (and still is!) very visible in the community. Highly valued and in demand, every organization wanted him to run for a trusted position – such as the office of a treasurer – because people found him trustworthy. As a result, he was elected treasurer and served as such under the administrations of the following former Federation of Filipino Canadian Association of Quebec (FFCAQ) Presidents: Buddy Cabugao, Fely Rosales, Aurora Osdon, Natalie Pelausa, and Gene Santander. The following election, he won as Vice-President under Natalie Pelausa and as a Board of Trustees member under the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) during the tenure of President Cora Aberin.

In retirement, they devote most of their time working for their church and for the foundation from which they were recently the recipients of an "Appreciation Award" from the Montreal General Hospital Lupus Foundation. Aside from their passion in local politics, in retirement, they also indulged in visiting places like Shanghai, Beijing, China, Singapore, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel and various islands in the Philippines - to name a few. They may go on visiting expeditions again once they have completed their political obligations. They were attracted by the beauty and uniqueness of those places. Ester said "the countries we visited allowed us to focus on different cultures and traditions".

Both are busy exercising their talents, concentrating on the smooth running of the Family Service of Montreal (Service Familial Philippin du Montréal). This non-profit, registered organization which Ramon founded is geared to help Filipino immigrants first and foremost. Here are the goals: to achieve the well-being of families of

Filipino origin by providing access to a support network, service and programs adapted to the needs of newcomers, parents, youth and seniors; promote equality and mutual assistance so that these families can avail themselves of services to which they are entitled. The objectives are: to facilitate the adaptation and integration of new immigrants to Quebec society; to ensure access to education, health, social and employment services; to promote the defense of human rights; to address the systemic racism and discrimination of Asians and other Filipino communities. Services offered are: language courses, family services, receiving and integration of new immigrants, youth, sports, and volunteers, partner and support consular services and legal information services.

Mga kapatid, let's give a toast to both Ramon and Ester as loving parents, distinguished Filipino organization leaders, and esteemed humanitarians. Filipinos can hardly believe their luck as they reap the benefits of these two-for-one naturally gifted politicians! One can only imagine their sacrifices, of which they must abound. I thank the good Lord for Ramon and Ester, who work beautifully in tandem, the salt and pepper of bygone days, even now! Mga 'kapuso', with deep appreciation, let's hold them dearly in our minds and keep this Golden Couple in our hearts, now and always! (PS. You brought tears to our eyes when you beautifully belted a love song during the funeral church service of Jimmy, my husband. I can't thank you enough; indeed, a lifetime of thanks to you, Monching!)

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# Prince Philip's Funeral in Pictures



Members of the royal family walk behind Philip's coffin during the procession to St. George's Chapel. In the first row here are Philip's sons Prince Andrew, left, and Prince Edward. Behind them are Philip's grandsons Prince William, Peter Phillips and Prince Harry. Alastair Grant/WPA Pool/Getty Images



Images of the Queen and Prince Philip are displayed at London's Piccadilly Circus on Saturday. Niklas Halle'n/AFP/Getty Images



Prince Philip's coffin is brought into St. George's chapel, the Royal family stand in attention.



Queen Elizabeth sits alone in the quire of St George's Chapel, with all mourners following Covid guidelines and remaining socially distanced.



The procession advances toward St. George's Chapel. Gareth Fuller/AFP/Getty Images



The Land Rover designed with the help of Prince Philip during the funeral procession



Members of The Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery arrive at the Long Walk (Image: REUTERS)



Flowers offered to Prince Philip lay on the grass in front of Windsor Castle









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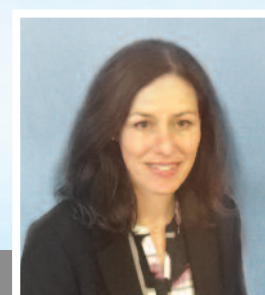
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## Best Ground Meat Recipes



**Baked Teriyaki Meatballs with  
Broiled Broccoli**

### Ingredients

2 lbs Ground pork  
4 Eggs  
1 tbsp Fresh ginger, grated  
4 Garlic cloves, minced  
1 cup Panko bread crumbs  
3 Scallions light and dark parts, thinly sliced  
2 tsp Salt, divided  
1 lb Broccoli, cut into florets

2 tbsp Olive oil  
Cilantro, chopped, optional  
Teriyaki Sauce  
¾ cup Soy sauce  
⅓ cup Honey  
2 Garlic cloves, minced  
1 tbsp Fresh ginger, minced  
1 tbsp Chili paste  
¼ cup Fresh lime juice

### Instructions

\* This recipe makes 35 (golf ball) sized meatballs.

• Heat oven to 400° F. In a stand mixer or using your hands, mixture ground pork, eggs, ginger, garlic, panko, scallions and 1 tsp salt until fully incorporated. Using a cookie scoop or heaping tablespoon, measure out roughly 35 meatballs. \* Dipping your hand into a bowl of water before rolling them will make the meatball surface smooth. Transfer the meatballs to an oiled, rimmed baking sheet.  
• Place the broccoli on another rimmed baking sheet, drizzle the olive oil over the broccoli and toss with remaining teaspoon of salt.  
• Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes, rotating the broccoli and meatball pans

half way through.

Bring the soy sauce, honey, garlic, ginger, chili paste and lime juice to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring frequently, until slightly thickened and foamy on top, about 10 minutes. Let cool.

Once the sauce has cooled a bit, pour it over the meatballs and roasted broccoli. Sprinkle with chopped cilantro and serve. \*\* Teriyaki sauce can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and chill. Meatballs can be formed 1 day ahead. Cover with plastic wrap on a rimmed baking sheet and chill.



**Turkey Meatballs in a Creamy  
Curry Sauce (Thai)**

### Ingredients

Meatballs  
2 lbs Ground turkey  
1/3 cup Finely chopped fresh basil  
4 Garlic cloves, minced  
2 Green onions, finely chopped  
2 tbsp Fish sauce (such as nam pla or nuoc nam)  
1 tsp Red curry paste (preferably mae ploy brand)  
2 tbsp Sugar  
1 tbsp Cornstarch  
2 tsp Coarse kosher salt  
2 tbsp Canola oil  
3/4 cup Onions, finely diced

4 Garlic cloves, minced  
2 tbsp Thai red curry paste (preferably mae ploy brand)  
2 14 oz cans full fat coconut milk or cream (we like trader joe's brand or any authentic brand found at an asian market)  
3 tbsp Lime juice  
1 tbsp Fish sauce  
1 tbsp Sugar  
1 tsp Salt (optional)  
1/2 cup Fresh basil, thinly sliced (optional)  
1/2 cup Cilantro leaves, (optional)  
Chili flakes, (optional)

### Instructions

• To make the Thai meatballs, mix all meatball ingredients (leave out canola oil) together until fully incorporated. If available use a stand mixer set on medium speed with the flat beater attachment. Heat oil in a large skillet or frying pan over medium heat. Using a cookie scoop or tablespoon scoop meatballs out in 2 tbsp portions. Using your hands, gently roll and place the meatball in the oil. Brown the meatballs in batches of 10 on all sides, but do not cook all the way through. Place meatballs on a plate and set aside.  
• To make the red curry sauce, drain off all but 1 tbsp oil from the pan. Add the onions and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and sauté 2 minutes longer. Add the Thai red curry paste and break it up as much as possible followed by the coconut milk and stir or whisk until paste and cream are fully incorporated and curry sauce is smooth. When your red curry sauce base is smooth, add the lime juice, fish sauce, sugar and salt if using. Bring to a boil and add all the meatballs back into the Thai red curry sauce. Turn heat to a simmer, cover the pan with a lid. Simmer meatballs for 20 minutes until the sauce has thickened and the meatballs are cooked through the center. Add fresh basil and stir to combine.  
• Serve over your choice of rice or roasted veggies, with cilantro and crushed red pepper flakes for additional heat.

From Page 7 - English language

charter (23) is not covered by the notwithstanding clause.

Not long after the decision was handed down, Quebec Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette, the architect of Bill 21, said the province plans to appeal.

He said the court's decision to exempt English schools threatens to divide the province along linguistic lines and create two categories of Quebecers.

"We don't agree with the judgment," he said. "We need to keep united in Quebec, and all the laws that are adopted here at the National Assembly have to apply to everyone."

Other than the decision regarding English schools, the judgment largely left the law intact. It was facing four separate legal challenges, each containing several different arguments about why the law is unconstitutional.

The 240-page ruling comes roughly a year and a half after the Coalition Avenir Québec government passed Bill 21, which bans some civil servants, including teachers, police officers and government lawyers, from wearing religious symbols at work.

The restrictions were necessary, the government said, to protect Quebec's unique version of secularism, or laicity.

Civil liberties groups, including the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, began filing lawsuits against Bill 21 as soon as it was passed.

In passing the law, the Quebec government invoked the notwithstanding clause, meaning the law couldn't be challenged on the grounds that it violated basic rights contained in sections 2 and 7 through 15 of the charter.

These sections contain safeguards for free speech, religious freedom and gender equality.

A protest was quickly organized Monday in downtown Montreal to denounce the law, and call for it to be struck down in its entirety.

Law affects Muslim women above all, judge says

Blanchard said the government



**Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette said Tuesday the province will appeal the decision on the government's secularism law. (Sylvain Roy Roussel/Radio-Canada)**

respected the rules for invoking the clause. He made it clear, though, that the law trampled on minority rights by restricting what they can wear in the workplace, such as a hijab.

"The court highlights the evidence [that] undoubtedly shows that

the effects of Law 21 will be felt negatively above all by Muslim women," the decision reads.

"On the one hand by violating their religious freedom, and on the other hand by also violating their freedom of expression, because clothing is both expression, pure and simple, and can also constitute a manifestation of religious belief."

Blanchard also ruled that members of the province's National Assembly can't be forced to provide services to the public with their faces uncovered.

In other words, MNAs are allowed to wear religious symbols that cover their faces, such as a niqab, in accordance with the section of the charter that guarantees every citizen the right to be eligible to vote and be a member of the legislature

On Tuesday, Kaur said she is reminded of the many teachers trying to work in the French system "who can't teach and they have to re-evaluate what they're going to do with their lives."

"My heart really goes out to them, and I'm thinking about them a lot today," she said.

Tuesday's decision marks the first time a court has issued an opinion on the law's constitutionality. It is, however, highly unlikely to settle the matter.

Most legal experts expect the issue will eventually be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Michael Bryant, executive



**Amrit Kaur, a Montreal high school teacher who moved to British Columbia, says the court ruling on Bill 21 is a small victory for those who teach in English schools, but those trying to work in the French system are still suffering.**

director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said the judgment "sets us up well for an appeal," given that it acknowledges the harm the law causes.

"Of course, everybody who cares about what this law does to people's dignity are disappointed that that law continues," he said.

"But I would say that, legally, I am heartened as to what the future holds because I think we're well set up to make a very strong appeal." "But I would say that, legally, I am heartened as to what the future holds because I think we're well set up to make a very strong appeal."





## Social Tidbits Community News

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

Hello everyone! Are we getting used to the new situation? Every month we keep hoping it would be the end of Covid 19. But lo and behold, here comes the variant . . . ano ba naman! But rest assured – over this uncertainty, one thing is for sure. God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

Well, Phase 3 of the pandemic is here, imagine? Hoping for better times. We are, instead, confronted with a deadlier variant. Public health authorities indicated that wearing masks improperly, not observing social distancing, and not washing hands frequently (simple enough to follow but not obeyed) are responsible for the rise in Covid cases. Well, fellows, take heart and follow the guidelines as it can save our lives.

### Community Roundup:

A few weeks ago, Reverend Pastor Orland Racacho invited people to attend the 2021 virtual annual parade showing the Philippines' spirit of Bayanihan (referring to the sense of community work, 'bayan' meaning nation, town or community) towards Israel. This parade was held at the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal at McKenzie King Park, Cote St. Catherine Road, Montreal. Pastor Racacho thanks the Philippine delegation that attended the

parade. The event was videotaped by Jun Nortel, owner-producer of Radio Pinoy. The late former Philippine President Manuel Quezon rescued 1200 Jews from the Holocaust. This fostered the friendship between Israel and the Philippines.

What's new with David Lam since he was awarded a scholarship from the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ)? Of late, he has surfaced in the news media advising homeowners to make sure that smoke alarms are functioning properly. David is a Real Estate Broker. If planning to buy a house, he can help you out. You may call him at 514-531-6784. I've known of many who plan to buy their houses after the Pandemic. So, David, good luck!

David Birnbaum of D'Arcy-McGee recently called the Liberal Executive Committee for a meeting to discuss his platform regarding the forthcoming elections. Many Filipino organization leaders are members of this Executive Committee. Party Liberal leader Linda Caron will deliver remarks.

The following is an update from MP Anthony Housefather. As of April 8, 2021, vaccination sites are: Decarie Square, 6900 Decarie Blvd, the Bill Durnam Arena, 4888 Vezina St, Metro

Plamondon (bus 24, 161), University de Montreal, 1375 Therese-Lavoie-Roux (bus 16, 92, 179). Housefather quelled the rumors about the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine. He said it has been approved by health authorities, hence, there is no danger in taking it. For April, Pfizer will continue to deliver 1000,000 doses per week. Others (Johnson & Johnson, Moderna) will be arriving this month. Also, some of Housefather's constituents and other organization leaders asked him about the fate of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, in Chinese custody for more than two years now, facing espionage charges. He said Canada claims 'arbitrary detention' and is seeking their immediate release.

The following information came from Snowdon City Councilor Marvin Rotrand who initiated a motion to demand more resources to fight hate crimes directed toward Asians. This demand will beef up the function of the Police Hate Crime Unit. An example is one incident when some men harassed a young Asian in a metro station using racist language.

Tenant Information: Unjust increase. The landlord should give tenants a notice of the rent increase before the lease expires. If tenants do not agree to the rent increase, notify in writing within 30 days. This will require the landlord to attend a hearing at the Rental Board Office. Tenants who want to move must give a 3-month notice before the lease expires. Eviction can only occur for non-payment of rent, willfully damaging the unit, and/or using the unit for something other than for residence. For more tenant information, please get in contact with Project Genesis at 514-738-2036.

The officers and members of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) are enrolled in a computer class

using tablets under the tutelage of FHSM Chairman Al Abdon. Al's patience knows no bounds; that's a labor of love! Interested seniors especially (Seniors of the West Island and Suburbs) SWIS members led by Chairwoman Connie Fabro, are in attendance. The group is also hard at work in their preparation for the Heritage Day to be held this coming June 17, 18 and 19. Also, the Knights of Rizal, Central Chapter are preparing for a virtual celebration commemorating Independence Day. Usually, in-person celebration is held at McKenzie King Park, but with the pandemic still reigning supreme, the group is planning to have a virtual event this year.

The Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) President Minda Mazzone invites everyone, especially seniors, to join a Saturday activity from 10:00 – 10:45 AM. This virtual event, called Essentrics, is led by teacher Emy Avergonzado. This stretching exercise no doubt comes in handy, in light of gym closures.

Congratulations should go to Sonny Moroz, Outreach Coordinator, Office of MP Anthony Housefather, due to the success of the "Miracle 13" project. This involved leaving dry goods on the front door for volunteers to pick up. The volunteers repackaged and distributed them to the needy. It was a resounding accomplishment! Thanks once again, Sonny!

Let's close with an inspirational verse. Just remember this: Ah Lord God, Behold, You made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You! (Jeremiah 32:17).

Until next issue. God Bless!

From Page 3 Rotrand conference

against hate," Rotrand stressed.

Farida Mohamed of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (Montreal Chapter) agrees, pointing to the fact that her group and many Muslim organizations have not been contacted by law enforcement agencies as much as they should be.

"It is important for the police department to be proactive rather than reactive. That requires more resources or more effective use of existing resources. For instance, have police officers from our communities work with us to make us be and feel safer," Mohamed said.

Lionel Perez, Leader of the Opposition in City Council, underscores the urgency of the situation.

"I am immensely proud to have been involved in the creation of the Montreal Police Hate Crime and Incident Unit in 2016. But after 5 years, it's time to re-evaluate the Unit's practices, incorporate more preventive measures and increase its funding and resources, especially in light of the increase of hate crimes and incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is not the time for more committee studies that will delay any real change for more than 12 months," Perez stated. West Island Black Community Association President Kemba Mitchell echoes that sentiment. She points to Statistics Canada annual reports on hate crimes

that show Blacks are consistently among the top groups targeted by hate crimes.

"Yet, many of us in the Black community cannot recall the last time we were invited to a meeting by city or provincial officials to discuss hate crimes," she noted. Matthew Ross, Associate Director, Quebec Region of B'nai Brith, supports the call for improvement.

"All over the globe, including here in our city, hate crimes are on the rise. In the Montreal Jewish community specifically, the incidents of harassment, vandalism and even violence remain a serious and ongoing concern. We detail it all in our annual audit on antisemitism, and live it every day with our 24-hour anti-hate hotline," Ross said.

"Asian, Black, Jewish and Muslim communities are united today to ask for concrete actions on the ground. It's not about more money, it's about leadership and creative solutions," said Fo Niemi, CRARR Executive Director.

CRARR helped draft the June 2020 Motion on anti-Asian racism and the March 2021 Motion on the need for more effective police actions against hate crimes in Montreal.

Montreal's hate crime module has 2 investigators and 2 consulting officers. Information: Fo Niemi Executive Director, CRARR 514-808-6119

## Derek Chauvin found guilty on all counts in the murder of George Floyd



**In this April 19, 2021 video, Defense attorney Eric Neilson accompanied by defendant former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin speaks to the judge at the Hennepin County courthouse in Minneapolis, Minn. Prosecutors fought hard to add a third degree murder charge against Chauvin but a conviction on that charge alone could set up a problematic scenario for them. (Uncredited pool - Court TV pool)**

Grace Hauck, N'dea Yancey-Bragg Tami Abdollah, Kevin McCoy, Eric Ferkenhoff, USA TODAY (Published: 3:35 PM ET, April 20, 2021) MINNEAPOLIS — The jury has found former police officer Derek Chauvin guilty on all counts in the murder of George Floyd last May.

Chauvin, 45, was found guilty of second- and third-degree murder and

second-degree manslaughter.

The judge asked each juror if the verdict was correct, thanked them and dismissed them. "I have to thank you, on behalf of the people of the state of Minnesota, for not only jury service, but heavy-duty jury service," Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill said.

See Page 18 Derek Chauvin



# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### How celebs stay productive, sane in stressful times



**Julian Trono**

With the extra time we supposedly have these days because of the pandemic, some people may feel compelled to be more productive, or come up with checklists of things they have been putting off.

But it's not as simple as it seems. As it turns out, working while coping with a health crisis can already be plenty stressful. And while staying safe and physically healthy is the priority, our mental and emotional well-being, celebrities said, are something that should also be taken care of.

"Our mental and emotional state can also affect your physical self and other people. So, it's important to also set aside time to reset and relax our minds," singer-television host Christian Bautista told the Inquirer in a recent interview after an online event for the "It's Good to Chill" campaign of the mints brand Tic Tac.

Constant communication  
Actor-singer Julian Trono is also "very particular" with his "mental stability," especially now that he's living alone. "It's difficult because you can only connect with other people online. So, I tried to have constant communication with my family and friends, and kept myself sane by doing things that make me genuinely happy," he said.

Online content creator and former MTV Pinoy VJ Aryanna

Epperson agreed: "If I don't feel like I'm in tiptop shape, I have a hard time doing anything. It's normal to feel down and unproductive, but we also shouldn't forget to take time out and rest."

The past year put everyone on an emotional roller-coaster, to say the least. For Aryanna, the biggest challenge was moving out of her parents' home.



"It was difficult dealing with homesickness and taking care of everything myself at home. It's easy to feel overwhelmed with everything, but it has also been a great test of independence. Because of that, I have become more organized. And



**Christian Bautista**

slowly, I have adjusted to juggling all my responsibilities," she related.

As a performer, Christian lamented the absence of the live-music scene. "The most challenging part for me is the entertainment industry not having live shows. So now, I feel compelled to do lots of gaming, live streams or explore various online businesses," he said.

Julian, on the other hand, is a

very sociable person who's at his most creative at night. The lockdown restrictions meant that he had to recalibrate his approach to work. "I'm used to being outside and socializing," Julian said. "But I did grow creatively and as an individual

... I tried to link up with different artists."

Hit pause, take a breather  
But in times when everything becomes too much to bear, there's no shame, they stressed, in hitting pause or taking a step back. "I do other things to distract me, to calm down and chill. And try to approach the problem again," Christian said, adding that he stayed creative by writing songs, painting, even cooking and baking.

Same with Aryanna, who makes sure to take a breather when she feels like her worries are getting the better of her. "If I keep forcing myself to go on, I would just end up feeling worse," she said. "After a long day, I love to unwind by cooking my favorite food, cozying up under a blanket and watching Netflix, or playing video games."

Julian engages in activities that are totally unrelated with what's happening around him. "I watch movies ... get attached with the characters. I took up film, which has been a safe place for me," he related. "I have been writing a lot, as well. I discovered my love for it in school. If I'm in a certain mood, I try to turn the ideas I write down into tracks."

Set new goals

A fun, little online meetup with fellow celebrities once in a while also doesn't hurt. Christian, Julian and Aryanna—along with social media influencer Aerial Garcia and sportscaster Martin Javier—recently took part in Tic Tac's interactive livestream on Facebook, where they competed in a series of games and pop quizzes.

Tic Tac likewise announced its #TicTacForTheWin challenge. Visit [www.TicTacWin.com](http://www.TicTacWin.com) for more details.

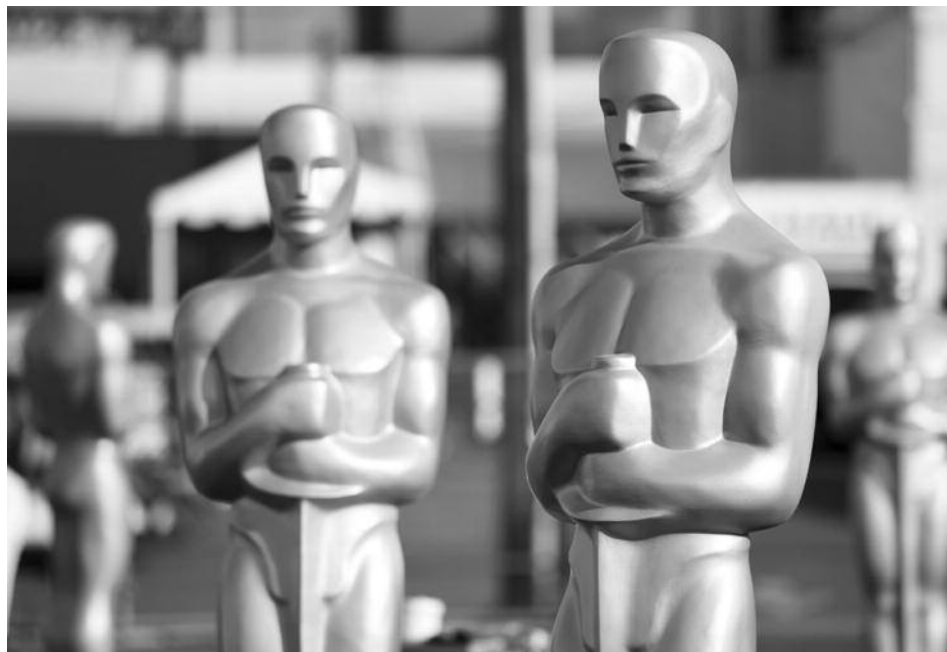
All things considered, Aryanna still hopes to set new goals for this year. "The best way for me to stay creative is to be consistent and to always plan ahead. My goals this year are to turn play into work, and work into play," said Aryanna, who currently hosts live events and streams online games on Facebook.

Christian has been busy collaborating with other music artists and plans to release new songs in the coming months.

Julian is similarly focusing on music. "I explored different ideas and came up with tracks. Music is my three-year, five-year plan. My love for music has been growing more and more. The desire to discover new things is constantly there, and I don't want to switch directions," he said. "Hopefully, I can release more songs, and eventually, an album, if my plans align." ■



# In-person Oscars put on masks, roll out tiny carpet



A “teeny-tiny” red carpet, no invitations for Hollywood’s most powerful moguls, and a “central” role for masks—next weekend’s in-person Oscars are taking no risks when it comes to Covid-19, but the event still would have been “impossible” to hold just weeks earlier, producers said on Saturday.

The 93rd Academy Awards will mark the first time Tinseltown’s finest have assembled in over a year, for a three-hour show that coproducer Steven Soderbergh said is “not going to be like anything that’s been done before.”

The delayed April 25 ceremony takes place barely a week after California opened vaccinations to all over-16s, with infection rates plummeting after a massive winter surge ripped through the state. Movie

would have done it.”

“This is the working definition of trying to build an airplane while it’s in the air,” the director told a virtual press conference, adding that his experience of making films during the pandemic—and his 2011 thriller “Contagion”—had proven invaluable.

‘Physical grandeur’

The ceremony will take place amid the “physical grandeur” of Los Angeles’ cavernous Union Station, with nominees mingling outdoors and then rotated in and out of the venue during the show.

The traditional red carpet will be dramatically downsized, and the guest list will be so limited that even powerful Disney boss Bob Iger “won’t be there,” Soderbergh said.

Speaking from the venue’s courtyard—where only nominees,

norm.”

“Masks are going to play a very important role in the story of this evening,” he added. “If that’s cryptic, it’s meant to be—but that topic is very central to the narrative.”

Soderbergh and fellow producers Jesse Collins and Stacey Sher are keeping many details under wraps, but said the unusual and “hopefully unique” nature of a pandemic-era Oscars “certainly opened up an opportunity to try some things that haven’t been tried before.”

‘Snapshot of movies’

The ceremony will have “the aesthetic of a film as opposed to a TV show,” including use of movie-like “over-the-shoulder shots from within the audience” and high-resolution, widescreen formats, Soderbergh said.

Most nominees are expected to attend in person, with hubs in London and Paris set up allowing Europeans unable to travel due to restrictions to dial in—but only via slick, industry-standard satellite hookups, not Zoom.

Recent awards shows have

been slammed for their heavy use of remote calling for nominees, particularly after Daniel Kaluuya briefly lost audio as he accepted his Golden Globe for best supporting actor in “Judas and the Black Messiah.”

“Zoom has been a great thing, we’re on it constantly,” said Soderbergh. “It’s just in the context of this show... that doesn’t really fit.”

Following the awards-show-as-a-movie concept, no host has been announced, but presenters—billed as the ceremony’s “cast”—will be “playing themselves, or... a version of themselves.”

Previously announced A-list presenters include Harrison Ford, Brad Pitt and Reese Witherspoon, with more set to be unveiled before the show.

Nominees will be asked to share personal stories, in a show set to make extensive use of interviews.

“The stories have been incredible, so helpful to us,” said Soderbergh. “And a wonderful archive—a snapshot of movies in 2020. ■

## Nikki Valdez back to work after surviving COVID-19



**Nikki Valdez**

Nikki Valdez opened up about the excitement and anxiety she experienced on her first day back to work since recovering from COVID-19.

“Still thankful. First day back at work after recovering from COVID was a bit of a struggle,” she stated while showing a photo of herself on-set, through her Instagram page yesterday, April 18.

She admitted having mixed feelings about going back to work, saying she was happy and excited to return, but also nervous and anxious.

“Nevertheless, I am thankful to see everyone today. We had our own share of stories to tell,” Valdez added. “My body is extra tired but my heart is filled with gratitude for this day and all

the people I am surrounded with. Indeed, there is always something to be thankful for.”

Valdez revealed last week that both she and her husband tested positive for and have since recovered from COVID-19. She also spoke about the agony of isolation which she experienced while she was battling the disease. She added that surviving COVID-19 gave her a “healthier perspective” on things and made her family grow stronger.

The actress’ “Bagong Umaga” co-stars Sunshine Cruz and Heaven Peralejo also tested positive for COVID-19. Both of them have since recovered from the disease ■



**In this file photo taken on March 18, 2021 a view of the old ticketing concourse at the Downtown Los Angeles Union Station where part of the 2021 Oscars Ceremony will take place.**

theaters are even reopening.

Asked by Agence France-Presse (AFP) about the impact of the show’s two-month postponement, Soderbergh said: “It would have been impossible for us to do what we’re gonna do... I don’t know how we

their plus ones, and a handful of presenters will chat and drink—Soderbergh said he hoped the Oscars would present the world “a glimpse of what’s going to be possible when most people are vaccinated, and rapid, accurate, cheap testing is the



## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

# Julia Barretto samples Filipino street food, dislikes many of it



**Gerald Anderson and Julia Barretto**

Gerald Anderson recently featured his new babe Julia Barretto on his vlog.

In there, Gerald asked his “very special guest” to try Filipino “street” food.

“All right guys! Welcome back sa channel ko! Meron tayong special guest, si Julia... May hinanda kaming foods na hindi niya masyadong kinakain. Mga pagkain na medyo hindi pa siya na expose dun,” said the “Init Sa Magdamag” actor in his introduction video.

Among the food in the list were papaya, singkamas, Indian mango, isaw, balunbalunan, kwek-kwek, binatog na mais, suman, and dinuguan.

Asked which one she’s most excited to try, Julia quipped: “Wala!”

According to Julia, she never had those foods, but she was willing to try for Gerald.

However, the young actress was also expressive when she doesn’t like the taste.

“Yuck! Di ko type,” said Julia when she ate kwek-kwek.

Meanwhile, no matter how she tried, Julia spat the pig’s blood stew that Gerald fed her.

On the other hand, in between those food tasting, the 32-year-old actor would ask some questions to the 24-year-old actress.

Among was Julia’s reaction

to Gerald’s impromptu getaways.

“The best!” said she. “Yun nga yung hinihintay ko.”

In terms of her “ideal vacation” with her bae, Julia hopes to have a road trip from one state to another.

How about her five to 10-year plan?



“Family,” her simple answer, that Gerald followed up with “saan dun sa 5 or 10?”

“Next year!” Julia quipped, which made the actor laughed out loud.

The eldest daughter of Marjorie Barretto and Dennis Padilla also answered if she was willing to leave showbiz in exchange for a quiet life.

“Anytime,” Julia declared, relating that she will always dream of living a “simple-quiet time” with her future family.

She also shared the “greatest lesson” in life so far which is about “keep going.” ■

# Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay to marry this year despite pandemic



**Celebrity couple Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay**

Model-actress Ellen Adarna revealed that her wedding with Kapuso actor Derek Ramsay has been set this year despite the pandemic.

In their interview with G3 San Diego in the columnist's YouTube channel, the couple said that they both agreed to marry each other this year. However, there are no final plans yet.

“We talked about it and wala pang final plans. But it’s this year,” Ellen said.

The actress also revealed in the same interview that she never planned to get married.



“I never planned. I never wanted to get married. Honestly, my elementary friends, my high school friends are messaging me na ‘Oh my God! I can’t believe you’re getting married. High school pa lang ayaw mo na magpakasal.’ So, today was the first day that I thought of my wedding,” she said.

The newly engaged couple added that they prefer a simple

ceremony.

“We’re both on the same page kasi we don’t really want that big grand wedding,” Derek said.

“I told him my dream wedding. I just want to elope,” Ellen said.

“But I don’t want a big wedding. I don’t want to wear a gown. I don’t want... you know, all that fancy whatever,” she added.

Ellen also said that the most important thing in a wedding is just the ceremony itself.

“So, we actually spoke this morning. Parang meron na kaming naisip and I thought about it. ‘Like



you know what? The purpose of this is just I want to marry you. I’m not going to marry you because I want to wear a gown or I want people to look at me like I’m the most beautiful bride in the world’ – that’s not the point,” Ellen said.

“So yeah, just expect a very simple wedding,” she added.



# How Jasmine triumphed over her lockdown woes



Jasmine Curtis-Smith (left) with sister Anne and niece Dahlia

There's no shame in seeking help for your mental health.

This was one of the biggest lessons that actress Jasmine Curtis-Smith admitted she has learned in humanity's ongoing battle with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an exclusive Zoom chat with Inquirer Entertainment, Jasmine said she used to speak with a mental health professional once a week. She thought she needed help because she was having emotional difficulty dealing with being away from her family. "My sister (actress Anne Curtis) was with my mom abroad," said the Filipino-Australian actress. "It also frustrated me that I couldn't find a way to experience their new journey together with my niece Dahlia. It was really impacting me."

Dahlia is Anne's first child with husband, chef and vlogger Erwan Heussaff. Anne gave birth in Australia in March 2020 and returned to the Philippines with her family only in February 2021. "I wished I had gotten stranded with them during the lockdown," said Jasmine. "It really helped to talk to a professional; at the same time, video calling family as many times as I could. I still haven't seen my mom up to now. One year seems so long. It's OK, as long as she's safe."

'Hopeless, numb'

"Don't get intimidated," Jasmine said of contacting a mental health

professional. "It's OK. It will be good for you. I guess others are wary that their doctors would give them all sorts of pills. Just be honest. Tell your psychologist that you don't want any and that maybe you can try different approaches—that's possible."

Recalling the early days of the pandemic lockdown, Jasmine said she felt "hopeless but, at the same, time numb."



The actress explained: "We didn't know how the industry could move again. With our large number, we can't imagine how all of us could simply work from home, especially actors. I was worried about how we could bounce back from this and transition into something that's applicable during this time of the pandemic. I could say I struggled during the first three months."

Jasmine said she did all sorts of things "just so I'd have output or online presence, even though I have no new projects or brand endorsements. You have to

find a way to stay connected with your supporters. I would go live even though I was just cooking corned beef or washing the dishes."

As an actress, Jasmine believes that it's important for her to be relevant. "Kailangan mong magpapansin! People should see that you're doing something, even if you're just taking photos of your make-up today. I thought, if a producer sees this, he'd say, 'She can do her make-up on her own. I can cast her!'"

## Research stage

The lockdown has also affected a lot of her plans, business-wise. "I became part of a music management label last year, but my partners and I decided to part ways. We're no longer working together. I thought it was better for me to focus on my own career," the 27-year-old said. "At the moment, I have friends

who are looking for business partners. We're still in the talking/research stage on what product we're going to make, how to distribute it and what our roles would be within the business." The lead star of Jeffrey Hidalgo's black comedy, "General Admission," said: "Financially, with what I currently have—I was never extravagant—I prefer to plan where to put my savings where it would grow," she said. "I study stuff like 'term deposits,' or investments that you don't need to actually put up a business in order to gain profit from. That might be a better outlet than putting up my own business at this point. I study those stuff, and they're very intimidating. Your mind has to be ready to learn and absorb everything like a student." ■

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# OPINION EDITORIAL

## The Point by Chris Cilliza

**How does America's gun violence cycle end?**

April 16, 2021 | by Lauren Dezenski, Chris Cilliza and Sonnet Swire



Once again, officials around the country are lowering American flags.

At President Joe Biden's direction, flags have again been ordered to fly at half-staff. It marks yet another grim tragedy, two weeks after President Biden made the same order to mark another mass shooting.

This time, it's to observe a mass shooting in Indianapolis that left eight dead. It comes after a week of anger, protest and hurt around two police-involved shootings of a Black man and a Latino boy in Minneapolis and Chicago, and all during the trial of ex-Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd.

"We don't have time to recover," explained Valerie Castile, mother of Philando Castile, a Black man killed by police in a 2016 traffic stop. "I'm mad as

hell again and again and again."

While the violence of the last month feels ceaseless, Biden also noted that on Friday, it has been 14 years since a gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech.

This isn't a new problem, but woefully and painfully familiar.

On Friday, Biden said gun violence "pierces the very soul of our nation" and urged Congress to act: "Gun violence is an epidemic in America. But we should not accept it." Despite these earnest calls for action, it's not yet clear how -- or if -- Congress will act.

The onslaught of shootings feels like a grim return to normal despite the still-raging pandemic, and the deeply entrenched polarization around mask wearing, restrictions and now vaccination requirements.

From Page 13 Derek Chauvin

He revoked bail and told Chauvin to report back in eight weeks for sentencing. Chauvin, silent and wearing a gray suit and a light blue surgical mask, was handcuffed and taken into custody.

George Floyd's brother Philonise Floyd was sitting with his head bowed and his hands folded in front of his face in prayer before the verdict was read. As each verdict was read, his hands increasingly shook and his head nodded up and down.

"I was just praying they would find him guilty. As an African American, we usually never get justice," Floyd said.

Afterward, Floyd cried and hugged prosecutors, who shook hands with the Minnesota attorney general. One prosecutor wiped away tears.

Chauvin, who is white, was seen on video pinning George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, to the ground with his knee last Memorial Day for over nine minutes after police responded to a report that Floyd used a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Cell phone video of the incident went viral and touched off months of protests in the U.S. and abroad condemning police brutality and calling for racial justice. The widely watched trial, which began in March

with jury selection, was livestreamed -- Minnesota's first criminal case to be televised.

Chauvin faces 12 1/2 years or 150 months in prison under sentencing guidelines for a first-time offender. But, the prosecution argues there are aggravating factors that require a longer prison term. That means Chauvin may face longer than that sentence.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors argued that Chauvin's knee -- pressed against Floyd's neck while he was handcuffed and face-down on the street -- led to his death by loss of oxygen. The defense argued underlying heart issues and the methamphetamine and fentanyl in his system caused Floyd's death while he struggled with police.

The prosecution rested its case last week after calling 38 witnesses and playing dozens of video clips over the course of 11 days. The defense rested Thursday after calling seven witnesses over two days. Attorneys for both sides presented their closing arguments Monday

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## Reckoning With One Police Shooting and Another Police Trial, Minnesota Activists Are Weary, and Wary of Reform Goals



**Protesters march outside the Brooklyn Center police headquarters on April 13, 2021 in Minnesota. Demonstrations have become a daily occurrence since Daunte Wright, 20, was shot and killed by Brooklyn Center police officer Kimberly Potter on April 11. Stephen Maturen—Getty Images**

Oluchi Omeoga, a co-founder of the Minneapolis-based organization Black Visions Collective, was at home on April 11—just a few blocks away from the deli where George Floyd was killed last year—when they first heard about the police shooting of Daunte Wright. Omeoga, who has been engaged in activism and community work for eight years in the city, remembers feeling a mix of rage, sadness and apathy as they digested the news.

"Minnesota cannot get its shit in order," Omeoga tells TIME. "It's only been two weeks since the trial started and something like this happens."

Wright's death at the hands of Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter is the latest police killing of a Black man to grab the nation's attention, as the trial for last year's high-profile police killing of George Floyd is underway mere miles away from Brooklyn Center.

Activists say it's important to note that the highest concentration of Black people in Minnesota are found in parts of Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as surrounding suburbs like Brooklyn Center. "When we say these three cities are connected, they're literally connected," Omeoga says, arguing that the Black population in these areas is stigmatized and overpoliced.

And in Brooklyn Center specifically, the police force is comprised of officers from outside the community—as the city's Mayor Mike Elliot noted on April 12, no police officers who work in the city live there. One of what many activists argue is the simplest actions police departments can take to build trust, and respect, with the neighborhoods they serve is to hire more community members and engage with community groups.

At the Brooklyn Center police headquarters, meanwhile, a version of the Thin Blue Line banner has continued to flap in the breeze, displayed just below the American flag.

Though Omeoga has not spearheaded any of the organizing happening in Brooklyn Center in response to Wright's death, they have taken part in the protests. "I think that Minnesota specifically is trying to do their hardest to act like they're going to make changes that are not actually

going to happen," they say.

In response to the protests, the National Guard, state and local law enforcement—equipped with guns, long batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs—have been dispatched each night. (Demonstrations and protests have also been recorded in other major U.S. cities.) On April 13, over 60 people were arrested for unlawful assembly after curfew.

Even with jury deliberations in the Chauvin trial set to begin next week, attention is now shifting between the widely-anticipated verdict and what is likely to be another contentious legal battle. Prosecutors in Washington County charged Potter with second-degree manslaughter over Wright's death. (Potter appeared briefly in court, via Zoom, on April 15 for a procedural hearing but has otherwise not commented on the shooting; in a letter resigning from the Brooklyn Center Police Department earlier this week, she did not mention Wright's death but wrote that her resignation would be "in the best interest of the community.") And for activists already concerned that Chauvin being found guilty—which in itself would be an outlier based on the investigation of previous police killings of civilians—will have little impact on the wider culture of policing, the situation is increasingly untenable.

"I feel like we're right back where we were last year," says Marjaan Sirdar, a Minneapolis-based activist; there's widespread concern that if detractors can't see the need for police reform when an officer like Potter, "a very senior officer" in the Brooklyn Center police department who was training another officer when she shot Wright, kills an unarmed civilian, then they'll never be convinced otherwise.

"We've been telling people that this is a systemic issue. We're trying to show people that this is how policing works," Omeoga adds. "Kim Potter was the exemplary police officer. She was the union president. She was training someone that day she killed Wright. If this is the epitome of what an officer should be, then what does that say about other police officers?"

—With reporting from Janell Ross/Minneapolis



# World News in Pictures



**In this image released by World Press Photo, Thursday April 15, 2021, by Mads Nissen, Politiken symbolizing “love and compassion” of an 85-year-old Brazilian woman getting her first embrace in five months from a nurse through a transparent “hug curtain” was named the World Press Photo of the Year.**



**Hart Van Denburg/CPR News Denver protests in May against racism and police brutality after George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police.**



**Indian migrant workers and their families are seen outside the bus transport booking center during the coronavirus pandemic, in Bangalore, India, April, 15, 2021. India's COVID-19 surge continued as a fresh high of 200,739 new cases were registered on the day. (Str/Xinhua)**

Deaths also rose for the fifth straight week, pushing the global death toll to over three million, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a briefing.

GENEVA, April 19 (Xinhua) -- New COVID-19 infections worldwide have increased for the eighth week running, with a record 5.2 million cases reported last week and an alarming growth rate in young people, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday. Deaths also rose for the fifth straight week, pushing the global death toll to over three million, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a briefing. The pandemic has been gathering pace recently, according to WHO's numbers. "It took nine months to reach one million deaths; four months to reach two million, and three months to reach three million," the WHO chief said.

Meanwhile, infections and

hospitalizations among people aged 25 to 59 are increasing at an alarming rate, he said, possibly as a result of highly transmissible variants and increased social mixing among younger adults. To cope with the urgent need for COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, the WHO issued an expression of interest on Friday for establishing a COVID-19 technology transfer hub for mRNA vaccines, in hopes of increasing production of those vaccines in low- and middle-income countries. Tedros called for the original manufacturers of mRNA vaccines to contribute their technology and know-how to a central hub, and for manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries to express interest in receiving that technology. "We have seen incredible innovation in science; now we need innovation to ensure as many people as possible benefit from that science," he said. Source: Xinhua | 2021-04-20 04:24:17



**Speak up! — 'Sesame Street' Tackles Racism in TV Special - Big Bird voiced by Carrol Spinney reads to children during a taping in New York, April 8, 2008. "Sesame Street" has always pressed for inclusion. Now in the wake of the national reckoning on race, it's going further — teaching children to stand up against racism. (AP photo)**



**Handout image released by Buckingham Palace of a personal photograph of the Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh at the top of the Coyles of Muick, taken by The Countess of Wessex, wife of Prince Andrew, the Duke of Wessex, in 2003, obtained by Reuters on April 16, 2021.**



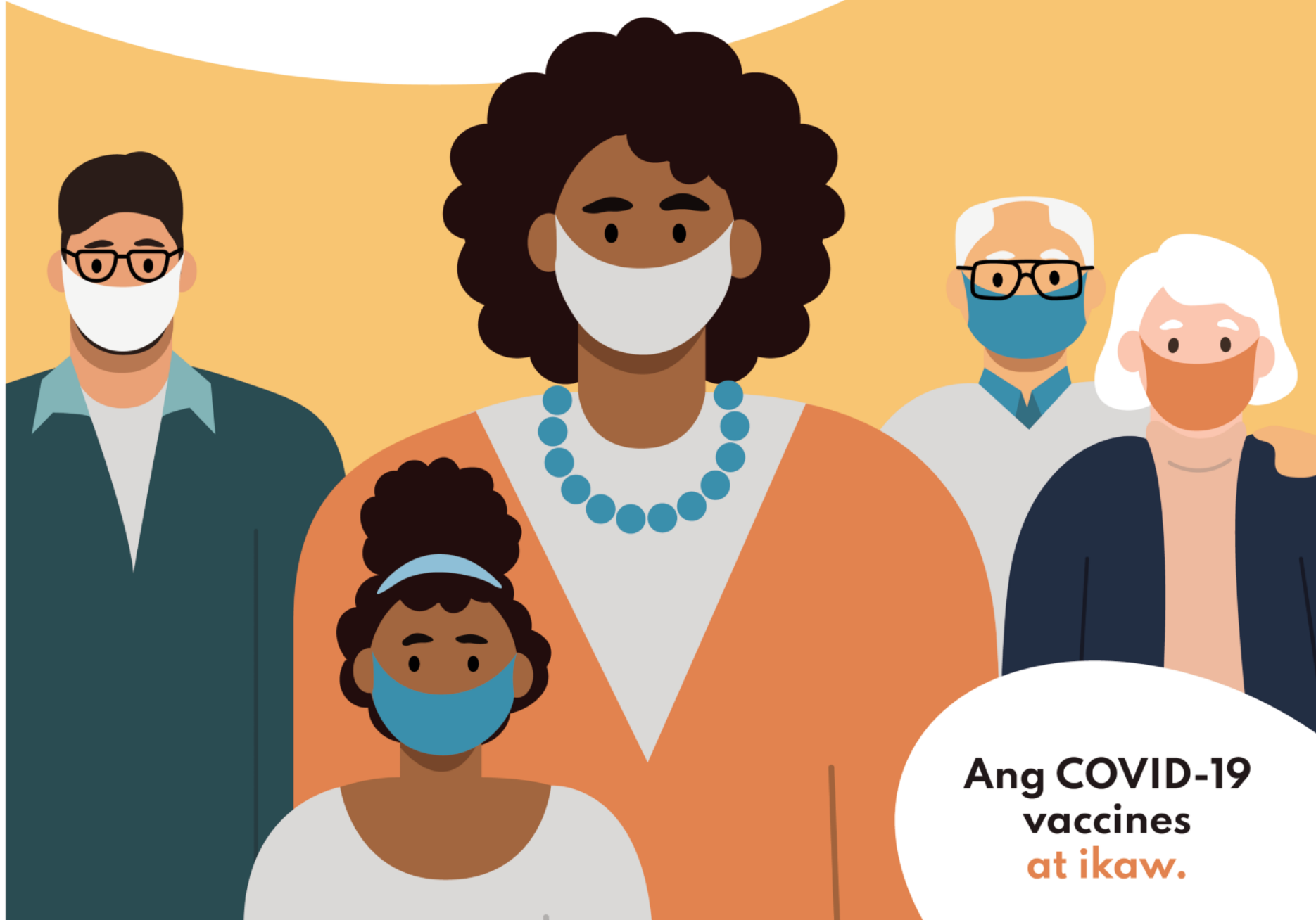
**In an Oct. 30, 2012, file photo, former Vice President Walter Mondale, a former Minnesota senator, gestures while speaking at a Students for Obama rally at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis. Mondale, a liberal icon who lost the most lopsided presidential election after bluntly telling voters to expect a tax increase if he won, died Monday, April 19, 2021. He was 93. (AP Photo/Jim Mone**



# Paano ko malalaman kung ligtas ang COVID-19 vaccines?

Tanging mga vaccines na ligtas, mabisa at may pinakamataas na kalidad lamang ang pinapayagan ng Health Canada. Kinikilala ang Canada sa buong mundo sa mataas nitong pamantayan at mahigpit na pagsusuri ng mga vaccines.

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