

## Language law Bill 96 adopted, promising sweeping changes for Quebec

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Bill 96, the provincial government's controversial legislation aimed at protecting the French language in Quebec, has been adopted in the National Assembly.

MNAs voted 78-29 in favour of passing the law Tuesday afternoon, with opposition members from the Liberal Party and Parti Québécois voting against it.

The passing of the bill comes as a constitutional lawyer based in Montreal says he, along with a committee of other lawyers, plan to challenge it in court.

Bill 96 "is...the most gratuitous use of power I've ever seen," said Julius Grey on Tuesday, hours before the legislation was adopted.

Meanwhile, Quebec Premier François Legault told English-speakers on Tuesday afternoon that the province is making a "historic promise" that they will "keep" their services, also saying he believes they're better served already in their own language than any other linguistic minority.

Reacting to the bill's passage while at a news conference in Vancouver, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters he has "concerns" about Bill 96, but did not give a clear answer when asked if the



**Quebec Minister Responsible for the French Language Simon Jolin-Barrette and Premier François Legault appear happy after the approval of Bill 96 at the Quebec National Assembly, Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

federal government would intervene in a legal challenge.

"We continue to look very carefully at what the final form of this will take and we will base our decision on what we see as the need to keep minorities protected across the country," he said in English.

"I know how important it is to support francophone communities outside of Quebec, but it's also extremely important to make sure we protect francophone communities

within Quebec," he added, noting that he once taught French in British Columbia.

### CHANGES ACROSS NEARLY EVERY SECTOR

The bill was designed as an update to Quebec's original language law, Bill 101, but it contains huge, sweeping changes that will make deep marks in the justice system and college education system, among many other sectors of Quebec society.

Among other things, it would

make it mandatory for new immigrants in Quebec to communicate with any government entity entirely in French starting just six months after their arrival.

The bill would also change the system for deciding how many judges in Quebec must be bilingual, shifting that power to the justice minister -- who is currently the same person as the minister responsible for French.

See Page 4

Bill 96



**President elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. (GMA News)**

And so the unimaginable happened — the result of the Philippines' long-awaited 2022 presidential elections is that Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., son of the former dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr., will become the country's 17th president, succeeding the

controversial Rodrigo Duterte in June. Marcos Jr.'s victory in one of the Philippines' most consequential elections since the 1986 People Power Revolution brought back democracy to the country after 21 years of Marcos Sr.'s rule — 14 of them under martial law — has alarmed people who lived

### ORDER FROM CHAOS

## A Marcos returns to power in the Philippines

**Mely Caballero-Anthony Friday, May 13, 2022**

through one of the darkest periods in Philippine history.

After more than three decades, however, the historical memories which could have prevented the return of another Marcos to power were lost to an assiduous and systematic revisionist campaign successfully orchestrated by the Marcos team, using different social media platforms. The efforts, reported to be a decade in the making, led to an unprecedented landslide victory for Marcos with over his nemesis, Vice President Leni Robredo, and the other candidates.

As Ferdinand Marcos Jr. prepares to assume office, what is in store for the Philippines?

### POLITICAL DYNASTIES VS. PEOPLE POWER 2.0

The 2022 presidential elections forced the Filipinos to confront their checkered historical understanding of the Marcos martial law regime in early 1980s, known for its human rights abuses and corruption which bankrupted the country and made the Philippines the "sick man of Asia." The elections also saw a replay of contests of political dynasties. On one side is Marcos Jr. and Vice President-elect Sara Duterte (daughter of the current president), and on the other is the reformist group led by Robredo. During the 2016

See Page 4

A Marcos returns



### From the Editor's desk

## The new world of work post pandemic

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

There are just too many issues that seem to overwhelm most of us. Not only are we still in the middle of our struggles to find our way back to a new normal life but we also have to cope with the pivotal changes in the world of work.

The post pandemic world seems to be full of endless challenges. Although some of us have found a way to work from home, not everyone is lucky enough to keep a job while others fear losing their ability to communicate because of isolation and loss of a team spirit. They miss the socialization that the office provides. New hires or new employees are also at a disadvantage when working away from the office and on their own. They miss the opportunity to learn from the more senior employees. When it comes to Covid-19's emotional impact, people aren't just worried about Zoom fatigue or WiFi blips during video calls. Furloughs, redundancies and slashed pay all threaten livelihoods, with a major impact on mental health.

According to some studies, there is inequality in access and ability to telework in Canada. Workers in knowledge-intensive industries are more likely to engage in remote work than those in service industries. And those with a higher level of education are more likely to telework than those with

secondary-level education or lower. Rural residents are less likely than urban residents to telework. Overall, the overlapping barriers to teleworking resulted in poorer workers having less ability to telework.

Even though we are certain that the world of work will change, there are still many unknowns. Will a hybrid model work for everyone? Will this new type of work produce gender equality or more inequities? What happens to people who can't work from home as well as those whose jobs depend on a steady flow of traffic into urban hubs? Can we learn from Covid-19 and build better safety nets for the most vulnerable workers? And if the future is digital, how do we make sure swathes of the global population aren't left behind?

Remote work raises a vast array of issues and challenges for employees and employers. Companies are pondering how best to deliver coaching remotely and how to configure workspaces to enhance employee safety, among a host of other thorny questions raised by COVID-19. For their part, employees are struggling to find the best home-work balance and equip themselves for working and collaborating remotely. Evidently, we still have a lot to learn about the new world of work.

## The COVID-19 pandemic is 'most certainly not over,' WHO's health chief says

Almost 1 billion people in lower-income countries still not vaccinated: UN agency  
The Associated Press · Posted: May 22, 2022 1:02 PM ET | Last Updated: May 22

world's population vaccinated, "it's not over anywhere until it's over everywhere," Tedros said. "Reported cases are increasing in almost 70 countries in all regions — and this in a world in which



**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, addresses delegates during the first day of the 75th World Health Assembly at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva on Sunday. (Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone/The Associated Press)**

The COVID-19 pandemic is "most certainly not over," the head of the World Health Organization warned Sunday, despite a decline in reported cases since the peak of the Omicron wave. He told governments that "we lower our guard at our peril."

The United Nations health agency's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, told officials gathered in Geneva for the opening of the WHO's annual meeting that "declining testing and sequencing means we are blinding ourselves to the evolution of the virus." He also noted that almost one billion people in lower-income countries still haven't been vaccinated.

In a weekly report issued Thursday on the global situation, WHO said the number of new COVID-19 cases appears to have stabilized after weeks of decline since late March, and the overall number of weekly deaths dropped.

While there has been progress, with 60 per cent of the

testing rates have plummeted." Reported deaths are rising in Africa, the continent with the lowest vaccination coverage, he said, and only 57 countries — almost all of them wealthy — have vaccinated 70 per cent of their people.

While the world's vaccine supply has improved, there is "insufficient political commitment to roll out vaccines" in some countries, gaps in "operational or financial capacity" in others, he said.

"In all, we see vaccine hesitancy driven by misinformation and disinformation," Tedros said. "The pandemic will not magically disappear, but we can end it."

Tedros is expected to be appointed for a second five-year term this week at the World Health Assembly, the annual meeting of the WHO's member countries.



**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), centre, celebrates his reelection, during the 75th World Health Assembly at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, May 24, 2022. (Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone via AP)**

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# English community plans rally against Bill 96 in downtown Montreal

The rally will be held at Place du Canada, near the intersection of Peel St. and René-Lévesque Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Jason Magder • Montreal Gazette  
Publishing date: May 25, 2022

Leaders of the province's English-speaking community vowed to speak loudly and often against Bill 96, which was passed in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

They have planned a rally for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Place du Canada near the intersection of Peel St. and René-Lévesque Blvd. downtown.

The law, which will be enacted in phases over a period of three years, aims to update and strengthen the French-language charter, known as Bill 101. The law was slammed by anglophones, allophones and Indigenous communities, who are concerned about sweeping changes that will affect immigration, education, health care, businesses, municipalities and the judicial system. They also worry about increased powers given to the province's language watchdog to carry out search-and-seizures without the need for a warrant, among other measures.

"We are very concerned about



**Demonstration against Bill 96 in Montreal, Saturday, May 14, 2022. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes**

the erosion of rights of all Quebecers that were introduced by a government that seems to care more about scoring political points for the upcoming election than it does about good governance," said Matt Aronson, a spokesperson for the Quebec Community Groups Network. "We hope citizens will recognize that this bill is bad law and we hope provincial and federal politicians will do something about this bad law before it goes any further."

Aronson said Thursday's rally is the first of many actions, the community is planning. The rally is being organized by the Quebecers Against Bill 96, which was created by the QCGN, English Parents' Committee Association, Quebec English School Board Association, and Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations.

Premier François Legault has defended the legislation, calling it "responsible and moderate," and said

the government had to take action to protect the French language.

The city of Côte-St-Luc has also sent a notice in its newsletter to citizens Wednesday urging them to join the protest.

"We've made our position very clear," Mayor Mitchell Brownstein said. "We're very opposed to the bill and we have great concerns for the residents, not just of Côte-St-Luc, but everywhere, including francophones."

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake issued a statement Wednesday evening vowing to fight the law, which the council said shows a "complete disregard towards all Indigenous as distinct and living peoples in our traditional territories."

The council said it is developing plans to fight the implementation, and will make those plans known in the near future.

"We are not going to lay down while the Quebec government takes another stab at pulling our futures out from under us," Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer said. "We are prepared to keep fighting the imposition of this legislation in any way

See Page 7 English community



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From Page 1 A Marcos returns

elections, Robredo faced off with Marcos Jr. in the contest for the vice presidency and won. Robredo represented the Liberal Party of then-President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino Jr., son of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Sr., the archrival of Marcos Sr.

Aquino Sr. was assassinated in 1983 upon his return to the Philippines from exile in the United States. His death triggered massive demonstrations across the country, led by his widow, Corazon "Cory" Aquino, and culminated in the People Power Revolution that led to the ouster of Marcos Sr. in 1986, forcing the dictator and his family to live in exile in Hawaii. Corazon Aquino was elected president the same year. Marcos Sr. died in 1989 and his family was allowed to return to the Philippines in 1992.

Since 1992, the Marcos family had made no secret of its plans to reclaim political power and influence and reestablish the so-called Marcos "legacy." Marcos Jr., was elected governor in the family's bailiwick northern province of Ilocos Sur in 1992, became a senator in 2010, and ran for the vice presidency in 2016 only to lose to Robredo. Despite Marcos Jr.'s defeat, his vice-presidential bid was said to be a dry run for a presidential campaign in 2022. Having prepared the groundwork much earlier, Marcos clearly had the advantage over Robredo and other opposition candidates. His strategic partnership with Sara Duterte as a running mate (though the positions are elected separately) allowed him to significantly strengthen his support base. In contrast, Robredo's presidential bid came late and was under resourced, relying more on grassroots support and volunteerism. And while the Robredo campaign may have captured the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of her supporters who came in droves to her "pink" rallies organized by mainly young people, drawing comparisons to the "yellow"

From Page 1

Bill 96

It would cap enrolment levels at English-language CEGEPs, making the colleges more and more difficult to get into as their growth will be halted at 2019 levels.

Within those colleges, students would also face new requirements -- some would need to pass a French-language exam in order to graduate and to take some of their core classes in French, while unilingual English students would also need to take more classes to learn French.

That will, in turn, drastically change the staffing of the colleges, they've said, spurring a major hiring of French-language teachers and likely putting the jobs of some English-speaking teachers at risk.

There's been much confusion over what kind of effect the law will have on health care, with lawyers

People Power rallies in 1986, it was dwarfed by the immensity and the reach of the Marcos-Duterte resources. With a head start, massive resources, and the strategic partnership with the Dutertes backed by a strong political machinery, Marcos Jr.'s victory was not unexpected. With a decisive mandate, Marcos Jr. is now set to reverse his family's fortunes. He has promised to bring back the "good old days" of the old Marcos regime, which according to his revisionist campaign was prosperous and stable.

#### HOW WILL MARCOS GOVERN?

Apart from the dark pall cast over Marcos Jr.'s presidency by his family's history of repression, cronyism, and kleptocracy, much of the concern expressed not only by the opposition but also particularly by certain quarters of the Philippines' policy community, have much to do with the lack of clarity of his platform. With the candidate having snubbed all presidential debates, many are left guessing how the Marcos administration is going to address the many challenges facing the Philippines. There are also fears that with Sara Duterte as vice president, Marcos Jr. will protect his predecessor from investigations and possible prosecution for human rights violations and extrajudicial killings carried out during his "war on drugs" policy.

To be sure, Marcos Jr.'s simple message of "unity" conveyed throughout his campaign has failed to outline any concrete policies on how, for example, he is going to steer the country into economic recovery after the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other pressing issues — like the growing food crisis, compounded by the ongoing war in Ukraine; water and resource scarcity; growing energy demands; and the urgent need to marshal adequate resources to address the multifaceted impact of climate change on people's safety from more frequent and severe natural disasters — also need clear policy direction.

#### PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY

warning that its language leaves the door open to a serious change in how easy it is to get health care in English, and the government insisting verbally that nothing will change on that front.

Verbal assurances, however, come cheap, say the legal critics, whereas the bill as written is expansive and very complicated, leaving much uncertain.

#### 'I KNOW OF NO LINGUISTIC MINORITY THAT IS BETTER SERVED': LEGAULT

Legault called that criticism "disinformation" last week. He said again on Tuesday, after the bill's passage, that the government is promising English services will be maintained.

"I know there are some who are adding fuel to the fire by claiming that Bill 96 will prevent English-speaking Quebecers from receiving health-care

It is not only the lack of information on Marcos Jr.'s plans for governing the country that is worrying. Foreign policy was basically absent from his campaign. This lacuna is particularly concerning given the critical issues affecting the country's security and its relations with the United States, China, and its Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) neighbors.

One of these issues is the future of the West Philippines Sea, the official designation by the government of the Philippines of the parts of the South China Sea that are included in the country's exclusive economic zone, and China's refusal to respect the arbitral ruling that gives Philippine sovereignty over this disputed territory. The outgoing Duterte administration has taken a non-confrontational approach toward China and to a certain extent adopted an almost fatalistic attitude on the West Philippine Sea issue, choosing instead to lean more on Beijing's promise of more trade and investments to the country. Marcos Jr. is reported to want to continue with Duterte's friendly policy toward China, and has declared that the country should "engage with China" to the fullest, while careful at the same time not to get drawn into U.S.-China competition.

This brings to question how Marcos Jr. would deal with the U.S. and the future of the U.S.-Philippine alliance. During the old Marcos regime, the military partnership remained resilient despite vocal U.S. opposition to martial law, even after the assassination of Aquino Sr. Although the strategic environment has significantly changed since the 1980s, one would expect more continuity than change in U.S.-Philippines relations. And unlike President Duterte who had borne a personal grudge against the U.S. and was vocal about it, Marcos Jr. has no known baggage. Given Marcos Jr.'s "cosmopolitan" background, he would perhaps be less insular and more inclined to pursue closer relations with the U.S. while adopting a

services in English," Legault said.

"We know that some of the people are worried. We are committed to protecting your access to health care in English. It is a historical promise that we will keep, and you will continue to have, English-speaking hospitals, schools, CEGEPs and universities," he continued.

"I know of no linguistic minority that is better served in its own language than the English-speaking community in Quebec."

The premier added that "we are proud of that," and that "we are also proud to be a francophone nation in North America and it's our duty to protect our common language, and I invite all Quebecers to speak it, to love it and to protect it."

#### LANGUAGE REFORM BILL TOO 'DIVISIVE': ANGLADE

Liberal leader Dominique Anglade said her party is against

balanced position in dealing with the U.S.-China rivalry. Moreover, most Filipinos have a more favorable view of the U.S. than China. Given the kind of transnational economic and security challenges facing the Philippines, one would also want to see whether and how the Marcos administration will support multilateralism both regionally and globally.

While the Philippines' ASEAN neighbors may be too preoccupied with their own problems, particularly as they emerge from the brunt of the pandemic, it would be interesting to see how they will engage with the new Philippine administration. That Marcos Jr. was democratically elected regardless of his political baggage is a welcome development for ASEAN, particularly when stacked against the ongoing crisis in Myanmar. With pronouncements of returning the Philippines to its "past glory" as a leading country in Southeast Asia, Marcos Jr. may want to be seen as being more present than Duterte in ASEAN meetings and add his country's voice to regional and global issues. Many of Marcos Jr.'s foreign policy decisions will also depend on who he brings into his cabinet, particularly in the foreign policy and defense portfolios.

As Marcos Jr. takes over the presidency in June 2022, many questions remain. Will he provide a better life for Filipinos and unite a polarized country? Can he allay growing fears about the return of dictatorship, and guarantee that human rights will be protected and democracy will prevail? Will he ensure that the country's sovereignty and national interests will not be compromised vis-à-vis worries of Chinese aggression? Can he restore confidence and assure the country's external partners, particularly the U.S. and Japan, of the Philippines' commitment to a rules-based international order? With many more questions to come, time will tell if Marcos Jr. will rise to the occasion.

several sections of the bill, including the requirement that all new immigrants receive government services only in French after they've lived in Quebec for six months.

"It's not realistic, it's not acceptable. There are lots of families that will be affected by that. It will be a negative impact," Anglade said after the bill was passed.

Speaking at a press scrum, she said people who live in Quebec can be for the promotion and protection of French, but also against Bill 96 because it "divides Quebecers."

Her message to the anglophone community Tuesday was to vote in the upcoming provincial election in October.

"That's one way to voice what type of Quebec you want. Do we want a Quebec where, yes, we can protect

See Page 12

Bill 96

# Mobilizing Filipino Youths For Future Church Leadership



By Alvin Dahan-Veloso

The youth symbolizes hope, passion and resilience; in their hands, rests the future of Notre dame des Philippines Catholic Mission, a generation waiting for an opportunity to unleash their talents with vitality, energy and charisma for the glory of God.

They are the new generation that 2 Corinthians 5:17 talks about "whatever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away, behold new things have come."

They will succeed the elderly who, for reasons of age, health, retirement and relocation will one day fade away and disappear from the face of the earth. They are described as "Shorter in wind, Feeble of foot and rheumatic of shoulder," a quote from the Harriet Graduation Song.

As a show of goodwill and as a leap of faith, the core youth leadership ministry led by John Edward Jalea, Rhea Foz, Couple Coordinators, Theresa Diwa, Music, Gabriel Balan, Spiritual Formation, Marianne Tabamo, Lectors & Commentators, and Marcus Pavico, Knights of the Altar, organized a closed retreat on March 25-27th 2022 in collaboration with the Toronto-based Live Christ Share Christ Missionaries (LCSC). The Life in Christ Seminar's main goal "is to bring many more Catholics to meet Christ, live Christ and share Christ." as highlighted in the missionary brochure.

The conference had also served as a team building to energize

the base, the foundation upon which to build future leaders. Hopefully, the initiative would lead to more workshops and conferences which are essential for leadership building.

The two-day spiritual retreat was attended by 21 members between the ages of 14 to 20 from three different groups. They were reintroduced to the basics of the Catholic faith through a series of enlightening talks, testimonials, prayers and reflections. It was a gathering originally intended to be a post pandemic social reunion but had thankfully become a spiritual reckoning.

Retreatants, many of whom first-timers, were elated and impressed by the novelty of the experience. The conference gave them a "better understanding of their faith" and made new friends as well. "The fact that we're all here today is a sign of God's love," a quote from a 17 year-old participant.

Action speaks louder than words. The parents and volunteers, like the "Marthas" in the gospel, helped by serving food, gave talks and prayed over the retreatants. They showcased Christian charity at its best; a kind of modelling that produces better results than empty platitudes.

The LCSC missionaries have been established in Canada for the last two years with missions held in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. The Montreal mission was spear-headed by Mr. Javier who, since 2019, had been looking forward to bring missionaries to Montreal. He works with seven other missionaries from Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa.

As prospective leaders, the young generation will inherit the responsibility to maintain a faith community that was started by Father Carmelo Gosioco in 1989. Fr. Frank Alvarez's, P.M.E., (Prêtres des Missions Étrangères du Québec) 25 years of stewardship had witnessed the spiritual, religious and moral growth of the community. Under his watch, Notre-Dame-des-Philippines had been fully functional in liturgy, in the ministry of the sacraments and devotions. Parishioners are drawn to the mission for its adherence to customs and traditions.

Where else could one find a cavalcade of sponsors for baptism,

confirmation and weddings except in a Filipino Church! There is the pabasa during Holy Week, the salubong, simbang gabi to cite some examples and the "mano po"; a gesture of respect for the elders. The list is ad infinitum, limitless but that is what defines the uniqueness of the Filipino Catholic culture.

Father Frank Alvarez, P.M.E., was fortunate to have a supportive community who through thick and thin had helped him navigate the spiritual, religious journey and maintained a sound financial management of the mission. He left a legacy of a "bon pasteur", good stewardship and devotion.

Early liturgical services were held in rented spaces at Notre dame des Neiges and St Denis churches. The acquisition of the former St. Thomas the Apostle Church from the French congregation during the stewardship of Fr. Alvarez was undoubtedly a genius undertaking, a tribute to Filipino ingenuity, resilience and pride.

The cultural impact of "maitre chez nos" (masters in our own house) has made the difference in enabling Filipinos to conduct business the

The rebirth of the idea came about with the formation of the Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) in 1984, and was pursued mostly by the same set of officers that FAMAS had in 1971-1972. The Federation became the bridge for communication with Monsignor Mario Paquette, then the episcopal vicar for cultural communities of the Archdiocese. His keen interest in the spiritual welfare of the Filipinos had solidified the path for the establishment of Notre Dame des Philippines on Dec. 10, 1987, a spiritual gift that will remain forever in the hearts and minds of Filipino Catholics. The community owes him gratitude and is thankful for the help in securing a permanent place of worship in the Archdiocese of Montreal.

The Church has lost the services of Fr. Alvarez, P.M.E. due to his retirement, but is happy to have Fr. Roberto Ruben Elago, M.S.P., as his replacement. Both priests are well-liked and admired for their pastoral skills and qualities.

Fr. Elago's versatility in using Tagalog at Mass celebrations make it easy for some to relate and follow the liturgy. The vernacular rendition of



The Notre Dame des Philippines Youth Council core members.

Filipino way. The Church has become a cultural venue for expressing one's pride and can say "Ako'y Filipino, ang dugong catolico cristiano" which are mirrored in the celebrations of Christmas, Holy Week, Marian devotions, memorials for the departed loved ones and in other activities as well.

It's truly a Filipino Church owned and administered by Filipinos; a miniature brand of Catholicism in the old country, embellished to some degree by western influence.

Notre dame des Philippines is a fruition of a dream come true. It started as a F.A.M.A.S. dream in 1971-1972 but was shelved temporarily by the new board who had priorities of their own.

church hymns by the adult choir creates a nostalgic ambiance of the old country.

Notre-Dame-des-Philippines is a Filipino-owned Church. It belongs to all Filipino Catholics in the Archdiocese regardless of religious strife and political affiliations.

Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte, the late archbishop of Montreal had pleaded for Filipino support: "Its your Church. Take care of it." As bonafide members of the mission family, it is incumbent upon us to heed to the Cardinal's wishes for help.

Gaudete et Laetare, Christus Resurrexit, - Rejoice and be Glad, Christ is Risen alleluia!

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# Montreal police issued more public health tickets in diverse neighbourhoods, study finds

Quebec's punitive approach was ineffective and there is evidence of racial profiling, says rights advocate Isaac Olson · CBC News · Posted: May 23, 2022

A study that analyzed 31,845 tickets issued for public health violations by Quebec police during the first 15 months of the pandemic found there was a higher concentration of fines in some of Montreal's more diverse neighbourhoods.

The total number of fines tops \$50 million provincewide and nearly 50 per cent of the citations — 15,076 — are being contested in court, according to the report published Monday by the Observatoire des profilages, a Université de Montréal group focused on profiling.

"In Montreal, we're up to 11,000 tickets until June 2021, so we can see it is a political choice to choose to punish and it's a choice that has heavy consequences on individuals and on the judicial systems," said Jacinthe Poisson, a researcher with the Observatoire.

COVID-19 measures were enforced punitively in Montreal, she said.

"The police and judicial over-commitment, which stems from a political choice in the province, is all the more worrisome when we see that the people who have gone to court are often those who live in underprivileged neighbourhoods, with a large multi-ethnic composition or in certain Indigenous communities located usually close to urban areas," the report said.

The report said 377 tickets were issued to people who reside in Indigenous communities.

On average, there were 326.5 tickets per 100,000 residents in Quebec, but that number jumps to about 513 in Montreal and 479 in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

The number skyrockets in more specific areas like Outremont which had 1,173 tickets served per 100,000 inhabitants with a large portion of those issued for gathering in houses of worship, the report said. Other Montreal neighbourhoods with rates per 100,000 include:

Ville-Marie: 752.8.

Plateau-Mont-Royal: 695.6.

Montréal-Nord: 647.7.

Lachine: 609.5.

Villeray-St-Michel-Parc-Extension: 572.7.

During the five-month curfew, nearly 57 per cent of tickets issued in Quebec were for violating the curfew. Another 17.5 per cent of tickets were for gathering in private residences and 15.2 per cent were for gathering in public.

While thousands of tickets are



**Across Quebec, 15.2 per cent of tickets issued in the first 15 months were for gathering in public, according to the new study. (Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)**

being contested, several measures have been taken jointly with different partners to avoid the termination of proceedings due to delays, said a

ethnic, economic and racial makeup of each area, she said.

"If we put together the data before and [the new] data, we could



**Montreal homeless people struggle to find enough room at night with curfew in effect**

spokesperson for the Crown prosecutor's office, the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales.

"We still monitor this situation closely and make efforts to implement required measures to manage efficiently the number of cases in penal matters, which include the tickets issued in compliance with the Public Health Act," said Patricia Johnson.

She said a total of 37,311 tickets were issued between April 20, 2020 and April 30, 2022.

Punitive approach created burden, advocate says  
The Ligue des Droits et Libertés (LDL) is calling for an independent body to examine the management of the health emergency.

The organization's president, Alexandre Pierre, said researchers could only work with the data available, which includes the type of infraction and place of residence.

That geographical data can be compared to previous studies on the

come to the conclusion that there's racial profiling involved," Pierre said. "A lot of tickets were served in very specific areas."

She said there is no data proving curfews and other punitive public health measures are an effective tool in fighting back against a pandemic, but this level of enforcement created a substantial financial burden for many people.

"The punitive approach of Quebec was not the right one," Pierre said. "It was not cost-effective or science-based."

Homeless population issued tickets

The report calls particular attention to the 275 tickets issued to people who gave a homeless shelter as their home address. Poisson said 99 of those tickets were for curfew violations even though people experiencing homelessness were supposed to be exempt.

Quebec curfew does not apply to homeless people, judge says

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Security, Louise Quintin, said the ministry twice sent out information to police services regarding interventions with vulnerable people.

"Police applied the rules enacted under the Public Health Act with diligence and discernment and knew how to show a certain tolerance when they believe that the situation requires it," Quintin said.

"Although homeless people were excluded from the curfew measure, they were not exempt from compliance with all the other health measures aimed at protecting the entire population during the health crisis."

David Chapman, executive director of the homeless organization Resilience Montreal, said people would come by the centre very stressed about their \$1,500 ticket.

He agrees with the report when it says there were likely more than 275 tickets issued to those experiencing homelessness in Montreal as people may give a friend's or relative's home address. He said heard of people getting tickets when they were staying at friend's place rather than a shelter.

He said there could be cases where people did not explain their housing situation clearly to officers. On the other hand, he said, it could be police weren't checking living statuses well enough.

"Clearly something went wrong in the application here. The question is, what exactly?" Chapman said. "It's really hard to imagine what it is."

Montreal woman says officer insisted on searching her lunch bag during curfew stop

In a statement a spokesperson for the Montreal police service says officers were always instructed to exercise judgment, discernment, compassion and tolerance.

During the curfew, officers worked in "support mode" on a case-by-case basis while collaborating with local partners and referring people to community resource, the statement says.

"Moreover, in certain circumstances, officers have themselves transported homeless people to emergency shelters," the statement says.

People experiencing homelessness were not targeted, but tickets were issued if someone was being violent, flagrantly disregarding health measures or unco-operative, the statement says.

## Victory: Soccer Canada Drops Exhibition Match Following Legal Action by B'nai Brith Canada

VANCOUVER – May 26, 2022  
The day before Soccer Canada pulled the plug on a June 5 exhibition game between the national teams from Canada and Iran, B'nai Brith filed in Federal Court for an order seeking to prohibit Canadian funds from going to the Iranian Soccer Federation.

On Monday of this week, B'nai Brith dispatched a press release disclosing information that Canada Soccer was planning to fund the Iranian Federation \$400,000 to cover the team's expenses for its stay for the exhibition match, which was scheduled to be played in Vancouver.

Canada Soccer, which cancelled the "friendly" game on Thursday, had reportedly agreed to the \$400,000 stipend even though, according to a report in Iran International, the Iranian team would have needed to spend only \$200,000. The Iranian team would have been in position to pocket the remaining \$200,000, according to the report.

Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada, made it clear Thursday that, despite the cancellation of the game, the organization plans to ensure that no Canadian money whatsoever is given to Iran.

"If there is any money earmarked

for Iran, we have major problems with that," Mostyn said. "We would do everything in our power to ensure that any money planned for Iran would instead go to the Canadian families of those who were killed in the shooting down of Flight PS752."

There have been reports stating that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) controls the Iranian Soccer Federation. The IRGC is widely recognized as a terrorist entity. Nearly four years have elapsed since the Canadian Government failed to comply with a parliamentary motion to list the IRGC as a terrorist entity.

Richard Kurland of the law firm Kurland, Tobe, is representing B'nai Brith Canada and expressed delight that the exhibition match was cancelled so quickly after he filed the lawsuit.

"It shows the currency of the name B'nai Brith when it comes to litigation," Kurland said.

Shahin Moghaddam, a Canadian citizen, lost his family on Flight PS752. He was notified by B'nai Brith of the organization's legal action this week. "Thank you to everyone who cooperates and strives in this movement," Moghaddam told B'nai Brith. "It is hoped that justice will be done..."

The implementation of the law is complicated for CEGEPs, because there will be students with two different requirements: French and allophone students who must take three of their core courses in French, and anglophones who can opt to take three core courses in French, or three additional French second-language courses.

That means changes must be made to upwards of 30 programs, which will require changing the course requirements, as well as the teaching staff.

"We will continue to express our concerns (to the government) for the implementation date," McMahon said. "Two years may seem like a long time, but in our view, it's not sufficient. We had been lobbying to get that date changed to at least 2025."

jmagder@postmedia.com

twitter.com/jasonmagder

From Page 4 English community

our community feels necessary. Quebec's actions to proceed with the passage of this Bill despite our noted concerns have placed our relations into an extremely strained state and forced us to consider whether discussions to date were in good faith.

Thursday's rally will be the second demonstration against the law this month. A march ahead of the bill's adoption drew thousands of people into downtown Montreal on May 14.

In the meantime, CEGEPs will begin the painstaking work of preparing for the implementation of the law, which will come into effect for the academic year starting in 2024, while caps for enrolment take effect for the 2023 school year.

"We need to start planning, pretty much right away for the implementation of this bill," Vanier College director general John McMahon said. "It's a very complex process."

# IN MEMORIAM



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**Viewing: Friday, June 17, 2022**

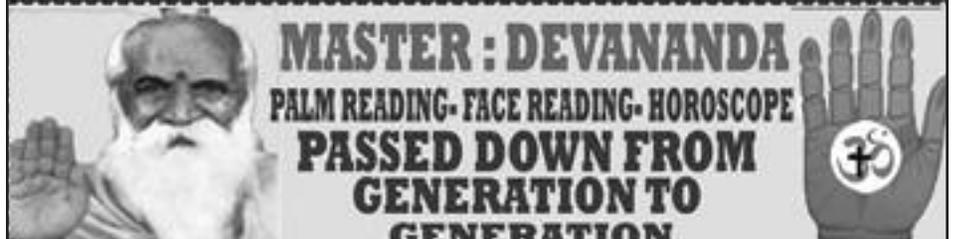
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**Service: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

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## Toronto, Ont. Community News

By Tony A. San Juan  
OCT-Retired

### Three Filipino-Canadians run for Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament Seats

Once again, the Filipino Canadian communities in Ontario are agog and started gearing up for the coming provincial election on June 2, 2022. Three prominent Filipino Canadians have been declared official candidates by their political parties to contest for Member of Parliament (MPP) positions in their respective constituency ridings.

The three are Paul Saguil, Ontario Liberal MPP candidate for Willowdale (North York), Christine Santos, NDP MPP candidate for Ajax-Pickering, and Veronica Javier, NDP candidate for MPP in Scarborough-Guildwood (Toronto). This is the first time that 3 Filipino kababayans (compatriots) are running simultaneously for MPP seats in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. If elected, the trio will become the first Filipino-Canadians elected MPPs at Queen's Park.

Paul Saguil, a lawyer by profession, is the Deputy Head of Sanctions Compliance and Anti-Corruption at TD Bank Group where he is on the front lines of fighting financial crime and combating corruption worldwide. An award-winning lawyer, Saguil has defended equality and human rights before the Supreme Court of Canada. He sits on a number of boards and advisory groups and is a passionate champion for access to justice, financial inclusion, and education as a pathway to success for everyone. According to OLP leader

Stephen Del Duca, Paul is a dedicated community advocate and has "spent his entire career fighting for people and ensuring their voices are heard."

"My career and community volunteerism has been dedicated to fighting for inclusion and advocating for



**Christine Santos, NDP MPP  
Candidate for Ajax (Durham)**

those whose voices are not always present or heard in places of power," said Saguil. "I believe we have an incredible opportunity to bring strong leadership and integrity back to public office and I'm looking forward to fighting for a safer, healthier, and brighter future for our province!" (His Willowdale Riding East of Bathurst Street, West of Bayview Avenue, South of Steeles Avenue, and North of 401. With over 91,000 electors, the riding as per the 2016 Census, has the highest percentage of ethnic Iranians (12.1%), ethnic Koreans (10.6%) and

Chinese being the most frequent ethnic origin.)

Christine Santos is an entrepreneur and educator and has over 20 years of experience in child and youth development, human resources, journalism, and media production. Santos has a BA, in Psychology from the De La Salle University (Philippines) and BA in Psychology & Human Resources from York University. Her certifications include a Certificate of Training in Designing for Online Learning; Media Maker Expert, and WISDOM Life Coach for Kids. Christine is the founder of EPIC Generation, engaged in Children's media production and leadership training. She has worked as a freelance video journalist for ABS-CBN Corporation and has had work experience for 10 years as a benefits specialist, compensation delivery analyst, and total rewards specialist in 3 Toronto companies. For the past 15 years, as a community volunteer, she has been a children's liturgy catechist, choir member, and an alumni mentor. Christine, if elected, pledged to "fight for the rights of immigrants and workers, support small businesses, investment in education, and public mental health care". (The electoral riding includes all of the Town of Ajax plus that part of the City



**Jonathan Paul Saguil, Liberal MPP  
Candidate for Willowdale (North  
York)**

of Pickering north of Finch Avenue and east of Brock Road, the area north of Highway 401, and east of Valley Farm Road)

A Registered Social Worker, Veronica Javier, has a BA and Master in Social Work from York University. With a specialty in nephrology, Javier is the Policy Development Seconded at Scarborough Health Network and works with social workers across Ontario "to bring to light issues faced by patients living with kidney disease and their families". Veronica is the Ontario region

representative for the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers. She is a founding member of the Filipino-Canadian Social Workers Social Service Workers Community Workers Network and a volunteer advisor and mentor to various Filipino-Canadian youth-led organizations. She "nurtures youth leadership and fosters discussions around identity, culture, and heritage within the community." Raised in Scarborough, Veronica has worked with families there for over 10 years. Javier, once elected, wants to help "protect what matters most to residents from equity to strong social services to health care and decent, affordable life" and will fight "to improve investment in underfunded hospitals, fixing home care, and long-term care for seniors, eliminating barriers for internationally trained workers and ensuring that everyone has access to a decent, affordable home." (The riding consists of the parts from Lake Ontario north along Markham Road, west along Eglinton Avenue, north along Bellamy Road South, west along Lawrence Avenue, north along McCowan Road, east along Highway 401, south along Morningside



**Veronica Javier, NDP MPP  
Candidate for Scarborough,  
Guildwood**

Avenue).

In the past, several ambitious Filipinos have attempted and thrown their hats unsuccessfully in the provincial electoral arena. It is hoped that this time, with much-needed kababayan political engagement and support, the three Filipino MPP candidates in Willowdale, Scarborough, and Ajax, Ontario will be successful to represent the Fil-Can community and their riding constituents by articulating their voices on issues and concerns that matter most to them.

### TCDSB reconstitutes Race Relations Committee headed by Trustee Tanuan with 3 Filipino-Canadians appointed

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), Canada's largest Catholic school system in terms of the student population, has reconstituted its Race Relations Committee as the "Special Board Advisory Committee on Race Relations" on March 10, 2022. The Race Relations Committee was established on August 20, 2020, based on a motion by Trustee Garry Tanuan, in response to the rising systemic causes of racial discrimination, disproportioned representation of racialized communities, bullying, and harassment against members of the



**Trustee Garry Tanuan**

TCDSB community. It is aligned with the Ontario Ministry of Education's announcement of a "series of initiatives to address and combat systemic racism that affects racialized bodies, particularly the Black and Indigenous communities."

According to the motion, the TCDSB has a "history of Race Relations and Equity Policies and Practices since 1984. Recent trends, however, suggested a need to reintroduce past mechanisms to assist in eradicating racial and systemic discrimination." The TCDSB passed several motions to "address Anti-

Racism and Inclusive Education" and one of them is the formation of the current Special Board Advisory Committee on Race Relations (SBACRR).

Trustee Garry Tanuan of Ward 8 (Scarborough-Rouge Park /Scarborough North) was appointed Chair of SBACRR by the 12 TCDSB Board members. Tanuan heads the Special Advisory Committee with 16 members composed of 6 Trustees, 4 community representatives, 2 staff representatives, 2 parent represent-

See Page 9 TCDSB

# Lawyers group celebrates Filipino Heritage month with first Filipino-Canadian justices

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired.  
 In celebration of "Filipino Heritage Month", the Filipino Canadian Lawyers Network ( FCLN) will feature Canada's three First Filipino-Canadian Justices across Canada. The Filipino-descent Justices will speak and engage in a Webinar on June 1, 2022 (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm EDT.

The online event is sponsored by the Filipino Canadian Lawyers Network( FCLN). Established in 2021, FCLN is a "national not-for-profit organization connecting Filipino Canadian lawyers and justice system actors." Based in Ottawa, Ontario, it is a federal corporation entity registered with Corporations Canada on May 19, 2021.

Those who will join a panel discussion are Justice Steve A. Coroza of the Ontario Court of Appeal, Justice Bernette Ho of the Alberta Court of Appeal, and Justice Gail Gatchalian of the Nova Scotia Superior Court of Justice.

Justice Steve A. Coroza was appointed as Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario on April 6, 2020. A son of Filipino immigrants, he is the first and only Canadian Filipino in the Ontario Court of Appeal. Justice S. Coroza received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Windsor and was admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1997. He also received a master of laws degree from Osgoode Hall Law



**The Honourable Justice L. Bernette Ho of the Alberta Court of Appeal**  
 School in 2003

The Honourable Justice B. Ho emigrated from the Philippines to Canada with her parents when she was 6 months old. She completed all of her early education in Cochrane, Alberta and earned a B.A. (Honours) in Communication Studies from the University of Calgary in 1992. Justice Ho completed her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Alberta in 1995) and was called to the Bar of Alberta in



**The Honourable Justice Steve A. Coroza of the Ontario Court of Appeal**

1996. She was appointed as Justice on August 6, 2021.

Lawyer Gail L. Gatchalian was appointed as Justice with the Superior Court of Nova Scotia in April 2021. Justice G. Gatchalian, who immigrated from the Philippines, is the first female Canadian Filipino to be appointed to a provincial supreme court. Gatchalian graduated from the Dalhousie University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Toronto in 1996. With a Queen's Counsel (Q.C.) designation, she specialized in labour, employment, human rights and constitutional law for over 20 years.

First launched on June 1, 2021, the 2nd annual celebration of "Filipino Heritage Month" is an occasion that provides for members of



**The Honourable Justice Gail L. Gatchalian of the Superior Court of Nova Scotia**

Canada's legal community and the public to gather and celebrate by "recognizing the importance of the legal community in vocalizing support for equity-seeking groups across Canada, and for an "equity-seeking association and legal affinity group.... to bring awareness to legal issues and barriers affecting the Filipino community across Canada."

There is no fee for this event, according to FCLN. Interested parties are requested to contact Tel. No. 613-566-7045 or email: asn@anatividad.ca or register through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fcln-rapc-a-celebration-of-filipino-heritage-month-2022-tickets-342411089787>. Further, FLCN is encouraging everyone to forward this event to their friends and colleagues.

From Page 8 TCDSB  
 atives, and 2 student representatives. The Filipino-Canadians appointed to the Committee are Aileen Santiago (Staff), Marissa Largo (Parent), and Tony A. San Juan( Community). Presently, a subcommittee has been tasked to develop and recommend to the Board a "Term of Reference" stipulating among other things, its

mandate, objective & goals, composition, leadership, term, meeting procedure, and reporting responsibilities.

Garry Tanuan is the only Filipino-Canadian on the TCDSB's 12-member Board of Trustees. He was first elected in 2012 and re-elected twice in the 2014 and 2018 civic municipal elections in the province. As a Trustee, G. Tanuan, together with an Area School Superintendent, has been

serving and engaging diligently the students, staff, and parents of 20 Catholic elementary schools and two high schools in Scarborough, Toronto. Tanuan is also a Trustee-member of the Board's Filipino Advisory Committee and a Vice-President of the Filipino Heritage Council of Canada (FHCC).

The TCDSB Mission, with 92,000 students, 14,000 staff, 196 schools (165 elementary, 29 high

schools & 2 combined schools), and 475,000 school supporters, is "an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish, and school and rooted in the love of Christ...by educating students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity". Its Vision is "we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation, and action".

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A selfie photo taken by Terry White, PAB instructor at Gilmore College International. Photo shows Batch 12 PAB students during their practicum at Chateau Westmount. Seated from left: Amy Manon-og, instructor, Zenaida Kharroubi, director-general, Sophie Toledo PAB instructor. Standing behind are: Alvin Glen Abellera, Myra Wanawan, Luz Maderazo, Sonia Soto, Katrina Cempron, Lani Grace Abellera and John Arnel Abellera.

 SOCIÉTÉ DU PATRIMOINE PHILIPPIN DE MONTRÉAL (SPPM)  
FILIPINO HERITAGE SOCIETY OF MONTRÉAL (FHSM)

## CHICKEN "NASAL" COOKING CONTEST

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## Quick, easy summer meals



**Baked Salmon with mango salsa**

### Ingredients

1 Large Salmon fillet

Butter – To amp up the buttery flavor of the salmon.

Lemon – Fresh lime or lemon juice adds freshness and tang that is so great with seafood.

Honey – Honey compliments the tang of lemon and sublime heat of the rub.

Spice rub – Paprika, chili powder, cayenne powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper.

For mango salsa

Mango – Ripe and juicy. Avoid stringy flavorless mangoes.

Red bell pepper – Great crunch in salsa.

Cilantro – Lime

Jalapeno

Salt – To taste.

• Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line the baking sheet with foil and fold the sides to create a pouch. Spray it with cooking spray.

- In a bowl, make your rub by combining paprika, chili powder, cayenne, garlic powder, salt and pepper.
- Make lemon honey butter. Melt butter and mix with lemon juice and honey.
- Bring the salmon out of the refrigerator and place the skin side down on the prepared baking pan.
- Rub the salmon with dry spice rub.
- Pour the butter mixture over the salmon and spread well.
- Place the salmon in the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes. Set the oven to broil and cook an additional 3-5 minutes to nicely brown the top of the salmon. As ovens vary, keep an eye on it so it doesn't burn.
- While your salmon is baking, chop mangoes, red bell pepper, jalapeno, cilantro and mix well in a bowl with lime juice and salt. Refrigerate till ready to serve. You can add in chopped onion if you like.



### Creamy Shrimp Tuscan

#### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons salted butter

6 cloves garlic, finely diced

1 pound (500 g) shrimp (or prawns), tails on or off

1 small yellow onion, diced

1/2 cup white wine (OPTIONAL)

5 oz (150 g) jarred sun dried tomato strips in oil, drained (reserve 1 teaspoon of the jarred oil for cooking)

1 3/4 cups half and half SEE NOTES

Salt and pepper, to taste

3 cups baby spinach leaves, washed

2/3 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese

1 teaspoon cornstarch (cornflour) mixed with 1 tablespoons of water (optional)\*\*\*

2 teaspoons dried Italian herbs

1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped

#### INSTRUCTIONS

• Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Melt the butter and add in the garlic and fry until fragrant (about one minute). Add in the shrimp and fry two minutes on each side, until just cooked through and pink. Transfer to a bowl; set aside.

• Fry the onion in the butter remaining in the skillet. Pour in the white wine (if using), and allow to reduce to half, while scraping any bits off of the bottom of the pan. Add the sun dried tomatoes and fry for 1-2 minutes to release their flavours.

• Reduce heat to low-medium heat, add the half and half and bring to a gentle simmer, while stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to your taste.

• Add in the spinach leaves and allow to wilt in the sauce, and add in the parmesan cheese. Allow sauce to simmer for a further minute until cheese melts through the sauce. (For a thicker sauce, add the milk/cornstarch mixture to the centre of the pan, and continue to simmer while quickly stirring the mixture through until the sauce thickens.)

• Add the shrimp back into the pan; sprinkle with the herbs and parsley, and stir through.

• Serve over pasta, rice or steamed veg.

#### NOTES

Half and half is an American product, made from equal parts light cream and milk. Feel free to use half light cream and half 2% milk (or full fat if not worried about calories and fat counts), in place of half and half. Alternatively, use all light cream or heavy cream. Substitute half and half with almond milk.

If serving with pasta: add in pasta cooked al dente along with 1/4 cup of reserved pasta water into the pan of shrimp once they are cooked. Gently mix through the sauce until combined. Serve immediately.



### Mexican Chicken Skillet Fajitas

#### Ingredients:

1 + 1/2 pounds chicken breasts, skinless and boneless, sliced into 1/2-inch thick strips

2 tablespoons olive oil, divided

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon chili powder

1 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano or Italian seasoning

1/2 teaspoon salt (or to taste)

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper (or to taste)

1 medium red onion, thinly sliced

2 bell peppers, thinly sliced

2 tablespoons lime juice, freshly squeezed

8 soft tortillas

• In a large ziploc bag, combine chicken strips with 1 tablespoon oil and fajita seasoning including cumin, chili powder, paprika, garlic powder, oregano, salt and pepper. Press the air out of the bag and seal tightly. Press the seasoning around the chicken strips to coat. Let it marinate for at least 20 minutes (if time allows), up to overnight in the refrigerator.

• When ready to cook, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet for 2 minutes over medium-high heat until the hot oil sizzles. Add the chicken strips and stir well to cook evenly until browned on all sides, about 6-8 minutes. Stir constantly to keep the strips separate. Once done, transfer onto a plate.

• In the same skillet, add onion and bell peppers and sauté until soft, about 3-5 minutes. Return the chicken to the skillet and add in lime juice. Toss well until evenly combined.

• Serve immediately with warmed tortillas. To heat the soft tortillas, follow the package instructions, or heat in an ungreased skillet over medium-high heat for 30 seconds per side. You can also heat it directly on a gas burner for a few seconds to get char marks on the edges.

From Page 4

Bill 96

and promote French, [but] where we do this in an inclusive way where everybody feels respected, regardless of the language you speak at your house?"

### WHO QUALIFIES AS AN ENGLISH SPEAKER?

The head of the Quebec Community Groups' Network or QCGN, an umbrella group representing English-speaking Quebecers, said that after a year of trying to educate people about the bill and sway lawmakers to alter it, the

final bill "still is not what we wanted."

"It's a sad day. I think it's a sad day for all of Quebec," said QCGN director Sylvia Martin-Laforge.

Like the lawyers planning to challenge the bill, she said she finds the way it was passed -- shielding it from most legal appeals -- disturbing.

"The preventative use of the notwithstanding clause is incredibly troubling," she said. "We can't appeal to either the Charter of Rights of Quebec or the Canadian Charter."

The lawyers, so far represented by constitutional lawyer Julius Grey, plan to take their case all

the way to the United Nations if needed, Grey said Tuesday.

In a statement, the QCGN said they do have a "vision of an inclusive Quebec where French is the common language" and that most English-speakers "favour promoting and protecting the French language in Quebec -- and throughout Canada."

But the group is "convinced there are more effective and inclusive ways to achieve this goal... and that it can be achieved without vacating the human, equality and legal rights of Quebecers," it wrote.

Martin-Laforge said that one

worry that regular Montrealers raise most often isn't necessarily with any of the sectors the bill will affect, such as health or the justice system, but with the entire idea of separating "historic" English-speakers from other kinds of English-speakers.

In Quebec, "historic anglophones" has been the term used to describe people whose parents can prove they went to English school in Canada, and who therefore qualify for English school themselves, and whose children do too.



**Social Tidbits**

**Montreal Community News**

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

April 30 was a red-letter day for the Knights of Rizal (KOR), Eastern Canada Region Council. Their Inauguration and Induction ceremony was held at Ruby Rouge in Chinatown. The program started with the processional march with Sir Bryan Perona (KOR, Maharlika Chapter), Sir Stephane Morin (KOR, lifetime Member/LM) and Sir James Menzi as flag bearers. Right Colour Corps Guard was Sir Emmanuel Cea (KOR, LM) and the Left Colour Corps Guard was Sir Jolan Bueno (KOR, LM). After the entrance parade, Invocation was done by Sir Ramon Posadas (Knights Grand Officer of Rizal/KGOR, LM, Area 2 Commander). The national anthems were sung by Sir Julius Abad (KOR, LM, Area Deputy Commander). The Pledge of Allegiance was delivered by Sir Hadjal Gattoc (KOR, LM, West Island Chapter Commander) and the Rizalian Oath was performed by Sir Gerry Danzil (KGOR, LM, Area 1 Commander). It was very nice to see all KOR members participating in the group singing of the KOR Hymn. Then Sir Rey Balansi

(KGOR, LM, Region Pursuivant) introduced the Inducting Officer, Sir Lapu Lapu Cana (KGOR, Central Canada Region Commander). Sir James de la Paz (KGOR, LM, Region Chancellor) introduced the Inspirational Speaker, His Excellency Ambassador Rodolfo Robles, Philippine Ambassador to Canada. A series of messages from the following dignitaries followed: Honourable Dominique Anglade (MNA for Saint Henri, Saint Anne), Honourable David Birnbaum (MNA for D'Arcy McGee), Sir Marvin Rotrand (KOR, AH), Sir Sonny Moroz (Councilor for Snowdon), Stephanie Valenzuela (Councilor for Darlington), and Sir Jose Damasco (KGOR, LM, Past Canada Region Commander). Honourable Anthony Housefather (MP for Mont Royal) sent his inspirational greeting.

Dancing in earnest began with Sir Boy Galang and his group. what I thought was a never-ending line dancing. One thing for sure, Filipinos love to dance; it was so much better watching them! If people were to choose the best line dancers for the

evening, votes would go to lovely couple, Sir Felix & Lady Marilyn de Luna. Also on the dancing floor was Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) Chairman Alfonso Abdon, Stephanie Valenzuela, Jeannette Perignon and Sonny Moroz, who more than matched their dancing skills in their rock and roll number! And to my surprise, Al can give Stephanie a run for her money in the dancing department! Mention should also go to the best coiffed of the evening, Rebecca Aguilar of the FHSM.

Lady Esphie Manaog, President of the Kababaihang Rizalista, led the ladies of Rizal in their uniforms. Best dressed of the evening goes to Jacqui Rotrand in her blue Philippine terno. Her gown dazzled due to its gold streaks. The best group line dancers were Lady Luz Domingo and friends. Lady Rose de la Paz was her (usual!) impressive self in her purple party dress under a white embroidered ensemble. Svetlana Suarez looking great in her pretty dress with a dangling pair of earrings, seemed to have attended solo without her usual entourage.

In conclusion, here are the KOR Eastern Canada Region Executive Council: Sir Dario Boco (KGOR, LM, Region Commander), Sir James de la Paz (KGOR, LM, Region Chancellor), Sir William Pasion (KOR, LM, Deputy Region Pursuivant), Sir Alberto Abiera (KGOR, LM, Region Archivist), Sir Edmour Valdez (KGOR, LM, Region Auditor), Sir Felix de Luna (KGOR, LM, Deputy Region Commander), Sir Reynaldo Balansi (KGOR, LM, Region Pursuivant), Sir Angelito Manuel (KOR, LM, Region Exchequer) and Sir

Cipriano Galang (KOR, LM, Deputy Region Exchequer). What a successful evening of singing and dancing. KOR knows how to party!

Have you heard about what's up with the Federation of Filipino Canadian Association of Quebec (FFCAQ)? Under President Minda Mazzone, Fun, Fun Fun Fun for Easter was launched. They advertised an Easter hunt at Mackenzie King Park on Saint Kevin, Montreal. They let the children search for Easter eggs which was later decorated. Over one hundred children registered. Late registration had to be refused. This first Easter egg hunt was a hit; parents and children were super happy!

The FFCAQ, with the considerable help of Jovy Narvas, Cristy Hunter, and the Executive members are continuing their Pinoy Food Drive every three months, a fundraising event for Ukrainian refugees. They made possible the employment of students for the summer. They are continuing Essentrics, a fitness exercise for seniors, and also support the B'Nai Brith in their fight for anti-semitism. Many other FFCAQ activities are ongoing. Keep up the good work, FFCAQ!!

With the mask mandate now lifted, let's give a huge thanks to God! And let's continue to 'be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord' (Psalm 31:24).

Until the next issue and God bless!

**Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal welcomes Spring!**

By Jeannette Pérignon, FHSM Secretary

FHSM says goodbye to the freezing winter and welcomes Spring! Spring wakes up the body and mind from the wintry "hibernation". This magical season makes us more creative, gives us energy to work and plan a variety of activities with hope, joy, and confidence.

FHSM is fully energized to start this Season of Festivals/ Celebrations! FHSM is working hard this month of May – getting ready and planning several activities for June. This year is the 4th Anniversary of the proclamation of June as the Filipino Heritage Month, not only in Montreal, but all over Canada!

The following are FHSM's June 2022 activities:

1. June 5, 2022: In-Person Kick-off/Launching of Filipino Heritage Month at 6767 CRC CDN, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring cultural presentations and speeches from dignitaries.
2. June 15, 2022: Heritage Month Virtual Celebration – live-streamed on FHSM Facebook and YouTube
3. June 18, 2022: Chicken Inasal Cooking Contest at MacKenzie-King Park, Cote Ste. Catherine, Montreal at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, followed by a Pot Luck Picnic. St. Joseph Oratory is planning a

Eucharistic Celebration on June 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and FHSM is coordinating with the committee to make this event a success. As well, FHSM gives its full support by attending other Filipino organizations' activities/celebrations, such as:

1. June 11, 2022: FAMAS 124th Philippine Independence & FAMAS 59th Anniversary Celebrations (Dinner & Dance) at Radisson Hotel, 6500 chemin Cote de Liesse, Montreal
2. June 12, 2022: FAMAS Philippine Independence Day Flag Raising in front of the FAMAS Building on Van Horne Ave., Montreal
3. June 12, 2022: CCFAQ Philippine Independence Day Celebration at MacKenzie-King Park, Cote Ste. Catherine, Montreal
4. June 19, 2022: Knights of Rizal Birthday Celebration at MacKenzie-King Park, Cote Ste. Catherine, Montreal

Everyone is welcome to join the above-mentioned celebrations – enjoy, share, and embrace the positive feelings, good health, friendship, and camaraderie, while together, we promote and instill our heritage, customs, traditions, and faith. Mabuhay!

**Who are the members of Marcos Cabinet?**



**Presumptive President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.**

By: Neil Arwin Mercado - Reporter / @NAMercadoINQUIRE.net / 06:12 PM May 23, 2022

MANILA, Philippines — With former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. poised to become the country's next president, the public awaits the composition of his Cabinet.

Marcos Jr. has said he is willing to work with non-allies as long as they are competent and qualified.

So far, here are the individuals who have accepted Marcos Jr.'s offer to become part of his Cabinet:

- Presumptive Vice President Inday Sara Duterte-Carpio (Department of Education)



**Presumptive vice-president Sara Duterte-Carpio (Education Dept.)**

- Former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benhur Abalos (Department of the Interior and Local Government)

- Atty. Vic Rodriguez (Executive Secretary)

- Cavite 7th District Rep.

- Boying Remulla (Department of Justice)

- Former Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan (National Economic and Development Authority)

- Former labor chief Bienvenido Laguesma (Department of Labor and Employment)

- Migrant workers advocate Susan "Toots" Ople (Department of Migrant)

# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### After 2-year hiatus, Anne Curtis is now ready for her comeback



**Anne Curtis is officially emerging from her 'hibernation' with a concert titled LUV-ANNE.**

Anne Curtis is officially coming out of her "hibernation" with a concert titled LUV-ANNE: The Comeback. It will be the star's first show with a live audience in four years and first major project that has something to do with entertainment after focusing on being mommy to now two-year-old Dahlia Amelie.

The Viva artist left the country late December 2019 to give birth to her first child with Erwan Heussaff, in her hometown in Melbourne, Australia. But with ensuing COVID lockdowns, she had to stay there with her little family for more than a year.

Now, after a two-year showbiz hiatus, Anne felt it was time to work again and begin the comeback with a bang by taking to the stage on June 11, 8p.m. at the Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World Manila.

"I'm very, very excited but I'm also very nervous actually because it's been so long since I last performed," said Anne at a recent virtual presscon to promote LUV-ANNE. "As a lot of you know, I've been a full-time mom for the past two years."

LUV-ANNE was pitched to her the moment she set foot back in the country last year, but given the unpredictability of the pandemic situation, it was a "constant battle within me" to push through with the plan.

Initially, what they had in mind was a digital show. But with the

concert scene reemerging after over two years of social distancing, Anne felt ready to face the challenges of a live show.

"It was a lot of preparation for me, I think, of being able to be ready to be on stage again. But you know, what's great about this concert, it's really a kick-off party for my comeback. I'm now ready to start working again and to be passionate about my passions again, which of course (include) acting eventually, along the way," the 37-year-old actress said.



Understandably, LUV-ANNE is more intimate compared to her past big-venue concerts like AnneBisyosa: No Other Concert, AnneKapal: The Forbidden Concert and AnneKulit:

Promise, Last Na 'To.

"So, I really feel it's kind of like a reunion amongst my followers, friends and family that I haven't seen in a long time. It really has more of a personal touch to it," said Anne.

Plus, she hinted, she's returning with improved vocals and singing style. "In a way, one thing new here is that my voice is so well-rested. I think you will see the difference. My voice, may improvement kahit papaano," Anne quipped.

"Mas nag-mature yung style. Hindi naman mawawala ang biritan diyari but I will say that nakapahinga talaga yung voice ko. Gumanda (laughs). I wouldn't say sobrang ganda, but there's improvement."

Anne further shared how she's been preparing for LUV-ANNE. "There's been a lot of preparations for several months now but I haven't been posting about it. That's something I'm still working on again, doing all the social media content. But I really have been preparing. I've been doing dance rehearsals like at least twice or thrice a week just to get movement in my body again. I've been doing band rehearsals. I've been taking voice lessons... because you know, it was two years of normalcy for me, of being a mom. The most thing that I was doing was nursery rhymes. So far, I just needed that kickstart."

Fans are also waiting for her to return to the ABS-CBN noontime

variety show It's Showtime or do a movie or series soon. Nothing's final but she's also begun preparing herself for the workload ahead. (There's a special announcement at noon today on her social media pages about her next career move.)

"Even in terms of films, Viva has also been sending me different scripts. As to when we will shoot, I mean, we're still trying to figure it out because, of course, we're still dealing with a pandemic. During that previous time, there was still lock-in during the shooting but I wasn't ready to be away from my daughter.

"So, yeah, there's been adjustments... but at least, the prep time is already there. I'll probably pick up a workshop again when it comes to acting because I feel like I'm so rusty. I'm really prepping in the different fields that I'm very passionate about."

Nevertheless, Anne is only grateful for the chance to have enjoyed a life away from the spotlight over the pandemic. Among the "normal things" she was able to experience were as simple as grocery shopping and driving around with Dahlia. The actress noted that there's a segment in the concert that will explain why it was important for her to take a break and devote her time and energy to her personal life.

"I think for any human being, it doesn't matter what industry you're in, you really have to make that time for yourself, to love yourself and to love your life, which maybe (you've not done enough) because, you know, you're so, not naman addicted, but so driven. It's always a great time for you to take a step back, realize and take notice of the things that truly matter," she said.

As she comes back, it's safe to expect a familiar but at the same time, changed Anne. "I want now to balance both that relaxing normalcy with my family, as a mother, and also as Anne that everyone has probably missed in It's Showtime and as an actress," she said.

Meanwhile, Anne was asked if she'd be bringing Dahlia to the concert. "Hindi pa ako handa to bring her to a crowded venue. But maybe during the run-through, I'll bring her. Ipapaalam ko muna kay Erwan, sana payagan," she laughed.

From the stories of the proud mommy, it appears that her daughter is turning out to be her "mini-me."

"She loves to sing. She loves to do ballet, sobrang bibo talaga. And she can sing like whenever I practice my songs, she can pick up the songs. Ang cute! We'll see if I can bring her because I'm also excited for her to see her mom fly (on stage)." ■

## Movie queen Susan Roces passes away



**Queen of Philippine movies, Susan Roces.**

Numerous celebrities and artists have offered tributes and condolences for the "Queen of Philippine Movies" Susan Roces, who passed away Friday night at the age of 80.

Fellow veteran actresses like Vilma Santos-Recto and Marciel Soriano led the tributes by posting throwback images with the late actress.

Actors John Arcilla and Lorna Tolentino posted messages on Instagram, with the latter saying she would hold the Roces in her heart and thanked her for the love.

Actress Bianca Manalo had a lengthy message as she reminisced memories of snacks and personal time spent outside of work, "Maraming salamat sa lahat ng masasayang ala-ala, tawanan, at kuwentuhan natin 'noong araw."

Manalo even joked about Roces introducing her to the late actress' ex-husband Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) up in heaven that they were both friends.

In a statement ABS-CBN said that Susan "instilled the values of love, faith, and hope with her loving portrayal of Lola Flora in 'FPJ's Ang Probinsyano,'" the role where she saw renewed popularity.

"Susan was an exemplary icon, who was a source of inspiration and strength as she served the Filipino people," ABS-CBN also said.

Her "Ang Probinsyano" co-star Sen. Lito Lapid said Susan was close to his heart not just because she was FPJ's wife and mother to fellow Sen. Grace Poe,

but also because she was a strong pillar for a program who accepted him to be a meaningful figure on television.

Another co-star John Pratts said that he would miss Susan looking after and feeding their fellow cast members, as well as the many stories she would share.

The main star of the show Coco Martin, meanwhile, said "Mahal na mahal kita Lola. Maraming salamat po sa lahat ng biyaya, pag-gabay at pag-aruga. Nabuo ako, dahil sa pagmamahal mo. Hindi kita makakalimutan. Nasa puso at nasa isip kita habangbuhay."

Palace mourns death of Susan Roces

Malacañang condoled with the family and friends of Susan, saying her death is a big loss to the Philippine entertainment industry.

"We extend our deep condolences to the family, loved ones, close friends and colleagues on the passing of Jesusa Sonora Poe, more popularly known as Susan Roces," acting presidential spokesman Martin Andanar said in a statement issued Saturday.

"Ms. Roces was the Queen of Philippine Movies and her death is truly a big loss not only to the local entertainment industry but to all the people whose lives the beloved icon had touched and affected. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ms. Roces and her family as we pray for the eternal repose of her soul," he added.

## 'I'm not yet dead': Kris Aquino sets record straight on health status



**Kris Aquino**

Kris Aquino shut down rumors that she is dying and staying in the intensive care unit, but revealed that her illness is now "life-threatening."

Aquino gave an update on her health by showing a compilation of videos and photos from her recent medical treatments, as seen on her Instagram page today, May 16.

"Yung chismis na na-confine ako, na nasa ICU, na nag-aagaw buhay ako — masyado kayong advanced," she said. "Para klaro ang lahat at dahil gusto niyong patayin na ako, well, I'm not yet dead. I'm going to fight to stay alive."

(Those rumors that I was confined, that I was in the ICU, and that I'm dying — you are all too advanced. To clarify everything and because you want me dead, well, I'm not yet dead. I'm going to fight to stay alive.)

"Mula end of April, we found out life threatening na yung illness ko," she stated. "I've always been proud of my honesty [and] courage. Ginusto ko na maka lipad sana ng tahimik pero utang ko po sa mga nag darasal na gumanda ang aking kalusugan ang mag THANK YOU [and] to tell the TRUTH."

(Since the end of April, we found out that my illness is already life threatening. I've always been proud of my honesty and courage. I wanted to leave quietly but I still owe it to those who are praying for my health to thank them and tell them the truth.)

The Queen of All Media disclosed that she has now three confirmed autoimmune conditions which are chronic spontaneous urticaria, autoimmune thyroiditis and vasculitis. According to Aquino, her veins are "collapsing and useless" due to vasculitis.

"They are all worried about organ damage in my heart [and] in my lungs. Kaya lahat ng paraan sinubukan [That is why they tried all possible ways] for me to get to Houston soonest," she added.

Aquino also showed the stitches she has on her arm which "hurt like crazy," but stressed that she is not complaining and that she is happy she is still alive. She then asked the public to keep their hurtful comments to themselves, not for her sake but for her children, Josh and Bimby.

"Hindi niyo po ako kailangan gustuhin para magpakatao... Please don't punish kuya [and] Bimb for being my sons," she added. "Hindi po masama ang maglakas ng loob at magsabi ng sobrang bigat na katotohanan."

(You do not need to like me to be considerate. Please don't punish [Josh and Bimby] for being my sons. It is not wrong to have the courage and say the hurtful truth.)

Aquino stated that they will be leaving in three days, May 19, adding that it will be taking "at least about two years" before they get to know if her treatments will be effective on her.

**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15***Liza Soberano to pursue Hollywood dreams****Liza Soberano**

Young star Liza Soberano has been attending events abroad, from Gold House's 1st Annual Gold Gala in Los Angeles to Asia Society Southern California 2022 Annual Gala.

The news sparked rumors that the 24-year-old actress is pursuing a career in Hollywood.

Ogie Diaz, Liza's talent manager, shared an update on her career plan.

"Ang alam ko talaga 'yun nga, iba na ang career na tatahakin ni Liza. May career pa rin siya dito

pero gusto niyang magkaroon din ng opportunity sa Hollywood," Ogie said.

"Ang importante ngayon kay Liza ay yung kanyang inner happiness at 'yan naman ay nakikita ko sa kanya na happy siya inside, 'yun ang importante," he added.

Recently, Enrique Gil's girlfriend has been spotted with actor-singer James Reid abroad.

The recent sighting sparked rumors that the two might be working on a project together. ■

**Olivia Rodrigo wins big at Billboard Music Awards 2022****Olivia Rodrigo**

Filipino-American pop music star Olivia Rodrigo won big at the Billboard Music Awards 2022 held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, May 15 (US time).

The "Driver's License" singer took home seven awards: Top New Artist, Top Female Artist, Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Streaming

Songs Artist, Top Radio Songs Artist, Top Billboard Global 200 Artist and Top Billboard 200 Album for her debut album "Sour."

Despite being absent at the event, the Disney actress gathered the most wins of the night among the nominated artists across 62 categories in all genres of music.

**KC Concepcion done shooting int'l film****KC Concepcion**

Actress KC Concepcion couldn't be more excited that her American movie will soon hit cinemas.

The daughter of Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion revealed in a social media post that the production just wrapped up shooting.

"After 2 months of living and working in NYC, we finally wrapped our film @asianpersuasionfilm!!!," she wrote. "Excited for you guys to see it!"

According to her, she visited the Manhattan-based Christian church Hillsong for the first time to thank God for "everything."

Early this month, KC revealed a health scare.

She thanked her "brilliant" and "dearest" doctor Albert Recio whom she credited for arresting what she deemed as seeming paralysis due to neurological effect of COVID-19.

# When Kathryn and Daniel realized they wanted to take acting seriously



**Daniel Padilla (left) and Kathryn Bernardo**

The popularity of Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla may have worked wonders for the love team on TV and on the big screen. But theirs is the type of potent chemistry honed even further by years of experience under the gimlet-eyed guidance of their mentors at ABS-CBN.

“KathNiel,” as the duo is fondly called, has paid its dues, especially in projects that have tested their box-office or acting mettle. For their followers, TV shows like “Princess and I” and “Pangako sa ‘Yo,” as well as films like Mae Cruz-Alviar’s “Crazy Beautiful You,” Olivia Lamansan’s “Barcelona: A Love Untold” and Cathy Garcia-Molina’s “The Hows of Us,” immediately come to mind.

When we spoke to Kath and DJ for this two-on-one chat to discuss the eagerly anticipated series “2 Good 2 Be True”—their latest team-up that will be shown on Netflix beginning tomorrow, 72 hours before it airs on free/pay TV—they said that the lessons they take away from every project they appear in aren’t something they take for granted.

We also had a memorable one-on-one time with the duo’s director, the youthful Mae Cruz-Alviar. But we will share that exchange with you in another article, dear readers.

Scene from “2 Good 2 Be True”

Scene from “2 Good 2 Be True”

## ‘Life lessons’

Since most of KathNiel’s starrers examine relationships that are often tested by time and over make-or-break challenges, we asked them if the lessons they learn from their characters also help them arrive at decisions involving tricky personal issues.

“Definitely, some of the lessons from the characters you play get entrenched in your heart forever—hindi mo basta-basta ma-le-let go,” Kathryn explained. “You carry them with you long after the show or the movie wraps up. These projects are like seeds that are ingrained in you.

“But maturity is also a big part

of our growth as performers. The mentors who have guided us in different projects should also be given credit for this, because they made us realize that we can work hard and go home with a sense of fulfillment. Malaking bagay ‘yung pagiging proud mo sa ginagawa mo.”

DJ interjected, “They’re life lessons that you can apply to different situations in life.”

In a nutshell, “2 Good 2 Be True” follows Eloy (Daniel) and Ali (Kathryn Bernardo), a nurse, who must come to terms with the heartbreak brought about by the complications of love in their parents’ lives.

And even when Eloy and Ali eventually find their way into each other’s arms, they’re constantly being pulled back by doubts—until they realize that their lives are more connected than they initially thought.

Asked to tell us a little more about its story, the couple said that what makes the production instantly relatable to viewers is the fact that it’s a case of art imitating life.

“For now, we can’t spoil what the show is all about, but this much is true: The series is full of hope ... and there are so many lessons and realizations that are applicable to family life, your relationship with your friends, and how you treat the people around you.

“Sometimes, we don’t know how our actions would affect other people. At the end of the day, it’s hard to judge them because we don’t know what they’re going through.

“Another key takeaway from the series is the importance of forgiveness ... because, sometimes, the act of forgiving is the only way for people to start fresh and strive for a better life.”

Impressed by Kath’s eloquence, Daniel then turned to his longtime girlfriend, smiled with pride in his eyes, and said, “Ang galing mo, Ma (that was great).”

Speaking of “galing,” we’ve always held Daniel, the actor, in high regard. His acting choices have

always been very natural and spot-on, regardless of the complexity of the role he’s tasked to bring to life.

## Innate talent

The latest proof of the 27-year-old actor’s innate talent is the award-winning portrayal he had turned in for the recent MMFF (Metro Manila Film Festival) entry, “Kun Maupay Man It Panahon.” So, we expect nothing less from the heartthrob in “2 Good 2 Be True.”

viewers want to see Ali and Eloy in the show ... not just me and Daniel playing another variation of ourselves.

“Ali, who’s a nurse, is like the ‘nanay’ of her family. She’s very hardworking, and she’s a bit allergic to men.”

Daniel said, “Even if we have different outlooks in life, Eloy and I have something in common. Like him, I used to be my family’s breadwinner.”

Chiming in, Kathryn added, “And they both love cars (laughs)...!”

Indeed, the two have come a



**Kathryn Bernardo as Ali**

As for Kathryn, we told the 26-year-old actress how her depth and her character’s pathos in “Hello, Love, Goodbye,” her blockbuster dramatic pairing with Alden Richards, had stayed with us long after the credits rolled.

Do they find it more challenging to act in movies without the other? And doesn’t the other’s presence become a convenient crutch in their projects together?

“Every role comes with a different set of challenges, so I think they’re just the same” Daniel quipped.

“But there’s something about being away from each other that forces you to stand on your own,” mused Kathryn. “However, the challenges are just as similar when we do projects as a love team. In ‘2 Good 2 Be True’s’ case, people might think that the roles are easier to essay because it’s a rom-com.

“In reality, finding the right tone and flavor for something like this requires a lot of focus and experience—mahirap s’yang timplahin. So, that was what we had to adjust to, especially during our first few taping cycles.”

How similar or different are they from their characters?

“Eloy and Ali’s dynamics are very different compared to the one I share with DJ,” Kathryn disclosed. “But that difference is also what makes them interesting to portray ... because

long way since the teen TV drama series “Growing Up” (2011) and the screen rom-com “24/7 in Love” (2012). But at which point in their respective careers did they realize they wanted to take acting seriously and become better actors?

“This probably happened to us at about the same time,” Kathryn told us, before she looked at Daniel for confirmation.

“I think it happened when we did the series ‘Got to Believe’ in 2013,” DJ noted. “At first, it was very difficult for us, especially when it was time to take our characters seriously. But things began to change and really take shape when direkt Cathy Garcia-Molina began demanding more from us—binantayan n’ya talaga kami.

“That’s how it all started ... It began to dawn on me that I already wanted more from my craft, that I wanted to get better. It became very rewarding when I would be able to execute a scene as intended.

“There’s a sense of fulfillment when your director and co-actors tell you how pleased they are with what you did or how you pulled off a difficult scene. So, I wanted to replicate that more and more. Gusto ko laging ganun ... that I’m able to satisfy people’s expectations of me and, more importantly, live up to my expectations for myself.” ■

# U.S. states divided on gun control, even as mass shootings rise

Rachel La Corte and Andrew DeMillo

The Associated Press

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OLYMPIA, WASH. - Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was quick to react to this week's carnage at a Texas elementary school, sending a tweet listing the gun control measures the Democratic-controlled state has taken. He finished with: "Your turn, Congress."

But gun control measures are likely going nowhere in U.S. Congress, and they also have become increasingly scarce in most states. Aside from several Democratic-controlled states, the majority have taken no action on gun control in recent years or have moved aggressively to expand gun rights.

That's because they are either controlled politically by Republicans who oppose gun restrictions or are politically divided, leading to stalemate.

Here I am in a position where I can do something, I can introduce legislation, and yet to know that it almost certainly is not going to go anywhere is a feeling of helplessness," said state Sen. Greg Leding, a Democrat in the GOP-controlled Arkansas Legislature. He has pushed unsuccessfully for red flag laws that would allow authorities to remove firearms from those determined to be a danger to themselves or others.

After Tuesday's massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that left 19 students and two teachers dead, Democratic governors and lawmakers across the country issued impassioned pleas for Congress and their own legislatures to pass gun restrictions. Republicans have mostly called for more efforts to address mental health and to shore up protections at schools, such as adding security guards.

Among them is Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has repeatedly talked about mental health struggles among young people and said tougher gun laws in places like New York and California are ineffective. In Tennessee, GOP Rep. Jeremy Faison tweeted that the state needs to have security officers "in all of our schools," but stopped short of promising to introduce legislation during next year's legislative session: "Evil exists and we must protect the innocent from it," Faison said.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has repeatedly clashed with the GOP-controlled Legislature over gun laws. He has called for passage of universal background checks and "red flag" laws, only to be ignored by Republicans. Earlier this year, the Democrat vetoed a Republican bill that would have allowed holders of concealed carry permits to have firearms in vehicles on school grounds and in churches located on the grounds of a private school.

"We cannot accept that gun violence just happens," Evers said in a tweet. "We cannot accept that kids might go to school and never come home. We cannot accept the outright refusal of elected officials to act."



**The U.S. and Washington state flags fly at half mast in front of the Capitol building in Olympia, Wash., May 25, 2022 in memory of the victims of the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas AP Photo/Ted Warren**

On Wednesday, a day after the Texas shooting, legislative Democrats asked that the Wisconsin gun safety bills be taken up again, apparently to no avail. Republican Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos did not return messages seeking their response.

In Pennsylvania, an effort by Democratic lawmakers Wednesday in the GOP-controlled Legislature to ban owning, selling or making high-capacity, semi-automatic firearms failed, as House Republicans displayed their firm opposition to gun restrictions. The GOP-majority Legislature has rejected appeals by Democratic governors over the past two decades to tighten gun control laws, including taking steps such as expanding background checks or limiting the number of handgun purchases one person can make in a month.

The situation is similar in Michigan, which has a Democratic governor and Republican-controlled Legislature. On Wednesday, Democrats in the state Senate were thwarted in their efforts to advance a group of bills that would require gun owners to lock up their firearms and keep them away from minors.

"Every day we don't take action, we are choosing guns over children," said Democratic Sen. Rosemary Bayer, whose district includes a high school where a teen was charged in a shooting that killed four in November and whose parents are charged with involuntary manslaughter, accused of failing to lock up their gun. "Enough is enough. No more prayers, no more thoughts, no more inaction."

Democrats now want that expanded to allow family members or roommates to make the same request of the courts, but there has been little appetite among Republicans to amend the law. Instead, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis said he wants lawmakers to allow people to carry handguns without a permit. The state currently requires a concealed weapons licence.

While Republicans have supported red flag laws in some other states, most legislative action around

gun control in recent years has been in states led by Democrats.

In Washington state, the governor earlier this year signed a package of bills related to firearm magazine limits, ghost guns and adding more locations where guns are prohibited, including ballot counting sites.

In California on Wednesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom and top Democratic legislative leaders vowed to fast-track gun legislation, identifying about a dozen bills they plan to pass this year. Newsom highlighted a bill that would let private citizens enforce a ban on assault weapons by filing lawsuits – similar to a law in Texas that bans most abortions through civil enforcement.

Oregon's Democratically controlled Legislature has passed bills that require background checks, prohibit guns on public school grounds, allow firearms to be taken from those who pose a risk and ensure safe storage of firearms. On Wednesday, a group of six Democrats said more must be done after the mass shooting in Texas and the racially motivated massacre in Buffalo, New York. They pledged additional action next year.

"We ran for office to solve big problems and make life better for our

constituents — and that includes taking on the gun lobby and politicians that place profits and political power over children's lives," they said in a joint statement.

But there are limits even in some Democratic-controlled states, underscoring the challenge of gaining consensus to combat the rising frequency of mass shootings in the U.S.

Rhode Island has passed restrictions in recent years that include measures to ban firearms from school grounds and close the "straw purchasing" loophole that had allowed people to buy guns for someone else. But bills that would ban high-capacity ammunition magazines and assault weapons have been bottled up in committee, in part because the overwhelmingly Democratic chamber includes many lawmakers who have opposed the measures, citing their support for the Second Amendment.

In Connecticut, gun violence legislation supported by both parties swiftly followed after 20 children and six staff members were shot and killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. But additional gun control measures stalled this year in the Democratic-led General Assembly, in large part because of a short legislative session and threats by Republicans to hold up legislation through a filibuster.

Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday he's uncertain whether he will call a special session on the bills. They would put limits on bulk purchases of firearms and require the registration of so-called ghost guns, untraceable firearms that can be assembled at home.

"I think it's become an incredibly partisan argument right now in our society," Lamont said. "It wasn't that way, you know, 30, 40 years ago. So that is disturbing, even in a state like Connecticut, where after Sandy Hook we had strong bipartisan support."

DeMillo reported from Little Rock, Arkansas. Associated Press statehouse reporters from around the U.S. contributed to this report.

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# Canadian Taxpayers Federation presents 24th annual Teddy Awards for government waste

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

CALGARY, AB: The Canadian Taxpayers Federation hosted its 24th annual Teddy Waste Awards ceremony celebrating the best of the worst in government waste uncovered over the past year.

"The National Capital Commission wins a Teddy Waste Award for wasting millions on a backup cottage for the prime minister to use while it wasted millions more on the prime minister's country retreat," said Franco Terrazzano, Federal Director of the CTF.

"The Quebec government has a long history of wasting hundreds of millions on airplane subsidies and managed to waste hundreds of millions more after the airplane in question changed its name.

"A champagne room and bling are usually the realm of rockstars, but a bureaucrat at the Thompson-Nicola Regional District treated himself to a baller lifestyle with the taxpayer credit

card.

"And Canada's climate delegations won the Lifetime Achievement Award after it sent multiple supersized groups jetting off to conferences and sent the finance minister to the wrong city."

The Teddy, a pig-shaped trophy the CTF annually awards to governments' worst waste offenders, is named after Ted Weatherill, a former federal appointee who was fired in 1999 for submitting a raft of dubious expense claims, including a \$700 lunch for two. This year's winners include:

**Municipal Teddy Winner:** Thompson-Nicola Regional District's former chief administrative officer Sukh Gill

Gill spent more than \$500,000 over five years on high-priced meals at restaurants, jewellery for staff and nearly \$9,000 to rent a champagne room in Whistler during a municipal conference.

**Provincial Teddy Winner: Investissement Québec**

Investissement Québec gave \$380 million to the Airbus A220 project, formerly known as the Bombardier C-Series. Back in 2015, the Crown corporation put \$1.3 billion into Bombardier's C-Series in exchange for partial ownership. The \$1.3-billion investment is now worthless, according to the latest annual report.

**Federal Teddy Winner:** National Capital Commission

It cost about \$11 million to renovate the prime minister's country retreat, Harrington Lake. Included within the tab is a \$2.5-million backup cottage for the prime minister and more than \$700,000 spent renovating the lake house's kitchen.

**Lifetime Achievement Teddy: Canada's climate delegations**

Canada sent 276 delegates to the United Nation's COP26 in Glasgow, which was the largest G7 delegation and even bigger than the

delegation from the host country, the United Kingdom. The cost of Canada's COP26 delegation is estimated at over \$1 million. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland stayed in the wrong city and paid \$3,000 for a luxury chauffeur service between Edinburgh and Glasgow. In 2019, Canada sent the second largest G20 delegation to COP25 in Madrid, Spain. That cost taxpayers \$683,278.

You can find the backgrounder on all the 2022 Teddy Award nominees and winners here: <https://www.taxpayer.com/media/2022-Backgrounder-Teddy-Waste-Awards-Backgrounder.pdf>

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## Conservative leadership hopefuls argue inflation, Quebec language law at French debate

By Christopher Reynolds The Canadian Press Posted May 25, 2022 7:55 am

Updated May 25, 2022 10:40 pm

Candidates competing to lead the federal Conservatives squared off over contentious language laws, immigration, inflation and the trucker convoy in the race's only French-language debate Wednesday night.

"I am against Bill 21," longtime Ottawa-area MP Pierre Poilievre said on stage before several hundred Conservatives gathered in Laval, Que., where Quebec's controversial secularism law was a hot topic.

Former Quebec premier Jean Charest and Patrick Brown, the mayor of Brampton, Ont., both accused Poilievre of evading clarity when speaking about the law in French in Quebec, where it has widespread support.

The legislation prohibits certain public servants in positions of authority from wearing religious symbols on the job.

Poilievre said he would not overturn the stance of federal Justice Minister David Lametti, who said earlier Wednesday that Ottawa would join a challenge to the law should it reach the Supreme Court.

Charest said that the prime minister "shouldn't be neutral" on the legislation, while stressing Quebec's right to make laws within its jurisdiction.

Brown has spent the race campaigning against the religious symbols law, which he calls an affront to religious freedom.

Candidates took the stage one day after a language reform bill passed Quebec's legislature. Critics say it goes too far in protecting the French language by potentially denying the province's anglophones the ability to access services like health care in English.



**Candidates left to right: Leslyn Lewis, Roman Baber, Jean Charest, Scott Aitchison, Patrick Brown, and Pierre Poilievre at the Conservative Party of Canada English leadership debate in Edmonton, Alberta, Wednesday, May 11, 2022 THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jeff McIntosh**

Leadership candidate Scott Aitchison, an MP from rural Ontario, released a statement ahead of Wednesday's event pledging that a government led by him would work with Quebecers to see the new language bill and province's religious symbols law repealed.

He called Premier Francois Legault's language reform "divisive" and said the bill is "designed to exploit frustrations by discriminating against the English-speaking minority in Quebec."

"Government policies that unite francophones and anglophones are what Canada needs. We cannot allow fear and anger to win in this country," Aitchison said.

Asked during the debate how to curb illegal arrivals into Quebec at the unofficial border crossing at Roxham Road, Poilievre said he is "against illegal entries, but at the same time I am for immigration," noting his wife came to Canada as a Venezuelan refugee.

Should he become prime minister, Poilievre pledged to reach agreements with provinces within 60 days to recognize professional qualifications for newcomers to Canada.

Charest stressed the need to renegotiate the Safe Third Country Agreement, which allows Canada to turn back potential refugees who show up at land ports of entry along the Canada-U.S. border.

The agreement says they must pursue their claims in the U.S., the country where they first arrived, but it only applies at official border crossings. Those entering at irregular crossings such as Roxham Road, near Hemmingford, Que., must be processed in Canada.

Charest also lamented "long" delays at the Immigration Department.

"You have to clean up the department to give a decisive boost," he said.

Brown attacked Poilievre for not

publicly condemning the "white replacement" conspiracy theory espoused by Pat King, a leader of the Ottawa convoy protest.

Poilievre responded by saying he has in fact "rejected" King's remarks, accusing Brown of dividing Conservatives by making different pledges to various community groups behind closed doors.

Lewis, who was often reading from her notes during a debate where she said she is learning to speak French, said Poilievre's position was wrong.

At one point, Brown said Poilievre's position on Bitcoin was similar to that of the leadership in El Salvador, which adopted Bitcoin as legal tender.

The International Monetary Fund urged the Central American country to drop Bitcoin as its official currency earlier this year, citing its volatility.

Poilievre accused Charest of tax increases in Quebec, earning boos from the Charest-friendly crowd.

Asked about organized crime in the province, Charest deemed it "ironic to hear Mr. Poilievre talk about law and order," citing his support for the protests that gridlocked downtown Ottawa for three weeks in February.

"Remember that," Charest said, drawing more boos from the raucous attendees.

"Remember the Charbonneau Commission?" Poilievre said later in the debate.

He was referring into an investigation into corruption in the province's construction industry that overlapped with Charest's time as Quebec Liberal leader.

The debate took place as a key deadline approaches.

# Quebec ready to vaccinate against monkeypox as soon as Friday, with 25 confirmed cases

Quebec says it is ready to vaccinate people who have come into close contact with monkeypox as soon as Friday.

"It's a serious outbreak of monkeypox," said Quebec interim public health director Dr. Luc Boileau. "We have 25 cases that have been confirmed and there are other cases, probably 20 to 30 cases, that are under investigation so far."

There is at least one case in a person under the age of 18. They are currently in isolation and public health officials say they do not plan to reveal much more information about this particular case.

Boileau spoke Thursday morning on the growing number of cases of monkeypox in the province, accompanied by Dr. Geneviève Bergeron, medical officer of health emergencies and infectious diseases at Montreal Public Health, and Dr. Caroline Quach, microbiologist and infectious diseases expert at Sainte-Justine Hospital.

Tuesday, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) delivered a small amount of the Imvamune vaccine to Quebec from Canada's National



Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS) in order to boost its response plan.

The province says it will provide those who have come into close contact with an infected person with one dose of the vaccine.

"The recommendation is to give it four days post-exposure with some flexibility up to 14 days," explains Quach. "If the contact has been continuous or intermittent, we're giving a window period of four days after the last exposure."

Boileau encourages anyone experiencing symptoms to immediately seek out a medical professional and follow public health measures, such as wearing a mask and covering up sores.

"Stay as isolated as possible. This is what will count to fight the contagion," he said. "Avoid contact with people who are immunocompromised, as well as pregnant women."

He notes the situation is serious but is not expected to reach infection levels similar to COVID-19.

Montreal public health notes that none of the people afflicted are severely ill and the risk posed by monkeypox is low.

The doctors say they do not yet know how the virus made its way into the community in Quebec, but that it could be tied to travel to other countries.

"We don't comment on specific situations," said Bergeron when asked if public health plans to reveal the outbreak locations. "We'd like to assure the population that we are aware and doing what needs to be done."

Monkeypox is a rare disease deriving from the same family as smallpox, which the World Health Organization declared eradicated in 1980.

Monkeypox is usually not easily spread between people, usually transmitted through prolonged close contact with respiratory droplets, bodily fluids or an infected person's wounds.

It is generally milder than smallpox and can cause fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, swollen lymph nodes and sores. Quebec reported its first cases of the virus last week.

Source: CTV News

## What we're seeing now is a ripple effect' in monkeypox cases, Vinh says

The vaccine Imvamune will be available to people in Quebec who are in close contact with confirmed or suspected monkeypox cases.

Frédéric Tomesco., May 26, 2022  
Montreal Gazette

There are 25 confirmed cases of monkeypox in Quebec, while as many as 30 more are under investigation, public health authorities said Thursday.

Fourteen of the cases are in the Montreal area, said Geneviève Bergeron, the medical officer for health emergencies and infectious diseases at the city's public health department. Analyses are under way to understand whether the cases are linked, she said Thursday.

The announcement comes barely a week after Quebec confirmed its first two cases of monkeypox, a virus that's typically endemic in parts of western Africa. Most of the cases in Quebec were found in men who had sex with other men, though one of the patients is a child who has recently been in contact with school friends, Dr. Luc Boileau, Quebec's interim director of public health.

"It's a serious outbreak," Boileau said at a press conference in Montreal Thursday. "We think it's a serious situation, but it's not the same as the COVID situation. It's not expected that there will be rapidly a very huge number of cases. This is why we think that it can be eradicated. I mean, we hope that it could be. So we have to be very careful with this problem and insist that infected people would really be careful with their contacts."

Monkeypox spreads by close,

prolonged contact with an infected person. It can also be transmitted via

people in multiple U.S. states. It was traced back to rats that were imported



Quebec Interim National Public Health Director Dr. Luc Boileau at a press conference on May 26, 2022. (MSSS) | Facebook

droplets, said microbiologist and University of Montreal professor Caroline Quach. Symptoms include fever; a rash with blisters on the face, hands, feet, eyes, mouth or the genitals; swollen lymph nodes; headaches and muscle pain.

The incubation period for monkeypox usually lasts five to seven days, sometimes stretching to as many as 21 days, Boileau said. In most of the cases, the disease disappears by itself within two to four weeks. Complications can occur "in very rare cases," Boileau said.

This is only the second known outbreak of the disease in North America in the last two decades. The first one, which occurred in 2003, affected 71

from Ghana and housed near prairie dogs in Illinois. The prairie dogs were sold as pets and later developed signs of infection.

"This is a bit concerning," Donald Vinh, an infectious disease specialist and medical microbiologist at the McGill University Health Centre, said in an interview. "In the last week, we have had an increase from zero to 25 confirmed cases. For a disease that we have never seen before in Canada, that seems to be a relatively big increase. What we're seeing now is a ripple effect. We're not at the start of the ripple, but we're somewhere along the way. The question is, how many more patients are there?"

Since monkeypox is closely

related to the virus that causes smallpox, administering a smallpox vaccine can prevent people from contracting the disease or make it less severe.

Quebec has received its first doses of the Imvamune smallpox vaccine from the federal government, and vaccination could begin as soon as Friday, Boileau said Thursday. "Several hundred" doses of the vaccine were delivered Tuesday, though a widespread vaccination campaign is not being planned, Boileau said.

High-risk contacts of a confirmed or probable monkeypox case may be vaccinated with a single dose of Imvamune within four days of exposure, according to recommendations made by Quebec's immunization committee. A second dose may be administered only if the risk of exposure is still present 28 days later.

Physicians in Quebec have been required to report monkeypox cases since May 19, when the province started an epidemiological investigation.

At least 12 countries — including Australia, Belgium, Portugal and the U.K. — have reported monkeypox cases over the past two weeks. As of Saturday, the World Health Organization counted 92 confirmed laboratory cases in several regions of the world. Cases have "mainly but not exclusively" been identified amongst men who have sex, the WHO said.

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