

Liberals survive non-confidence vote



Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre rises during question period on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, on Wednesday. The Liberal government on Thursday survived Poilievre's non-confidence motion on the carbon tax with backing from the Bloc Québécois and NDP. (Spencer Colby/Canadian Press)

The Liberal government survived a non-confidence motion on the carbon tax Thursday with the backing of the Bloc Québécois and NDP.

Earlier in the day, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre urged MPs to back his motion to topple the

See Page 4 Liberals survive

Quebec wants to control immigration



Photo shows Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with Quebec Premier François Legault during their meeting in Montreal, March 15, 2024.

Quebec will not get full power over which immigrants it takes in, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday (March 15) after meeting with Premier François Legault.

At the meeting in Montreal,

Legault, who has said Quebec cannot take in more asylum seekers, asked Trudeau for the federal government to transfer all immigration powers to

See Page 4 Immigration issue

Golden Balangay Senior Achievement presented to the editor of the North American Filipino Star



Pinoy Pa Rin TV hosts, Tenne Rose Dayandante (left) and Michael Davantes (right) have always shown appreciation of Zenaida Kharroubi (center) as they inherited her initiative of starting a community TV show.

(Montreal, March 16, 2024) - It was a big surprise for me to be informed that Ronnie de la Gana and his wife, Claire and son Ryan would be coming to Montreal and do a

presentation of the trophy for the Senior Achievement Award that was announced at the 5th Golden Balangay Awards ceremony held on July 1, 2023 at the River Resort and

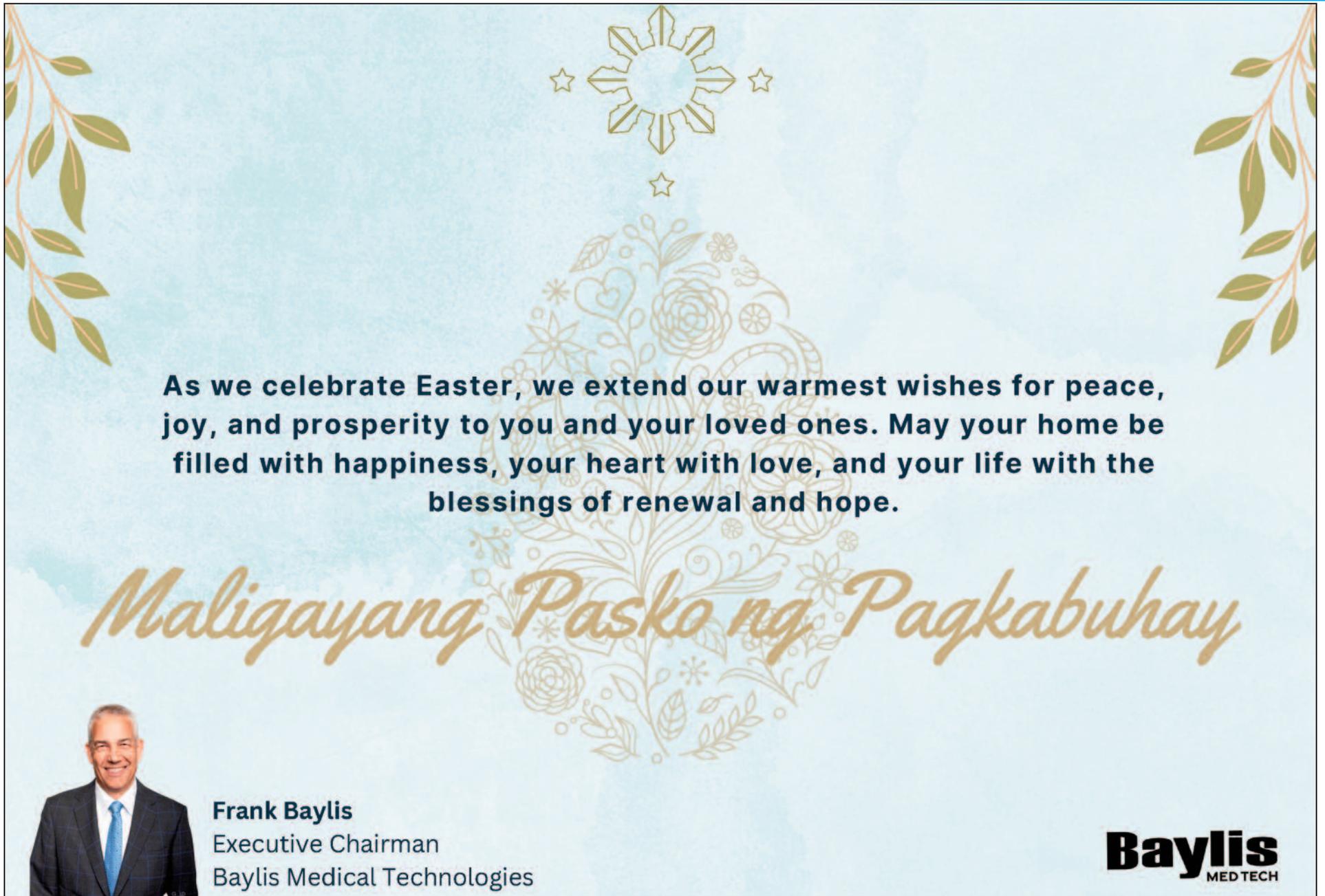


Ronnie de la Gana, co-founder of the Golden Balangay Foundation, presents the Senior Achievement trophy to Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi with Claire de la Gana standing by with a bouquet of yellow roses.

Casino in Edmonton, Alberta as I was unable to attend. I could not express how grateful I felt and honored by the special delivery of the trophy at Gilmore College International, the

school I founded almost 35 years ago. Adding to the surprise was a bouquet of a dozen yellow roses that Michael Davantes presented during the simple

See Page 4 Golden Balangay



As we celebrate Easter, we extend our warmest wishes for peace, joy, and prosperity to you and your loved ones. May your home be filled with happiness, your heart with love, and your life with the blessings of renewal and hope.

Maligayang Pasko ng Pagkabuhay



Frank Baylis
Executive Chairman
Baylis Medical Technologies



Joyeuses Pâques Happy Easter



En cette période de Pâques, nous vous souhaitons, ainsi qu'à vos familles, un moment rempli de joie, de paix et de sérénité. Que cette célébration soit riche de sens et de moments heureux avec ceux que vous aimez.



In this Easter season, we wish you and your families a time filled with joy, peace and serenity. May this period be rich in meaning and happy moments with those you love.



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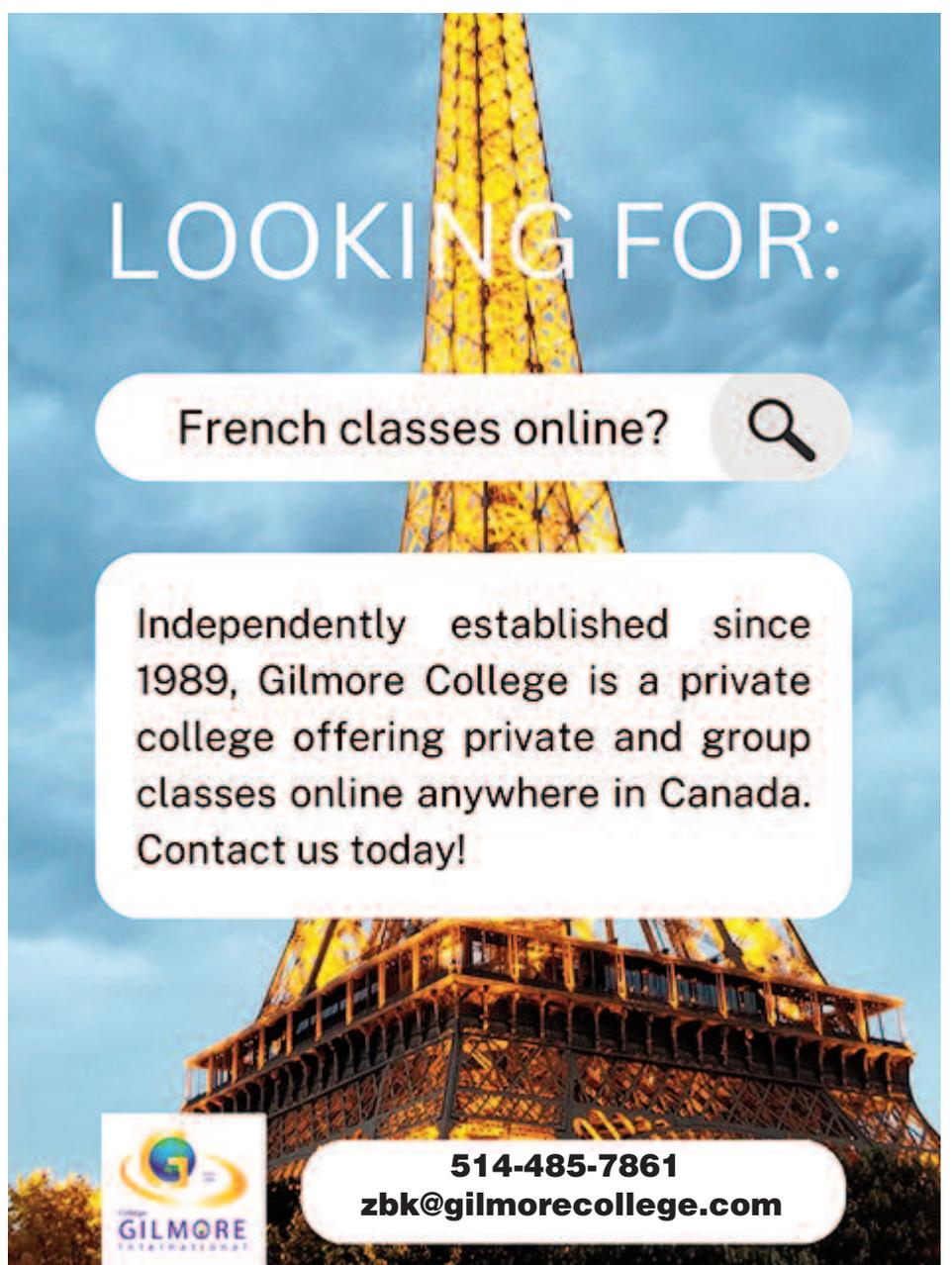
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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Carbon pricing and climate change

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Since the attempt of the Conservatives to topple the Trudeau government on the carbon price increase, it is an interesting question to ask: What is carbon pricing? How does it fight climate change?

The government website provides the following information to answer these questions:

A price on pollution is widely recognized as the most efficient means to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to the more intense wildfires, droughts, and floods caused by climate change, while putting money back in people's pockets and driving investment in clean alternatives.

Putting a price on pollution is a cornerstone of Canada's plan to tackle climate change. Pollution pricing works by encouraging businesses and consumers to choose less carbon-intensive options for energy production, home heating, and

transportation.

According to the World Bank, there are 73 carbon pricing initiatives currently in place or scheduled to be implemented across the globe, both national and subnational. These include Norway, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Chile, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Germany. Together, these initiatives cover 23 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Canada's approach to carbon pollution pricing lets provinces and territories put in place their own system, as long as it meets national minimum stringency standards. Where a province or territory does not price pollution, or requests it, the federal backstop system is applied.

The federal backstop pollution pricing system is designed as revenue neutral for the Government of Canada, with all proceeds collected returned to their jurisdiction of origin, mostly in the form of rebate payments that help low-

and middle-income families the most with their daily cost of living.

Estimates show that pollution pricing contributes roughly one third of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved by Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan in 2030.

To achieve these emissions reductions in the absence of carbon pricing would come at a significant additional cost to the Canadian economy. Canada's Ecofiscal Commission shows pollution pricing delivers the lowest-cost emissions reductions compared to other policy options.

Pollution pricing harnesses the

power of the market—the collective knowledge and decision-making of every household, business, and organization. While other tools like regulations and incentives have an important role to play, without carbon pricing any climate plan will be more expensive and will miss opportunities for innovation.

So if these facts are well-known to everyone, will there still be any argument against the carbon price increase as of April 1, 2024?

To bring down a government on carbon price increase seems not a good idea after all. #

McGill University: Tuition Soars as Teaching Assistants Push for Fair Pay

By Audrey Tougas, Local Journalism Initiative

McGill University is experiencing a potential renewal of its budgetary framework. From attempting to offset the costs of increased tuition for out-of-province students to potentially having to increase pay for striking Teaching Assistants, McGill must reassess its fiscal strategies to meet the increasing number of demands.

Tuition for out-of-province students

In late December 2023, Pascal Déry, minister of education of Quebec announced tuition raises for out-of-province students attending english universities in Quebec. Notably, the universities were Concordia, Bishops, and McGill University. The plan was presented to prevent the anglicisation of Montreal and to redistribute the allocated funds from out-of-province students to French universities.

At the time, the tuition for out-of-province students was raised from \$9,000 Canadian dollars to \$17,000. As of March 13, 2024, Pascal Déry has reduced the tuition increase for Canadian out-of-province students down to \$12,000.

McGill and Concordia University have announced the opening of bursaries to relieve the augmented tuition costs for out-of-province students. For those attending McGill, the bursaries could grant up to \$3000 to successful academic students, and for excelling students attending Concordia, up to \$4000.

Nearly 22,000 students from an array of associations have regrouped and planned strikes to denounce the tuition hikes.

McGill University Teaching Assistants on Strike

Over 2,300 McGill University Teaching Assistants (TA) plan on striking for eight continuous weeks, starting the week of March 24. A vote for the strike was passed by 1,600 McGill TAs, with an 87% agreement rate, along with the support of the Association of Graduate Students Employed by McGill (AGSEM).

TAs at McGill University want improved working and research conditions, as well as assigned hours that properly reflect their workload, which is proportional to the number of students they are assigned. Furthermore, they want better healthcare benefits and protection against annual inflation. Additionally, they want a pay increase from \$33/hour to \$47/hour. This

last request was made to meet the increased wages of TAs in other Canadian universities such as the University of Toronto, Queen's,



McMaster, and the University of British Columbia. They also believe that raising their pay would account for the rising costs of living.

TAs have been bargaining as early as September 2023 for a new contract, demanding a pay increase. McGill's latest offer in February did not meet the AGSEM's conditions and was promptly rejected.

Subsequently, the strikes could lead to a decrease in quality teaching. Already, McGill professors are offsetting deadlines, discussing the possibility of pushing assignments to the end of term until the strikes settle and negotiations are made. Teaching Assistants provide aid in teaching, and organizing laboratories and are responsible for grading assignments and examinations. As TAs will no longer be available to the school, their responsibilities will potentially be transferred to the professors. As they believe it violates Quebec's labor laws, the Association of McGill Professors of Education is against the workload being given to the professors. Notably, the increased responsibility for professors raises concerns of disruptions to "academic duties", potentially degrading the quality of teaching.

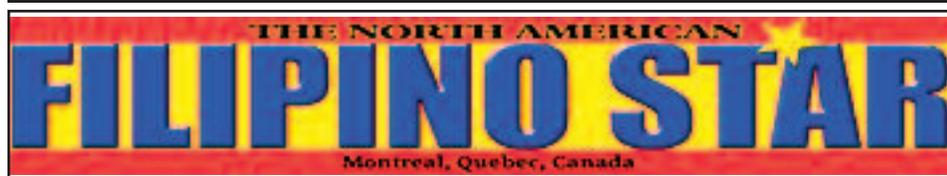
The Vice-President of the Conseil central du Montréal Métropolitain from the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN) Chantal Ide confirmed that the CSN supports the Teaching Assistants strike. Although McGill would not be paying the TAs during their strike, the TAs will be receiving funding from CSN and the Association of Graduate Students Employed by McGill. #

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

From Page 1 Quebec wants

Quebec.

But, speaking to reporters afterward, Trudeau said he had declined Legault's request.

"No, we won't give more powers over immigration, Quebec already has more power over immigration than any other province because it's very important to protect French."

Trudeau said he is more interested in finding ways of making the system work better rather than discussing jurisdiction.

"It's not a question of who has control of what," he said. "We're there to collaborate, to work together."

Shortly after, Legault held a separate news conference, during which he said it was "too soon" to give details on how the province would consider rapidly reducing the number of asylum seekers and temporary foreign workers in Quebec.

"The Quebec people have always been welcoming, but now we have surpassed our capacity," the premier said.

From Page 1 Liberals survive

government over its planned increase to the carbon tax.

In response, the Liberals painted Poilievre as a climate change denier intent on letting the planet burn while dismantling a tax-and-rebate program that pads people's pockets with quarterly cheques that mostly offset the carbon levy.

If Poilievre's motion had carried and a majority of MPs had voted no confidence in the government, this Parliament would have been dissolved and the country would be heading into an election.

Poilievre was not in the House of Commons when the motion faced its final vote. He was scheduled to be at a fundraiser in Toronto.

The Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois all voted against Poilievre's motion. It was expected to fail with the Liberal-NDP coalition having a combined 181 seats, with 169 needed for a majority vote.

From Page 1 Golden Balangay

ceremony held on Saturday morning, March 16 and witnessed by my two students in French, Angela and Mikaela Lacuesta who attend Level 5 French every Saturday morning as well as by Tenne Rose Dayandante and her son, Rafael. Michael also brought a birthday cake for Claire as he found out it was her birthday on the same day that they traveled to Montreal from Toronto.

During Balangay's first awarding ceremony in September 2017, I was one of the three finalists in the Community Service category when Michael sent his nomination that highly praised my achievements. As there can be many nominees in any category similar to the Oscars, only one wins the trophy. At this first awards ceremony, the Community

Quebec already controls the number of economic immigrants to the province, but it shares responsibility with Ottawa over refugees, newcomers who arrive through the family reunification stream, and temporary foreign workers.

However, despite Trudeau's refusal, Legault said the prime minister showed a significant amount of "openness" on other matters related to immigration. The premier said Trudeau was open to requiring that temporary foreign workers be approved by Quebec before they can move to the province, a measure Legault said would amount to a "veto power" over those applicants and represent a "significant" gain.

Trudeau, the premier said, also agreed to consider imposing more travel visas, like Ottawa recently did on Mexican nationals. As well, Legault said the prime minister was open to accelerating the treatment of asylum seekers claims, from 18 months to six months.

Finally, Legault said, the two governments would create a working group to analyze Quebec's demand for

The procedural manoeuvre was an escalation of the Official Opposition's pollution-pricing pushback, buoyed by the growing cross-Canada resistance to the April 1 carbon price increase to \$80 from \$65 per tonne of carbon emissions.

This year's carbon tax increase is set to rise by about 3 cents on April 1st, or 3.3 cents on gas and 2.9 cents per cubic metre on natural gas.

Leading off a daylong debate in the House of Commons before leaving town for a fundraising event on Bay Street in downtown Toronto, Poilievre pushed for Parliament to be dissolved and an election called.

"After eight years, it is clear that this NDP-Liberal prime minister is not worth the cost, the crime or the corruption," he said. "We cannot in good conscience stand by while this prime minister imposes more misery and suffering on the Canadian people."

The Official Opposition leader

Service trophy was awarded to Tony San Juan from Toronto. As a result of our acquaintance at this event, he became one of my regular contributors of articles, reporting important events in the Filipino-Canadian community of Toronto, Ontario.

The Golden Balangay Award is an annual nationwide search for outstanding Filipino Canadians. GBA aims to promote excellence, hard work, higher education, entrepreneurship, public service, positive relationships and community involvement. It was co-founded by Ronnie Dela Gana of IKUBO Media and Jovito Favila of Awards Online Canada. After years of planning, the Golden Balangay Awards was launched and nomination was opened in March 2017 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada. The premier awards night was co-produced by

\$1 billion in compensation from Ottawa for the money it said it spent on caring for asylum seekers in the past three years.

Legault has said that Quebec has already accepted more than its share of refugee claimants, and that the province doesn't have enough teachers, nurses and housing to welcome more.

Asylum seekers and temporary immigrants who don't speak French threaten the predominance of the language in the province, especially in Montreal, the premier said. "So if we want to protect our language, our nation, our identity, our culture, we need to have the powers regarding immigration," Legault insisted.

Trudeau says, however, that Ottawa has taken action to reduce asylum claims by closing down Roxham Road, which was used as an unofficial crossing for refugee claimants coming into the province through the United States, and by reimposing visas for Mexicans. He said the federal government is reviewing the international student program and

cast his vote on this rarely employed and potentially consequential parliamentary mechanism virtually.

His absence was brought up by NDP MP Charlie Angus, who questioned why Poilievre was leaving his "poor" MPs "to do the heavy lifting of bringing down the government" while he was off "fundraising with his lobbyist friends."

Panning Poilievre's ploy as brinksmanship politicking, federal NDP, Bloc Quebecois, and Green MPs sided with the Liberals, seeing only the Conservatives and Independent MP Kevin Vuong declaring a loss of confidence in the prime minister. The final vote tally was 204 "nays" to 116 "yeas."

The prospect of the government falling over this motion was highly unlikely because the Liberals continue to maintain a supply-and-confidence deal with the federal New Democrats designed to keep Trudeau's government in power until

is willing to discuss limiting temporary workers where needed.

"I am hearing very clearly from Premier Legault and from different Quebecers that they want to see the number of temporary workers go down across Quebec, and we're there to work hand in hand with Quebec in a collaborative way," he said, while adding that many industries rely heavily on international workers.

In a statement posted to X, formerly Twitter, Parti Quebecois Leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon lambasted Trudeau's refusal to grant Quebec complete power over immigration policy, and said the province is "once again losing face" as a result.

"It's embarrassing for Quebec," St-Pierre Plamondon wrote. "We're better than this perpetual humiliation."

The Parti Quebecois has enjoyed a surge in polls in recent months and would now overtake Legault's Coalition Avenir Quebec party in an election, according to several recent projections.

Source: Canadian Press,

June 2025, in exchange for progress on NDP priorities.

Thursday's vote came one day before the two-year anniversary of that two-party pact.

The agreement requires the NDP to vote with the Liberals on confidence motions such as motions of supply or money votes; motions declared by the government to be questions of confidence; and "explicitly worded motions which state that the House has, or has not, confidence in the government."

Rebuffing the attempt to bring his time in Canada's top job to an early end, Trudeau — who also voted virtually — suggested he'd be ready to fight an election on the carbon tax, noting his party won the last three with a price on pollution as a marquee climate platform plank.#

Condensed from various news sources such as Canadian Press, CTV News, published March 21, 2024.

Aside from stirring up historical consciousness, the founders believe the Golden Balangay Awards symbolize our priceless journey as migrants and carrying our people today to their cherished goals.

So far, there have been five awards night since 2017. The Golden Balangay Foundation, a non-profit organization, has the best-of-the-best in the Filipino community at its helm. The nomination period for the next awards night is set for March 31 to June 30, 2024. The announcement of nominees will be in July 2024. The Awards Night and Gala will be held on September 7, 2024 at the Sheraton Fallsview Center in Niagara Falls, Ontario. For more information, please contact them at Golden Balangay Foundation - 647-300-1970 info.goldenbalangay@gmail.com

Gawad Ng Pagkilala - Award of Recognition presented by the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM)

By Fely Rosales-Cariño

The FHSM celebrated its 6th Anniversary Foundation last March 9, 2024 at La Mesa at Plengke on 4699 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal. At the same time, it also honored eight community leaders with a Gawad Ng Pagkilala Award. These leaders are shining examples in upholding the bayanihan spirit, the sense of community cooperation to accomplish the common goal: to preserve and promote Filipino culture and traditions.

The registration table was staffed by Cora Abdon, Rebecca Aguilar, and Elma Bulatao to welcome guests. The evening started with the buffet as table numbers were called. The Emcees were Ricardo Ribaya, FHSM treasurer and Jeannette Perignon, FHSM secretary, who kept the pace of the program smooth sailing. FHSM Chairman Al Abdon, the mastermind of Gawad Ng Pagkilala, gave the welcome address and started the ball rolling. Due to unforeseen circumstances, unable to attend was Honorable Maria Andrelita S. Austria (Philippine Ambassador to Canada). Elisabeth Prass (D'Arcy-McGee MNA) came but had to leave early. Video messages from both were played instead.

Prominent politicians who came to participate in the Awards night and gave encouraging messages were: Anthony Housefather (MP, Mount-Royal, currently the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board), Sameer Zuberi (MP, Pierrefonds-Dollard, Secretary to the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities), and our very own Stephanie Valenzuela (City Councillor, Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Darlington District) who made history as the first Filipino woman to be elected in public office in the municipal level. All are strong supporters of the Filipino community and often seen at various Filipino functions and celebrations. Frank Baylis (former MP, Pierrefonds-Dollard, 2015-2019), is the CEO of Baylis Medical Technologies who was present as well but opted out in giving a speech because he had to leave early.

Special singers shared their talents during the evening. Kirsten Gail Calma, a 16-year old Grade 10 Montreal student, sang the national anthems and also during the Intermission. Kirsten was recently chosen to represent Canada in the World Championship of Performing Arts in California. Let us send her our best wishes as she competes this coming June 28-July 6, 2024. Next is Mishael Eusebio, a 2nd generation Filipino-Canadian tenor, classically trained, and a graduate of the Julliard School, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and L'Atelier Lyrique de L'Opera de Montreal. He sang to the delight of the crowd the Aria from Romeo and Juliet, Aria from the Magic Flute by Mozart and from the Opera La Traviata. Finally we have Kristianne Joy Mesina, Director of the Fil-Can Idol of Montreal. She loves to sing and graciously offered to perform for us at the last minute! She sang in place of the scheduled singer Astrid Torrico who was



L to R (seated): Michelle Vargas Lao, Michael Davantes, Lilia Esguerra, Thea Cruz, Zenaida Kharroubi, Tenne Rose Dayandante, Amelia Manon-og, and Stephanie Valenzuela. Standing: Cesar Manuel, MP Sameer Zuberi and Chairman Al Abdon.

The highlight of the evening was the conferment of the Gawad Ng Pagkilala Award. The first part was done by MP Anthony Housefather who presented a certificate to each awardee from the Canadian Parliament that he signed. The second part was led by FHSM Chairman Al Abdon. Each awardee was called to the stage as Emcee Jeannette read their plaques. MP Sameer Zuberi handed the plaques to the awardees with the help of Jarred



Guests, awardees, FHSM Executives and Administrators

Martin Clarianes. Each awardee also received a bouquet before delivering their acceptance speeches from the benevolent bouquet donors/presenters namely, Angelita Ogerio, Julita Parado (last year's recipient of Gawad ng Pagkilala), Fred and Joy Narvas (presenter was Cristy Hunter), Corazon Aberin, Elvira Maximo, Svetlana Suarez, and Eric Hamon (Lilia Esguerra's son).

The eight recipients of the Gawad Ng Pagkilala – Award of Recognition 2024 are: Magdalena Calcetas (Professionalism in Nursing), Michelle Vargas Lao (Community Service in Public Events), Tenne Rose Dayandante (Community Service in Public Television), Zenaida Kharroubi (Community Service in Journalism), Cesar Manuel (Community Service in Benevolence), Thea Cruz (Community Service in Vocal Performances), Lilia Esguerra (Community Service in Education), and Michael Davantes (Community Service in Public Television). (Magdalena Calcetas was unable to attend; Amelia Manon-og, FHSM Director of Education, stood in for her).

There would not be enough space to write about the achievements of each awardee. The program brochure of the evening shares many of their accomplishments. But let's just get to know them briefly.

Magdalena was the founder and president of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ), a Board of Trustee FAMAS member (2012-2014) and member of many organizations.

Michelle was the grand winner of FilCan Idol 2009, grand winner Global Pinoy Singing Idol Canada 2013, founder and president of the Filipino Canadian Artist Association of Quebec 2015, organizer of the Annual Canada Day Celebration in the CDN/NDG Borough.

Tenne Rose is a TV Host on ICI Television – Pinoy Pa Rin with Tenne and Michael, secretary and president of the Bicol Association of Quebec, and head organizer of Montreal Fiesta Extravaganza. She is a recipient of UPF Service Award, and active in several fundraising initiatives like Bangon Bicol.

Zenaida, formerly executive producer of Mabuhay Montreal TV, is currently an associate producer of Pinoy Pa Rin, publisher of the North American Filipino Star and founder-director-general of Gilmore College International. She was vice-president of finance of the Quebec Association of Filipino Canadian Teachers, associate producer of Pearl of the Orient and founder of Laging Handa Scout Group. She also held several other positions in community non-profit groups and received many awards from different organizations in Canada and Washington, D.C. She is not only a journalist but primarily an educator having taught 25 years in the public schools and 35 years in her own private school.

Cesar (aka “Bosing”) was FAMAS president 2019-2021, initiated Food on Wheels that served seniors, people with mobility problems, Covid families and hospitals in the Montreal area; volunteered help during the 2017 West Island flood. He is the owner of

Pinoy Pancitan Restaurant and Mon Cafe (named in honor of his recently deceased brother).

Thea with the mesmerizing voice has enthralled audiences across Canada and the US. She has toured with Filipino celebrities Morissette Amon, Jason Dy, Arnel Pineda, Regine Tolentino, and Mikey Bustos. She won six gold medals at the World Championships of Performing Arts in 2017. Confident and poised, she has now entered the challenging world of real estate. Thea gave a sample of her singing prowess towards the end of the evening, which was a treat!

Lilia established the Ahmon Institute through the offer of a director of the Montreal School Board (2018) and recognized by the Quebec Ministry of Education. The Institute has over 1000 successful graduates now working in the government, hospitals and the private sector. She was awarded the D'Arcy-McGee Citizenship Medal for her invaluable contribution to vocational education in the community.

Michael Davantes is a recipient of various academic and community service awards. He is a dynamic man whose life story has been featured on CBC's “The National.” In collaboration with the Quebec Environmental Law Office, he helped developed a simultaneous environmental radio and TV program in the Philippines called “Kasama ng Kalikasan,” which he co-hosted with former director of BFAR, Atty. Asis Perez. He continued his environmental advocacy by writing a monthly environmental column for the North American Filipino Star while establishing Canada's first environmental modeling agency becoming its CEO. Being a health care worker in Montreal for 33 years, Davantes is passionate about community-wide health campaigns such as creating educational materials as well as participating in a medical mission in the Philippines. The former host of Mabuhay Montreal TV, Davantes also works as the anchor, producer and program director of “Pinoy Pa Rin” – the longest running Filipino-Canadian TV show broadcast across Canada by ICI Television. Occasionally, he appears on TFC News as a correspondent.

Concluding remarks was given by Dolly Belandres, FHSM Director of Events. Thank you to Jeannette who provided important details for this article. And most of all, a shout out goes to the leadership of beloved FHSM Chairman Al Abdon, without whom this event could not have happened. Whenever there is a project, the Chairman goes into high gear! And he is fully backed 100% by his team: Alberto Abiera (Vice-Chairman of FHSM), Rebecca Aguilar, Elma Bulatao, Dolly Belandres, Fely Bisares, Fely Rosales-Cariño, Jarred Martin Clarianes, Neneh Fabia, Edith Fedalizo, Eppie Gevero, Paul Imperial, Nancy Castillo, Valent Lloyd Hughes, Amy Manon-og, Jeannette Perignon, Ricardo Ribaya, Minda Mazzone, Kimberly Gultia, Jeremy Sepulveda and Rina Villalta Abdon. What an outstanding teamwork!

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ONTARIO Community News

By Tony A. San Juan
OCT-Retired

Filipino Center Toronto skeds 17th outstanding Filcan students awards

The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) will hold its "FCT-Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards" (RCJOSA) event on April 7, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 PM. at the FCT Social Hall, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1T9. This year's theme is "Honour and Heritage: Significance" (Parangal at Pamana; Pagpapahalaga).

The RCJOSA Awards is an annual award project of the Filipino Centre Toronto, a 25-year-old community-based, service-focused, and volunteer-run organization in Toronto. For the past 19 years, since 2005, the established initiative has been in pursuance of the FCT's established mission and mandate which is to develop and offer programs and initiatives impacting the community. Specifically, the yearly competition is to encourage and challenge Filipino Canadian students to perform and achieve academic excellence and exemplary performance in their respective educational pursuits in Ontario.

The yearly event is being held to celebrate and recognize deserving student graduates in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. A total of 146 Filipino-Canadian Ontario school graduates have been

awarded. The selection criteria include Academic Grades (50%), Extracurricular Activities (15%), Community Involvement (15%), and Interview Performance (20%). During the one-hour afternoon program, the eight selected honourees will receive plaques of recognition, congratulatory certificates, and cash prizes.

Besides the Guest of Honour and Speaker, Ms. Ana Serrano, President of OCAD University in Ontario, other special guests invited are some Federal Members of Parliaments and Members of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario who will present their Congratulatory Scrolls, as well as members, supporters, and volunteers of the community centre.

The FCT-RCJOSA Awards Committee is composed of Jodelyn Huang - TCDSB Community Relations Officer, Steve Pagao - Professional Accountant, Nitz Redjik - Sandbanks Resort & Campsites Proprietor, Mary Ann S. San Juan - FCT President & CEO, Fermer Santos - TDSB Vice-Principal, and Tony A. San Juan - Filipino Heritage Council of Canada Founder (Chairman). RCJOSA is named after the late Rosalinda Cerrudo Javier, the first FCT President & CEO, and a former Ontario schoolteacher.

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Filcan business leader receives Asian award

She did it again! Another feather on her cap! Prominent Filipino-Canadian business executive and community leader Agnes Pasaporte Miranda was a recipient of the "Asian Influential Leader Award". The recognition was bestowed in honour of Miranda's enviable contribution to the world of Financial Literacy and Education under the Business Category. The said award aims to give "recognition and appreciation to outstanding individuals and business entities for their significant impacts, achievements, and contributions to society." Miranda received the prestigious award from Asia's Golden Icon Awards and Events, Inc. at a ceremony held at the Okada Hotel Grand Ballroom, Manila, Philippines on February 16, 2024.

Ms. Agnes P. Miranda is the Senior Executive Vice Chairman of World Financial Group (WFG), a

leading financial institution in Canada. Since 2001, WFG has helped more than 4.6 million families prepare for their financial futures. A well-respected community leader, Agnes served in various capacities on the Executive Board of the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) and as its President from 2022 to 2023. For over 30 years, being a financial industry leader, Agnes has been promoting the value and significance of financial literacy among youth and adults alike.

A recipient of numerous awards, among others, she was one of the "Top 25 Canada Immigrants" in 2017, a national awards program celebrating immigrant success. Sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada and Canadian Immigrant magazine, it "recognizes outstanding work by immigrants who have come to Canada and have made a positive difference living in the country." The year 2017



Agnes P. Miranda

marked also the 20th anniversary of her co-founding the World Financial Group in Canada. Also in 2018, the US-based Foundation for Filipina Women's Network presented Miranda as one of the "100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award" for her outstanding work in her respective field.

Considered a "Filipina trailblazer", at 20 years old, she came to Canada in 1966, after completing her university studies in banking and finance. Her first job was as a junior accounting clerk in Toronto. Trained by French-Canadian missionary sisters in her early teens at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in the Philippines, Miranda said "The most important qualities that helped me as an immigrant were courage, ambition, and perseverance." In 2009, she was a recipient of the "WFG Pioneer Award" for her substantial contribution to the growth of WFG Canada, and, in 2012, she was awarded "Outstanding Filipino Canadian" in the field of business by PIDC.

A highly recognized financial

expert, Miranda is also passionate about being involved in her community. She gives a lot of her time to mentor other Filipino Canadian women in business and is also a proud promoter of community events, particularly those related to culture and beauty. Some of the events she has produced include fashion shows, pageants, and other cultural events in Toronto. For her great service, she received a "Lifetime Award of Excellence" for her contribution to Canadian Asian Fashion Week in Toronto, Ontario.

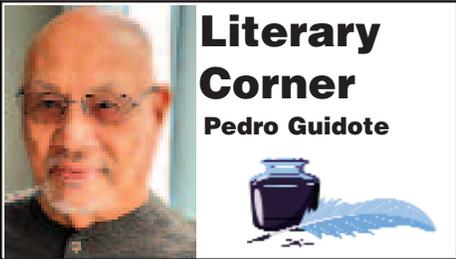
Proud and humbled by her many achievements, Agnes Pasaporte Miranda said "My commitment to giving back to the community, especially with a focus towards helping youth succeed in worthy ventures such as finance, arts, and sports, has grown more over the years." A big congratulations to Ms. Agnes P. Miranda, a business thinker and community leader par excellence o0o.

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Literary Corner
Pedro Guidote



Poems in Five Lines #4
(Quintains in 5-7-5-7-7-
syllable count form.)

Vast cascading grace
Man's last hope for
survival.
From where will it come?
Not from an empty
clenched fist
But from hands that once
were nailed.

•
Only new thinking
can lead to a bright new
dawn.

Life is worth living.
It's through unselfish
choices
that we become who we
are

•
The cry of the poor
is the same cry of the
rich:
We aren't what we own!
We are the beloved
creatures
of a loving Creator



Liberal MP 'reflecting' on place in caucus after NDP Palestinian statehood motion debacle

The late-night Liberal watering-down of an NDP motion regarding the recognition of Palestinian statehood on Monday prompted anger and disappointment among both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian advocacy groups.

And, it has left one Liberal MP saying he felt "isolated" and is now "reflecting" on his place within caucus.

On Monday, a contentious motion from the federal New Democrats initially calling on Canada to recognize the "State of Palestine" passed – but not until after the Liberals drastically altered its wording at the 11th-hour to see the government simply work towards that aim as part of a two-state solution.

The non-binding but largely symbolic motion sponsored by NDP MP Heather McPherson also included considerably amended language about several aspects of the ongoing Israel-Gaza war.

This included calling for an immediate ceasefire, for Hamas to release all hostages, for further transfer of arms exports to Israel to cease, and for enhanced humanitarian aid and resettlement offerings.

The NDP took the position that recognizing Palestine as a state could help accelerate a deeper diplomatic process, and despite the extensive changes, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said he's now "forced the government to move in a certain direction."

After stating in the House of Commons that an opposition motion would not sway the federal government's foreign policy, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly told reporters post-vote, and after hours of cabinet meetings, that it is "clearly the intent of this government to make sure that we follow what is written in this motion."

Asked by the NDP to clarify if that means Canada will stop sending arms to Israel, Joly's parliamentary secretary Rob Oliphant said the Liberal government will "continue to not sell arms as we have promised."

According to The Canadian Press, Canada had not approved any military export permits for goods



Liberal MP for Mount Royal Anthony Housefather speaks with reporters as he makes his way to Question Period, Tuesday, March 19, 2024 in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld

headed toward Israel since Jan. 8, with the government citing an inability to confirm that human rights are being upheld, or that export regime requirements would be met.

"Yesterday for me was a day I was very proud to be a parliamentarian. In this House we came together, four out of five parties, to find a workable solution, to find a Canadian position that Canadians could be comfortable with," said Oliphant.

Housefather reflecting on role

Amid discontent over the last-minute rewriting, three Liberal MPs voted against the motion—Anthony Housefather, Marco Mendicino and Ben Carr—alongside Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre and his caucus.

Housefather says the way the vote went down has left him and his two dissenting peers feeling "somewhat isolated."

"It's the first time in my parliamentary career that I've had a reflection like this, where I truly felt last night that a line had been crossed. When my party members got up and cheered and gave a standing ovation to Heather McPherson and the NDP, I

started reflecting as to whether or not I belonged," he said.

While Housefather said Liberal MPs are "trying to show me a lot of love right now," he said it's hard feeling like his identity and concerns about Israel are not being understood by his fellow MPs.

"It was a very hard time for me, last night's vote, what happened. I will be very honest, I felt that the message that I put through about how disturbing the original motion was, clearly didn't prevail."

While he agreed the amended version was better than the initial draft, Housefather called it "bad parliamentary form" for the government to bring forward the amendments.

Shortened version of CTV news report published March 19, 2024, written by Rachel Aiello Senior Digital Parliamentary Reporter

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



Jeannette and Jacques Perignon

I give careful thought in selecting the Personality of the Month. When her name crossed my mind, there was no doubt that she is eminently well qualified to be in this column. It is with great pleasure that I present to you the inimitable Jeannette Pérignon, whose personality loomed large as I read her profile. There is so much more to this kind, charming, and hardworking lady.

She is the youngest in a family of five. Elder sister Suzzette, married to Italian Antonio Canioni, has one daughter Sara Kate (35) and now lives in Milan, Italy. Brother Christopher is married and has 2 daughters, Nannette & Rachel, whom she sponsored to Canada. Christopher passed away from tuberculosis in the Philippines in 2004.

Jeannette Pérignon hails from San José de Buenavista, Antique (Panay Island) and was born on May 29, 1951. Much of Jeannette's sterling character can be traced to her parents. Her father Manuel Mendoza Cayetano, first lieutenant USAFFE during WW2, captured and tortured by the Japanese, escaped successfully from the dungeons of Intramuros after repeated attempts. His ordeal brought him health difficulties, eventually succumbing to tuberculosis in 1957, when Jeannette was only six. Aside from his tough spirit, he also showed an artistic bent in the comic book he created in watercolors, showing his story of what happened before the war, his courtship of his wife, and the moment he was captured by the Japanese with "a bayonet pointed to him while kneeling on the rice paddies." This treasured heirloom, unfortunately, has been lost since 1971.

Her mother Rosalia Yglesias Elizalde Cayetano was an elementary teacher and a seamstress, a skill that helped her raise three children. She was widowed in 1957. In 1980, Jeannette sponsored her here to Canada. Jeannette is happy to report that her mother "lived a healthy, happy and fruitful life both in Regina and Montreal (Baie d'Urfé) for 27 years," passing away

at age eighty-five. She credits her mother as her role model.

Rosalia's father, Francisco (Jeannette's grandfather), was the Treasurer for the Antique Province for many years before and after the Japanese occupation. He was multilingual (English, Spanish, Hiligaynon, Japanese). Rosalia's mother, Paz (Jeannette's grandmother) was a homemaker and owned a sari-sari store at the Elizalde compound. She is also multilingual. Now we know why Jeannette speaks Spanish to this day.

Due to her grandfather's background, Jeannette's huge ancestral home was used by the Japanese as the venue for social gatherings like dancing and other events. Now, is it any wonder that Jeannette also offers her home as the place to be at Christmas and other occasions?

You won't be surprised to learn that Jeannette was on full scholarship throughout her education. She is certified witty! She went to elementary and high school in her hometown. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology at UST, Manila where she placed in the Top Ten. She also took a secretarial course in the Adult Continuing Education in Beaconsfield which included public speaking, computerized accounting, and speedwriting. Finally, she earned a Diplôme d'Étude Collegiale in Nursing at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue – which she took at the age of fifty - now that's real gumption!

Jeannette's employment history proves her to be a tireless worker. She worked in different capacities as medical technologist, nurse, and secretary in St. Luke Hospital in Quezon City (1974-1977) and a secretary in the National Irrigation Administration (1977-1980). Then in Montreal, she was executive secretary in Navigation Aeronav in Côte-de-Liesse (1992-1999). Then she entered the medical field and was a medical secretary (Stat Care), a phlebotomist, and an assistant to

urologist Dr. David Eiley (specialist in circumcision, cystoscopy).

In later years she was a nurse in many different hospitals such as the Montreal General (Neurological Unit), St. Mary's (Obstetrics & Gynecology, Geriatrics), Jewish General (General Surgery), Montreal Children's Hospital (Pediatrics), and the Lakeshore General (Cardiology, General Medicine & Active Geriatrics).

It's a wonder where Jeannette finds time for socializing. She is heavily involved in the Filipino community, holding simultaneous positions in many associations. She is the secretary (2018-present) at the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM), the president (2019-present) at the Kahirup (Hiligaynon) Association of Quebec (KAQ), the director & spokesperson (2021-present) at the Seniors of West Island & Suburbs (SWIS), and the vice-president for Benevolence (2023-present) at the Philippine Benevolent & Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ). Furthermore, she is also in the Bereavement Committee of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec (FNAQ) and a public relations officer at the Canadian Filipino Teachers Association of Quebec. The Filipino community is blessed to have a competent and caring leader, a true leader - that's what she is.

Jeannette offers her advice to young Filipinos: "Respect your parents and the elderly; be true to yourself – do not be afraid to speak up – be assertive. Always stay positive and keep your faith in God despite trials and challenges that come your way." She is a firm believer in dreaming big – and believe!

And yes, Jeannette still finds time for her hobbies! She lists them as "watercolors painting, making birthday/anniversary cards, knitting, reading, walking, dancing, singing, and writing letters/poems." Plus, she is a choreographer too. She choreographs a group of ladies from the FHSM called the "Golden Maidens." They get invited to perform at events and if you would like to see them at your next party, do not hesitate to call Jeannette. Reserve your spot now! First come first served.

"Where do I begin to tell the story of how great a love can be?" goes a familiar song. Well, Jeannette has unraveled her own love story, calling Jacques, her husband, "her destiny and vice versa." Marrying a Frenchman was her childhood dream, strongly influenced "by the Assumption nuns who showed fascinating slides of Paris (headquarters of the Assumption Order) and other cities of France." She learned French history, its culture and some songs which she remembers to this day.

Meanwhile, Jacques was a young Frenchman who was always drawn to Southeast Asia. He came to Canada as an immigrant and became a Canadian citizen. While working in Montreal at a Shawinigan Engineering firm, opportunity knocked in 1976 when he was offered to go to the Philippines as the Chief Estimating & Scheduling Engineer, joining its overseas team ESED. He worked until 1979 in Manila. Jeannette was then working full time in Quezon City at St. Luke's Hospital as a medical technologist. As the breadwinner for her mother and her siblings, she was keen to improve her

finances. She took a secretarial course which led her to work for ESED as a secretary, as fate would have it.

So how did the lovebirds finally meet? It was while waiting for an interview with the project manager at ESED that Jeannette was led to the canteen by Isabelle Palomares, one of the employees, and saw "Jacques sitting against the wall eating with his bare hands a fried chicken of Aling Vita who owned the canteen. "Cupid hit her heart with a deadly arrow that she would not recover from." In her words, "My heart was beating fast and I could hear it: (pok pok pok)." Already on cloud nine, before being introduced to Jacques, she declared to Isabelle that he is surely the man she was going to marry, without even knowing he was a Frenchman. (a wonderful bonus!). In short, she ended up being his secretary, apparently fighting hard for her. If this segment would be in Tiktok, I could call it "The CEO and the Secretary" with a subtitle, "Love at First Sight." Eventually, Jacques sponsored her to Canada; she arrived in February 1, 1980 in Vancouver. Finally, they made it official and married on June 11, 1981 in Regina. Soon they will be celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary this coming June. Let us be the first to congratulate you, J and J!

Well, let's just take a short peek at the man who made Jeannette's heart go pok, pok, pok, and one who she also calls her role model. Jacques Luc Charles Pérignon is from Lyon, France, immigrating to Canada (1967) "with his now ex-wife Lucette and their two sons Jean-Luc and Yvan (deceased in 2016)." After their divorce in 1973, Jacques moved to Montreal while their sons remained with their mother in Vancouver. Eventually their sons joined Jacques after coming back from an overseas assignment (Philippines and Bolivia) in 1979.

A fun fact: Jacques' great, great, great uncle is Dom Pérignon, "a monk who formulated a principle how to make champagne. The Pérignon family tree bears Dom Pérignon." The family got more of the prestige than the money because he was a monk. Nevertheless, cheers! Jeannette, you are now a Pérignon!

Jeannette and Jacques are in domestic bliss and call Baie d'Urfé their home since 1985 and "loving it." They are happily married with three children: Richard, Marianne, and Gaudéric plus his sons Jean-Luc (with three girls) and Yvan (deceased, with two boys).

So there, I hope you have been encouraged by this interesting lady, a renaissance woman in her own right, and certainly indefatigable in our midst today – one called Jeannette. Our fellow countrymen are ever grateful for your achievements and your benevolence, as well as your sincerity. And may I suggest a blessing from scripture: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7-8). Thank you for a life of fruitfulness!

Let's make a toast and break out a Dom Pérignon!

SA WIKANG TAGALOG ni Zenaida F. Kharroubi

Pagpapasalamat sa mga natanggap kong biyaya ng pagkilala ng aking nagawa

Hindi ko akalain na malaking karangalan ang aking matanggap sa isang linggo. Marahil ito'y nangyari na sa iba nguni't ito pa lang ang unang pagkakataon sa buong buhay ko na ako'y binigyan ng malaking karangalang kinilala ng aking kapwa ang mahabang panahon na ako'y nagtiyagang mag-ukol ng aking kusang paghahangad na bumuti ang ating lipunan sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon. Malaki

ating lipunan. Kahit hindi ako nagtutubo sa pagtuturo at paggawa ng diaryo, masaya pa rin ako sa pagpapatuloy kong gawin ang dapat gawin upang matupad ko ang aking mga katungkulan. Sa awa ng Diyos, nakakaraos akong magbayad ng mga gastos, kahit na ang pera ay dumadaan lang sa aking mga kamay ng panandalian - hindi nagtatagal dahil sa dami ng mga buwis, upa, at iba pang



Senior Achievement Award ng Golden Balangay Foundation na inihatid sa Gilmore College Int'l., 16 Marso 2024

ang aking paniwala at pag-asang makatulong ako sa mga taong magkaroon ng liwanag ng isip at maibahagi sa kanila ang dapat nilang malaman upang sila'y maging mahusay na mamamayan (good citizenship) lalo na kapag sila'y pipili ng mga taong magpapalakad ng gobyerno na mahusay gumawa ng batas na makatarungan sa lahat. Noong Abril 1998 ako nagsimula ng diaryong pang-komunidad kahit na ako'y mayroon ng sariling paaralan na itinatag ko noong 1 ng Nobyembre 1989. Kahit na wala akong balak na maging may-ari ng isang pahayagan dahil mayroon na akong paaralang pinagkaka-abalahan, napasubo ako sa pagtulong sa dating may-ari ng Filipino Star na si G. Bert Abiera noong isinara niya ang diaryo ng Nobyembre 1997. Sa aking palagay, maaring ito ang aking tadhana na ibinigay ng atng Maykapal upang magkaroon ako ng pagkakataong makamit ang aking mga pangarap sa buhay - ang magkaroon ng isang paraang makatulong sa pagpapabuti ng



Gawad ng Pagkilala ng Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal, 9 Marso 2024

bagay na dapat bayaran buan-buan. Sa hinaba-haba ng panahon, halos 35 taon sa pagkatayo ng sarili kong paaralan at 26 taon naman sa paggawa ng pahayagang pangbayan (community newspaper), nabigyan akong bigla ng dalawang gantimpala na hindi ko ina-asahang mangyari. Ang Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal ang kumilala sa akin ng Community Service in Journalism, at ang Golden Balangay Foundation ang kumilala sa akin ng Senior Achievement Award.

Ako'y nagpapasalamat sa mga pinuno ng dalawang asosyasyong ito. Hindi magkasya ang mga salita upang masabi ko na ako'y tumatanaw ng utang na loob sa kanilang pagkilala sa aking mga nagawa nguni't higit sa lahat ay ang aking pagpapasalamat sa atng Maykapal sa pagbibigay ng panahon sa akin upang matupad ko ang aking mga pangarap na hindi lamang dahil gusto kong makatulong sa pagpapabuti ng ating lipunan ngunit higit sa lahat ay ang aking hangad na mag-iwan sa mundo ng isang pamana na hindi lamang para sa ngayon kundi para sa kinabukasan



Pastor Orlan Racacho ng ating mga kabataang susunod na magpapalakad ng ating mga institusyon sa mundo.

Ang isa ko pang pinasasalamatan ay si Pastor Orlan Racacho. Hindi ko rin akalain na siya pala'y kumikilala sa aking mga nagawang kabutihan dahil sa paggawa ko ng pahayagang pambayan. Ayon sa kanya, malaki raw ang naitutulong ng North American Filipino Star sa ating mga kababayan kaya gusto niyang maipamudmod ng husto ang mga kopia sa lahat ng lugar. Kumuha siya ng maraming kopia upang dalhin ito sa iba't ibang lugar kagaya ng Kim Phat sa

taon-taon nguni't mula noong nagtayo ako ng isang paaralan, hindi ko na kayang magbakasyon. Bukod dito, nag-aabono rin ako sa pagpapaimprenta ng diaryo dahil kulang sa advertisements. Kundi dahil sa advertisements ng mga politiko kapag may espesyal na okasyon, kulang ang perang dumarating para ibayad sa pagpapaimprenta. Nguni't kahit paano, nakakaraos buan-buan na lumalabas pa rin ang North American Filipino Star. Kahit nagkaroon ng paghina ng enrollment sa Gilmore noong nakaraang taon at dahil sa Covid, ngayon ay biglang dumarami ang kumukuha ng kursong Pranse, at iba pang kurso



Kim Phat sa Brossard

kagaya ng Accounting, Introduction to Computers, at mayroon ding nagtatanong ng Nursing Aide. Naghihintay lang akong magkaroon ng sampung aplikante upang makapagsimula ulit ng kursong ito na inaabot ng 900 oras o isang taon.

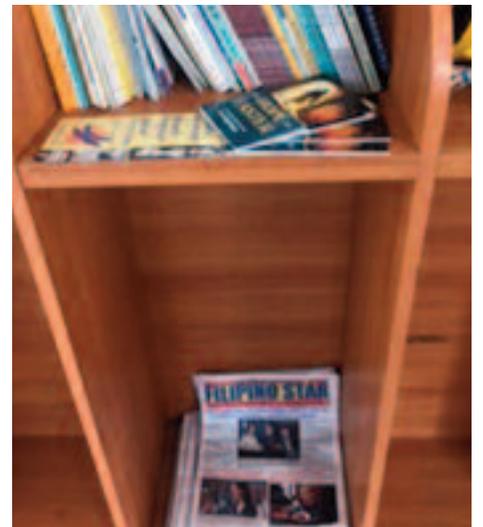
May paniwala akong darating din ang panahong uunlad ang dalawa



Lalagyan ng mga kopia ng diaryo sa Kim Phat sa Brossard

Brossard, at sa West Island. Sinabi rin niya na kapag siya ay nasa zumba, magbibigay din siya ng mga kopia ng diaryo sa lahat ng mga taong nag-suzumba.

May panahong dumarating sa aking pagtatanong sa sarili - bakit kaya ako nagpapakahirap magpatuloy ng aking sariling eskuelahan na dahilan ng malaking suliranin sa pagbabayad ng mga gastos sa upa at iba pang dapat bayaran? Noong wala pa akong sariling paaralan, nakakapagbakasyon ako



Lalagyan ng mga kopia ng diaryo sa opisina ni Pastor Orlan Racacho

kong itinatag - ang paaralan at pahayagang pambayan. Ayon sa kasabihan, habang may buhay may pag-asa sa awa at tulong ng ating Maykapal.#

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Recipes selected from various sources

Cooking with love provides food for the soul.

PINOY RECIPES



Pork Hamonado

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 pounds pork belly (boneless or bone-in), cut into 2-inch cubes
- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1 cup pineapple juice (reserved from can of pineapples)
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 cup water

- 1 teaspoon peppercorns
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 - salt and pepper to taste
 - 1 cup pineapple chunks
- Instructions**
 In a wide, heavy-bottomed pan over medium-high heat, heat oil until very hot but not smoking. Add pork belly in a single layer and cook for about 2 to 3 minutes or until lightly browned. Turn and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes or until all sides are lightly browned. Do NOT overcrowd the pan, cook in batches as needed. Remove meat from the pan and drain on paper towels. Keep warm. In the pan, add onions and garlic and cook, stirring regularly, until softened. Add pork back to the pan and stir to combine. Add pineapple juice and vinegar. Bring to a boil, uncovered and without stirring, for about 2 to 4 minutes. Add soy sauce, water, peppercorns, and bay leaves. Stir to distribute and bring to a boil, skimming scum that floats on top. Lower heat, cover, and simmer for about 50 to 60 minutes or until very tender and liquid is reduced.

Add brown sugar and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Continue to simmer until sauce is thickened. Add pineapple chunks and cook for about 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through. Serve hot.

Notes
 As the liquid in the can is used to braise the meat, choose pineapple chunks packed in juice and not heavy syrup which will make the sauce overly sweet. When the apple cider vinegar is added in, allow it to boil uncovered and without stirring to mellow out the acid taste.

INGREDIENTS



Beef Pochero

- 2-3 Tablespoons Cooking Oil
- 2 medium Plum Tomatoes, diced
- 1 medium Onion, diced
- 4 Garlic cloves, minced
- 2.2 lbs (1 kilo) Country-style Boneless ribs or pork belly, 1-1/2 cubes (SEE NOTES)
- 2-3 Tablespoons Fish Sauce (patis), adjust to taste
- Freshly ground Black Pepper, to taste
- 1 can Beef or Vegetable Broth (or water)
- 2 Medium Red Potatoes quartered and then halved
- 1 Large Carrot, chopped (similar size to potatoes) (SEE NOTES)
- 3/4 cup Del Monte Ketchup or regular

Ketchup or 1 small can Tomato sauce
 3-4 Ripe Saba (Filipino plantains), Burro or Thai Bananas, sliced
 1 bunch of Bok Choy, Baby or regular
 Salt, to taste
 Brown Sugar, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS
 Heat the oil in a deep pot like a Dutch Oven. I used my Le Creuset. Sauté the diced onion for a minute and then add the garlic. Add the pork cubes and coat it with the oil and the aromatics. Stir in the tomatoes and continue to cook until the pork cubes have turned light brown. Pour in the Fish Sauce (Patis) and sprinkle the ground black pepper. Stir. Let it simmer for about 3-5 minutes. Add the broth or water and bring to a boil. Simmer covered until pork is tender (about 30 to 40 minutes). When the pork cubes are tender, add the potatoes and carrots. Pour in the Ketchup or Tomato Sauce. Stir. Simmer again for about 5-6 minutes or until the potatoes and carrots are slightly tender. At this time check the flavors and adjust the seasoning to your taste by adding either salt or sugar or more fish sauce. If it's a little sour (esp if using regular ketchup or tomato sauce) add some brown sugar to achieve a balanced flavor. Add the sliced Burro Bananas and continue to cook until it's tender. Add the Bok Choy leaves, turn off the heat and cover. Let it stand for about 5 minutes. The remaining heat will cook the Bok Choy. Transfer to a serving dish and enjoy with rice! Yum! Some Filipinos eat this with a little fish sauce on the side mixed with a few drops of freshly squeezed Lime juice. Delish!

NOTES
TIPS & TRICKS
 Beef or even Chicken or a combo of any two or all three may be used instead. You can replace the Carrots with some Green Beans and/or Garbanzo Beans – which are the usual ingredients for Pochero.



Just for fun - AI produced photo of Zenaida Kharroubi on the left, and the real photo on the right with Cristy Hunter, her Mom, Fely Rosales-Cariño and me during the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal 6th anniversary awards ceremony held on March 9, 2024. There are five of these AI produced photos that Michael Davantes sent me but my students chose this as the best replica of my original photo when I was young.



Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Is it spring yet? The daily forecasts say so. Many are looking forward to it anyway. Those who like to ski may disagree but let us all accept that there are four seasons of the year and whenever one overlaps another, this does not spell disaster, we move forward and go in with our lives no matter what season we are in. We embrace reality. This is a part of our lives.

Looking at the past events in my social calendar, it started with Cristy Hunter's surprise party for her husband, Robin. In a covert operation, Cristy and crew spruced up a party room at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges. The place was wonderfully decorated with balloons while friends brought food. Earlier, Robin mused to Cristy, "How come we don't do something on my

birthday"? Wifey was still feigning ignorance as she said that she was thinking where to celebrate. Somewhat exasperated, Robin finally said, "Happy Birthday to myself!" Cristy just told him to come to the party room, not telling him the event was for him. So when he finally appeared at the door at 6pm, well, surprise! Everybody stood up to greet him and sang "Happy Birthday!" while wife Cristy met him with a birthday cake! We partied until midnight with Renzie Costales, the best emcee of the night, making everybody awake with lots of dancing. There was picture taking afterwards with the smiling birthday boy. So, Robin, you cannot say "Happy Birthday to myself" anymore. Many of your friends came to spend time with you.

Next in line was the Launching of the Invisible Team (Agent of Hope) in presenting the amazing, pure, organic BARLEY, a total complete food. Very versatile as it can be added to beverages or other dishes, it is also high in fiber, vitamins and minerals. This event was held at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, room 602. The room was complete with pictures of agents who have reached the Emerald Elite Executive Team, the Sapphire Elite Team, the Ruby Elite Team and other categories. Brochures on "How To Take Barley" were distributed. Hosting the event was veteran emcee Joseph Gonzales. The party began with the national anthems followed by the welcome address of Rosalina Rangar. Snowdon Councilor Sonny Moroz gave an inspirational talk. Then entertainment numbers were provided by local singers Sir Julius Abad, and Sir Edmour Valdez. The closing remarks was delivered by Sir Gerry Danzil, Sapphire Elite Executive. With many of our friends on barley, this complete food must be worth a try! Don't you think so?

Last March 2, 2024 the Association of the Filipino Seniors of Montreal (AFSM) held a Valentine Coronation 2024 at Ruby Rouge in Chinatown. The program was quite lengthy but it started on time. Master of

ceremonies Marilou Andal began with the national anthems. AFSM President Mr. Ruben Mendoza gave his welcome address. Darlington Councilor Stephanie Valenzuela gave a very rousing news about her district after which dancing began. The entertainers included vocal solos by Jun Bonyad, Ruben Mendoza and Edgar Batangan. The line dancing group of Sir Boy Galang showed their easy grace in their steps. The now famous Golden Maidens belonging to the FHSM smiled through their performance of the popular Philippine folk dance "Carinosa". Many commented on their graceful choreography.

Towards the finale, the Mrs. Valentine ladies Josephine Ortis and Maria Amano were presented with bouquets by Filomena Fabia and Marilyn Amaro. At this point, Mrs. Valentine 2023 Aurora Ferrer made her farewell walk. She then crowned the new Mrs Valentine 2024, Rose de la Rosa, who took her victory walk around the stage with escort Mr. Robbie Pascual. Before resuming the dancing, the raffles took place. Great prizes were donated by the Fabia family, Andal and Pham family. The closing remarks was given by AFSM Vice President Mr. William Fabia.

See you next issue and God bless

Plans of Spring Cleaning Initiatives in Montreal

By Audrey Tougas, Local Journalism Initiative

Spring has arrived in Montreal and mayor Valerie Plante is preparing the city for a prompt and deep cleaning. Maja Vodanovic, mayor of Montreal's borough of Lachine, stated that the city's management of garbage should be revisited. Particularly, climate change has increased the rates of seasonal rain, which consequently has melted away the snow that covered sidewalks and the city grounds, revealing the debris hidden underneath.

Usually, the rental and use of spring-cleaning equipment begins around April 1, a period marked by an increase in parking limitations to facilitate maintenance operations such as street cleaning. Yet, Valerie Plante's administration is aiming to clean the streets sooner than expected, as some motorized equipment is being used and rented before the usual date. Some blue-collar workers have started cleaning parks and sidewalks occasionally by hand, or with the aid of motorized vacuum cleaners.

Stephanie Valenzuela, councilor for Darlington and spokesperson for Ensemble Montreal for environmental affairs, shared her thoughts on the Plante administration's cleaning operations. Notably, she criticised the mayor's inaction to adopt closed garbage cans and to extend cleaning brigades year-round, « Ça fait des années qu'Ensemble Montréal demande à l'administration Plante d'implanter des poubelles fermées ainsi que d'étendre

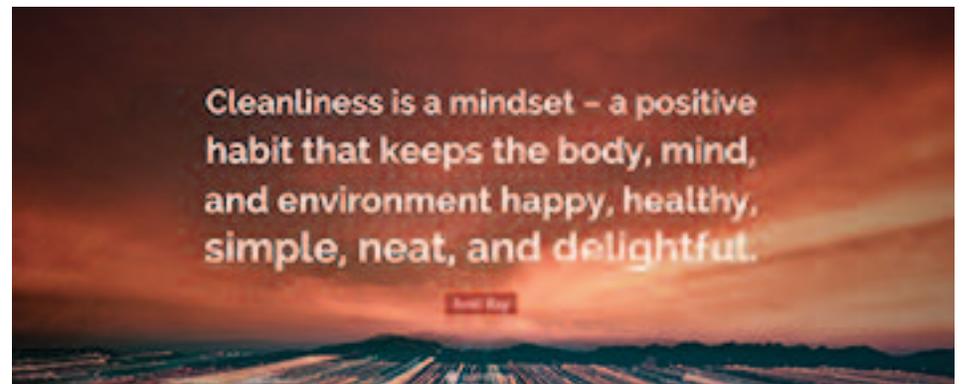
à l'année et sept jours sur sept les brigades de propreté.»

Julien Hénault-Ratelle, the spokesperson for the opposition at city hall, demands putting in place concrete measures to solve Montreal's waste problem. These demands include renewing the city's garbage-collecting procedure, street cleaning, and the handling of rodents. Jim Beis, Pierrefonds-Roxboro Mayor has also criticized the cleanliness of several city streets, stating that Montrealers have a right to expect quality service.

Ensemble Montreal has proposed several solutions. Notably, they have advocated for replacing traditional garbage cans with an increased number of closed garbage cans. They have also suggested increasing the frequency of garbage collection in parks, the year-round deployment of cleaning brigades, a systematic regulation of rodents when conducting sewer maintenance, the addition of public toilets and urban ashtrays, the usage of Radio Frequency Identification devices on trash cans and recycling and composting bins to monitor usage, obligating that the owners of vacant commercial premises clean their frontage, better support for those experiencing reduced garbage collection services at Parc-Extension, as well as the instauration of awareness campaigns aimed towards food retailers on hygiene and the presence of rodents.#



Photo shows Julien Hénault-Ratelle (left) and Stephanie Valenzuela (right) standing near a pile of garbage on a city street.



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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Filipino-Norwegian singer Hillari



Hillari dreams of collaborating with Moira, JK Labajo, and KZ Tandingan

Making a name on the music scene in Norway, 18-year-old Filipino-Norwegian multi-instrumentalist singer Hillari is on her way to creating more music with Filipino artists.

In an exclusive Zoom with Manila Bulletin Entertainment last Oct. 17, Hillari shared that she likes to work with well-known Pinoy artists like KZ Tandingan, Moira Dela Torre, and JK Labajo.

"Genuinely, I really want to collaborate with KZ Tandingan, Moira, and Juan Karlos because they are so amazing, and their music is something else," she said.

But before heading to her dream collaborations, Hillari released a new song entitled

"Loyal" featuring a fellow Pinoy artist, Jolianne. According to her, making the song happened very quickly.

"Working with Jolianne was such a genuine vibe and connection. I sent her the first verse; she was so effective and quick with it. She sent me her verse a week after that, and so when I heard it, I was like, let's go with this. So, it was a very fast and genuine connection," Hillari said.

The singer also mentioned the inspiration behind her song came from the experience of young people being in love and having trust issues.

"I got really inspired by the romantic relationships of my

generation. I'm eighteen years old, and young people around me have trust issues. And you know, by observing my friend's romantic relationships, I got really inspired and made this song because I wanted to encourage and remind myself and the people around me that we actually have a choice to trust other people," Hillari said.

Hillari's journey from an aspiring artist to a celebrated sensation has been nothing short of remarkable, and her collaboration with Jolianne in reimagining "Loyal" is set to be the next chapter in her burgeoning career. Music enthusiasts and fans can expect a harmonious and evocative

experience when the new version of "Loyal" is unveiled.

With a church vocalist background, the young but soulful artist and musician committed to her musical career in late 2021 and quickly attracted attention from the start of 2022.

Over the past year, Hillari has also received praise from the likes of Timberland, Keyshia Cole, and Savannah Ré. Her debut single "Desperate Soul" was released in March 2023 and was named "Song of the Month" by Future Soul with Victoria Jane on BBC Radio 1 in London.

Coming home to the Philippines

Although Hillari was born in Oslo, she spent half of her childhood days on her mother's side in Bacolod. Hillari also mentioned that some of her fondest memories with her relatives are of singing for them.

"I remember my grandmother giving me money just to entertain and sing in front of all my titos and titas. It was just a fun childhood for me because I always love entertaining people since I was young, and another fondest memory of my childhood is just playing in the sun, out on the street with the kids because it's different in the Philippines than in Oslo," she said.

Coming back to her roots, Hillari feels the love from her Pinoy fans after having her first intimate gig in Makati last Oct. 14.

"It was such a milestone for me, to be honest. Although it was a very small venue, I wanted to make sure that this show I was doing is very intimate because I wanted to connect with my audience here in the Philippines because they've given so much love online, and I just wanted to give it back to them," she said.

Aside from doing gigs, Hillari also went food crawling with homemade Filipino dishes when she first arrived in the Philippines.

"I went to a lot of restaurants that serves homemade Filipino foods because I really miss the Philippines, so the first that I did is to eat sisig," she added. ■

Megan Young sorry for fixing Miss Botswana's hair



Megan Young (left) and Miss World Botswana Lesego Chombo.

Former Miss World Megan Young issued an apology after facing criticism for fixing Miss World Botswana Lesego Chombo's hair during the Miss World question-and-answer portion.

Megan's well-intentioned action of brushing a piece of hair from Chombo's face sparked outrage from some viewers, particularly African pageant fans.

The issue sparked after a content creator from Botswana accused Megan of racism for adjusting Lesego's hair.

"In my own opinion, that presenter wasn't fixing Lesego's hair. And there was nothing wrong with her hair," the content creator stated.

"The presenter wanted to kill Lesego's confidence and also show judges that it wasn't her natural hair but a wig," he added.

In a Facebook post, the 34-year-old actress acknowledged her mistake. She explained that her intention was to be helpful, but acknowledge that she failed to consider the cultural implications.

"Last night during the final, I fixed Lesego Chombo's (Miss Botswana) hair on stage. I

wanted to offer a helping hand but I failed to oversee the bigger picture. This could have caused distress during that moment and I have been made aware that culturally, this is unacceptable," she said.

Megan also shared that she and Lesego had talked privately and she personally apologized to Miss Botswana in private.

"To those who witnessed the incident, I also want to apologize for any discomfort or confusion my actions may have caused. It was a thoughtless and disrespectful act, and I take full responsibility for it," Megan continued.

"I assure you that it was not my intention to invade personal space or make anyone feel uncomfortable. I deeply regret my actions and will strive to be more mindful and respectful in the future," she added.

Meanwhile, Lesego took to her own platform to urge her supporters to be more understanding towards Megan and the newly crowned Miss World, Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic, who also received criticism online. ■

Catriona Gray, Sam Milby spotted together amid breakup rumors



Sam Milby and Catriona Gray at Isabel Oli's trade-launch event.

Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray and her fiancé, actor Sam Milby, were seen together at an event following speculations about their split.

In an Instagram post by actress Isabel Oli, the couple was seen seated together in a photo along with the actress and NicePrint founder Charisse Tinio during an event with Cornerstone Entertainment.

Isabel spoke about feeling anxious during the event, but Catriona, Sam, Charisse, along with Charisse's husband John Prats, were able to provide her with the support she needed.

Rumors of Catriona and Sam's breakup started to circulate when showbiz reporter Ogie Diaz said in a YouTube video that he had spoken to two different sources who told him that the couple had already split but had

decided to maintain their friendship, which would explain why they were still seen in public together.

However, Ogie clarified that he would only believe such statements if they came from the couple themselves.

Through a recent Instagram post, Catriona dispelled such rumors by sharing a carousel of photos, some featuring their dogs, and tagging Sam's account.

Catriona and Sam have been known to keep their relationship low-key, with only a small number of posts on their social media accounts featuring each other.

Notably, both had taken to Instagram to announce their engagement on Feb. 16, 2023. Sam also made their relationship official on the platform on May 23, 2020. ■

'It's Showtime' hosts to play on 'Family Feud' on April 8



The "It's Showtime" hosts are all set to bring their competitive energy to "Family Feud!"

In a 15-second teaser on the Kapuso game show's TikTok page, the hosts can be seen

divided into Team Vice and Team Anne.

Vice Ganda's team is made up of Jhong Hilario, Amy Perez, and Jugs Jugueta, whereas Anne Curtis' team is composed of Vhong Navarro, Ogie Alcasid, and Teddy Corpuz.

The quick teaser already showed the Kapamilya hosts cracking jokes and getting intensely competitive.

The "It's Showtime" hosts' "Family Feud" episode airs on April 8 at 5:40 p.m. on GMA Network.

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Is the feud between Bea Alonzo and Julia Barretto finally over?

**Julia Barretto & Bea Alonzo seem to have patched things up.**

Actresses Bea Alonzo and Julia Barretto were spotted together on Saturday, March 16, at a recent gathering. In a viral video on a social media platform, the two were seen interacting, chatting, and laughing together during the surprise tribute for seasoned starmaker Johnny "Mr. M" Manahan, which was also attended by Kapuso and Kapamilya artists.

It can be recalled that in 2019, Bea and Julia were embroiled in a love triangle controversy involving actor Gerald Anderson.

Gerald was Bea's ex-boyfriend and their relationship came to a controversial ending when the actress said that the actor ghosted her and cheated on her.

Julia initially denied that she was the reason for the

breakup and the allegations involving her in any cheating issues. Later on, Gerald and Julia made their relationship public in 2021.

The recent interaction between the actresses made fans express their joy that the two finally rekindled their friendship.

"The world is healing. Love happy for women," a netizen said. "I am genuinely happy for this," another one tweeted.

"So happy to see these two in one frame with just a positive aura and vibe," a netizen commented.

"Time heals all wounds," wrote another netizen.

Bea and Julia last worked together in the series "A Love To Last" where the former played as the stepmother of Julia. ■

Atasha Muhlach admits getting first phone at 17, still learning social media

**Host-model Atasha Muhlach**

Host-model Atasha Muhlach, daughter of celebrity couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, revealed that she received her first-ever phone just five years ago when she was 17 years old.

Atasha was at a Women Summit 2024 event last week where she was asked about her usage of social media for branding, given she is fairly new in the local showbiz industry.

"Actually, I'm still learning the ropes of social media because I was only given a phone at the age of 17," Atasha admitted, explaining she grew up in a traditional household.

The 22-year-old Atasha said her family had a "very old-school" kind of living, prominently

using landline phones in her youth, and had limited access to social media.

The host-model said social media is very beneficial for people beginning to open up small business and to figure out one's identity, individuality and desires.

Atasha is currently a host on the noontime variety show "Eat Bulaga." Last October, she released her first single "Pasuyo."

She only entered showbiz after finishing a Business degree with honors from the United Kingdom's Nottingham Trent University. Her twin brother, Andres, is completing a similar degree in Spain.

The Muhlach family are slated to appear together in an upcoming sitcom later this year. ■

Zanjoe Marudo marries Ria Atayde

**Ria Atayde & Zanjoe Marudo**

Celebrity couple Ria Atayde and Zanjoe Marido have tied the knot.

In his Instagram account, Zanjoe posted photos of their wedding.

"03.23.24," Zanjoe wrote.

"Happy Birthday MY WIFE," he added.

Celebrities such as Angelica Panganiban, Maine

Mendoza, Jela Atayde, Isabelle Daza, Jane Oineza and Jake Ejercito, among others commented on Zanjoe's post.

"Uy wife!! Congrats mr & mrs marudo," Angelica wrote.

"Welcome to the family, kuya," Jela commented.

Ria and Zanjoe announced their engagement last February.

In her Instagram account, Ria posted photos of her and Zanjoe, including the engagement ring.

"Forever sounds good," Ria captioned the post with white heart and ring emojis.

"And tastes even better," Zanjoe commented on Ria's post. ■

Heart Evangelista makes runway debut at Paris Fashion Week



Heart Evangelista astonishes in a Phan Huy gown inspired by the waters of Central Vietnam

Heart Evangelista made her runway debut at Paris Fashion Week, opening the show for Vietnamese designer Phan Huy on March 2.

Wearing an elegant, sheer tube peplum gown with a plunging V-neckline, the style queen exuded elegance as she sashayed down the runway with confidence at the show's opening, held at the historic Maison de L'Amérique Latine, located at 217 Boulevard Saint-Germain in Paris.

Heart's dress was from the Tam Giang Lagoon Collection, which, according to Huy, draws inspiration from the serene waters of Central Vietnam.

Heart's hair was elegantly styled and slicked back for her runway debut, and her accessories remained minimal, with only perfectly coordinated black gloves. The show was impeccably styled by Steven Doan, Chief Brand Officer of Phan Huy.

"Small girl, big dreams," Heart wrote in an Instagram post showing herself alongside towering models.

"So grateful for everything. Work hard, never step on others to get ahead, focus on your goals, and enjoy each process, good or bad. And one day, little by little, you shall be living

your dream," the five-foot-two actress and fashion icon added.

Apart from opening Huy's collection, Heart attended various fashion shows, donning creations by renowned designers such as Hermès, Alexander McQueen, Manolo Blahnik, Giambattista Valli, YSL, and Louis Vuitton, among others.



The Paris Fashion Week began on Feb. 26 and concluded on March 5 ■

Kathryn Bernardo says turning 28 is her 'happiest birthday to date'



Kathryn Bernardo was glowing with happiness as she welcomed 28.

The actress celebrated with her loved ones at Isla Amara, a beach resort she co-owns with Piolo Pascual in El Nido, Palawan. They had fun on a yacht and then on the island where fireworks were also displayed, as seen in Kathryn's birthday video on Instagram.

"WHAT A DAY!" Kathryn said. "Didn't want it to end. Keeping these moments in my core memory forever."

"Thank you for making this my happiest birthday to date. Cheers to 28!" she added.

Among those spotted at the

celebration were Alden Richards, Jericho Rosales, Joshua Garcia, Maymay Entrata, Dominic Roque, ABS-CBN President and CEO Carlo L. Katigbak, and many more.

Kathryn also received a birthday greeting from her ex-boyfriend, Daniel Padilla. Her mother, Min, also gave her a moving birthday message, saying, "Shout out to you my daughter, you haven't felt okay lately but you get up everyday and refuse to quit."

Kathryn also welcomed this new chapter in her life as the first Filipina ambassador for French luxury perfume and beauty house, Lancome.

Gabbi Garcia launches fashion accessory brand 'Sandy & Shine'



Actress Gabbi Garcia announces the launch of her fashion accessory brand, Sandy & Shine.

On the official Instagram page for Sandy & Shine, it was revealed that the store will be exclusively selling its products on the online shopping platform Lazada. The brand features several fashion accessories like earrings, necklaces, rings, and eyewear.

Before the brand's official launch, Gabbi had posted a video on her Instagram account, where she modeled several pieces from the store.

The new fashion accessory brand is not the actress' first business venture. Gabbi launched the food business Meat Up! with boyfriend Khalil Ramos in partnership with cloud kitchen company CloudEats in 2022.

Last year, she also partnered with hairstylist Mark Anthony Rosales to open a franchise of the Marqed Salon in Bonifacio Global City as well as formally launched her own hybrid beauty brand Five Beauty.

Gabbi made her television debut with a starring role in the series, "My Destiny." Her breakout role was with the remake of the series, "Encantadia." The actress' most recent role was in "Unbreak My Heart" where she starred alongside Joshua Garcia, Jodi Sta. Maria, and Richard Yap.

Gabbi has collaborated with Khalil on several projects like the film "LSS (Last Song Syndrome)" as well as the music video for indie folk band Ben&Ben's songs, "Pagtingin" and "Araw-Araw." She also has a YouTube channel with him called "Front-Seat Foodies." ■

Increase of Child Sexual Exploitation Online

By Audrey Tougas
Local Journalism Initiative

Montreal, March 12, 2024 – In a recent report, Statistics Canada revealed that between 2014 and 2022 there was a 290% increase in child pornography online, with a total of 45,816 incidents recorded in Canada.

During that period, there were 15,630 incidents reported by the police of online sexual offences against children, such as invitations to sexual touching, exploitation, assault, luring, bestiality, and incest.

Subsequently, 60% of incidents of online sexual offences against children reported by police between 2014 and 2022 were not solved.

For this article, youth is described as those aged 12 to 17 years, and children are those aged 11 years and younger. Additionally, “online sexual offences against children” and “online child pornography” are treated as separate offences.

Victims

Between 2015 and 2022, approximately 97% of victims of child pornography were youth, where the median age for girls was 15 years and for boys, 14 years.

Online luring, that is communicating with a child online to commit a sexual offence, accounted for 75% of online sexual offences against children.

Between 2014 and 2022, 39% of reported child luring incidents in Canada were in Quebec, followed by 22% in Ontario and 12% in British Columbia. These proportions, as mentioned by Statistics Canada, may be the result of a province’s available police resources, jurisdiction, and population size.

In sum, there was a total of 11,971 police-reported incidents of online luring, with girls accounting for 84% of all victims, and the median age of victims being 13 years.

Youth victims, in addition to being targeted for online sexual offences by casual acquaintances (27%), were also victimized by strangers (37%). Similarly, 57% of children were typically victimized by strangers online.

Men and boys with a median age of 25 years accounted for 96% of those accused of luring a child and 90% of those accused of possessing child pornography.

Girls aged 12 to 17, their median age being 14 years, were more likely to be accused of online sexual offences against children than older women. Whereas men and boys usually committed offences alone, girls and women often did so with another person.

Those distributing non-

consensual intimate images of youth tended to be youth as well, accounting for 90% of illicit distribution cases. Most were either casual acquaintances (33%), current or former romantic partners (28%) or friends (21%). Girls (youth) represented 23% of those accused of distributing the images, whereas boys (youth) represented 66% of those accused.

Victims of online child sexual offences can experience a range of outcomes, such as “impaired relationships, feelings of self-blame, negative sexual development, substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem, and suicide.”

Police Reports – Online Sexual Offences

Between 2014 and 2022, 30% of incidents involving online sexual offences against children resulted in a charge being given or recommended against an accused.

Excluding child pornography, 41% of online sexual offences against children were solved by the police. Of those solved incidents, 70% resulted in a charge being given, “while the remaining incidents were “cleared otherwise” (26%) or charges were recommended by police but declined by the Crown (3%).”

Regardless of the type of offence, the greater the number of violations committed, the more likely police were to solve online sexual offences against children. For example, 27% of cases with a single violation committed were solved in contrast to 69% of cases solved with multiple violations. This leads to many cases being left unsolved because of insufficient evidence.

Possessing or accessing child pornography incidents accounted for 15% of laid charges whereas making or distributing content accounted for 6% of laid charges.

Between 2018 and 2022 alone, 88% of child pornography incidents were left unsolved due to lack of evidence.

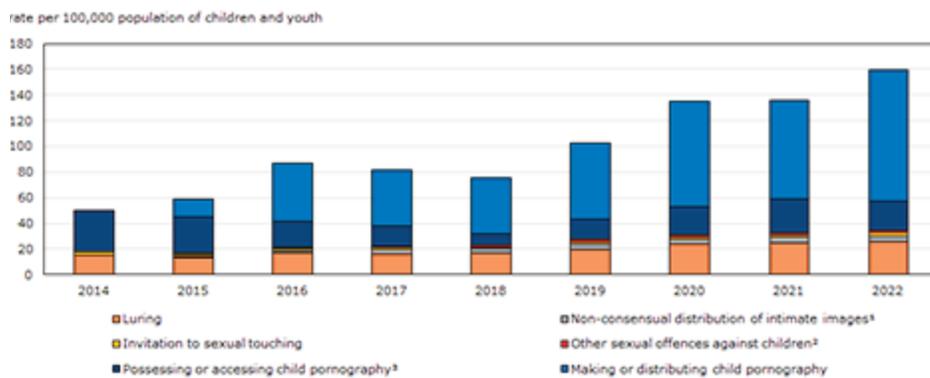
Sentencing

As for the sentencing, 30,983 charges between 2014 and 2021 of child sexual offences online were processed in Canadian courts, resulting in 34% of adult charges being found guilty, leading to a custodial sentence for most, and 62% of youth perpetrators receiving probation as their sentencing.

Reports of online child sexual exploitation increased during COVID-19 because of the increased amount of time spent online.

The increase in incidents recorded may also be attributed to the rise in popularity of Public Safety Canada’s

Chart 2
Police-reported incidents of online child sexual exploitation, by type of offence and year, Canada, 2014 to 2022



website, Cybertip.ca, which can detect sexual abuse material and where people can report incidents of child sexual offences online. Additionally, the increase in reported cases may be attributed to better police technology.

Many cases go unreported, as children may not be able to recognize sexual abuse.

Additionally, since the internet is a global experience, many perpetrators or victims may be located outside of Canada, rendering the abusers difficult to locate and persecute.

There is also reliance on international cooperation, which can make persecution particularly difficult as areas have varying restrictions on online child sexual exploitation.

Additionally, whereas police technology is becoming more efficient, it is not always up to par with the technology used by abusers. Particularly, police may be having a harder time locating perpetrators, as technological

advancements have rendered anonymity more accessible to perpetrators and harder to uncover.

Child sexual offences online have increased between 2014 and 2022. Most victims were girls between the ages of 12 and 17 years, and most perpetrators were men and boys with a median age of 25 years. Around 60% of the incidents went unsolved by the police and those that were solved resulted in having a charge laid. Of those charged, adults would typically receive custodial sentencing and youths would receive probation.

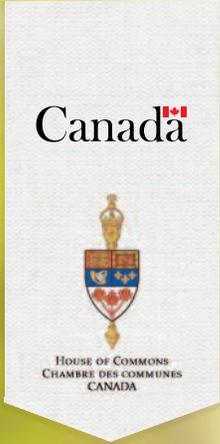
The increase in reported sexual offences against children online may be attributed to the increase in time spent online during the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in the efficiency of police technology. The impediments to solving cases can be attributed to children’s incapability to address sexual offence instances, efficient anonymity software, and international borders.#



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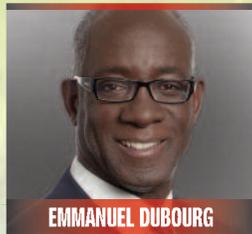
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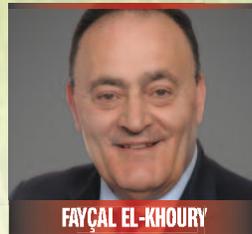
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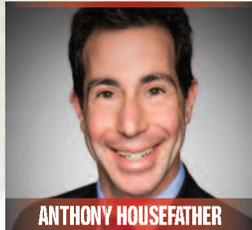
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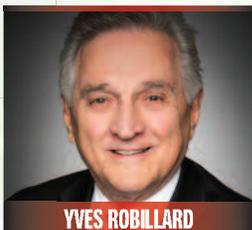
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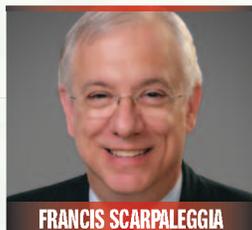
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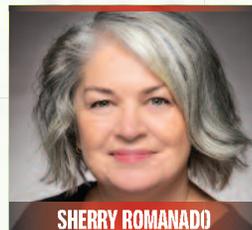
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THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

MARCH 2024 PICTORIAL NEWS



As Kate, the Princess of Wales, undergoes treatment for cancer after revealing her diagnosis publicly last week, the public is learning more details about the impact of that diagnosis and the support she is receiving. Kate, 42, is understood to have had lunch privately with her father-in-law, King Charles III, last Thursday, the day before Kensington Palace released a video of Kate sharing a personally written message announcing her cancer diagnosis.(BBC)



Members of the United Nations Security Council meet on the day of a vote on a Gaza resolution that demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan leading to a permanent sustainable ceasefire, and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, at U.N. headquarters in New York City, U.S., March 25, 2024. (REUTERS/Andrew Kelly)The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Monday demanding an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas after the United States abstained from the vote, sparking a spat with its ally Israel.The remaining 14 council members voted for the resolution – proposed by the 10 elected members of the body – that also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. There was applause in the council chamber after the vote.“This resolution must be implemented. Failure would be unforgivable,” U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres posted on social media.

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Nous vous souhaitons de
Joyeuses Pâques



Wishing you a
happy easter



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