

Canada to receive record 640K vaccine doses this week with Pfizer, Moderna deliveries

OTTAWA -- Canada is poised to receive a record number of COVID-19 vaccine doses this week thanks to scheduled deliveries from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, as the country looks to speed up its vaccination efforts.

The Public Health Agency of Canada says it expects more than 640,000 shots from the pharmaceutical giants this week, which would represent the largest number of deliveries in a single week.

The previous record was set last week when Pfizer and BioNTech delivered more than 400,000 doses of their vaccine following a month-long lull while they expanded a production plant in Europe.

The two companies will ship more than 475,000 shots this week before scaling back slightly to 445,000 doses per week as they look to fulfil their commitment to deliver 4 million jabs by the end of March.

Canada will also receive 168,000 shots this week from Moderna, which ships its doses every three weeks. Unlike the Pfizer-BioNTech shots, Moderna's are largely destined for northern and remote communities.

The expected influx of vaccine shots follows news on Friday that the millionth Canadian had received a first dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or



Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin, Vice-President of Logistics and Operations at the Public Health Agency of Canada, speaks during a technical briefing on the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, in Ottawa, on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

Moderna vaccine.

While the marker came weeks later than expected after nearly a month of shrunken shipments, it was nonetheless seen as one of several positive signs in Canada's immunization drive.

Several provinces have

moved to expand their vaccination offerings beyond the first priority groups in long-term care homes and front-line health workers thanks to the vaccine influx over the past two weeks.

At least three provinces -- Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta --

announced details for getting vaccines to seniors living in the community.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged provinces on Friday to get ready for the influx of vaccine doses.

See Page 5 Canada to receive

Biden holds first bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

"U.S. leadership has been sorely missed over the past years," Trudeau told Biden in a thinly veiled reference to Donald Trump.

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden held the first bilateral meeting of his presidency Tuesday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin



U.S. President Joe R. Biden.

Trudeau as the two leaders seek to rebound the U.S.-Canada relationship after a strained alliance under former President Donald Trump.

The two leaders, who met virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic, projected optimism for the future and

See Page 4 Trudeau-Biden meet



From the Publisher's desk
Some ideas in fighting racism for Black History Month
Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Racism has been in the news lately specially since George Floyd died in the hands of a police officer in Minnesota. It is not an easy subject to discuss as it seems to be deeply embedded in people's behaviour towards others who belong to the minority cultural groups. However, it is encouraging to note that many people from the majority groups have participated in demonstrations of movements such as the Black Lives Matter and other similar organizations. Moreover, some political leaders are actively involved in the discussion of racism. In Quebec, Premier Legault has appointed the Environment Minister to head a commission on racism. As of now, it is too early to decide if this government action will bear concrete results in even reducing systemic racism.

Fighting racism is a long process and can only be eradicated when we have all realized that it is not only the battle to be waged by those affected by it but also by the mainstream society or those who are considered to be in the privileged group. Although a grassroots movement has a major role in fighting racism, it also requires good leadership in all our institutions. Often times, it is difficult to recognize or even acknowledge its existence as it can take different degrees, and different situations in human activities. For example, in dealing with bureaucracy, a simple application for a permit may be refused

for some unknown reasons or an exaggerated application of a requirement.

Racism is perhaps to be considered worse than a pandemic because it is not easy to find a cure. But this does not mean that we can not try to find a solution. There are many different ways to fight racism, individually and collectively but it is necessary to be aware of our own personal biases first as we are naturally exposed to images and ideas that may have made us acquire prejudices. As there are so much information available through different media, we must have the ability to select those that can help us gain insights into the nature of racism, and how it affects the quality of life of those who are marginalized or economically disadvantaged.

There are also some practical suggestions in combatting racism, namely, becoming a member of volunteer organizations that promote social justice, teaching our youth the values of equality and justice, and calling on our political leaders to take action against it. In brief, let us start doing our part in combatting racism. Hopefully, we shall see the day when everyone has an "equal opportunity to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." As Martin Luther King said: "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

A MESSAGE FROM CITY COUNCILLOR MARVIN ROTRAND
A motion to have police wear body cameras



camera licenses and will have 2350 on frontline officers by October 2021. The Government of Canada budgeted \$240 million for the RCMP to buy and operate 12,000 body cams for its officers the next 5 years. The cost came in at \$131 million or a savings of \$109 million over the initial budget.

Ottawa police are beginning. A pilot has started in British Columbia and Peel Region (Mississauga and Oakville) began phasing in body cams last November. Clearly the time has come for Montreal police to get in lockstep with the rest of the country.

The botched arrest of Mahmedi Fara Camara recently has relaunched the debate over body cameras. The public wants the entire Montreal police to use this tool. Will Mayor Plante continue to stall or will she vote for our motion ?

Allow me to share some interesting links that describe progress in this dossier in other Canadian cities:

- <https://globalnews.ca/news/7605612/toronto-police-service-body-cameras-reaction/>
- <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-police-service-says-it-s-the-first-in-canada-to-publicly-unveil-body-camera-procedures-1.5288367>
- <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/toronto-police-aservice-goes-all-in-with-axon-body-cameras-and-digital-evidence-management-software-commits-to-providing-transparency-and-accountability-for-its-community-801140255.html>
- <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/rcmp-body-cameras-to-cost-131-million-over-five-years-budget-officer-1.5295546#:~:text=OTTAWA%20%2D%2D%20Outfitting%20RCMP%20officers,for%20use%20across%20the%20country.>
- <https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/news/rcmp-body-cameras-to-costs-131-million-over-five-years-federal-budget-officer/>
- <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/rcmp-gets-238-million-to-fund-body-cameras-for-officers-across-the-country>
- <https://www.peel.police.ca/modules/news/index.aspx?newsId=3785a34f-9bcd-4220-bbaa-0e93d5a273d8#>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/7046522/body-cameras-ottawa-police-budget/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-police-body-cameras-1.5001814>

Please feel free to share your thoughts on this. The evidence is overwhelmingly in favour of body cameras providing a real benefit and paying for itself in many ways.

Best regards,

Marvin Rotrand
 City Councillor - Snowdon

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe but the Montreal police still don't have body cameras. Mayor Plante who opposed them as supposedly "too expensive and ineffective" has been forced to admit maybe her cost estimate was exaggerated and that the positive experiences elsewhere made a convincing case for body cameras. In response to a press conference held by Councillor Abdelhaq Sari and myself and motions in favour of body cams that were subsequently adopted by several Boroughs, Mayor Plante promised in February 2020 that Montreal was on the road to resolving this issue. A year later nothing has changed. Thus, February 23 Councillor Sari, Councillor Josue Corvil and myself have tabled a motion calling for Montreal finally to do what most of North America's major police departments have or are doing - and that is purchase body cameras for its officers. I am not sure what to expect from Mayor Plante. I would not be surprised if she tells citizens she is in favour and then tries to amend the motion so that obliges Montreal to commit to a small pilot project. It is generally not known in Quebec that body cams are advancing quickly in Canada - except in Montreal.

Two years ago, Mayor Plante said body cams would cost \$17.4 million to purchase for the SPVM and then \$24 million a year to operate and manage - or 4% of the police budget. That figure has been widely disputed. My research January 2020 (attached) shows that Montreal's estimate of the cost for managing the system and storing the data annually is \$9.3 million - Toronto a larger city fixes that cost at \$2 million a year. In other words, the Plante administration ballooned the cost estimate to make it seem that body cameras were too expensive

My research was backed up by camera manufacturers and experts in the field and City Hall has been discrete since about the cost. For awhile the argument was that only Calgary was interested in body cameras in Canada and that opinion was "mixed" in the United States. That line no longer holds water - all 22,000 New York City officers wear body cameras and most major forces in the United States have already bought them or are ordering them.

It is generally not known in Quebec that body cams are advancing quickly in Canada - except in Montreal. Toronto has purchased 3000 body

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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.

Opening of Vaccination Sites

CIUSSS West-Central Montreal territory

As confirmed by the Government of Quebec, mass vaccination of people 85 years and older will begin as of Monday, March 1, 2020. The following sites will be open as of March 1.

Mass vaccination sites

Décarie Square shopping center
6900 Décarie Boulevard
every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Temporary sites

Jewish General Hospital
3755 Côte-Sainte-Catherine Road
every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

CLSC Métro
1801 de Maisonneuve Boulevard
Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLSC de Parc Extension
7085 Hutchison
Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional vaccination sites located in CIUSSS West-Central Montreal's territory

Montreal General Hospital
Livingston Hall (L6-500)
1650 Cedar Avenue, Montreal

Glen site
Atrium of the Research Institute of the MUHC
1001 Décarie Boulevard, Montreal

Appointments will be available as of Thursday, February 25 for those born in 1936 or earlier, online at www.quebec.ca/covidvaccine and by telephone at **514-644-4545**, seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Montreal public health aims to slow spread of COVID-19 variants as public gets vaccinated



With COVID-19 variants on the rise, Montreal officials called on the public to follow health regulations over March break. (Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press)

Up to 10% of positive COVID-19 tests are more contagious strain, public health director says
Isaac Olson · CBC News · Posted: Feb 24, 2021 7:22 PM ET

While Montreal public health officials are celebrating the start of the city's campaign to vaccinate the public against COVID-19, they are urging the population to remain vigilant as variants of the disease are cropping up in schools, daycares and workplaces.

Dr. Mylène Drouin, head of Montreal public health, said the situation is improving in the city, but the rise of the variant first reported in the U.K. is a concern because of how

contagious it is.

All tests are now scanned for possible variants, and currently about eight to 10 per cent of positive cases are of that more contagious strain, Drouin said during a news briefing Wednesday.

So far about 300 potential cases have been detected and 20 have been confirmed.

Health officials are responding more aggressively to potential variant cases than regular COVID-19 cases, Drouin said, in an effort to quickly contain outbreaks and slow the spread

See Page 12 Montreal Public

MY OFFICE IS OPEN AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING YOU!

We are here to help guide you through the process of dealing with the many different federal departments, programs, and services.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

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 LERB, LEBA, LEWS, LECRA 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

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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February 24 up date from our MP, Anthony Housefather



Dear Friends,

In a follow up to my message yesterday, please find below our Q&A about the upcoming vaccination process in Quebec, answers related to additional COVID-19 topics, as well as information on other federal announcements and moments from this past week.

I want to give a special shoutout to Jason Magder at the Montreal Gazette for posting a Q&A about the vaccination process where answers to the most pertinent questions about the immunization plan in Quebec are outlined very clearly. Most of the questions and answers I have posted below about getting vaccinated are from his article. Thanks very much Jason! I also want to thank Jonathan Goldbloom and the CIUSSS Centre West for other information we have used in the Question and Answers below.

While the vaccination process will remain top of mind, please also check out my interview with CTV Montreal's Mutsumi Takahashi about how we should deal with online disinformation and the Uighur motion that was passed unanimously in the House of Commons on Monday. Click here to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/anthonyho>

From Page 1 Trudeau-Biden meet

expressed their commitment to working together to solve a number of issues including Covid-19, climate change and rising inequality.

"Thank you again for stepping up in such a big way on tackling climate change, U.S. leadership has been sorely missed over the past years," Trudeau told Biden in public remarks ahead of the meeting.

"And I have to say, as we're preparing the joint rollout and communiqué from this one, it's nice when the Americans are not pulling out all references to climate change and, instead, adding them in."

Biden, speaking at the White House after the bilateral concluded, said the meeting was "the first of what I am sure will be many close and cooperative sessions." Biden said that they agreed that tackling Covid-19 was the "immediate priority."

Biden also said that the U.S. and Canada were launching a "high

usefather/posts/5047233228651059

Yesterday we also saw the first bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden and their cabinets. It was the first bilateral meeting done by the new United States administration with any country and it is amazing to return to our standard close relationship. Many important topics were discussed, including plans to work together revitalize and expand ties between our two countries. I have provided extended details about the meeting further down in the newsletter.

I also want to note that I have been named to a new Special House of Commons Committee that has been formed to work on our economic relationship with the United States. This is in addition to my functions as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and my work on the HUMA and Canadian Heritage Committees. I enthusiastically accepted this appointment because our work with the United States on the issues set out below in this newsletter are incredibly important and I believe my experience having worked as the General Counsel of a US based public company will be very helpful to the work we do in this area.

How is the vaccine delivery ramping up?

This week, we are receiving 643,000 vaccines doses from Pfizer and Moderna combined. To date, we've delivered 1,846,340 vaccine doses to the provinces and territories, and we remain on track to receive 6 million Pfizer and Moderna vaccines by the end of March, 23 million between April and June, and over 84 million doses by the end of September. Even if no other vaccines get approved by Health Canada, every Canadian who wants a vaccine will have access to one by the end of September.

I understand the frustration people experienced when we had the

level climate ambition ministerial" with a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and that the two countries agreed to modernize the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Biden restated his commitment to helping Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig, two Canadian citizens who were detained in China in 2018 in an apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest of a top Huawei executive.

"Human Beings are not bartering chips," Biden said. "We are going to work together until we get their safe return."

Neither leader mentioned some of the thornier issues that have come up since Biden took office, such as the president's decision to halt the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and Canada's struggle to acquire enough Covid-19 vaccines.

Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, national security adviser Jake Sullivan, special climate envoy John Kerry, Covid-19 coordinator Jeff Zients, along with other administration

officials, also participated in the meeting, according to the White House.

The U.S. and Canada, who share the world's longest border, have deeply rooted ties but their relationship was tested under the Trump administration.

Trump imposed a number of tariffs on Canada early on in his presidency, prompting Trudeau to retaliate. When Trudeau raised objections to the tariffs in 2018, Trump called him "dishonest" and "weak." Trump lashed out at Trudeau again in 2019, calling the Canadian prime minister "two-faced" after Trudeau was caught on a hot-mic at a NATO summit discussing with other world leaders Trump's lengthy press conferences.

Trudeau was the first world leader to congratulate Biden after the presidential election was called in his favor.

Trudeau opened his remarks after Tuesday's meeting mentioning Texas, where winter storms have killed dozens and left millions without power

four week slowdown as Pfizer and Moderna ramped up production in Europe and we fell on the per capita list of vaccinations but we have jumped over the last couple of days to 4.21% of the population and you will see us continue to rise on the per capita list each week going forward as Pfizer and Moderna deliveries ramp up and hopefully the other vaccines in the Health Canada pipeline get approved.

Indeed, in addition to the doses coming in this week which I have mentioned above, there are 444,600 doses of Pfizer scheduled to arrive in each week of March and the Prime Minister confirmed in the House of Commons today that we will receive 460,000 doses of Moderna in the week of March 8th and 840,000 doses of Moderna during the week of March 22nd, which will exceed the promised 2 million doses of Moderna in Q1.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that we will also receive 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine during the first two weeks of April. With each new approval by this independent agency, the roll out will accelerate.

How soon can I get the vaccine and how do I book an appointment?

Quebec has now stated that vaccines will be administered to people born in 1936 and before starting Monday. People in that age group can book their appointments online starting Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8 a.m. using the site quebec.ca/vaccinocovid, or by calling 1-877-644-4545.

If I provide care to someone in the at-risk group, can I also get vaccinated?

Quebec's website for vaccine information, which is also available in English, states that anyone who provides care to someone in that age group for at least three days per week and is 70 or older can also be vaccinated. Only one person can be vaccinated in this capacity per person who is 85 and over. I have reached out to CIUSSS-Centre-West to see exactly

what this means and who it will cover. I have not received an answer yet and it remains unclear to me. If you are 70 and over and provide care to someone over 85 I recommend you reach out to the local CIUSS to see if you can be vaccinated as well. When I get clarification on this it will be provided in the next update.

I live alone and have reduced mobility. Will someone come to visit me to give me the vaccine?

Unfortunately not. For now, the vaccines must all be stored in the same spot and can't be moved around very much due to the need to be stored at very cold temperatures. That's why those who have mobility issues are urged to find a caregiver or family member who can bring them to one of the mass vaccination sites. The local health authorities are also trying to figure out other ways to bring people with mobility issues to the vaccine sites and a number of local community organizations are involved to see if they can help provide transport.

If you have reduced mobility or are caring for a loved one with reduced mobility and need assistance to transport them to be vaccinated please contact our local CIUSSS for information on how you can be assisted. My office would not be able to assist on this issue.

If I'm not in the first at-risk group, when will I get vaccinated? When can I make an appointment?

There are about 200,000 Quebecers who are 85 or older and don't live in CHSLDs or private seniors' homes. It will take approximately two weeks for that age group to be vaccinated. After that has been completed, other at-risk groups will be vaccinated according to the following priority list:

- People 80 to 84
- People 70 to 79 years old
- People 60 to 69 years old

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and water.

"Let me begin by saying that all of us are thinking of our friends in Texas right now," he said. "I know SaskPower has been sending electricity down, and as I told the president, Canada is here to help."

Biden's first bilateral meeting as president would normally have taken place in person at the White House with a press conference that includes journalists from both countries but it was held remotely because of the pandemic. Although both leaders gave remarks after the meeting, they declined to take questions from the press, breaking with tradition.

"The United States has no closer and no more important friend than Canada. Our nations share close geography and history that will forever bind us together," Biden said. "When we work together, as the closest of friends should, we only make each other stronger."

Premier appoints Benoit Charette, environment minister, to lead fight against racism

Charette says he does not believe being white disqualifies him

Antoni Nerestant · CBC News ·
Posted: Feb 24, 2021 2:21 PM

In addition to leading the province's fight against climate change, Quebec Environment Minister Benoit Charette is now being asked to lead the charge against racism.

Premier François Legault's announcement Wednesday of the appointment of Charette, who is white, immediately drew scrutiny.

But Charette was firm in his belief that being white should not disqualify him from the position, which was created following a recommendation from the anti-racism committee formed by the government last spring.

"It's a mandate to fight racism, so someone's skin colour should not be the reason to exclude that person," Charette said, highlighting that he has deep ties with different communities in the province, and is sensitive to their struggles.

Quebec needs anti-racism minister, report commissioned by Legault suggests

Charette, whose wife is of Haitian origin, noted that he has lived in several countries, and his experiences abroad have convinced him that Quebec has the tools needed to fight racism, including its Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

"We can't deny that people from minority groups, and Indigenous people, are too often exposed to profiling, to disparities in how they are treated, notably in matters of housing, in matters of employment," said Charette.



Quebec Environment Minister Benoit Charette, shown here announcing the province's green plan in Nov. 2020, said he wants to get to work on the 25 recommendations made by the anti-racism committee formed by the Quebec government last spring. (Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press)

But he denied that racism in Quebec is systemic, even saying the use of the term can be detrimental.

"What bothers me with the expression, there are many elements to this, it gives a false sense of security, [allowing some] to lay blame on others," he said. "If we base ourselves solely on a concept that is very vague, and not well defined, it takes away a bit of the responsibility that we have."

Those remarks echoed past responses by the premier, whose repeated denials of systemic racism in Quebec have frustrated many in the province's Black and Indigenous communities.

"I think many communities, people of colour, have been very distrustful towards this government because of its systematic denial of systemic racism."

- Fo Niemi, Centre for Research Action

on Race Relations

Charette said he wants to work at implementing the 25 recommendations put forth by the committee, and promised significant progress between now and the end of the CAQ government's mandate.

Some of the committee's other recommendations include creating a province-wide campaign to raise awareness about racism, as well as training for police and government employees.

The new provincial role mirrors what was done in the City of Montreal, which appointed its first anti-racism commissioner last month.

When he announced the recommendations of Quebec's taskforce against racism, Quebec Junior Health Minister Lionel Carmant said he has been a victim of police racial profiling. (Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)

He's the best person to fight against racism,' premier says
Legault was also asked several times why the task of fighting racism in Quebec was given to Charette instead of the Black members of his cabinet, Nadine Girault and Lionel Carmant.

Girault serves both as the province's minister of immigration and the minister of international relations. Carmant is the province's junior health minister, and oversees its youth protection agency. The two also co-chaired last spring's anti-racism committee.

"It's not like they have nothing to do," the premier said, before praising the man who ultimately got the position.

"I've known him for many years, and I know it's a very important subject for him, so I think, again, he's the best person to fight against racism."

Montreal's first anti-racism commissioner, Bochra Manaï, has come under fire for her work to oppose Quebec's secularism law.

Local civil rights organizations greeted the appointment with trepidation. Fo Niemi, director of the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations, said in an interview he was pleased to see the Legault government implement a recommendation from its committee.

But he believes Charette is facing a significant hurdle of his own party's making.

"I think many communities, people of colour, have been very distrustful towards this government because of its systematic denial of systemic racism," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Marisa Berry Méndez, a coordinator with Amnesty International.

"To not acknowledge systemic racism not only will stand in his way in terms of taking action ... but also in terms of being seen as credible or legitimate by the communities that are impacted," Méndez said.

With files from Sarah Leavitt

From Page 1 Canada to receive

I highlighted, and have highlighted a number of times, the magnitude of the big lift we're going to face as our vaccine deliveries shift into the millions and millions of vaccine doses arriving in Canada, which means the provinces will need to be ready," he said during one of his regular COVID-19 updates.

There was also evidence last week that one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine could be almost as good as two, and news that the vaccine might not need to be kept extraordinarily cold as previously believed.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Feb. 22,

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."
Martin Luther King

News briefs about latest Covid 19 in Quebec:

- Quebec reported 858 new cases on Thursday and 16 more deaths.
- Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 285,330 confirmed cases and 10,361 people have died (one previously reported death has been removed from the total after it was determined not to be related to COVID-19).
- There are 633 people in hospital (a decrease of 22), including 122 in intensive care (a decrease of eight).
- 8,300 doses of vaccine were administered on Wednesday. A total of 387,076 doses have been administered since Dec. 14.
- Quebecers born in 1936 or earlier are now able to reserve their spot for a COVID-19 vaccine, and in some parts of the province, they have already begun getting their shots.

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BY PASI SAHLBERG AND SAKU TUOMINEN

One: Find Leaders for the Process

Crisis calls for creative and credible leadership, which is often atypical for education. There needs to be a small team of experts that makes all the key decisions and is able to prioritize, if and when needed. Since the post-crisis future is often not clear, it is important that leadership is able to mobilize the best available experience, knowledge, and insights.

Two: Create a communication plan

Put an emphasis on clarity of communication. Select the main target groups, the right tools to reach each of these audiences, and keep your message consistent and empowering.

How to Provide Quality Education for All During Crises: 10 Concrete Steps

Three: Start with a common vision

Establish a solid, evidence-based picture of where you are at the moment and then create a compelling and clear shared vision (direction) about where you want to go from here. Start with identifying the root causes of the current situation (problems), be open about the challenges but also try to empower everyone. Be sure to distinguish causal relationships of the key elements related to the current situation.

Four: Engage people

Listen to the concerns and expectations of all parties involved. The community should not have a feeling that the vision/direction comes from the top down. It should not be regarded as a superficial and superimposed activity. Make sure you give a special place to those often marginalized in educational change, i.e. students and teachers. Both visionary leadership and world-class storytelling are needed. Students as story-tellers can be particularly effective.

Five: Look for solutions

Look for solutions that can take you to the desired direction and that you can implement within the tools and

time you have available. In an uncertain situation like this, try to minimize overly complicated and time-consuming solutions. Try to identify solutions that are relatively easy to implement, are likely to bring some visible results, and will be accepted by teachers, parents, and students. Be curious, also look for global solutions.

Six: Test some

Poorly chosen innovations can lead schools in the wrong direction. Verifying the impact of innovation requires expertise, time and professional wisdom (even in this extreme case); it is essential to learn from experiences of others and collect ideas from them, on the basis of which the decision will be made.

Seven: Select the ones to scale

You can't lead the diffusion of innovation by force. It is therefore important to focus on innovations that have real demand and appeal. This can be perceived by monitoring the results of innovations and listening to users.

Eight: Create an agile co-development plan

Developing and implementing innovations is not easy, it is hard. It

requires leadership, expertise, raw instinct and resources. This cannot be done in twilight hours or as a side job. Assign a small group of your best available people to develop a plan and give them roles in high-quality implementation.

Nine: Secure funding & resources

In order to be able to survive and develop, every innovation requires a sustainable and sufficient financial base. In this case, it means that resources must be shared by all involved in the change process. Sometimes in-kind resources are as valuable for the process than simply throwing in cash.

Ten: Be humble

Building an innovation-friendly education system takes time. Often months or years, even decades of determined work is needed.

Therefore, the horizon of expectations and goals must be clearly defined. In a hectic and extreme situation, it is demanding to make this vision clear enough for everyone. Accept these challenges and be ready to make mistakes and learn from them.

On 35th Edsa anniversary, Duterte tells Filipinos to protect rights, democratic institutions

By Dahpne Galvez, Inquirer.net (Feb. 25, 2021) MANILA, Philippines — On the 35th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution, President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday called on Filipinos to be vigilant in protecting their rights and the country's democratic institutions.

"As we contemplate the relevance of this occasion, let us proceed with renewed hope and optimism towards the realization of our shared aspirations for our nation," he said in a statement.

"May this serve as a constant reminder for all of us to remain vigilant in safeguarding our democratic institutions, preserving our values, and upholding our rights as Filipinos," Duterte added.

The President told Filipinos to set aside their differences and work together in "building a legacy that we can proudly leave behind for future generations."

The Edsa People Power Revolution ended the reign of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Vice President Leni Robredo encouraged Filipinos to find the "strength, faith, and fire" to continue the work that remains to be done needed to fulfill the promise of the historic uprising.

"The challenge now is this: We must find within ourselves that strength, that faith, that fire to continue the work that remains to be done. And in doing so, we must find a way to walk forward together," she said in a separate statement.



DEFIANCE Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, then AFP vice chief of staff, and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile rally their civilian supporters outside Camp Crame on Edsa shortly after they broke away from President Ferdinand Marcos. The four-day standoff that ousted the Marcoses became known as the People Power Revolution. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO



Phil. Pres. Rodrigo Duterte



Phil. Vice-Pres. Leni Robredo

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NASA's Perseverance Rover Gives High-Definition Panoramic View of Landing Site (on Mars)

NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover got its first high-definition look around its new home in Jezero Crater on Feb. 21, after rotating its mast, or "head," 360 degrees, allowing the rover's Mastcam-Z instrument to capture its first panorama after touching down on the Red Planet on Feb. 18. It was the rover's second panorama ever, as the rover's Navigation Cameras, or Navcams, also located on the mast, captured a 360-degree view on Feb. 20.

Mastcam-Z is a dual-camera system equipped with a zoom function, allowing the cameras to zoom in, focus, and take high-definition video, as well as panoramic color and 3D images of the Martian surface. With this capability, the robotic astrobiologist can provide a detailed examination of both close and distant objects.

The cameras will help scientists assess the geologic history and atmospheric conditions of Jezero Crater and will assist in identifying rocks and sediment worthy of a closer look by the rover's other instruments. The cameras also will help the mission team determine which rocks the rover should sample and collect for eventual return to Earth in the future.

Stitched together from 142 images, the newly released panorama



Mastcam-Z's First 360-Degree Panorama: This is the first 360-degree panorama taken by Mastcam-Z, a zoomable pair of cameras aboard NASA's Perseverance Mars rover. The panorama was stitched together on Earth from 142 individual images taken on Sol 3, the third Martian day of the mission (Feb. 21, 2021). Credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASU/MSSS.

reveals the crater rim and cliff face of an ancient river delta in the distance. The camera system can reveal details as small as 0.1 to 0.2 inches (3 to 5 millimeters) across near the rover and 6.5 to 10 feet (2 to 3 meters) across in the distant slopes along the horizon.

The detailed composite image shows a Martian surface that appears similar to images captured by previous NASA rover missions.

"We're nestled right in a sweet spot, where you can see different features similar in many ways to features found by Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity at their landing sites," said Jim Bell of Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space

Exploration, the instrument's principal investigator. ASU leads operations of the Mastcam-Z instrument, working in collaboration with Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego.

The camera team will discuss the new panorama during a question and answer session at 4 p.m. EST Thursday, Feb. 25, which will air live on NASA Television and the agency's website, and will livestream on the agency's Facebook, Twitter, Twitch, Daily Motion, and YouTube channels, as well as the NASA app. Speakers include:

Jim Bell of Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space Exploration, the instrument's principal

investigator

Elsa Jensen of Malin Space Science Systems, who leads the uplink operations team that sends commands to Mastcam-Z Kjartan Kinch of the Niels Bohr Institute of the University of Copenhagen, who led the design, construction, and testing of Mastcam-Z's color calibration targets, which are used to tune the instrument's settings

Mastcam-Z's design is an evolution of NASA's Curiosity Mars rover's Mastcam instrument, which has two cameras of fixed focal length rather than zoomable cameras. The

See Page 19 NASA's Rover



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CMC-AO Slates First Asian Cultural and Virtual Food Festival

By: Tony A. San Juan, BSc., M.A., C.I.M., Ph.D.-cand., OCT Retired.

Asian Canadians in Ontario, Canada will celebrate their "First Asian Cultural and Food Festival" in virtual fashion on March 13, 2021 (Saturday) from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. during March Break. Specifically, the Canadian Multicultural Council-Asians in Ontario (CMC-AO), an umbrella organization of more than 20 Asian Canadian associations representing various countries, ethnic regions, and cultures in Asia is providing an opportunity for Canadians to experience and appreciate Asia's unique art, heritage, and culture through an online presence.

CMC-AO, founded in 1997, is a Toronto-based non-profit, and a non-political entity established "to promote inter-cultural cooperation among its members and racial harmony through the understanding of cultures and heritage" within the mosaic of

Happy Valentine's Day! RECIPES FOR A LONG- LASTING MARRIAGE: TESTED TIPS

By: Tony A. San Juan, BSc, MA, CIM, OCT-Retired.

February is commonly considered by many as the "love month" or the "month of hearts". Traditionally, February 14 is Valentine's Day or araw ng mga puso. Usually, people wonder and are most often happy but not surprise especially when the nice information is disseminated about couples having experienced enduring and never-ending love and affection for quite a long while. So, what takes? The answer and advice, of course, are expected for successfully married couples to share and spill secrets of proven long-lasting love and relationships. In this romantic month issue, the North American Filipino Star in Montreal, Quebec, has freely undertaken the initiative through its contributing staff by researching and reaching out to proud Filipino Canadian couples who are married for at least 50 years. The informal poll is done via pandemic- protocol restricted virtual Q & A process. The friendly, accomodating respondents, who have been married between them for 180 years, are named under aliases, to protect their identities. The 3 couples shared their ideas and ideals by answering the same serious 3 questions about achieving happy marriage and maintaining a good relationship. Herewith are the highlights of the findings that are summarized and presented under each of the 3 questions posed:

A. What is the "recipe", if any, of your long-lasting marriage?

1) Yolly and Jorge, married for 67 years, with 6 children: Yolly: "Mayamang pag-mamahalan at mabuting pag-sasamahan. That is the big secret. We like to do most of the same things ... like go on pasyalan, go out-of-country travels, go to the movies, go to parties and socialize with friends." Jorge: "Loving one

Canada's vibrant multicultural society.

As a significant part of its mission and mandate of promoting and preserving Asian culture and heritage in Canada, CMC-AO since its inception is purposefully engaged in enhancing and achieving meaningful initiatives, programs, and events such as the celebration of Asian Heritage Month and humanitarian assistance to calamity-stricken Asian communities. The virtual festival event will distinctively showcase the representative culture and heritage of the 13 participating organizations.

Among the 3-hour program's interesting features are the lively music & unique cultural dances by talented performers in traditional attires, playing of native musical instruments, cooking demonstrations, visual display of delightful Asian cuisines, and a host of other informative cultural traditions. Among the dignitaries invited to deliver messages is the Honourable Prime

another at mahabang pasensiya, and knowing and understanding kung ano ang mahalaga sa buhay namin ."

2) Josie and Anton, married for 58 years, with 5 children: Josie: "I don't really know if there are any secrets. Pagre-respeto at pagmamahal sa isa't isa. Truly, we are best friends." Anton: "We don't do a lot of debate at home. We try to get along most of the time and we got along pretty well. We do things together. We go to the movies - - we don't like the movies anymore -- but we just got along. I stopped going anymore to my barkada at inuman at iiwanan ko siya sa bahay. She seldom goes to her amigas without telling me on the other hand.

3) Marita and Jessie, married for 55 years, with 4 children: Marita: Open communication. Frequently, we try to talk with each other. Sa aming nakaraang pagsasama, he was a company security officer and a radio broadcaster for more than 25 years-- which means that talagang lagi siyang busy . And I was a city administrative staffer ... so we had to communicate often." Jessie: Well, we certainly love each other. Galing kami sa mga magulang who were faith-focused folks who taught us the sanctity of marriage and loving one another. We respected them at sinunod at binigyang halaga ang kanilang mga payo. We valued and lived the norms they gave us and so we had no problems."

B. How do you best resolve the conflict or disagreement between you, if it arises?

1) Yolly: "Jorge doesn't argue and doesn't fight. Masiyadong mahirap kasi kapag pareho kayong nag- sasagutan para lamang may masabi ka at baka mauwi sa masaming salitaan sa isa't isa." Jorge: "Tigil at tahimik lang ako. We both dropped it but we work it out and we get along. We discussed and go forward. We're both understanding and can appreciate bawat punto vista, and we try to correct those problems. It's a win-win na paraan."

2) Josie: "Pag-usapan, talk it over. If you don't get it to resolve today,

Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Member of Parliament for Don Valley North Han Dong, and CMC-AO President Raj Thavaratnasingham.

CMC-AO's live stream presentation is supported and funded by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage under its "Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives -CSMARI" program. Other main sponsors include Imperial World, Inc., Edward Jones Canada, World Financial Group, and Jiro Home Construction Company.

The event organizing committee is composed of Raj Thavaratnasingham (President), Norma Carpio (Chair), Dr. Tulsi Dharel (Vice-chair-strategic planning), and Mar Mar Cho (Vice-chair- festival event). Providing program and operational support are Cristina Carpio (host & program director), Ramon Torralba (musical director), AWAB

talk about it kinabukasan sa umaga o sa hapon or next tomorrow." Anton: "We have so few conflicts at hindi parehong pagkaka-unawan, but we talk about it. I express my side and she expresses hers, resulting in better understanding and resolution."

3) Marita: "You have to hear what your husband has to say and try to put yourself in his shoes. Also, pakiramdaman mo kung ano ang saloubin ng iyong asawa." Jessie: "I may not always be right and I had to realize, na sa bawat hindi pagkakaunawan, there's an acceptable point of view to arrive at a common ground.

C. What's your best advice to other and younger couples, whether married or not?

1) Yollie: "Think about the vows na kanilang naging sumpaang. Don't get easily mad or upset about something and say, "Ayaw ko ng ganito at ganiyan, dahil that's not what you promised. Maging responsable at mag-bigay respeto sa isa't isa." Jorge: "Avoid getting into big arguments. You should never have a lot of talking spats at kung mayroon man, you, as a husband should keep your mouth shut. Your wife can't argue by herself. If you have children at home, you wouldn't ever want to let them hear about uncontrolled or unnecessary arguments na puedeng pagsisihan ninyo sa huli.

2) Josie: "Try to understand each other at huwag sana kayong matutulog sa gabi na may sama ng loob sa isa't isa. Baka mabangungot

(technical director), and Reel Vision Studio (video producer).

With its common goal of "making our community a better place!", CMC-AO, represented by Asian organizations from Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tamil, Tibet, and Vietnam, and Asian sports as in years past, hopes to productively contribute continued mutual understanding, peace, and prosperity in the Canadian landscape.

Interested viewers and guests are encouraged to check CMC-AO's website at www.cmcon.ca or Facebook page at [www.https://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Multicultural-Council-Asians-in-Ontario-107840015903176/](https://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Multicultural-Council-Asians-in-Ontario-107840015903176/). Media inquiries please call Ms. Norma Carpio at 905-257-1059. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

ang isa sa inyong dalawa. Joke only." Anton: "Trust in the good Lord and put trust in each other. Try to do the right and best thing all the time. Often, the wrong thing is the more attractive and easiest thing, but be reasonable and careful. Always have a realistic, meaningful, and productive relationship."

3) Marita: "Try to be aware of how your husband or partner feels about any given situation, mabuti o masama. Always try not to be all about yourself. Mutually, try not to stay angry over little things. In other words, huwag na huwag ninyong palala-kinhin ang maliit na bagay." Jorge: "Personally, one good thing I've learned over time of my early marital life is that if I can do to keep the peace at home is to pray and seek competent advice sa mga aking kaibigan. Leave the rest to your wife. It's been useful and definitely, I would do it again. You do the same, mind you."

Finally, the word COUPLE, to many lovebirds means Communication, Optimization, Understanding, Patience, Love, & Empowerment. We, at the North American Filipino Star hence hope that the above exemplars and expectations are purposefully reasonable and challengingly realistic enough for every couple's desire and dream of a meaningful pagsasama bilang mag-asawa habang buhay .(Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired)

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

By Fely Rosales Cariño



SVETLANA SUAREZ

February is an appropriate month to feature Svetlana Suarez. She was born on February 26, 1966 in Conception, Tarlac, Philippines. Her parents are the late Cesar Suarez & Norma Suarez of Concepcion, Tarlac. She is blessed with five siblings whose first names start with the letter S. They are Sheilani, Starlite, Svetluz, Suzette and Signorina. They are unique names, and for sure, like Svetlana, the word "beautiful" must be painted all over their name tags. Svetlana has two children namely Timothy Shane

Canivel & Elijah Cesar Canivel. Svetlana completed her high school education at Aquino Memorial High School in Conception, Tarlac. She obtained her Business Administration degree, major in accounting, at the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) in Manila, Philippines. In Canada, she was a former housekeeper, Data Entry Clerk, Office Clerk, Head Hunter for a Recruitment Agency, Sales Representative of Knowledge First, and now just waiting for her Licence to become

a Financial Advisor at World Financial Group or WFG.

Svetlana is busy as a bee. She is being pulled in every direction to do this or that request, organize this or that association - which she does with considerable ease. Her success in completing various tasks given to her is attributed to her finely tuned organizational skills.

Svetlana arrived in Canada on August 2, 1989. Almost immediately, she dove into getting involved in many Filipino Associations serving in different capacities. In addition to being elected to different associations, she was also chosen as Miss Philippine Basketball Association of Montreal (PBAM) in 1990 (while still in her salad days - fresh and deliciously young, which is still true today)!

Let's see how this beauty has immersed herself in the Filipino organizations. As a testament, here is an impressive and daunting list: 1st Runner Up, Binibining Pilipinas Montreal (1991); Officer, Homemakers Club of Montreal; Press Relations Officer (PRO), FAMAS, under the Presidency of Erlinda Baltazar; Officer, Federation of the Filipino-Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ); President, Kapampangan Association of Montreal; Secretary under the Presidency of Angelita Ogerio; Vice President External, FAMAS, under the Presidency of Corazon Santiago Aberin; Vice President, Samahang Makabayan; Coordinator, FilCan Idol Montreal; Choreographer, Binibining Pilipinas, Montreal; Pageant Director, Miss Teen FAMAS; Muse Coordinator, Miss Tri-City Montreal.

Svetlana, a rare combination of beauty and brains, is the genius

behind the following contests in Montreal: Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas, Munting Hiyas ng Pilipinas, Munting Lakan ng Pilipinas, Mrs. Philippines, Mrs. Pearl of the Orient, Mutya ng Pilipinas, and Miss Gay Montreal.

In her words, her future plans are, "to have a Massive Business in World Financial Group, where I will have a 7-figure income in the next 5 years, that is my goal! I will be doing a Beauty Pageant Show four times a year for kids, ladies, mothers, gays and gentlemen. The things I would enjoy after retirement (which is quite a while yet) is to travel the world, now that I don't have to worry about the limits of vacation time. I will take extended vacations, live in a foreign country for a while, or take a long cruise, buy a new or used motorhome, take my bed and kitchen with us on our travels."

To the youth who aspire to be future leaders, she leaves these nuggets of wisdom: 1) Lead by example, 2) A little humility goes a long way, 3) Know your limits, 4) Find a Mentor, and 5) Volunteer in your Community. Listen to the voice of experience!

A true benefactor and a gem among Filipinos, serving her compatriots counts as the happiest moments in her life. She exclaims, I just love the hustle and bustle of community life; you do not need to be elected to serve."

She goes by this personal motto: I BELIEVE I CAN FLY! Svetlana, my dear, I salute you for your tireless and endless service. The Filipino community owes you a debt of love. I think I agree - you can fly!!!

Valentine's Day Quiz for Lovers and Romantics

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

Direction: Match the following Famous Female Names (Left) with the equally Famous Male Names (Right) to complete the Correct Romantic Couples in History, Legends, and Literature by selecting the Letter for each Correct Matched Male Name. Find out the correct answers in next month's issue of the North American Filipino Star newspaper.

A score of 10 or less is you are likely "Unromantic"; 20 or more, you are "Very Romantic" indeed.

FAMOUS FEMALE

- 1) Delilah
- 2) Josephine.....
- 3) Maria Clara.....
- 4) Roxane.....
- 5) Elizabeth Taylor
- 6) Laura.....
- 7) Leonor Rivera.....
- 8) Juliet
- 9) Gregoria De Jesus.....
- 10) Eve.....
- 11) Cleopatra.....
- 12) Queen Victoria
- 13) Bonnie.....
- 14) Isolde.....
- 15) Coretta King.....
- 16) Mahal.....
- 17) Helen
- 18) Guinevere.....
- 19) Gabriela
- 20) Lady Marian.....
- 21) Yoko Ono.....
- 22) Susan Roces.....
- 23) Marian Rivera.....
- 24) Amalia Fuentes.....
- 25) Korina Sanchez.....

FAMOUS MALE

- A. Jose Rizal
- B. Richard Burton
- C. Romeo
- D. Florante
- E. Prince Albert
- F. Martin Luther
- G. Jahan
- H. Clyde Barrow
- I. Robin Hood
- J. Mar Roxas
- K. Cyrano de Bergerac
- L. Napoleon Bonaparte
- M. Adam
- N. Dingdong Dantes
- O. Paris
- P. Fernando Poe, Jr.
- Q. Romeo Vasquez
- R. Mark Antony
- S. Andres Bonifacio
- T. John Lennon
- U. Lancelot
- V. Tristan
- W. Crisostomo Ibarra
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Bibingka

Ingredients:

1 and 1/2 cups Rice flour
1 cup coconut milk
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp baking powder
2 eggs
1/4 cup evaporated milk
1/2 cup softened butter (reserve 1/4 cup for brushing)
1 cup Grated coconut (or more)
Banana leaves

Instructions:

Combine butter and sugar together then add the eggs.
Gradually add the rice flour and baking

powder.

Add the coconut milk and evaporated milk. Beat the mixture well until smooth. Brush banana leaves with butter then place them in individual molds. Pour bibingka mixture in the mold then add grated coconut. This is to ensure each bobingka has strips of coconut. Bake in (preheated) oven 375 degrees F for 15-20 minutes.

Remove from oven then brush the top with butter and sprinkle with sugar. Bake again for 10-15 minutes or until the color of top turns golden brown. Dip a toothpick at the center, if it comes out clean, it is ready. Remove from oven and brush with more butter if desired.



Bibingkang Malagkit

Older people have made up the majority of hospitalizations, intensive care stays and deaths related to COVID-19, she said — so as more and more seniors get vaccinated, the strain on the health network will subside further.

However, Drouin said, it takes up to three weeks for the vaccines to be effective and that is why people must remain cautious, follow public health measures and not let seniors babysit kids.

Variant of concern on the rise. Drouin said the variants have so far been most prevalent among those under the age of 50, with the majority of outbreaks occurring in schools and daycares. Kids then pass the disease onto their parents and other family members, Drouin said.

Since January, there have been 22 outbreaks related to variants in Montreal, she said. Eleven of those were in schools, six in daycares, three in workplaces and two in a social context.

Drouin said contact tracing activities

Ingredients:

2 cups glutinous rice
1/2 cup coconut milk powder
2 cups water
1/2 cup brown sugar
a pinch of salt
2 tsp coconut oil
Coconut Caramel Sauce:
1 cup coconut milk powder
2/3 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup condensed milk
1 cup water

Coconut Oil

Instructions:

Prepare Bibingka:

Wash glutinous rice and drain. Add enough water to cover rice and soak for at least 2 hours. Drain water and place in a cooking pot.

Pour 2 cups of water on the rice. Then, add in coconut milk powder, brown sugar, salt, and coconut oil. Stir and bring to a boil over medium heat.

Once boiling, you can reduce heat to lowest and let it simmer. Stir it continually until the texture thickens and becomes sticky. Turn off heat.

Preheat oven to 180 degrees celsius. Grease your baking dish with oil. Then, transfer the sticky rice to the baking dish and spread evenly. Set aside.

Prepare your Coconut Caramel Sauce:

In a sauce pan, combine the coconut milk powder, water, sugar, and coconut oil and stir. Heat the pan under low temperature and bring to a boil. Continue to simmer the sauce while stirring occasionally until it thickens. Turn off heat.

Assemble:

Pour and spread the caramel sauce over the prepared bibingka rice on your baking dish. Then, bake for about 10 minutes or until the topping becomes firm.

Serve and enjoy!



Buchi ng Malabon / Baked Glutinous Rice with Mung Beans

are more aggressive when variants are detected because contacts considered low-risk in non-variant situations become moderate to high risk.

She said it is important that people work with contract tracers and take calls from public health seriously so as to help contain the spread of COVID-19 variants.

Public health officials may elect to close classes or entire schools, daycares and workplaces, but complete closure of a school usually only happens "if we're not sure the extent of the contacts that were in place," Drouin said.

Drouin said more safety measures in schools may soon be needed. Quebec is expected to make pediatric procedural masks mandatory in elementary schools in red zones after March break, for example.

Quebec primary students will be required to wear masks after March break.

For those who qualify,

Ingredients

500g glutinous rice flour/ ground glutinous rice
500g green mung beans
5 cups water
1/2 cup white sugar + 5 tbsp white sugar
melted butter to grease the baking pan
1 can condensed milk
1 1/2 cups thick coconut milk
5 cups thin coconut milk {Or you can use canned coconut milk if fresh is not available}

Instructions:

In a small pot, combine mung beans, 5 tbsp sugar and water.

Boil until mung beans are cooked and water has evaporated. Set aside.

In a wok, combine glutinous rice flour/ ground glutinous rice, thin coconut milk, half of the thick coconut milk, and sugar. Heat until it boils and simmer in low heat until it thickens.

You have to continuously stir it and to prevent it from sticking to the wok and burning.

Once thick, you can turn off heat. Grease baking pan with melted butter. Spread a thin layer of the glutinous rice-coconut milk mixture in the bottom of the baking pan.

In a small bowl combine half of the thick coconut milk and condensed milk. Mix Well.

Spread a thin layer on top of the glutinous rice-coconut milk mixture.

Form mung beans balls and place it on top of the glutinous rice-coconut milk mixture.

Spread a thicker layer of glutinous rice-coconut milk mixture on top of the mung beans balls to cover them.

Again, put some coconut-milk-condensed-milk mixture on top.

Bake in the oven at 260° for 20 minutes or until golden brown and a little chewy. Serve warm.

reserving a vaccination time slot starts at 8 a.m. Thursday, and can be done by phone at 1-877-644-4545 or online at quebec.ca/covidvaccine. (The

government is strongly encouraging people to reserve their spot through the online portal.)

Drouin encouraged people to reach out to their neighbours and family members, asking if they need help making a reservation or getting to a vaccination site.

Delivering vaccines to homes isn't possible, she said, because they must be kept at a certain temperature.

"If you have a neighbour, even if you don't know if they are 85 and up, go ask if they are registered," Drouin said. "We have to get the elderly vaccinated."

With files from Radio-Canada and La Presse canadienne

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority." -- Booker T. Washington

From Page 3 Montreal Public

over the next months.

If nothing is done to stop transmission, it won't be long before the variant first reported in the U.K. becomes the predominant strain of COVID-19 in the city, she said. The hope is that the virus can be held back long enough to get the most vulnerable residents vaccinated.

Long-term care situation improving

Drouin said the vaccine campaign is heading into full swing, with 75,000 doses on hand — more than enough to vaccinate residents aged 85 and up.

Roughly 18 per cent of Montrealers over the age of 80 have been vaccinated, and about 94,000 residents, including health-care workers and seniors, have received a shot.

The province's initial focus on long-term care and retirement homes has already helped, Drouin said, with fewer outbreaks in those places that were once hard hit by the virus.



**Social Tidbits
Community News**

Fely Rosales Cariño

Every month when I sit down to do my write up, I stop to ponder whether I should sound happy or gloomy. It does not help when every media you encounter, whether on radio, television or now on print, we are bombarded with doomsday predictions of wave 3 of the Covid-19. Hence, even just to get through the day, we must have the steely determination to even survive the day. How many more seasons of discontent do we have to endure? As cases go down, let's continue to follow the health guidelines and wait for good news. Let's sympathize with those who lost jobs and businesses due to the pandemic. For all those affected in any way, let's try to look up and ask God's help. He not only listens to your words, He also listens to your heart. And let's take a look at Psalm 46:1,2 which says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble, therefore, we will not fear..." Hmmm food for thought!

Here are some updates from the office of MP Anthony Housefather. As of February 12, 2021, public

From Page 4 February 24 update

Adults under 60 who have a chronic disease or health problem that increases the risk of complications from COVID 19

Adults under 60 who do not have a chronic disease or health problem that increases the risk of complications, but who provide essential services and have contact with users

The rest of the adult population

My feeling is that Quebec is likely using the group born in 1936 or before to test its system with a limited group. This allows it to make sure its phone lines and online system and vaccination process can make appointments without being overwhelmed. Quebec has advised it will update each week who can make appointments and in my view it is very likely that reservations will open for the next group within the next 10 days so please watch Quebec's announcements and I will certainly include that information in each new update I send.

Is the vaccine safe, and how effective is it?

The vaccine is considered to be safe, though some mild side effects are possible, including redness or pain at the injection site, fatigue, fever or chills. The vaccine is considered to be 80 per cent effective with the first dose, according to the most recent observations by the province's health

vaccinations will be held in the following order of priority as determined by the Quebec Government: 1) 80 years old and up, 2) 70-79 years old, 3) 60-69 years old, 4) Adults under 60 with risk of complications from COVID-19, 5) Essential workers and other healthcare workers, and 6) other adults. Members of the public will soon be able to book an appointment online.

On February 12, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided an update on the purchase of vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. Anyone who wishes to be vaccinated will be vaccinated by the end of September 2021. Travelers entering Canada from the US will be required to give proof of Covid-19 molecular test results taken in the US within 72 hours of pre-arrival. Exempt from this requirement are truckers, emergency service providers and cross-border community travelers. There are plans for the Federal Government to secure vaccines and therapies. A task force is being created to concentrate on some projects that deal with the scientific and

authorities. Pfizer and Moderna both claim a 94 to 95 per cent immunity level when two doses of their vaccines are administered. The province plans to immunize as many people as possible with the first of two doses, and those who receive a first dose will get a second dose within 90 days.

Once I get the vaccine, can I go back to normal life and disregard sanitary measures?

Unfortunately, you will have to keep your mask handy, even after getting the shot, for two reasons: firstly, because the vaccines are so new, there is no way to know for sure if you can still carry the virus and pass it on to others after being immunized. There's also the matter of the 80 per cent immunity on the first dose, which means that until the general population is immunized, there's still a chance you can be infected even after being vaccinated. Immunity seems to kick in about two to three weeks after the shot is administered.

Is it mandatory to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

It isn't mandatory, but the province strongly recommends as many people as possible get vaccinated and I agree. I call on everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.

Where are the vaccination sites located?

As confirmed by the Government of Quebec, mass vaccination of people 85 years and older will begin as of Monday, March

technical merit of other vaccines. Let's hear it from MP Anthony Housefather, a dear friend to the Filipinos. He is a co-founder of an international group of legislators who are working together to tackle anti-Semitism and other forms of online hate. He is also involved in projects concerning the temporary increase of Canada Child Benefit for children under 6, Student Loans, Emergency Rent Subsidy, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Long-Term Care Investments, Research on Covid-19, and other measures important to the Canadian public.

Another dear friend to the Filipino community, Snowdon City Councillor Marvin Rotrand is working on anti-Asian racism that is going on in the borough. He has written to police concerning reinforcement of resources to combat this problem. Please read on Facebook more of Councillor Rotrand's daily concern for Asian groups, especially the Filipinos.

Not to be outdone is Sonny Moros, the Outreach Coordinator at the office of MP Anthony Housefather, who has announced a free webinar for seniors. This is a forum to learn about the benefits and credits you are entitled to from the Federal Government. He also mentioned that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will host this seminar covering the following topics: a) the various benefits and credits available for seniors, b) how seniors can continue to receive payments, 3) emergency response benefits, 4) how to protect yourself against fraud, 5) more CRA services.

1, 2020. The following sites will be open as of March 1:

Mass vaccination sites

Décarie Square shopping center
6900 Décarie Boulevard
every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Note as mentioned in previous updates there will be two other mass vaccination sites for our CIUSS on Vezina and Parc Avenue. They are not included on the list yet as being open but should open soon.

Temporary sites

Jewish General Hospital
3755 Côte-Sainte-Catherine Road
every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
CLSC Métro
1801 de Maisonneuve Boulevard
Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLSC de Parc Extension
7085 Hutchison

Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional vaccination sites located in CIUSSS West-Central Montreal's territory

Montreal General Hospital
Livingston Hall (L6-500)
1650 Cedar Avenue, Montreal
Glen site
Atrium of the Research Institute of the MUHC

Can you provide an update on the current vaccinations already carried out by the CIUSSS-Centre West?

All long-term care residents who consented to and qualified for

And since it's income tax time, watch the tax-related videos on Youtube. Thanks, Sonny!

Let's now greet the February birthday celebrants who are having their facetime with loved ones and friends. Celebrants are Ciony Nueva, Monique Regacho, Michael Davantes, Melle Lugod, Dario Boco, and many others.

Here's a part that everybody is looking forward to. It's the third anniversary of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM). Chairman Al Abdon created committees to take care of every facet of the on-line celebrations. There will be speeches from Federal and Provincial dignitaries, catered supper (online) from Pancitan, cultural dance and songs from members, and a lot more. Watch it on March 14, 2021 starting at 8pm. And there's Bingo every night attended by FHSM members and friends. Currently, there's an ongoing Basic Computer Retention Class conducted online with the Chairman as our professor. Our Chairman is very strict but an excellent teacher!

For those yearning for good news amid the pandemic, kudos to our fellow Filipinos in North York Community House in Toronto! According to CTV News (Jan 25, 2021), they share their burdens through a writing initiative called "Stories of Care" that highlights their 'courage, resilience, and positivity'. Let's look out for more of these positive stories!

Stay Well and Stay Safe! GOD bless you! Until the next issue !

COVID-19 vaccination have received their vaccine (in CHSLDs, Intermediate Resources and Family-Type Resources). The vaccination campaign for those who live in private seniors' residences (RPAs), and religious orders is ongoing and expected to be completed by February 26th. The CIUSSS is also currently vaccinating seniors who are living in municipal low-income housing and non-profit housing. Indigenous residents of our territory and clients of the following homeless shelters in our area have been vaccinated: Chez Doris, Resilience Montreal, the Open Door, and the Côte-des-Neiges warming centre.

Is CIUSSS-Centre West Recruiting vaccinators ?

To combat COVID-19 quickly and effectively, the Human Resources team of CIUSSS is looking for anyone who is available and interested in assisting in the vaccination campaign. They are looking for physicians, midwives, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, nurses and licensed practical nurses, as well as: Acupuncturists ,Dental hygienists ,Podiatrists, Audiologists,Veterinary doctors , Ambulance technicians, Audioprosthesis, Prescription opticians ,Medical technicians Chiropractors, Optometrists, Medical electrophysiology technologists,Denturists, Speech therapists Physiotherapy technicians, Dietitians

See Page 19 February 24 update

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Lovi Poe returns to her 'first love'—singing



Lovi Poe

Music has always been Lovi Poe's first love.

But somewhere along the way, she found herself getting drawn more and more into acting. Now, with a new single out, the actress feels it's high time to revisit her roots and rediscover the joys of singing.

Her latest song, "Under," was recorded and released under the Los Angeles-based label VIM Entertainment, and will be part of her upcoming EP in May.

"Honestly, this is so nerve-racking. Singing was what I originally planned to do when I first entered show biz. However, I ended up being more of an actress. But now that I'm about to do it again, I'm starting to get butterflies in my stomach," she told the Inquirer in a virtual conference.

While she didn't stop putting out singles entirely, they were few and far between, and were usually used for her movies or other acting projects. In fact, the last time she released a proper album or a compilation was way back in 2008.

"It's like going back to your first love, to someone you loved before and then rekindling the relationship," she said of her return to music. "It's the kind of feeling."

Because it has been quite a while since she took music seriously, Lovi admitted that she lost some of her confidence.

"Acting did become my priority and I really devoted my time to it. Back then, I used to sing a lot in school, onstage. But now I get shy,"

Lovi said. "Things are different. But slowly, I feel like I'm regaining my confidence and I'm excited again."

For "Under"—a synth-laden pop song about being under a lover's

influence and spell—Lovi collaborated with American producers KrisKeyz, Bob Robinson and Grammy Award winner Omen during her recent stay in Los Angeles. It was then recorded at



musician Austin Ward's studio in West Hollywood.

"The opportunity just came up when I was there," she said.

Lovi was especially proud of the material they came up with, because she was closely involved in the creative process.

"I wrote a lot of songs and it was a nice and good experience. Typically, I would write poems and then we put music on it. But this time, the music came first and then I was asked to freestyle over it," she recalled.

"Austin, who's so good, asked me to do it. I didn't know what to say at first. Then I just started talking about how I was feeling, what was in my heart. Eventually, we were able to make a song out of that session," added the Kapuso star, who also shot an accompanying music video with director Jessica Fee, also in Los Angeles.

Aside from recording new music, Lovi also hopes to return onstage and do concerts—once the situation finally permits them, of course.

"Why not? It's something I have always loved doing," she said.

That doesn't mean she will be lying low from acting, though. Lovi is set to star in two upcoming movies, one with Viva Films and the other with Regal Entertainment.

"I can't really talk about it much or reveal the genres. But they're very different. And I'm hands-on, I'm having discussions with the director and writers," she said.

Lovi is also one of the leads of the new GMA 7 prime-time drama series "Owe My Love," which pairs her with Benjamin Alves.

She plays Sensen, a girl who quits nursing school and takes on various odd jobs to keep her family's finances afloat. As she pays for her father's debts and sibling's mounting hospital bills, she finds herself indebted to Doc Migs (Benjamin), who makes her take care of his grandfather who has dementia.

The show teaches, among other things, financial literacy—something that has become even more important now that there's a pandemic.

"Know your priorities. I'm going through this process myself, because my priorities have been changing this past year. You have to regroup and know what's on the top of your list and make sure that you spend your money only on what's important," Lovi said. "I won't think twice if I have to buy something for my friends for loved ones. But if it's something for myself, I get second thoughts."

"Of course, you also want to enjoy what you earn, what you're working hard for. After all we don't live just to pay the bills. It's about knowing the right balance," Lovi added. ■

Janine Gutierrez reveals reason behind Pilita Corrales' signature 'liyad' pose



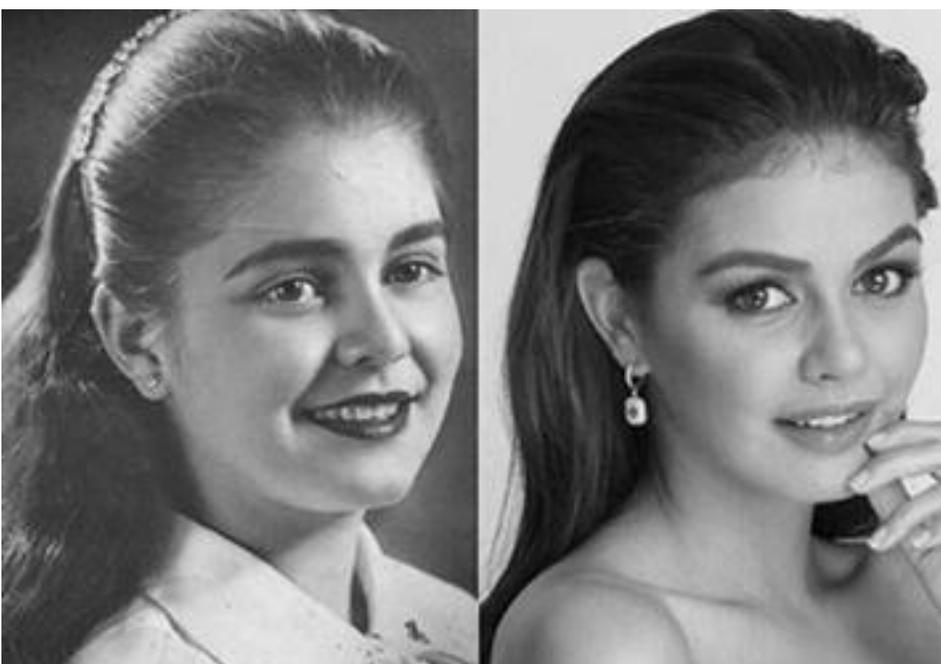
Combination photo shows Kapamilya actress Janine Gutierrez and her grandmother Pilita Corrales.

For actress Shaina Magday Kapamilya actress Janine Gutierrez revealed the reason why her grandmother Pilita Corrales always do her signature "liyad" pose when performing.

In an episode of "Hotspot," DJ Jai Ho asked Janine why her grandmother often do the pose wherein Pilita bends backward

idolized her grandmother's "timeless" talent.

"Idol ko talaga 'yan si Mamita, pero pagdating sa talent niya, iba talaga 'yung level niya, talagang iconic. Timeless si Mamita. Hanggang ngayon, kahit 'yung mga bagong kanta, nakakanta niya. Talagang legend," she said.



Look-alike? Grandmother Pilita Corrales and Granddaughter Janine Gutierrez

while singing.

"Alam ko 'yung sagot! Lyon daw 'yung paraan para maabot niya 'yung mataas na note. So, parang hinuhugot niya or something," Janine said.

"Tinry ko pero parang hangin lang lumabas sa akin! Walang note!" she added.

Janine also said that she

Janine made a solo performance last week at "ASAP Natin 'To performing GIBBS's "No Hearts."

"Masaya talaga at thankful sa support ng lahat. Talaga namang sobrang surreal na makapag-solo prod sa 'ASAP.' Magkaka-totoo pala, ganoon 'yung feeling ko ngayon!" she said. ■

Lea Salonga turns 50 years old: 'Hella grateful!'



Lea Salonga

While she admits to being quite overwhelmed, musical theater icon Lea Salonga joyfully welcomed turning 50 years old yesterday, Feb. 22.

"[Fifty] today!!! Woo-hoo!!! To everyone that sent a greeting, THANK YOU!!! I'm a tad overwhelmed, but in an oh so good way! Truly, this girl is hella grateful!" Salonga said on her Instagram page on the same day.

The Broadway and Disney star's special day was aptly welcomed with birthday greetings from local and international celebrities.

For one, Sierra Boggess – the first-ever Ariel in Broadway's "The Little Mermaid" production – took to her own Instagram to greet her fellow Broadway star.

"Today we celebrate @msleasalonga San!!!!!!!!!!!! I'm so glad you were born and that you have inspired us for so many years and continue to kick so much booty as a fierce human!!! Love you Lea San!!!! Happy frickin birthday!!!!" she said, sharing photos of them together on stage. Filipino-American Broadway actor Jose Llana also penned a short birthday greeting to Salonga, posting on Instagram, "The happiest of birthdays to this



Lea with Michael Arden

#beauty @msleasalonga."

"Hey Lea, remember when I planted a huge #kiss on you at my final callback for #FlowerDrumSong because I was so nervous singing with my childhood #idol? [Philippine flag emoji] #SorryNotSorry #HappyBirthday, my friend," he added.

American actor-musician Michael Arden likewise sent his well-wishes to Salonga, whom he refers to as his "Sister, Grace, and Goddess."

"[I'm] so glad you and your light are in this world," he stressed. Filipino stars, including Martin Nievera, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Eula Valdes, John Arcilla and Ogie Alcasid, among many others, wished Salonga a happy birthday via her post's comments section. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Netizens rave Sharon Cuneta's slimmer figure



Sharon Cuneta

Sharon Cuneta surprised her Instagram followers with her new look!

On Instagram, netizens noticed how the megastar shed off those extra pounds, highlighting her sexy figure.

The comment section was immediately filled with warm and sweet messages.

Sharon's husband, Senator Kiko Pangilinan, even commented: "Hi sexy!" along with different emojis of heart, clapping hands, fire, and smiling face with heart-shaped eyes.

Some of Ate Shawie's colleagues in show business complimented her.

Pops Fernandez and Jackie Lou Blanco said Sharon was looking "great."

"Wit wiw!!! Ganda na ang sexy pa!," Beth Tamayo wrote.

Celebrity doctor Z Teo emphasized Sharon's thinnest.

Ogie Alcasid, Ara Mina, Melai Cantiveros, and Karylle, among others, also shared some flattering remarks. ■

Ellen Adarna, Derek Ramsay spend Valentine's Day together



Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay having dinner with family

Actress-model Ellen Adarna celebrated Valentine's Day with Kapuso actor Derek Ramsay, fueling rumors that their relationship could be more than just friends.

In his Instagram account, Derek posted videos of him with Ellen, together with his family, as they celebrated Valentine's Day together.

In the video, Derek was heard asking Elias, Ellen's son with

Kapamilya actor John Lloyd Cruz, if he loves steak.

"Elias are you ready to eat steak?" Derek said.

The camera then turned to Ellen, asking the same question.

"A lot!" Ellen answered.

Ellen and Derek sparked romance rumors after getting cozy at a dinner party recently. ■

Rachelle Ann Go excited to give birth in 2 weeks: 'I don't feel any fear at all'



Rachelle Ann Go

It's not long now before Rachelle Ann Go and husband Martin Spies get to meet their little bundle of joy.

On Instagram, Thursday, the internationally acclaimed stage actress proudly showed off her baby bump.

Rachelle said she's due to give birth in "two weeks and a few days."

"I've packed my hospital bags, finally! @spiesmj did his already!" she said. "Ready to go! I'm excited and I

don't feel any fear at all. Prayers are so powerful."

Rachelle and Martin tied the knot in 2018. The pair announced that they are expecting their first child in November.

The Filipina singer has been updating her fans on her pregnancy journey through her vlog and Instagram account.

In December, she and Martin prepared an elegant nursery for their baby in their London home. ■

Netizens gush over Diego Loyzaga's new hairstyle



Diego Loyzaga

It's not long now before Netizens gushed over Diego Loyzaga's new look that is similar to "Encounter" star Korean actor Park Bo-gum.

Diego uploaded two snaps of himself, while holding a camera. He simply captioned it with: "Hi."

"Park Bo Gum yarn?" said one

netizen.

Another netizen commented, "Omgg, ENCOUNTER na ba itue??"

His girlfriend, Barbie Imperial



seemed to like the new look, as she liked Diego's post.

Just like the K Drama series that Diego might have taken his new look at, his post was a hit, garnering over 58,000 likes as of writing. ■

JC Santos tells why online dating not for him



JC Santos

The plan was to start his own family, take a little break and devote himself to daddy duties for his baby's first year. And that did end up happening for JC Santos—but not in the way he had expected.

"I was thinking that I wanted to be with my child and bond with my family before going back to work," he told the Inquirer in a recent virtual conference for his coming film, "Dito at Doon," which will be shown on March 17 in cinemas under modified general community quarantine.

Little did he know that the COVID-19 pandemic would compel him to do just that and allow him to be a hands-on father during the lockdown. Needless to say, JC is completely smitten with his daughter. His Instagram account is filled with photos of their precious bonding sessions.

First time

"It was my first time to have a family and my first time to spend time with them like this. I really enjoyed it," said the actor, who has a 1-year-old daughter, River Aletheia, with his wife, Shyleena Herrera.

But at the same time, JC couldn't really say that the entire 2020 was a blessing, because of the impact the pandemic has had on everyone, including the show biz industry.

Projects are more difficult to come by now, unlike the year prior, which had him starring in at least nine movies. "It was a good and bad year. The year 2019 was a happy one for me because I got to do a lot of films and earned the trust of different directors. There's less work these days, but still, I'm happy... and

in love," he related.

Having said that, JC can't wait for things to return to normal and do live performances once more. "I miss watching live musical events and I miss doing theater," said JC, who's also an accomplished stage actor. "I miss attending premiere nights." Produced by TBA Studios and directed by JP Habac, "Dito at Doon" revolves around Caloy (JC) a student working part-time as a delivery driver and Len, a political science graduate (played by Janine Gutierrez). The two find themselves butting heads in an e-numan session, because of their opposing views on lockdown and current events.

But somehow, they end up forming a friendship—on- and offline—which eventually develops into something more. "It has a lot of similarities to how life is under quarantine," JC said of the movie, which will also be shown at the Osaka Asian Film festival from March 5 to March 14.

While JC has yet to experience online dating, he said it just isn't for him.

"As much as possible I try to pursue a person; I will go to her no matter how far she is. I used to have a girlfriend in Hong Kong while I was working in Singapore. I didn't like the idea of online or video calls, so I decided that I would just work there," JC recalled. "It's the same with my wife now: She lives in Pampanga and I work in Manila, but I always go to her."

"But online dating can work for other people," he pointed out. "To each his own."



JC Santos (right) with wife Shyleena and daughter Aletheia

Good script

This is JC's second time working with Janine, so it didn't take a lot for them to be comfortable onscreen. "The script was good, so we didn't have to put in too much effort [to build chemistry]," JC said, adding that he has always believed in Janine's acting talent, even before the latter was hailed best actress by the Urian last year.

"She has always been good, even before she got the awards ... I think one of Janine's strengths is her

rawness. She's not dependent on technique—she can instinctively react," he said. "There are scenes that are almost the same, but she manages to make them look fresh all the time."

"She always reacts well when I improvise. She's very open as a person. She doesn't have walls. She's very honest. And it's always a pleasure to work with an actress like that. She gives you a chance to know her better," he said. ■

Facebook signs deals to pay 3 Australian news publishers

By Rod McGuirk The Associated Press

Posted February 25, 2021 9:44 pm
Updated February 25, 2021 9:53 pm

Facebook announced on Friday preliminary agreements with three Australian publishers, a day after the Parliament passed a law that would make the digital giants pay for news.

Facebook said letters of intent had been signed with independent news organizations Private Media, Schwartz Media and Solstice Media. The commercial agreements are subject to the signing of full agreements within the next 60 days, a Facebook statement said.

"These agreements will bring a new slate of premium journalism, including some previously paywalled content, to Facebook," the statement said.

Schwartz Media chief executive Rebecca Costello said the deal would help her company continue to produce independent journalism.

"It's never been more important than it is now to have a plurality of voices in the Australian press," Costello said in the Facebook statement.

Private Media chief executive



Will Hayward said the new deal built on an existing Facebook partnership.

Australia's Parliament on Thursday had passed the final amendments to the so-called News Media Bargaining Code.

In return for the changes, Facebook agreed to lift a six-day-old ban on Australians accessing and sharing news. Access to Australian news sites did not appear to be fully restored until Friday.

Google, the only other digital giant targeted by the legislation, has already struck content licensing deals, or is close to deals, with some of Australia's biggest news publishers including Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. and Seven West Media. Facebook Vice-President of Global Affairs Nick Clegg on Wednesday took a veiled swipe at News Corp. in a social media post criticizing Australia's law, which is aimed at setting a fair price for the Australian

journalism that the digital platforms display.

"It is ironic that some of the biggest publishers that have long advocated for free markets and voluntary commercial undertakings now appear to be in favour of state-sponsored price setting," the former British deputy prime minister wrote.

News Corp. Australia executive chairman Michael Miller said last week that his company had pay negotiations with Facebook.

"Having been someone who's dealt with Facebook over the past months, we have some weeks where we're getting good engagement and think we're progressing and then you get silence. I think the door is still open," Miller told a Senate inquiry into Australian media diversity.

News Corp. owns most of Australia's major newspapers, and some analysts argue the U.S.-based international media empire is the driver for the conservative Australian government making Facebook and Google pay. News Corp. has announced a wide-ranging deal with Google covering operations in the United States and Britain as well as Australia.

Manhattan Prosecutor Receives Trump Tax Returns After Lengthy Legal Battle

By RACHEL TREISMAN, NPR
February 25, 2021

The Manhattan district attorney's office is in possession of Donald Trump's tax returns, following a years-long effort by the former president to shield his finances and business affairs from scrutiny.

A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. confirmed to NPR over email that his office obtained the records on Monday. That same day, the U.S. Supreme Court declined Trump's request to further delay the enforcement of a subpoena, paving the way for a New York grand jury to obtain and review the sought-after financial documents.

"As we have maintained throughout this process, Mazars will comply with all of its legal and professional obligations," Trump's personal accounting firm, Mazars USA, told NPR in a statement.

The documents are not expected to be made public because they are protected by grand jury secrecy rules, The Associated Press reported.

Besides being highly sought after by prosecutors and lawmakers, Trump's financial records have long been a subject of public curiosity.

After presenting himself as a



Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., shown here in 2019, is in possession of former President Donald Trump's tax returns.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

successful businessman, he broke decades of presidential precedent by refusing to release his tax returns during and following the 2016 campaign. He also did not divest from his family business, raising concerns about financial entanglements and potential conflicts of interest, particularly with foreign leaders.

Vance initially issued the grand jury subpoena to Mazars in August 2019. It requested eight years of tax records and related documents

as part of a wide-ranging investigation into possible insurance or financial fraud by Trump or his business, as well as hush-money payments made to two women who claim to have had affairs with Trump prior to his presidency.

What followed was a protracted legal battle. Trump's lawyers promptly went to court to block the subpoena's enforcement, arguing that he was immune from criminal investigation as the sitting

president. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected that argument by a 7-2 vote in July.

Trump's legal team then returned the matter to the lower courts with a different set of objections, arguing that the subpoena was overly broad and politically motivated. A district court and a three-judge panel on a New York federal appeals court both ruled against Trump, and he had sought to appeal to the Supreme Court a second time.

Some details of Trump's financial dealings have already come to light.

In September, The New York Times published an investigation citing tax documents it obtained, reporting that Trump had paid just \$750 in federal income tax in 2016 and 2017, and no income taxes in 10 of the previous 15 years while reporting significant business losses. Trump, who had previously bragged about not paying taxes, denied the report.

After the court declined to intervene on Monday, Trump denounced the case as "political persecution" and a "fishing expedition," while Vance posted a three-word tweet: "The work continues."

From Page 7 NASA's Rover

two cameras on Perseverance's Mastcam-Z dual cameras are mounted on the rover's mast at eye level for a person 6 feet, 6 inches (2 meters) tall. They sit 9.5 inches (24.1 centimeters) apart to provide stereo vision and can produce color images with a quality similar to that of a consumer digital HD camera.

The Mastcam-Z team includes dozens of scientists, engineers, operations specialists, managers, and students from a variety of institutions. In addition, the team includes deputy principal investigator Justin Maki of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.

More About the Mission

A key objective of Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will characterize the planet's geology and past climate, pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

Subsequent NASA missions, in cooperation with ESA (European Space Agency), would send spacecraft to Mars to collect these sealed samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-

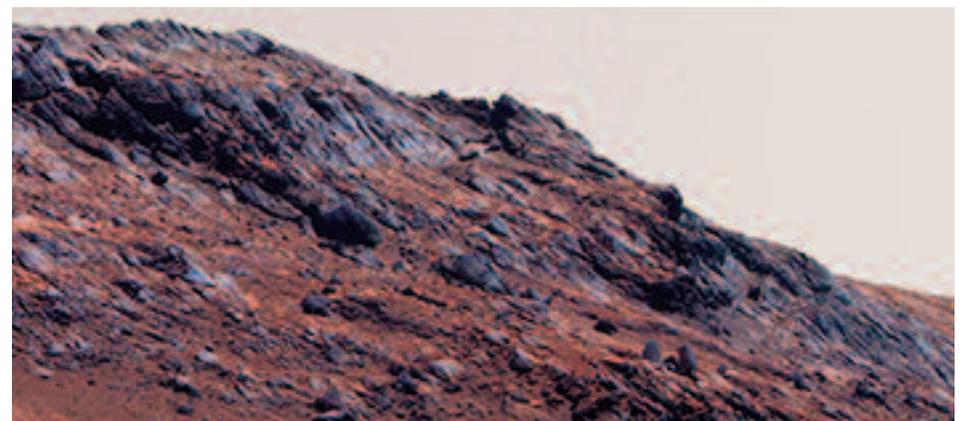
depth analysis.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for human exploration of the Red Planet.

JPL, which is managed for NASA by Caltech in Pasadena, California, built and manages operations of the Perseverance rover.

Here are five other fascinating facts about Mars.

- 1. Color: It's called the Red Planet because its iron-rich dust gives it landscape a rusty-red color.**
- 2. Diet planet: Mars's gravity is 38 percent of Earth's. So if you weigh 60 pounds here, you'd weigh about 23 pounds there.**
- 3. Climate change: At the equator, Mars is a comfortable 80 degrees Fahrenheit, but the temperature at its poles can get down to 199 degrees below zero.**
- 4. In the air: Mars's atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide with traces of nitrogen and argon. Earth's atmosphere is a mixture of nitrogen, oxygen and other gases.**
- 5. Longer days: A Martian day is about 40 minutes longer than a day on Earth.**



New Mars Curiosity Rover Pictures of the Martian mountain Mount Sharp (taken from Youtube February 6, 2020)



The Mars InSight lander is equipped with a domed seismometer (left) and a probe for measuring heat flow (right). Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

From Page 13 February 24 update

or nutritionists, Physiotherapists, Medical imaging technologists, Occupational therapists. Students in nursing, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry are also invited to apply. Details of hiring conditions and schedules will be specified when the candidates are contacted by our Human Resources teams.

To apply:

recrutement.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca or 514-293-0526.

You haven't answered all my questions about vaccinations. Where can I go to get more information about the vaccines and COVID-19 in general?

More information is available at the public health department's COVID-19 site, quebec.ca/coronavirus. Other information may be best obtained from the local CIUSSS.

Snowbirds and Non-Essential Traveler Returning Travelers Information

I have received a number of questions from non-essential travelers returning home. Most are about exemptions and about problems accessing the phone line to reserve hotels. Please see questions and answers below.

For minors traveling alone, will there be an exemption from the hotel stay? Can others be eligible for an exemption?

Yes, minors travelling alone may request an exemption from the mandatory hotel stay by emailing the address below and explaining their situation.

There may be a limited number of other exemptions, for example for someone with health issues or significant handicaps. All exemption requests must be made to the email address set out below.

Where do I send requests to be

exempt from the hotel requirement of the quarantine?

For now, exemptions are being processed through the same email that was previously used, which was phac-emergencyorder-decreturgencecovid19.aspc@canada.ca. If anything changes, I will include any information in a future update.

Below is the minimal information that should be included in the request:

- To ensure a thorough analysis of your request can be carried out in a timely manner, please include the following information, at minimum:
- Number of travellers and country of citizenship of each traveller,
- Planned travel dates,
- Specific purpose for travel to Canada, and
- An explanation as to why you are of the view that you qualify for exemption. Please be very detailed.

From experience a response to your request takes 10-14 days so please make the request long before you travel.

Please visit the Government of Canada's website (www.canada.ca/coronavirus) for the latest guidance.

What are the New testing and quarantine requirements for international travelers?

As explained in previous updates, all non-essential travellers arriving by air as of Monday will now be required to book a 3-day stay at a government approved hotel at their cost. Please note that as previously mentioned travelers can leave once their COVID test comes back negative and the prices per night vary by hotel but the ones I have seen reported range between \$200 and \$380 per night.

We are aware of reports of long wait times. Along with other caucus members I have advised the Ministers responsible and their departments that we need to fix this

issue As a result we have added more information online (Traveller Expectations, Hotel Responsibilities etc.) , increased operators to answer basic questions, as well as agents to book hotels. I have requested that we have an online system set up soon as well.

But the process is ramping up and the major problem experienced was that in the initial days about 27,000 people daily were contacting the line, including those returning several months from now. For now, I recommend that only travellers with flights within the next few days should call the booking line.

On non COVID-19 related issues: What are the details about the Government's document on official language reforms and how were you involved?

Over the last several months one of the most important things I have been doing behind the scenes was working on issues of great importance to the minority language communities of Canada, including the English speaking community of Quebec. We have seen the comments of the Quebec Government that Quebec alone should determine what support is provided to English speaking communities in Quebec.

More disappointingly, over the last several months, the Conservative Party under Erin O'Toole has joined the Bloc Quebecois in supporting measures to stop permanent residents in Quebec from becoming citizens without a sufficient knowledge of French. The Conservative Party has joined the Bloc and NDP in asking that Bill 101 apply to federally regulated businesses in Quebec.

The Conservative Party has joined the Bloc in demanding that the Official Languages Act become asymmetrical providing fewer rights for English speaking Quebecers and its leader said that the English-speaking

community in Quebec was not threatened and that only French should be protected.

I believe very strongly that French should be protected and promoted across Canada, including in Quebec and that we must take special measures to protect French but it should not be done at the expense of the rights of English speaking Quebecers and fortunately in the Liberal caucus we have a strong group of MPs from both language groups in Quebec and across Canada who have worked together with my friend, our Official Language Minister, Melanie Joly on a reform that ensures the vitality and development of both official language minority communities and support for the majority communities as well.

This document speaks to all Canadians.

Please click on the following link to read it in full:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/corporate/publications/general-publications/equality-official-languages.html>

I was also very pleased that my colleague Patricia Lattanzio raised the issue of the rights of Quebec's English speaking community in the House yesterday and am also very pleased that my colleague Melanie Joly, the Minister of Official Languages answered emphatically and clearly about the Government's obligation to protect the rights of English speaking Quebecers and all official language minority communities.

You can watch that clip at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/anthonyhoosefather/posts/5047916771916038>

(Editor's Note: The rest of the update about Biden-Trudeau bilateral meeting is too long to be included in this update)

Patuloy nating protektahan ang ating mga sarili!



Umubo sa manggas ng lyong damit



Maghugas ng mga kamay



Dumistansya



Takpan ang lyong mukha

Ipinag-uutos sa lahat na may edad sampu (10) o higit pa sa lahat ng uri ng pampublikong sasalyan at mga nakasara or bahagyang nakasara na mga pampublikong lugar.

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

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