

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveils new Liberal cabinet



The new Liberal minority cabinet pose for a family photo following their swearing in at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Wednesday. (Justin Tang/Canadian Press) See news story on page 3.

Gilmore College International celebrates its 30th year

Gilmore College International will celebrate its 30th year of foundation on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at Hotel Ruby Foo'S on 7655 Decarie Boulevard with a dinner dance party that will also serve as the annual Christmas get together of its alumni, students, teachers, community leaders, friends and family. For the first time in 30 years, this will be a fund raising drive to help the College in its application for an education permit to offer general education course for adults next school year. This college was founded singlehandedly by Zenaida Kharroubi, a former high school teacher of 25 years with the Montreal Catholic School Commission.

It was on November 1, 1989 when Gilmore College International first opened its doors to the public under its original name of Gilmore Business Institute (Institut des études



The 16th anniversary of Gilmore College International (banner with old logo shown in the background) was celebrated at the premises of College Prep International on Sherbrooke West. Photo shows from left: PAB teachers: Dindo Miras, Amy Manon-og, Editha Fedalizo, PAB graduate Alex Chen Ziang Xu, Sarah Hui Xing, Philippine Ambassador Jose Briliantes, Director-General Zenaida Kharroubi, PAB graduates Sau Wan Shum, Jinny Jun Yue, and Stella Choy. These five graduates were the first students who enrolled in the program when it was started in May 2005 upon the recommendation of James Ma, a Chinese businessman. (Photo taken: 11/27/2005)

commerciales Gilmore as its French equivalent). It was given an education permit that the founder had worked on during the summer months of July to September 1989. During this time, anyone offering courses to the public must get a permit. She designed her own curriculum and was given a permit for self-improvement education under an FA number (Formation D'Appoint). She operated the school by hiring other teachers to teach the courses in computer education, languages, and accounting as she was still a full time high school teacher with the Montreal Catholic School Commission and had to work from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. It was only after 3 o'clock in the afternoon that she would have the time to work in her own

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Gilmore College

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**From the  
Executive Publisher's Desk**

**Zenaïda Ferry-Kharroubi**

## The new cabinet in a minority government

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has his job cut out for him. As the results of the election showed, there are regional tensions that he must learn to handle and find ways to resolve the issues that are urgently needing immediate attention before they become worst.

Justin Trudeau's Liberals were shut out in Alberta and Saskatchewan last month, but the provinces got a shout-out in the cabinet choices the prime minister selected. Lacking an MP from the region, Trudeau tried for the next best thing. He named two key ministers with ties to the two provinces, and positioned a former cabinet minister as his eyes and ears in the Prairies. He tapped Chrystia Freeland as his minister of intergovernmental affairs and deputy prime minister and he appointed Jim Carr, a former cabinet minister to be special representative for the Maritime provinces.

Freeland has two roles - first is to work with the premiers — particularly prominent Trudeau antagonists Jason Kenney of Alberta and Scott Moe of Saskatchewan — to show that Trudeau not only understands the frustration of people in those provinces, but intends to respond. Her second role is more symbolic: Freeland becomes the first deputy prime minister since Anne McLellan 15 years ago.

An interesting analysis by The Spectator editors cited five challenges that Prime Minister Trudeau will be judged: "But two or three years from today, Canadians will judge the prime minister and his Liberal power circle by how they've risen to meet the most urgent challenges facing this country.

Here's our list of the top-five issues that should keep them all awake at night

**Climate change:** Most voters in last month's federal election backed parties committed to preventing global warming from becoming a global catastrophe. As a result of action taken in Trudeau's first term, carbon pricing in some form or another is now in effect across the country. These and other measures mean Canada is more than halfway to meeting its Paris Agreement pledge to reduce emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

But there's still a long, arduous journey ahead. While Canada is responsible for only a small fraction of the world's carbon emissions, it can and should play a leadership role in pioneering the kind of low-carbon economy other countries could embrace. For this to happen, the federal government has to persuade

Canadians to accept major lifestyle changes, including far higher carbon taxes.

**National unity:** The premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan — provinces without a single Liberal MP — have taken a page from Quebec's playbook. Raising the spectre of Western separatism, they're pushing for more provincial autonomy in ways that could weaken the federation. The return of the Bloc Québécois as a powerful but parochial force in Parliament will further fray the national ties that bind. It's already led to a battle of words between Prairie and Quebec leaders.

Not only does Trudeau need to find answers to western grievances, he should act as an impartial conciliator between the provinces. In addition, his government must continue working for reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. There can be no unified Canadian nation without the participation of its First Nations.

**Recession risks:** Last week, the Parliamentary Budget Officer reported that federal deficits will be much higher than the government had planned. But that's without including the tens of billions of dollars in new spending and tax cuts the Liberals promised in October's election. The global economy is sputtering. Unresolved trade conflicts between the United States and China are only increasing the risk of a widespread recession in the next few years. Preparing Canada for that likelihood while delivering the new cash they've promised will force the Liberals to make tough decisions. They can't do it all.

**Pharmacare:** Nowhere will wise budgeting decisions be in greater demand than when it comes to keeping the Liberal promise to move forward with some kind of national program to provide greater public access to prescription drugs. The New Democrats have announced that their support for keeping the minority Liberals in power is contingent upon the fast establishment of a universal pharmacare program. Yes, the Liberals should find ways to fill the yawning gaps in our public health-care system. But economic realities won't let them ignore costs.

**The new international disorder:** The emergence of Donald Trump and more assertive regimes in China and Russia shifted the world's political tectonic plates and blindsided the Trudeau Liberals during their first term. Coping with an increasingly unreliable America while engaging with but standing up to China will require

co-operating more with other traditional allies in Europe and Asia.

The storms in this globalized world won't disappear. They will only become harder to navigate through. Let's hope Trudeau is putting the right crew in place to do it.

Another editorial by Susan Belacourt of the Star has pointed out that Trudeau with his appointment of the new Cabinet attempts to correct past missteps. She wrote the following comments:

"While Trudeau's first cabinet swearing-in could have been filmed on a movie set in 2015, this re-elected government didn't shoot for big, shiny displays of newness.

The 2019 sequel, in keeping with the new minority status, put a more modest face on the second Trudeau government. Ministers didn't walk into Rideau Hall en masse on Wednesday, waving at the cameras. They arrived instead individually, families and children in tow as they walked into the building.

Too much Trudeau in the first version of his government? There's a co-star now: deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland, who also takes on a job — intergovernmental affairs — that the prime minister initially kept for himself in the early days.

There's also a lot more of a spotlight on the team, with a mix of seasoned veterans (10 ministers kept the jobs they had before the election) and a sprinkling of seven newcomers to keep the story fresh.

If you thought the first Trudeau government was a little too focused on events abroad, this new cabinet has lots of jobs with a domestic focus. There's even a minister for "middle class prosperity" — Ottawa MP Mona Fortier, one of the cabinet newcomers — to underline that this Trudeau government really, honestly, is committed to concerns close to where most Canadians live.

At the recent post-election caucus meeting in Ottawa, many Liberals reported that voters weren't aware of what the previous Liberal government had done, whether on climate change, reducing poverty or relieving families' tax burdens."

In view of all these comments, we are left with two questions - What can we expect the new minority government to accomplish? How long will this government last?

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## Canada-wide emergency alert system to be tested Wednesday

Published Monday, November 25, 2019 12:18PM EST  
TORONTO -- If your cellphone receives an emergency alert text on Wednesday, don't panic.

Canada's national emergency alert system, Alert Ready, has scheduled a public test for later this week. Depending on where you live, the test will be sent in the late morning or early afternoon.

Test messages will be sent via compatible wireless devices, television and radio.

Test alerts educate Canadians on what an emergency alert will look and sound like in the event of a life-threatening situation," Martin Belanger, director of public alerting at Pelmorex, which operates Alert Ready's technical infrastructure, said in a statement.

The tests haven't always gone according to plan. Only 60 per cent of wireless users in Manitoba received an alert during the system's first test in May 2018.

Similar issues arose across Canada during the second test in November 2018, which was considered "a significant improvement" from the first test but still not perfect.

The alert system is designed to send out rapid messages in the event of an imminent threat to public safety.

All phones sold in Canada since April 6, 2019 should be wireless public alerting compatible.

Here is when to expect a message, based on where you live:

Alberta: 1:55 PM MST  
British Columbia: 1:55 PM PST  
Manitoba: 1:55 PM CST  
New Brunswick: 10:55 AM AST  
Newfoundland & Labrador: 10:55 AM NST  
Northwest Territories: 9:55 AM MST  
Nova Scotia: 1:55 PM AST  
Nunavut: No test scheduled  
Ontario: 2:55 PM EST  
Prince Edward Island: 12:55 PM AST  
Quebec: 1:55 PM EST  
Saskatchewan: 1:55 PM CST  
Yukon: 1:55 PM PST



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



# Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveils new Liberal cabinet

By The Canadian Press

Published 11:24 PST, Wed November 20, 2019

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OTTAWA — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau carved out a new role in his government Wednesday designed to ensure voices on the Prairies are heard in Ottawa.

Former cabinet minister Jim Carr, who represents a Winnipeg riding, has been named as Trudeau's "special representative" for the Prairie provinces.



**Jim Carr, Special Representative to the Maritime Provinces**

The move follows the Liberals complete shutout in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the October federal election, including the loss of two cabinet ministers.

That raised concerns about how voices from those provinces would have a say around the cabinet table.

The Liberals also lost three seats in Manitoba.

"The Government of Canada represents Canadians in every part of the country. That is why the prime minister has asked Jim Carr to serve as his special representative for the Prairies," Trudeau's office said in a news release announcing the move.

"Born and raised in Winnipeg, he will ensure that the people of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have a strong voice in Ottawa."

Carr formerly served as both natural resources minister and minister for international trade diversification, two portfolios exceptionally top of mind in the Prairies, given struggles in the energy sector and ongoing trade disputes affecting Canadian farmers and producers.

Shortly after the election, Carr said he had received a diagnosis of a form of blood cancer.

There had been questions about his ability to keep playing a major role in Trudeau's cabinet as he undergoes treatment.

His appointment came as part of a broad cabinet shuffle for the Liberal government that also included naming Chrystia Freeland the deputy prime minister and intergovernmental affairs minister.

Freeland, though an MP for a Toronto riding, was born in Alberta.

She'd previously served as Trudeau's foreign affairs ministers, and now will need to bring her diplomatic skills to bear on the home front at time when provincial-federal relationships are exceptionally rocky due to issues

including the federal carbon tax, immigration and the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Other MPs from the West who nabbed a spot in cabinet include Winnipeg's Dan Vandal, appointed minister of Northern Affairs. British Columbia's Jonathan Wilkinson was shuffled to Environment from Fisheries, and Carla Qualtrough, also from B.C., was moved to Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion from her previous role as minister of public services, procurement and accessibility.

Who's who in Justin Trudeau's cabinet

The returning, changing and new members of Justin Trudeau's cabinet:

Chrystia Freeland becomes deputy prime minister and minister of intergovernmental affairs

Anita Anand becomes minister of public services and procurement

Navdeep Bains becomes minister of innovation, science and industry

Carolyn Bennett remains minister of Crown-Indigenous relations

Marie-Claude Bibeau remains minister of agriculture and agri-food

Bill Blair becomes minister of public safety and emergency preparedness

Bardish Chagger becomes minister of diversity and inclusion and youth

Francois-Philippe Champagne becomes minister of foreign affairs

Jean-Yves Duclos becomes president of the Treasury Board

Mona Fortier becomes minister of middle-class prosperity and associate minister of finance

Marc Garneau remains minister of transport

Karina Gould becomes minister of international development

Steven Guilbeault becomes minister of Canadian heritage

Patty Hajdu becomes minister of health

Ahmed Hussen becomes minister of families, children and social development

Melanie Joly becomes minister of economic development and official languages

Bernadette Jordan becomes minister of fisheries, oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

David Lametti remains minister of justice and attorney general

Dominic LeBlanc becomes president of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada

Diane Lebouthillier remains minister of national revenue

Lawrence MacAulay remains minister of veterans affairs and associate minister of national defence

Catherine McKenna becomes minister of infrastructure and communities

Marco Mendicino becomes minister of immigration, refugees and citizenship



**Liberal MP Chrystia Freeland arrives for the cabinet swearing-in ceremony in Ottawa on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.(The Canadian Press) /Adrian Wyld**

Marc Miller becomes minister of Indigenous services

Maryam Monsef becomes minister for women and gender equality and rural economic development

Bill Morneau remains minister of finance

Joyce Murray becomes minister of digital government

Mary Ng becomes minister of small business, export promotion and international trade

Seamus O'Regan becomes minister of natural resources

Carla Qualtrough becomes minister of employment, workforce development and disability inclusion

Pablo Rodriguez becomes leader of the government in the House of Commons

Harjit Sajjan remains minister of national defence

Deb Schulte becomes minister of seniors

Filomena Tassi becomes minister of labour

Dan Vandal becomes minister of northern affairs

Jonathan Wilkinson becomes minister of environment and climate change

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From Page 1    Gilmore College

school.

Being the only shareholder and founder of a private school, Zenaida Kharroubi had to make many personal sacrifices such as long working hours, losing sleep some nights, and having to figure out how to pay all the bills that seem to come frequently and endlessly. Some people wonder why she wanted to open her own school as there are already many schools, but she believes in the value of education and she thinks there are things that a small school can do better. Her original idea was to have a school for executive secretaries as a finishing school and she was supposed to have two co-teachers work with her. They first had a feasibility study done by the Federal Development Bank in 1987, but since the other teachers had changed their minds, she did not pursue the idea until July 1989 when she was again declared excess so she decided to go ahead with opening her own school. Using an equity loan from her mortgage and RRSP savings, she worked furiously during that summer and submitted her application to the Ministry of Education. At first she offered non-credit programs as she did not believe in having to follow a government prescribed curriculum. However, there were constant telephone calls asking for credit programs and student loans so she made an application to offer credit programs in 1995 and received an education permit in October 1996 which was quite late for the September opening. She decided to move in April 1996 to another location on 5149 Decarie Boulevard that was bigger and more visible than her first building on 4246 Girouard Avenue near Monkland. She hired other teachers to teach the courses leading to A.E.C. in Office Systems Technology, Automation and Accounting, and International Trade. During the 10th anniversary celebration held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, she had the pleasure of seeing the first group of 20 graduates receive their collegial diplomas on October 29, 1999 assisted by the Philippine Ambassador Francisco Benedicto.

Upon her early retirement, in June 1997, many community associations recruited her to be an officer of five different organizations. This had put a toll on her time and consequently, she was delayed in submitting reports to the Ministry of Education which caused her not to receive a renewal of the permit in 2001. But since the College could still continue admitting international students, she did not think of re-applying for another education permit as she was just too busy with so many other work, mostly in volunteer activities, particularly when she got involved in publishing the community newspaper, managing the first Filipino Canadian Scout group and helping revive the community cooperative that went bankrupt. She was too optimistic in thinking that the cooperative could be revived but in the end she realized it was not meant to be. She had to move from the Decarie location when the building was sold to a new owner in



**Annual Christmas fellowship party at Gilmore College International, December 6, 2017 - Seated L to R: Sophie Toledo, Atty. Roman Gordy, Dolores Belandres, Zenaida Kharroubi, Amy Manon-og, Frank McInnis. Standing behind are students with their friends and family.**

September 2003 and she did not want to pay the high increase of rent. She moved to another building on Queen Mary Road at the penthouse where she stayed until July 2009 when the place had to be renovated due to flooding. She moved to an office building on Cote des Neiges and Edouard Montpetit where she stayed for two years until July 2011 when the landlord tried to increase the rent by \$400 more monthly. She moved back to Queen Mary Road near Coolbrook where she stayed until September 2016.

Due to change in bureaucratic procedures in immigration, all schools

not approved. Another application was made for the same program on September 1, 2019. A visit was made by the Ministry of Education inspectors on November 25, 2019, and an interview by the Education Consultative Committee on December 3, 2019. Then additional paper work was required to be submitted within ten days on February 25, 2019 but since the bureaucrat assigned to Gilmore did not give the proper webpage link to complete the proper format of the program, the application was refused and yet the same reasons for the refusal were given - lack of financial



**Batch 11 PAB graduates were given their certificates on July 8, 2017. This souvenir photo shows teachers and guests: (L to R) Dolores Belandres, Editha Fedalizo, Clarice MacKay, Nina Schiff, Sonny Moroz (representing MP Anthony Housefather), Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi, Josefina Toledo, Amy Manon-og and Terry White. This graduation ceremony was held at Gilmore College International's reception hall.**

are required to have designated learning institution numbers effective June 1, 2017. In order to continue accepting international students, she had to make an application for an education permit. She was advised by an education consultant to find a bigger place. She was informed that a cafeteria and library are required when applying for a college permit. The landlord offered her a bigger place on Cote des Neiges and Jean Talon where the school is now located since September 15, 2016. Her first application was submitted with the help of an education consultant on September 1, 2017 for A.E.C. courses in Accounting and Web Page design but it was not approved for lack of financial and human resources. She submitted a second application to offer the PSW program, which is a secondary vocational program on September 1, 2018 but the file was considered incomplete and therefore

and human resources. The nurses who have been teaching the same programme since 2005 are not recognized to be qualified to teach until they all commit to taking education courses and get their teaching licenses. They are all retired nurses and do not plan on going back to school. The prospective investor agreement was not even considered a sufficient financial resource even though he is willing to invest the amount of \$300,000 in the College subject to the permit approval.

What is the future for Gilmore College International? In spite of all these obstacles, its founder does not plan to quit and she will submit another application on or before September 1, 2020 to the Ministry of Education to get a permit to offer general education courses for adults instead of offering the PSW program that requires the nurses to be licensed teachers. Since she has a permanent teaching license

for high school, her education consultant recommended that she focuses on her own expertise and apply to teach the courses that she already has been teaching since she opened the College in 1989. There is a lot of work involved in preparing for this type of permit but she is willing to put her time and resources in order to get a designated learning institution number that will make the College more attractive to prospective investors and allow her to resume accepting international students. During the time she had the college permit from 1996 to 2001, another college in Quebec City offered to buy her business but since she was just newly retired in 1997, she did not think it was the time to sell as she wanted to devote her time to building her own school which she was unable to do as she became too busy with volunteer work. She had also attempted to help foreign graduates of nursing and submitted a program that was designed by an education consultant she hired in 2006. This project did not materialize as it required renting a nursing lab or building one in the school. If there were more financial resources, this lab could be built in the current space the College occupies.

Gilmore College International has been receiving many students who want to learn French, because a former student has been referring newcomers with working permits to study here in order to meet the requirements for permanent residency. If the demand for teaching the language courses continue to increase, more teachers will be needed and given part time teaching contracts. Moreover, there are plans to offer bridging programs in partnership with a university which will be pursued after the application for an education permit has been completed.

Gilmore College International is known to have the lowest tuition fee structure and even allow students to pay according to their budgets and follow a schedule according to their availability. All tuition fees are income tax deductible. A certificate of language proficiency is issued upon passing three examinations for each level – beginners, intermediate and advance. Private or semi-private tutorials are available. The College also offers a Youth Tutoring programme at very modest rates, much lower than other private schools. Due to the founder's wide experience in office automation, she has the expertise in the training of administrative assistants. She can also do on-site training for employees who may need to learn the proper telephone etiquette, business communication in English and French. For more information, telephone 514-485-7861 or 514-506-8753 to make an appointment to enroll in any of the courses in word processing, accounting, business communication in English or French, early childhood education, and PSW/PAB courses offered as a non-credit program taught by experienced professional nurses.

There are still many dinner tickets available for those who want to celebrate and enjoy an evening of dancing, fine dining, and meeting new and old friends. Please call to make an appointment to pick up the tickets, or ask to have them mailed to you.



# SEA Games: Chefs in Clark, Subic assure athletes of quality, halal food



**SEA games chefs in Subic assure athletes of halal food.**

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 26 2019 10:35 PM |

Updated as of Nov 26 2019 11:22 PM

MANILA - Filipino chefs serving at the athlete's village for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games at the New Clark City in Tarlac has assured participants not only of quality food, but also halal dishes for Muslim visitors.

Bruce Lim, executive chef for the SEA Games, said on Monday that while the task of feeding hundreds of participating athletes is a tough job, he said they will make sure that their stay

in the athletes' village will be comfortable.

"This is a totally different monster. Athletes can't leave the complex so we try make sure that they can eat 24 hours a day, they have enough food and variety throughout, and we wanna make sure they are comfortable," Lim said.

The buffet in Clark is open 24/7 for athletes with a variety of dishes both from Western and Asian cultures.

"We promise them the best produce that we can sa lahat ng

experiences namin for so many years. We are group of chefs now, mga 30 professional chefs," Sau del Rosario of Culinaria Pampanga added.

Catering coordinator Datu Shaiffudin Kiram said all dishes are halal certified, including appetizers, desserts, soups, and the main courses.

"Actually ang halal na ito napakahalaga para sa mga athletes natin, mga delegates galing Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, tsaka Brunei," Shaiffudin said.

There's also a food safety team on standby to ensure that all dishes being served is of certain standards.

Meanwhile, a delegate from Cambodia said he is satisfied with the amenities at the athletes' village.

"We were surprised and happy in the athletes village because the building is in the mountain so we can get the fresh air... The food is very enough," said Sim Chantha of Cambodia.

In Subic, which is also a venue for some SEA Games events, SBMA chairperson Wilma Eisma shared photos of the food being served for the athletes.

Earlier, the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos said organizers of the SEA Games ignored their warning to ensure that delegates

from Islamic countries are served halal food during the games.

The lack of halal food for Muslim athletes in the SEA Games came to the fore after Singapore Chef De Mission Juliana Seow wrote a letter to PHISGOC COO Ramon Suzara about insufficient halal food and very limited food options at Century Park Hotel where Singaporean athletes are staying.

Several athletes, both local and foreign, who are billeted in Metro Manila complained of the quality of food which were served to them.

The 2019 SEA Games will run from November 30 to December 11.

The last time the Philippines hosted the regional games was in 2005. -

Reports from Gracie Rutao and Gretchen Fulidio, ABS-CBN News

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# Tagalog Seksyon

## Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

### PAANO MAGKAKARON NG KAUNTING PAGBABAGO SA ATING KOMUNIDAD?

Kamakailan ay nagpulong ang ilang lider na Pilipino upang pag-usapan ang mga sinasabing dayaan sa FAMAS eleksyon at hindi maipaliwanag na pagkawala ng mga pera dito at iba pang asosasyon. Sang-ayon ako sa sagot ng isang dumalo, "Walang pumupuna at nagsasalita sa ating mga kababayan kung may nakikita silang hindi magandang nangyayari sa mga asosasyon." Naalaala ko ang Watergate scandal ni Richard Nixon sa Amerika at Pork Barrel scam sa Pilipinas. Kasama na sa mga ito ang nangyaring eskandalo na ginawa ni Michael Applebaum sa city hall. Kung hindi naibunyang ng medya ang mga ito, hindi mababawasan ang mga katiwaliang nangyayari sa mga bansang nabanggit. Kung aktibo tayong miembro ng mga asosasyon at ng media at iniisip natin ang ikauunlad ng ating komunidad,

magtulong-tulong tayo upang magkaroon ng kaunting pagbabago rito. Kailangan ipakita natin na may mga mata nang sumusubaybay sa mga taong iniluklok natin sa tungkulin upang paglingkuran tayo. Tutukan natin sila upang masigurong ginagawa nila ang trabahong ipinangako nila. Sa mga miembro ng asosasyon, huwag kayong mag-atubiling magsalita kung may nakikita kayong hindi maganda. Ganoon din ang dapat gawin ng medya. Subalit tiyakin ng medya na tama ang kaniyang ibinabalita. Ang layunin ng media ay magsulat ng katotohanan, hindi manira ng tao. Sa sandaling mahuli itong nagsisinungaling, hindi niya na makukuha ang tiwala ng mga tao.

### INAABUSO ANG PAGGAMIT NG FACEBOOK

Batid halos ng lahat ang gulong nangyayari sa dalawang partido ng FAMAS - Samahang Makabayan at Malaya Team - dahil sa mga paratang na

dayaan noong nakaraang eleksyon. May nagsabi sa akin na kabilang sa isang partido na isinulat siya sa Facebook ng isang tagasuporta ng kalabang partido. Kung anu-anong paninirang puri ang isinulat tungkol sa kaniya kaya iniisip niyang magdemanda. Uso ngayon sa ating komunidad ang demandahan tulad ng ginawa sa dalawang tao na naidemanda ng libel dahil puro kasinungalingan at paninira ang pinagsusulat. Dahil natalo ang dalawa, pinagbayad sila ng malaki sa magdemanda at sa sarili nilang abogado. Kahanga-hanga ang katapatan ng nagsulat sa Facebook sa kaniyang kandidato pero naisip niya ba kung ano ang mangyayari kung idemanda siya? Tulungan kaya siya sa malaking gastusin?

Lahat tayo ay nagagalit. Minsan, kapag nagagalit ako, ginagawa ko ang natutuhan ko noon. Isusulat ko ang lahat ng gustong kong sabihin upang maihinga ang aking sama ng loob. Pagkatapos ay ilalagay ko muna ito sa isang tabi. Pagkaraan ng ilang oras o oraw, babalikan ko ito at itatapon. Medyo malamig na ang ulo ko. At medyo magsisipi pa ako sa mga isinulat ko.

### HAYAANG ABOGADO ANG GUMAWA NG DESISYON SA PROBLEMA NG FAMAS

Isinulat ni Fred Magallanes sa The Filipino Forum na hindi ibinigay ng Team Malaya ang \$17,000 na kinita sa membership fees noong nakaraang eleksyon. Ang sagot ng Team Malaya ay hawak ito ng Board of Trustees dahil walang pang desisyon ang korte kung sino talaga ang nanalo sa eleksyon.

Subalit ang pera ay hindi nawawala. Ang tanong naman nila sa Samahang Makabayan ay bakit hawak ng COMELEC ang \$2,250 na sobra sa multa ng Samahang Makabayan sa paglabag sa Election Rules and Regulations. Pera ng FAMAS iyon, hindi ng COMELEC. Ang tanong din ng Team Malaya ay kung bakit hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa maipaliwanag ng Samahang Makabayan kung bakit \$953.65 lamang ang turn over nito sa bagong administrasyon noong 2017. Ang kinita sa membership fees ay \$21,000. Nasaan ang iba pang pera? Isinulat din ni Magallanes na sa Article X111, "All book, records, money and property shall be turned over to the Executive Board no later than Sept. 30." Sabi ng Team Malaya, hindi rin sinunod ng Samahang Makabayan ang nakasaad sa artikulong ito. Katunayan, nawawala ang membership lists noong 2017 at iba pang dokumento.

Sa gulo sa FAMAS ay maraming nakikialam at nagbibigay ng opinion. Sila ang mga taong mabilis humusga kahit hindi nalalaman kung ano ang tunay na nangyari o nakabasa ng Election Rules and Regulations at ng Constitution na iba't iba ang interpretasyon. Marami itong loopholes.

Para sa kaalaman ng lahat, hindi pa tapos ang gulo. Nasa korte pa rin ang desisyon kung ano ang kahirinatnan ng sinasabing dayaan ngayong eleksyon. Wala pa ring desisyon ang korte sa labanang Tabamo laban kay Manuel. May hearing pa rin. Kung ano ang desisyon ng korte sa mga gulong ito, tanggapin na lamang nang mahusay.

## Duterte fires Robredo



By Mayvelin U. Caraballo, TMT  
November 25, 2019

President Rodrigo Duterte has fired Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo as co-chairman of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD), Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo told The Manila Times on Sunday.

According to Panelo, President Duterte's main reason for sacking Robredo barely three weeks after accepting her post as the country's anti-drug czar was her lack of programs and vision for the agency.

Panelo said Robredo's sacking was "in response" to the suggestion of Liberal Party president Sen. Francis Pangilinan to fire the vice president from her post.

"The President's designation of VP (Vice President) Robredo was not like any offer to perform a certain task. It was an offer to make the campaign against illegal drugs better — a chance where both this administration and the political opposition could have unified in fighting the social ill that has destroyed the lives of many. Unfortunately, she wasted such opportunity and used the same as a platform to attack the methods

undertaken by this administration," he added.

Panelo said if Robredo was really serious in addressing the cause of the drug problem, she should have gone down to the grassroots and talked to the victims, to their families, and to the communities.

"Instead, she opted to have audience with the United Nations and the United States Embassy officials, who remain out of touch from the realities of the local drug problem on the ground," he said in a statement.

"The President gave the vice president ample authority and powers to direct all responsible government instrumentalities to act in accordance with the strategic objectives that she might have had in mind, in line with putting an end to the drug menace in our country. However, the Vice President resorted to unduly baiting international attention, particularly from persons or entities that know little or none at all about our situation, other than their own bias or unsubstantiated prejudgment," Panelo added.

He said that the vice president embarrassed the country.

"The President has been more than patient enough, giving the vice president adequate opportunity to discuss possible courses of action with him. More than two weeks have passed since the vice president accepted her designation as ICAD [co-chairman]. But she has not presented any new program that she envisioned to implement. In a campaign where people's lives are at risk, a day is an eternity. The government can not twiddle its thumb and sit idly hoping for a flash of brilliance from the vice president," the Palace official said.

The President also noticed that the vice president was more focused on gaining the attention of the media instead of creating programs for her agency, he added.

The vice president's pronouncements that she will meet with the officials of the United States and the United Nations (UN) to discuss the government's campaign against illegal drugs also irked the Chief Executive.

Robredo also repeatedly asked the President of the scope of her authority, which was already stated in her appointment papers. Panelo said if the vice president wanted clarifications on her post, she should have sought audience with the President and not air her sentiments to the media.

Panelo added that the vice president herself dared Duterte to fire her after the latter said the ICAD post is not a Cabinet rank position. The President had said Robredo would not be given access to confidential information because he does not trust her.

On Saturday, the President admitted that he was not satisfied with Robredo's performance.

"Insofar as what she is doing now, that is not very clear to me. Nakukulangan ako sa ability niya (I am not satisfied with her ability)," he said in

an interview in Davao City.

"Ako, hindi pa siya nag-trabaho talaga nang husto (For me, she has yet to give her best as she is really not doing her job well). I have yet to see the vice president working as an ICAD co-chair," he added.

On Sunday, Robredo said she would continue to do her job as ICAD co-chairman until the President fires her.

"Siya (President) 'yung nag-appoint sa akin, siya din 'yung may kapangyarihan na tanggalin ako. Ako s'yempre pag tinanggal ako, wala akong magagawa, pero hindi ako mag-re-resign (He was the one who appointed me, he also has the power to dismiss me. If he removed me from the post, I cannot do anything about it, but I will not resign)," she said in her weekly radio show.

Robredo issued the statement after Panelo advised her to leave her post if she was not comfortable or "cannot stand the heat in the kitchen."

"Ngayon pa na andami kong nakita na kailangan ko pang gawin, ngayon pa, na tingin ko, marami akong maitutulong. Kaya habang hindi pa ako tinatanggal, gagawin ko 'yung trabaho ko (I have seen that I have a lot more to do, I believe I can help more. So, as long as I have not been dismissed, I will do my job)," Robredo said.

Meanwhile, Panelo belied reports that the President apologized to Robredo for believing reports that she had invited a UN investigator to probe the administration's war on drugs.

Robredo had denied inviting a UN investigator to visit the Philippines and investigate the drug war. She clarified that she only met with the officials of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the United States Embassy in Manila to discuss the campaign against illegal drugs.



## Nurses stage sit-in at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital over staff shortage

Compulsory overtime and patient ratios per nurse push many health-care workers to burn out, the nurses' union says.



(Canadian Press, October 27,, 2019) Emergency room nurses at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital in Montreal refused to come to work Saturday morning because of a lack of staff.

Fifteen health workers conducted a sit-in for about two hours to denounce their difficult working conditions.

Compulsory overtime and patient ratios per nurse push many health-care workers to burn out, the nurses' union says.

According to le Syndicat des professionnelles en soins de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, the nurses found they were missing three colleagues when

they started the day shift around 7:45 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Union vice-president Denis Cloutier said his members chose to protest by improvising a sit-in to put pressure on the employer, adding some of whom had been on duty for 16 hours since they had been working the evening shift the previous day.

Hospital director Lina Spagnolo said the three absent nurses did not show at the last minute because of illness.

Spagnolo said a few patients were transferred to care units to reduce the backlog in the emergency room.

## Record number of nurses licensed in Quebec, but only 60 per cent have full-time work

The professional order of nurses added there is a "crying need" for resources on the medical system's front line.

PRESSE CANADIENNE Updated: November 26, 2019



Quebec's largest nurses union is calling attention to burnout and mandatory overtime issues with strike action. (CBC)

Even as the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec issued a record number of nursing licences over the past year, only 60 per cent of the province's nurses are working full-time and the province's health network remains in need of front-line resources.

The professional order on Tuesday made public its annual report for the 2018-2019 period, showing that it has registered 76,360 nurses on its rolls,

75,529 of them in active practice.

The order also issued 3,893 licences — a record — over the past operating year but added there is a "crying need" for resources on the medical system's front line.

The report notes also that 60 per cent of nurses are employed on a full-time basis, a proportion that drops to just 26 per cent for younger members of the order.

## 'We are disappointedly far from reaching a deal': Ontario teachers begin work-to-rule campaigns

Colin de Melo, CTV NewsTorontoPublished Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:30 AM EST



TORONTO -- Thousands of Ontario teachers are launching job action in public elementary and secondary schools today, as unions try to apply pressure on the Progressive Conservative government amid tense contract negotiations.

The twin work-to-rule campaigns are not expected to have an impact inside the classroom, but parents and students will likely be drawn into the unions' ongoing dispute with the government with "information pickets" outside some schools.

Public elementary teachers will begin each day by meeting outside the main school entrance and walking in together, 15 minutes before the morning school bell, according to the union.

Teachers will then stop participating in EQAO testing, won't take the government's new math proficiency test and won't attend meetings outside the school day.

"We've been very careful not to affect students learning conditions or the environment during this phase one," Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario President Sam Hammond said on Monday.

Classroom

Meanwhile, at public high schools in the province, teachers will hand out flyers to parents explaining the job action and highlighting the government's policies on education, which teachers are rallying against.

Educators will stop attending "unpaid" after-school staff meetings, won't participate in professional development led by the ministry of education and stop taking part in EQAO testing.

"Students won't notice any changes whatsoever," Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation President Harvey Bischof promised.

The promises are being backed up by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), which is also in negotiations with the teachers' unions.

"What's happening is mostly administrative so (students) shouldn't feel any impact for the foreseeable future," OPSBA President Cathy Abraham said.

The work-to-rule campaign will also affect student report cards as teachers largely leave it up to administrators to fill out, only providing basic information such as grades and brief remarks on student performance.

Toby Molouba

@tmolouba

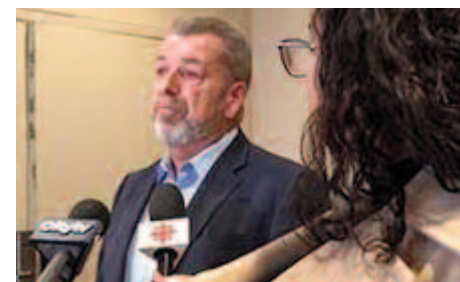
Solidarity soothes the soul.

Loved being in Mississauga with my @ETFOPeel peeps this morning. So proud to be part of #ETFO, standing together for fully funded public education. These are the faces of those who make a difference in kids' lives everyday. @ETFOeducators #VThe OPBSA, however, said students should contact school officials if they feel job action is having an effect on their education.

"If they have concerns about what's happening in their own schools, please talk to their principals about it."

Bargaining continues

Both OSSTF and ETFO will meet with government negotiators at least two more times this week, but unions leaders are signaling that talks



ETFO President Sam Hammond said "we are making this known well in advance to assure parents that this strike action will not affect students, their learning or their safety."

may not be heading in the right direction.

9:00 AM - Nov 26, 2019

Twitter Ads info and privacy

See Mr Wilkins' Ones and Twos's other Tweets

"We are disappointedly far from reaching a deal," Bischof said, adding that class sizes, teaching positions and teacher salaries are still sticking points at the negotiating table.

Those sentiments are being echoed by Hammond who suggested on Monday that if the stalemate at the bargaining table isn't broken in a few weeks, teachers may have to escalate their job action.

"We'll have to start looking at where this is headed," Hammond said when asked if teachers will walk off the job.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce stressed that the government has been making concessions at the bargaining table especially on class sizes and e-learning.





Many people talk about education and its value in society, but no one seems to have an idea how it can help everyone live a full life by using their talents in different ways. It seems difficult to know right away what a person wants to do as a career, and often times, it takes so many years before one can say this is what I want to do with my life.

There are many people who come to Canada with a degree from a university in their native country, but when they arrive here, they have to find a job which is not in their field of training. They may be doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers back home but when they come as immigrants, they often end up doing manual labor as their academic credentials are not recognized, or that they have difficulty in getting licensed as they do not have the linguistic requirements to pass the examinations of the professional bodies that regulate their professions. In other cases, some people dropped out of high school or university and then decided to immigrate, thinking they could find better opportunities in another country. It is a disappointment to find out later that it is difficult to have a good paying job. Consequently, they often have to do two or more jobs to have enough income to send to their families back home. For this reason, they end up having no time to study and they find it difficult to get out of a dead end job.

On the other hand, we can say that it is only the individual himself who must have the desire to change his or her situation in life and search for a way to get a better job but must be aware that to do so requires effort to get organized and learn the skills they need which they can only acquire through a well-designed training

program or courses that are offered by different schools. After all, it is common knowledge that a well-qualified person will never be unemployed. There are always jobs available if one has the required skills that employers are looking for.

In establishing my own school, I have always wanted to be able to help others who need to improve themselves, not only to get a better job but also to develop their full potential. In my personal experience, I have observed that many students have some gaps in their previous educational background. I believe that by offering a bridging program and general education courses for adults, Gilmore College International will be able to help many more people in changing their outlook, their careers, and find better opportunities to get a good paying job and live a more comfortable life. In this column, I try to do a survey on what others have done or are doing that are related to my own field of interest - bridging programs and general education courses. I also plan to seek partnership with a university here or abroad.

Bridging programs help foreign-trained professionals gain accreditation

The programs not only upgrade their academic qualifications but expose immigrants to how their profession is practised in Canada.

BY SHELDON GORDON

Stories abound – and they're not all apocryphal – of foreign-trained professionals in Canada having to drive a taxi to earn a living. A 2006 survey by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, as the department was then called, found that there were 1,525 taxi drivers in Canada with a master's degree and

255 with a doctorate or medical degree.

The 2006 Canadian census reveals that occupational underemployment is a significant problem for immigrants. This costs the federal and provincial governments billions of dollars in potential income tax revenues. Four years after their arrival in Canada, the majority of immigrants still work in jobs that are not commensurate with either their education or the jobs they had in their homeland.

Engineering is the most common professional field of study for immigrants to Canada. But, in 2006, only 19 percent of immigrants who graduated in engineering and were employed in Canada were working as engineers, versus 42 percent of Canadian-born individuals who graduated in engineering.

The disparity was even more pronounced in medicine. While 92 percent of Canadian-born individuals who studied medicine were working as doctors in 2006, only 56 percent of immigrants with the same field of study were practising in the profession.

Several Canadian universities offer bridging programs to help foreign-trained professionals – dentists, engineers, pharmacists, teachers and others – overcome barriers to accreditation and integrate successfully into Canadian society. The programs not only upgrade their academic qualifications but expose them to how their profession is practised in Canada.

Marie Bountrogianni, dean of the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University (and former minister of immigration for Ontario), says the bridging programs are both altruistic and good labour-market economics. "It's unethical to encourage highly educated people to come to this country and then not allow them to practise their profession or a related profession," she says. "But there's an economic part as well. As soon as these highly educated new Canadians start working and paying taxes, they add to the prosperity of all of us." (Over the last decade, Ryerson has had the most enrolments in bridging programs of any university in Ontario.)

University Affairs examined the bridging programs for four different professions at four Canadian universities.

"At first I felt so intimidated by my accent, but I was able to overcome that," Jimmy Buena

Education – University of Alberta

Jimmy Buena, 38, has a doctorate of education and taught computer science and mathematics as a university professor for nine years in his native Philippines before he emigrated to Canada in 2009. After settling in Edmonton and gaining permanent resident status, he hoped to teach in the Alberta school system.

Due to a bureaucratic mix-up, however, it took three years for his teaching credentials to be assessed by Alberta Education, which is responsible for teacher certification in the province. "Meanwhile, I worked as a server at a Denny's restaurant," he recalls. "It was frustrating." He wasn't sure whether he

would ever have the opportunity to teach, especially when the professional standards branch of Alberta Education assessed his academic qualifications to be insufficient.

However, the branch referred Dr. Buena to the University of Alberta's faculty of education, which offers the Internationally Educated Teachers (IET) Bridging Project. Funded with \$200,000 annually from Alberta Education, the project provides free tuition for up to 12 IETs a year as they earn from 24 to 30 additional credits to meet provincial standards for certification.

Randolph Wimmer, who co-founded the 12-month program in September 2013 and is now interim dean of the faculty of education, says he is committed to keeping the program going even if provincial funding eventually stops.

"Is it possible to receive a teaching certificate without this bridging program? Yes, absolutely," he says. "But it's extraordinarily difficult for people who are new to Canada ... to navigate highly bureaucratic systems within universities, school systems and the government. The success rate is very minimal, compared with that of a bridging program."

The IETs, in addition to the standard coursework, do a nine-week classroom practicum. They also attend a weekly seminar where they "unpack" what they've experienced in their placement. "It's not just a place to vent," says Dr. Wimmer. "It has academic rigour as well."

"The practicum was the most valuable part," says Dr. Buena. "At first I felt so intimidated by my accent and pronunciation, but I was able to overcome that." The Catholic elementary/junior high school in Edmonton where he did his placement was sufficiently impressed that it hired him as soon as he completed the bridging program in May 2015. He now teaches math, science, health and Tagalog, the Filipino national language (many of the students at his school are of Filipino origin).

The current IET cohort comprises 11 participants from nine countries. Teachers from countries that are culturally similar to Canada, such as the U.S., the U.K. and Australia, are excluded. The program hasn't yet had to turn away applicants for lack of space. For this summer's intake, "we had a record 19 interviews for 11 spots, but many are struggling with achieving the English-language proficiency requirements," says project coordinator Brent McDonough.

An estimated three-quarters of the program's graduates are now teaching in the Edmonton area. "Some are even approached mid-practicum to see if they might be available for employment," says Mr. McDonough. "These are serious teachers," adds Dr. Wimmer. "They're highly motivated. They have a lot of teaching experience, and it shows. Schools want diversity in their teaching force. They need teachers who speak languages in addition to English and French."

"It's pretty intense, you have to put aside everything for school."

Maria Fernanda Castro Herrera

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## Pharmacy – Université de Montréal

Université de Montréal offers a bridging program for foreign-trained pharmacists: the programme de qualification en pharmacie, or QeP.



Since the QeP's inception in 2011-12, a total of 107 candidates have graduated. The current cohort is 35, selected from 121 who applied. The QeP must admit at least 25 participants in order to receive an annual subsidy from Quebec's Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur du Québec.

The program runs 16 months and requires participants to earn up to 64 credits, though the number can be much lower, depending on the assessment of academic qualifications by the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec (OPQ). The foreign-trained pharmacists on average pay \$1,600 in tuition, the same amount per credit that Quebec students pay for U de M's pharmacy degree program.

The QeP is one of two routes foreign-trained pharmacists can follow to become licensed in Quebec. The other is to pass the country-wide exam administered by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. "Their success rate is not all that high, so a number of candidates decide to apply to the QeP," says Marie-Claude Vanier, director of the QeP. The QeP itself has an overall success rate of 88 percent.

Nov2016-feature-bridging pharmacy- 300QeP internships are provided in hospitals and retail pharmacies. A one-week placement in first year is followed by two eight-week internships in second year. "It's always a challenge to find enough internships for the students," says Ms. Vanier. "But what really limits our intake is the number of available laboratory spaces for them to practise."

Completion of the QeP does not by itself entitle graduates to practise in Quebec. The final step in that process is an internship mandated by the Ordre des pharmaciens. It is both lengthy and unpaid, and the graduates have to find these internships themselves, without help from the Ordre or QeP.

Ever Andres Herrera Cantor, 31, and his wife, Maria Fernanda Castro Herrera, 29, were pharmacists in Colombia for four years before emigrating to Quebec in 2013. They were seeking an improved quality of life and a more patient-oriented practice than was possible in Colombia.

Through his involvement with Colombia's pharmacists' council, Mr. Herrera Cantor had met pharmacists from other countries and decided

Canada offered the best prospects. "At the time, it was easier and quicker to come to Quebec than to other provinces, and we were familiar with the QeP," he says.

It took six months to gain the Ordre's approval to apply for the QeP. Before starting the program in January 2015, the couple managed to find part-time work in their field – he as a technician in a pharmacy, she with a pharmaceutical company – while studying to upgrade the basic-level French they had learned in Colombia. They've found the QeP to be a very demanding but valuable program. "It's pretty intense, you have to put aside everything for school," says Ms. Castro Herrera. Still, doing the program as a couple has an advantage, she says. "When one of us doesn't understand something, the other can help."

They're pleased that, unlike the Colombian universities – which emphasize pharmacology, or the study of drugs – the QeP also focuses on pharmacotherapy, the use of drugs for the clinical care of patients.

After completing the QeP, Mr. Herrera Cantor wants to acquire experience and savings as a staff pharmacist, then become a pharmacy owner. Ms. Castro Herrera, for her part, wants to complete her remaining internships before deciding on her career niche.

"As it was, I was flying solo when I did my job search."

Adeilton Ribeiro  
Engineering – Ryerson University

Ryerson's faculty of engineering and architectural science has been offering the Internationally Educated Engineers Qualification Bridging (IEEQB) Program for the past decade. The program enables foreign-trained engineers to meet the academic requirements for licensure by Professional Engineers Ontario as a professional engineer in the province.

The IEEQB program initially received dedicated federal and provincial funding, but now relies entirely on faculty resources and tuition fees. It accepts candidates three times a year, averaging 15 to 20 participants at each intake. Participants must first have their academic qualifications assessed by PEO to determine which courses they need.

nov2016-feature-bridgingengineer-300

"We don't offer courses specially designed for the IEEQB," says Liping Fang, program director. "The internationally educated engineers take courses with our regular students and pay the same tuition [per course] as they do. Each

has an individualized study plan." It takes about a year to complete the program. A 60 percent grade is required to pass each course exam. About 72 percent of candidates have successfully completed the program.

Civil engineering is the most popular of the engineering disciplines among the participants. Once they meet the academic requirements, candidates must satisfy the work experience requirement (48 months, including 12 months of engineering-related work in Canada) and pass PEO's professional practice exam.

Brazilian-born Adeilton Ribeiro earned a bachelor of civil engineering in Brazil and worked for four years in São Paulo before emigrating to Canada in 2013. "My wife is Canadian," he says, "and we decided Canada would be a better place to raise a family. Also, it would be easier for me to adapt to Canada compared to her adapting to Brazil."

While still in Brazil, he contacted PEO and learned which courses he would need to take in Ontario to meet its academic requirements. "The accreditation process was fair and straightforward," he says. Through an online search, he discovered Ryerson's IEEQB program.

"The course content was mostly material that I had studied in Brazil," he says. "The most difficult part was mastering the English-language terminology. I had to refer to some non-course materials for that." He did six courses, for which tuition was a "pricey" \$4,000. During his final three months, he worked part-time as an IT technician for Ryerson's media studies department.

Mr. Ribeiro, 31, says it would be helpful if the bridging program included internship opportunities. "As it was, I was flying solo when I did my job search." Still, even before writing his final exams, he applied to several companies and landed a job with AECOM, a multinational civil engineering firm. Since 2014, he has worked as a computer-assisted design drafter, producing civil and architectural drawings for rail and transit projects.

Ryerson also offers bridging programs for doctors, dietitians, social workers and midwives. Its latest is the Internationally Trained Medical Doctors Bridging Program. Launched in January 2015, it has graduated 14 candidates and accepted a second cohort of 14 (out of 150 applicants). The program is not intended to lead directly to licensure as an MD in Canada, says the Chang school's Dr. Bountrogianni, but rather equips participants for alternative, well-paid jobs in the health sector.

"That said," she adds, "we know anecdotally from our graduates that it has assisted a number of them in eventually achieving their medical residency because it helped them with the interview, which is very competitive, and with learning Canadian norms."

"It's very scary when you have a family and no career."

Akeel Al-Dabboos  
Dentistry – University of British Columbia

UBC's faculty of dentistry has, for at least 15 years, run the

International Dental Degree Completion Program, or IDDCP. This two-year program leads to the doctor of dental medicine degree, or DMD.

The DMD, however, doesn't automatically confer the right to practise dentistry in British Columbia. Graduates still must be certified by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada and licensed by the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia. (They also must have citizenship or permanent residency.)

For the current IDDCP cohort, which graduates in 2017, the program had 99 applicants, interviewed 29 and accepted seven. The usual cohort is no larger than 12 candidates. Dean of dentistry Charles Shuler says all of the program's graduates have gotten licenses.

The program is funded by the dentistry faculty, which charges foreign trained dentists over \$80,000 a year (about 50 percent higher than domestic students). Most of the immigrant dentists take out student loans of \$250,000 each to cover tuition and living costs, using their future career prospects as "collateral."

nov2016-feature-bridgingdentist-300

Akeel Al-Dabboos, who graduated in 2013 from the IDDCP, says that, despite the cost, participating in the program was worth it. "I'd encourage anyone to go through the program. It saves you the hassle of trying to do [the accreditation process] on your own."

(Internationally-trained dentists no longer have to do the IDDCP as a condition of licensure; as of four years ago, they can instead sit the National Dental Examining Board's "challenge exam.")

"The most valuable aspect for the immigrant dentists [in the IDDCP] is learning how we do dentistry in Canada," says Dr. Shuler. "In some countries, dentists do fewer crowns and bridges and more extractions. In Canada, we believe in saving teeth. Also, there's a lot of discussion around the need for informed consent from the patient."

Dr. Dabboos, 47, came to Canada with his wife and three children from war-torn Iraq, settling first in London, Ontario. He applied to dental programs at Western and Dalhousie universities before being accepted at UBC. Before getting in, his future was "a big question mark," he recalls. "It's very scary when you have a family and no career."

Once in the program, he liked UBC's emphasis on the practical rather than theory. "More than half the time, we were involved with the dental clinic, treating people." Since graduating and gaining a license, Dr. Dabboos has returned to Ontario, where he practised first in Hamilton, then bought an existing dental practice in Barrie.

While the individuals profiled above are success stories, the graduates of bridging programs amount to only a fraction of the foreign-trained professionals seeking accreditation in Canada. For the rest, the taxi meter is still running.

PUBLISHED BY  
Sheldon Gordon



# North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery

## FAMAS APPRECIATION GALA NIGHT, NOV. 9, 2019



**FAMAS Executive Board 2019-2021 - Cesar Manuel, president, (5th from left) is flanked by members of his executive board.**



**Souvenir photo: L to R: Zenaïda Kharroubi, Josefa Nicolas, a guest, and Buddy Cabugao. Photo taken by Cristy Hunter**

## Past anniversaries of Gilmore College International



**25th Anniversary at the Hellenic Community Center, Nov. 1, 2014 Souvenir photo (L to R): Zenaïda Kharroubi, Councilor Marvin Rotrand, MNA Helene David, Philippine Ambassador Petronila Garcia, and School Board Commissioner Elie Ysrael.**



**20th anniversary at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, October 28, 2009, with the Philippine Ambassador Jose Brillantes. Batch 5 PAB graduates received their diplomas.**



**8th anniversary at the Philippine Village Restaurant, October 25, 1997 - From left: Anne Quesnels, Lilia Esguerra, Frank McInnis, Zenaïda Kharroubi, Jeanne Registre and Djaoïda Kadri.**



**3rd anniversary (first gala night) held at the Victoria Hall in Westmount, October 1992. From left to right: Aida Argel, Janette, Jacques Baillarge, Anna Aquino, Zenaïda Kharroubi, a student, Juvy Vales, a student, and Alma Castro.**

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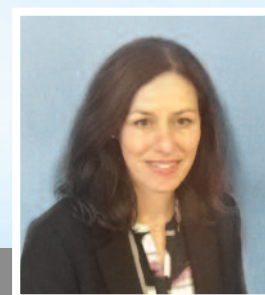
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## Favorite Filipino dishes



### Pork Sisig

One of the most favorite Filipino recipes is the pork sisig recipe made from chopped grilled pork's head. Since this dish is so popular, it is served in most Filipino restaurants, fastfoods and foodcarts. It is also a popular pulutan, paired with beer for those who love social drinking. The recipe here is easy to cook sisig since you only need ginisa flavor mix for seasoning this dish. If you want it to become more presentable and appetizing, you can put it in a sizzling plate and garnish it with raw egg on top.

When buying pig's head, it is not necessary to include the whole head. Just select your choice parts like the ears, cheeks or snout. The pig's tongue can also be used but it requires extra effort on cleaning because it has an unpleasant taste if you will not clean and cook it properly.

#### Ingredients

1 kilo ulo ng baboy (pig's head), deboned  
1/4 kilo chicken liver  
1/4 cup vinegar  
2 Tbsp Ginisa Flavor Mix  
1 Tsp siling labuyo, minced  
1 pc onion, chopped  
1 Tbsp calamansi juice  
salt to taste  
dash of MSG

#### Instructions

Wash pig's head and chicken liver. Boil in salted water until tender. Drain. Broil pig's head and chicken liver then cut into small pieces. Put in a preheated pan. Dissolve Ginisa Flavor mix in vinegar. Add to chopped meat. Put in siling labuyo and dash of MSG. Mix well. Add chopped onion and calamansi juice before serving.



### Embutido (Meat Loaf)

#### Ingredients

1 lb ground pork  
1/2 cup bread crumbs or panko  
1 large egg  
1/3 cup grated cheese  
1/4 cup pickle relish  
1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper  
1/2 tsp ground pepper  
1/2 tsp paprika  
salt to taste  
hard boiled eggs, cut into 4 slices  
Filipino hot dogs or Vienna sausage

#### Instructions

In a large bowl, mix ground pork, bread crumbs, grated cheese, bell pepper, relish and egg. Season with paprika, ground pepper and salt to taste. Mix well until blended. (optional: Cover bowl and refrigerate for an hour) Lay flat aluminum wrap with shiny side facing down. Divide meat mixture into two portion. Scoop each portion onto the aluminum foil. Spread and press down the meat mixture to flatten. Arrange hard boiled egg and hot dogs on the center of meat mixture. Roll aluminum foil tightly and pinch both end to seal. Repeat until meat mixture is done wrapping. Arrange embutido rolls in the steamer

and steam for an hour over medium heat. You will know it's done by poking a toothpick in the center of the embutido. If the toothpick comes out clean, the embutido is fully cooked. Remove steamed pork embutido from the steamer and allow to cool. Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight before slicing.



### Beef Mechado

#### Ingredients

2-3 lbs beef chuck chopped into chunks  
salt + pepper + garlic powder to taste  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
8 oz tomato sauce  
1 large onion chopped  
2 small bay leaves  
1-3 cups water  
2 large red bell peppers sliced  
1 tbsp fish sauce

#### Instructions

Season the beef chunks with salt, pepper and garlic powder on all sides. Mix in the tomato sauce, soy sauce and lemon juice. Coat the beef well, cover and let it marinate for at least an hour. Heat oil in a dutch oven on high heat. Drain off excess marinade from the beef. Do not throw away the marinade! Fry the beef until lightly seared on all sides. Remove to a plate or large bowl. Lower the heat to medium high and drain out all but 1 tbsp of oil. Saute the onion until fragrant and slightly soft, about 3-4 minutes. Add the beef back and toss with the onions. Pour in the remaining marinade. Add enough water to cover 3/4 of the beef. Add the bay leaves. Bring to a boil. Lower to medium high heat and let it simmer until the beef is tender, about 45 minutes. In the last 10 minutes of boiling, add the red bell pepper and fish sauce. Bring to a simmer again and continue cooking through. Once the meat is

tender and the peppers are cooked, turn off heat and serve with rice!



### Bibingka (Rice Cake)

#### INGREDIENTS

US Customary - Metric

#### BATTER:

1 cup rice flour  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
3/4 cup fresh milk  
1/4 cup water  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
4 tablespoons vegetable oil

#### TOPPINGS:

grated cheese  
grated coconut  
1 salted egg - - cut into 8 to 12 thin slices  
butter - - melted at room temperature for brushing

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Cut circles from the banana leaves for lining the pans. It should be double the size in diameter of the pans/molds or enough to cover the bottom and sides with a bit of excess as they tend to shrink when heated. Cut another batch of banana leaves for the top cover. Rinse and pat dry the banana leaves. Run each leaf quickly over the fire to make them limb and pliable. Line the pans/molds with banana leaves and brush them with butter. Set aside.

Combine all the ingredients for the batter in a bowl and mix well with a spoon or whisk until mixture becomes smooth. The batter should normally be runny.

Divide the mixture into the pans/molds. Be sure not to fill more than half of each pan/mold with the mixture as it will rise while baking. Add 2-3 slices of salted egg on each. Arrange them on the baking sheet and bake at 200°C/390°F in the middle rack for 10 minutes. Remove the sheet from the oven. Place prepared banana sheets brushed with butter on top of each pan/mold with the buttered part facing down. Put them back in the oven but this time on the top rack for 5 minutes or until nicely charred. Put toppings and serve while warm!

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## Social Tidbits

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

What we had anticipated is now a reality. We are in the cusp of winter's stranglehold! Hope you're keeping yourself warm while I share with you the latest happenings – plenty of them – that have taken hold of the social scene. Some have emptied their pockets for tickets that come from left and right. However, when already in the midst of merriment, I hear no complaints! At the moment, "Let's Party" seems to be the rule and everybody agrees! First on my social calendar was the Thanksgiving party of the Association of Filipino Seniors of Montreal (AFSM) Dinner Dance Party held at the Grand Salon at 6767 CDN, Montreal last October 19, 2019. This is the line dancing group of the AFSM. They line dance every Thursday from 4-6 pm under Rey and Norsy Morales at Victoria Avenue. Lolit Rimbao, Dolly Arjona and friends created this group. The party was lively because Dennis Mayuga made it so. And in addition to the evening's entertainment, line dancers from a Toronto, Ontario group called Best Friends Never End (BFNE) were there to entertain us with their medley performance. They presented two numbers, first was to the tune of "Medley Songs of the '50s" and the second, to the tune of ABBA. Wow, were they ever graceful! And as each song was played, everybody in the audience joined in to sing. They really entertained us well. The Toronto dancers were: Susan Cofinco, Arlene Rastrullo, Ralph Uhrig, Sandra Uhrig, Tessie Rosos, Linda Mariano, Manny Abellanosa, and Belinda Abellanosa. Thanks, guys, we look forward to your next visit!

The Hiligaynon Association of Quebec known as Kahirup had their 28th Foundation Anniversary and Induction Ball at Hotel Canaveral in Sherbrooke, Montreal last October 5, 2019. The more than 40 paid members and their spouses and many friends dressed up to the nines to attend the party. DJ Dennis Mayuga and Emcee Freddy Espinosa made the crowd unwilling to leave the dance floor. They enjoyed Dennis' hot music and Freddy's baritone voice. The program had Martin Dorado, Fernando Montealegre, and Felix Panedro begin the festivities with the Parade of Colors. After the anthems, Elsa Montealegre delivered the invocation after which Carmen Caro welcomed the guests. Mr. Noel Francisco Fernandez, Philippine Embassy Chief of Missions, delivered his message. This was followed by the Induction of Officers: Jeannette Perignon (President), Elsa Montealegre (Vice President), Leah Baldeovar (Secretary), Annalie Ledesma (Assistant Secretary), Nilda Meriales (Treasurer), Melinda Acevedo (Assistant Treasurer), Ramon Bangilan (Auditor), Maria Eloisa Dee (Assistant Auditor), Rose Ledesma (PRO), Marilyn Villanueva (Assistant

PRO), Freddie Espinosa (Business Manager), Arthur Caro (Assistant Business Manager), Chris Bautista, Martin Dorado and Richard Perignon (Peace Officers). Board of Directors are: Jose Bustamante, Gemma Caro, Nelson Dorado, Chantel Espinosa, Melanie Somejo, Rose Espinosa, Manuel Granada, Max Handivero, Fernando Montealegre, Merle Labusano, Rosalinda Navarro, Jesus Paguntalan, Felix Panerio, and Teresita Peters. Their



**FAMAS Vice-President Svetlana Suarez officiated in giving the appreciation awards to the FAMAS volunteers shown here with their gifts.**

entertainment numbers were really enjoyable! I certainly commend the music, the performance, the grace of the following: Dr. Anh Nguyen and dance teacher Antonio Conde, from the Arthur Murray International Ballroom Dance School, Kahirup Dancers (Kalapati Folk Dance).

I bet Freddy Espinosa's vocal solo was also another hot hit of the evening. Every number was recorded by Hollywood Junkies photographer, Al Abdon. The Flores de Mayo presented a Halloween Masquerade Ball and Competition at Saint Kevin Social Hall last November 2, 2019. This was mainly a children's Halloween show. After the anthems and invocation by Wally Basbasio, Flores de Mayo Dolly Arjona welcomed the guests. There were judges who scored points on Best in Costume, Most Scary Costume, Most Unique Costume and Best in Presentation. Judges were Miss Merla Monton (a professional dancer), Mrs. Heidi Bell (Debt Consultant), Miss Jenny Obdosantos (Medical Record Staff, Jewish Hospital), Mrs. Minda Mazzone (FFCAQ President) and Mrs. Jovy Narvas (FFCAQ Vice President). For entertainment, the runway presentation by both boys and girls stole the show. Everyone seems to have scary costumes! Well done, Flores de Mayo kids!

For such a large production for kids ranging from age 1 to 12, President Arjona needed the assistance of the following: Cynthia Balino and her community members Joy Cardenas and her committee members, videographer

Edward Ujuvari, and multimedia lights and sounds Paul Rabanal. The show went well into the night that contestant results were not ready and not awarded on time. Yet it was a fun and entertaining show with scary costumes and imaginative make-ups that was enjoyed by all. Of the adults, best costume should go to the couple Fred and Jovy Narvas.

November 9 was another red-letter day for the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS). It was their Appreciation and Gala Night held at the Hellenic Community Center on Wilderton Street in Montreal. It was a night of action and glamour. Everybody was dressed to the nines - men in their barongs and ladies in their colorful formals. The program opened with host Freddy Espinosa calling Marie Bajar, Francis Bernal, and Rowel Pangilinan to bring in the colors. Following this was the entrance of Josefa Nicolas in her sexy brown gown, giving the Invocation. The audience expressed their approval with generous applause when each of the Executive Board Members for 2019-2020

was called. In random order, here they are: Enrico Esplana, William Capistrano, Mark Alvin Simbulan, Lorna Litan, Svetlana Suarez, Cesar Manuel, Ramon Vicente, Mimi Gasapo, Aristia Elumbaring, Pia Dulce Bautista, Bryan Perona, Alfredo Erquiza, and Aquilino Aberin. The new FAMAS President couldn't contain his smile when he ascended the podium to give his opening remarks. It was an interesting evening with interesting speakers such as Snowdon City Councilor Marvin Rotrand, Darlington City Councilor and Leader of the Opposition Lionel Perez, and last but not least, Guest Speaker Consul General Alan Deniega. The FAMAS Board of Trustees for 2019-2021 are Corazon Aberin, Jose Bustamante, Aurora Osdon, Floresto Rillo, Angelita Ojerio, Jaime Aquino, Kristianne Joy Messina, Caroline Mallari, Joan Liao, and Dorie Francisco.

The national anthems were performed by the Panday Tinig with Paul imperial conducting and Edith Pedalizo on the piano. The Panday Tinig Ladies were attractive in brown skirts and Edith was in an enviable green ensemble.

Vice President Ramon Vicente had a very interesting information about our new Philippine Consulate General Alan Deniega. Because of his several posts in different places such as Brussels, Belgium, Singapore, Japan, and other places, he is now an accomplished multilingual, speaking Japanese, Chinese, Bahasa, Indonesian, French, and English. His past consular assignments were Charge D'Affairs in Brussels, Belgium, Minister and Consul General in Singapore, Deputy Consul

General in Japan, and now our Minister and Consul General in Ottawa, Canada. Other postings also include Osaka and Tokyo.

In between the line dancing marathon were the intermission numbers from The Harmony and the beautiful voices of Thea Cruz and Mark Alvin Simbulan. They sang My Prayer, a song made famous by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli. These two should be in the TV program "The Voice" and they would be runaway winners for sure!

The FAMAS building is home to all Filipino members, and if it is a home (and an office), it has to have residents. In residence during the day are dedicated volunteers headed by Bert Abiera and Elmer Manila. Other volunteers are Terry Esguera, Vita Ramos, Rosie Padilla, Cherry Palmos, Warlie Basbacio, Lisa Lanuso, Emma Resurrection, Valent Lloyd Hughes, Julie Parado, and Angie Ojerio. The above were awarded plaques by Glenn Opendo, the 2019 Comelec Chairman. A surprise number was performed by Roberto Mandin Jr., and Jonathan Padilla. It was a welcome comedy for the evening! The raffle part of the event was handled by Wilfredo Capistrano. Svetlana Suarez, radiant in a bright pink with a black lace butterfly bolero sleeve, gave the acknowledgment. At this time, she already changed into a full-blown red gown! A surprise number was a candle ceremony performed by Julie Parado. This was lighting 11 candles in memory of the 11 past presidents who are now deceased. The faithful departed are Alberto Floresca, Carlos Reyes Sr., Ricardo Cosico, Mario Umali, Liwanag Sanga, Roberto Bernas, Deogracias Esguera, Dr. Bart Javier, Carmelita Sideco, Diego Rosales, and Emil Asistores, and Norma Villarosa. After completing the program numbers and while the line dancers were in motion, I went around to greet friends. Here are who I found: good looking Esther Vicente in Philippine embroidered white, in elegant blacks (short/long) were Gilmore International College owner Zeny Kharroubi, Federation President Minda Mazzone, Kahirup President Jeannette Perignon, businesswoman Elizabeth Racquel, superstar singer Thea Cruz, and TV anchor Tenne Rose Dayandante. In very dominant brown in different attractive styles with a sprinkling of colored flowers were PBSSQ President Josefa Nicolas, SWIS Chairman Connie Fabro, SWIS officers Rose Rillo, Nida Advincula, the Panday Tinig ladies, Jovy Narvas, Monique Regacho, and CPRM photographer Joecel Trinidad. In shocking decorative pink were SWIS members Nora Alcaraz, Mameng Transfiguration, and Evie Magajes. Cheerleader of the group was Elvie Maximo in enticing purple. Jackie Rotrand was in appealing blue, Julie Parado in multicolored black, and Angie Ojerio in bold baby pink. If I were to be asked who stood out in the evening, it would be Cristy Hunter in soft multicolored attire. And the loveliest of the evening was Tess Cleofas Manuel, FAMAS First Lady, who radiated a calm countenance and confidence, and was just simply beautiful.

Good news of the season! Hi Nilo, we're all glad you're well and now back to normal. Your presence and help during the SWIS family life party are worth a basketful of thanks.

Until next issue and God Bless !



# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Jane de Leon recalls hardships in her showbiz journey before Darna 'big break'

By Ryan Arcadio



Jane de Leon

Jane de Leon makes sure to keep her feet on the ground despite being the newest "Darna" star by recalling how she entered the showbiz industry.

The actress penned a message to her younger self as she turned 21 years old last Friday, Nov. 22. She accompanied her post with an old photo of herself as a kid in what appears to be a pageant.

"Dear Past Jane, [y]ou just entered an extremely tough industry girl!" she said in her Instagram post on the same day.

"I know exactly what you're feeling right now — the uncertainties, the insecurities and the constant fear of not knowing if you'll ever get your big break," she added.

De Leon then recounted how she used to commute with a "bulky luggage" from workshops, castings and shoots. She pointed out one instance wherein she had to run after a bus because she knew that she would be late if she missed it.

The actress even revealed that it is like she almost slept in ABS-CBN because she did not have



Young Jane de Leon (Instagram)

enough money to return to her home in Laguna after an acting workshop.

"And that one time you almost called it quits when things [didn't] work your way?" she stated. "You were always tired and exhausted and yet you didn't give up."

She ended her message with a reminder to her past self to not give up "because big things are about to happen," and to be thankful for the blessings that have come her way.

Meanwhile, Iza Calzado later took notice of de Leon's post, and gave her some advice.

"Laban lang (Just keep fighting) and always remember that an attitude of gratitude will take you a long way," the seasoned actress said. "Happy Birthday, Jane! I wish you all the best!"

De Leon was named the new "Darna" star in July after Liza Soberano withdrew from the project. Soberano withdrew due to a finger injury she sustained while taping for the 2018 TV drama series "Bagani".

### 'Maldita; just a pretty face': New Darna Jane De Leon answers controversies



Jane De Leon at the 2019 Red Charity Gala

Kapamilya actress Jane De Leon admitted that she felt tired once in showbiz after getting rejections from different roles.

In a recent interview with Boy Abunda in "Tonight With Boy Abunda," Jane said she felt impatient waiting for a big break in showbiz before landing the Darna role.

"Yes po, Tito Boy. Na-feel ko po na 'Kakayanin ko pa ba to? May opportunity pa bang mangyayari sa akin?' Nainip din po ako, Tito Boy, pero siyempre hindi ako tumigil do'n. Lalo pa akong lumaban. Kung kaya nila, kaya ko rin. Lahat po gagawin ko para sa family ko," she said.

She said she's thankful to ABS-CBN bosses for giving her the opportunity to play the Darna role.

"Hindi ko in-expect itong proyektong ito. Nagpapasalamat ako sa mga nakakataas na may nakita silang potential at pinagkatiwalaan nila ako. Siyempre ayaw ko silang ma-disappoint," Jane said.

Jane also addressed rumors that she's a "maldita" and just a pretty face without acting prowess.

"Lumalaban lang po ako 'pag tama," Jane said when asked if rumors are true that she is allegedly "maldita" in real life.

"Ang masasabi ko lang po d'un sa nagsabing puro ganda lang ako at hindi ako marunong umarte, 'Watch out!'," Jane added. ■



# Bea, Angelica recall awkward moment with Jericho Rosales



Angelica Panganiban and Bea Alonzo share a light moment during the interview on ‘Tonight with Boy Abunda’

Prior to reconnecting and forming a close bond, “Unbreakable” co-stars Angelica Panganiban and Bea Alonzo admittedly had a phase of avoiding each other and having awkward moments.

Both talents of ABS-CBN’s Star Magic, the two have known each other since their teenage years, and became onscreen sisters in the 2007 series “Maging Sino Ka Man.”

While they were friends at

the time, they recalled growing apart to the point of no longer being on speaking terms. But, in an interview aired Monday on “Tonight with Boy Abunda,” they clarified they never had any confrontation nor conflict.

Now closer than ever, Panganiban and Alonzo can now share a laugh over their past odd encounters. One such instance was when Panganiban couldn’t help but react to seeing Alonzo having an interaction with their fellow

Kapamilya star Jericho Rosales, whom the latter considers her showbiz “crush.”

They narrated that during a party for Star Magic founder Johnny Manahan, Rosales approached his fellow talents to come up with a

surprise, impromptu song number for the celebrant.

Bringing up the idea with Alonzo, Rosales leaned close apparently to keep the plan discreet. Alonzo, however, mistook the movement as Rosales’ gesture for a “beso,” or a kiss on the cheek, before saying goodbye.

“Yumuko siyang gano’n kay Bea! Kiniss niya si Echo!” Panganiban said, laughing. “Eh, nakita ko! Ako talaga, sabi ko, ‘Hala!’”



Acting out Panganiban’s reaction, Alonzo pointed her finger, saying: “‘Ang landi-landi mo, Bea!’ Oh my God, sobrang pula ko talaga!” ■

## Young Filipino filmmaker wins award in 2019 International Emmys



A young Filipino filmmaker won an international award during the 2019 International Emmys in New York City for his 1-minute video about a displaced Muslim student survivor of the Marawi siege in the Philippines in 2017.

Breech Asher Harani, 28, was among this year’s JCS International Young Creatives Award for his video “Next to Me.”

“Hindi ako makaniwala kasi, kung iisipin mo, the Emmys is for television di ba? Tapos they opened their doors for short film like this, so thankful ako,” Harani told ABS-CBN News.

“Next to Me” is based on a true story about a displaced Muslim student survivor trying to fit in, in a new non-Muslim school, after her family evacuated from their war-torn home in

Marawi.

Harani’s short film showed how a student stood up for peace by showing respect to those who happen to look a little different from them.

“It’s very important nowadays to educate our young children to be tolerant with other students with different traditions, different religions,” the young Filipino said.

The JCS International Young Creatives competition was designed to discover and recognize young talents from around the world while creating a global conversation around peace.

The filmmaker said he is thankful for the wider reach this international platform has given him and his advocacy for peace and inclusion.

“It’s very important especially in the age of social media, where children will be watching 1-minute videos in their phones. I think it’s important that they see contents like this so that their minds would be molded into doing good,” he said.

The competition is free for anyone to enter and is open to non-American citizens (dual citizens are eligible) aged 18 to 29.

The 2020 competition will open in June. ■

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## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

# Raffy Tulfo criticized for making teacher quit job



### Broadcaster Raffy Tulfo

Broadcaster Raffy Tulfo is now on the hot seat as social media users cried foul when a teacher gave up her profession after getting involved in a controversy.

In an episode of "Raffy Tulfo in Action," a grandmother complained of a 55-year-old teacher after the teacher blasted her grandson for failing to return his report card.

The teacher said that she only meant to discipline the child and there was no intention to traumatize him, but the grandmother and the parents thought otherwise. The teacher publicly apologized, but the students' guardians insisted to punish the teacher.

Tulfo gave the teacher two options: to face criminal charges or give up her profession, and she chose the latter.

Social media users on Twitter aired their comments on the issue.

Some expressed their disappointment on how Raffy handled the issue.

"Disappointed on how Tulfo handled the issue. The parents and lola are so OA! Revocation of license is too much!! No wonder why most of kids these days are so entitled and easily offended," a Twitter user wrote.

"I never liked the Tulfo show... There should be a due process for everything. Tulfo is acting like a Trial Judge with no Trial at all," another user commented.

Another Twitter user said that the show is trying hard to be a judicial court while there is a due process for an issue and not trial by publicity.

"When Tulfo's show is trying hard to be a judicial court and Tulfo trying hard to be the judge himself—It's so disappointing. There is a due process for an issue like that, not trial by publicity. That episode really deserves a dislike," a user commented.

"My God #Tulfo, pls filter the cases you're trying to resolve. Oo nagkamali guro ang teacher but you're not in the position to expose it in TV. You're putting the tchr in shame. Not that I'm protecting my co-teacher but there are legal procedures to that case. Goodness," another Twitter user wrote.

Because of the issue, "Tulfo" became among the top-trending Twitter topics on Friday. ■

# Ina Raymundo still looks like her 16-year-old self in throwback moment



### 16-year-old and 43-year-old Ina Raymundo.

Ina Raymundo took her fans 27 years back to get a glimpse of her 16-year-old self, and unsurprisingly, she still almost looks the same.

The 43-year-old actress and model showed off a real "blast from the past" by posting her 1992 throwback picture on Instagram last Friday, Nov. 22.

"Sweet & curly at 16 #sweet16 #blastfromthepast #27yearsago," Raymundo wrote.

The then-16-year-old sported a pink tank top in the photo, and had her long, curly hair flow down her shoulders.

Just two years after that picture, in 1994, Raymundo appeared on her first magazine cover at 18 years old.

The Ina Raymundo of today, however, remains as youthful-looking as she enjoys her 40s. On Dec. 9, Raymundo is turning 44. ■

# Anne Curtis promotes World Children's Day



In celebration of World Children's Day today Nov. 20, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) goodwill ambassador Anne Curtis calls for wearing something blue to support children's rights.

Curtis stated that anyone could easily participate in today's event by wearing a blue shirt and posting your photos online with the hashtag #GoBluePh. The actress, in partnership with UNICEF Philippines, campaigns for children's rights.

"We celebrate, educate and unite for children's rights all across the world," she said in a video posted on Twitter yesterday, Nov. 19.

According to its website, UNICEF — formerly known as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund — is dedicated to helping children defend their rights and reach their

full potential from early childhood through adolescence in over 190 countries around the globe.

Curtis has been a major donor to the organization since 2009. She was appointed as one of UNICEF's goodwill ambassadors in February this year. Her special projects include "Heroes for Children Run" and other fundraising activities through international marathons like the London Marathon. Curtis also launched a children's book entitled "Anita the Duckling Diva" for the organization.

The goodwill ambassador also campaigned for "Sabayang Patak Kontra Sa Polio" with the help of the Department of Health last October on her Instagram. Curtis gave information about the contagious disease and called for children's immediate polio vaccination. ■



# Matteo Guidicelli had saved up for Sarah G's ring since 2014?



**Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli have been a couple since 2013.**

Sarah Geronimo and Matteo Guidicelli have been a couple since 2013.

Matteo Guidicelli has been serious—and seriously in love—with pop star Sarah Geronimo for some years now. But it seems he knew early on in the relationship that she was “the One.”

The couple announced their engagement last Nov. 7 to the joy of



**“I love you, my love, now and forever” Matteo told Sarah on his Instagram.**

fans and fellow celebrities. According to Jerry Telan, who works in the marketing division of a hygienic products company, Guidicelli told him back in 2014 that he was saving up for an engagement ring.

Telan shared on Instagram yesterday, Nov. 20, pictures of him and the actor from the past. He recalled that in 2014, Guidicelli said in a mall show gig, “Kuya Jers, Bai [I] need more work to buy [an] engagement ring for Sarah.”

Guidicelli replied to the post: “Good times bro!!”

Indeed Guidicelli’s hard work has paid off as he was able to give Geronimo a sizable diamond ring.

Previously, he denied that he had proposed to the pop princess when she wore a diamond ring in public, telling the Philippine Entertainment Portal in February that it was “too small.”

The two stars began dating in 2013, keeping their romance secret until Geronimo confirmed it in June 2014. They have been low-key about their relationship even after it was made official. Geronimo has been embraced by the Guidicelli family, with the singer and actress chosen as the maid of honor of her future sis-in-law Giorgia Guidicelli. ■

## Kim Chiu rushed to hospital after dog attack



**Kim Chiu**

Kapamilya actress Kim Chiu was rushed to the hospital after being bitten by a dog in Bonifacio Global City on Monday.

In her Instagram account, Kim posted a photo of herself with bruises all over her finger and shoulders.

“Rushed to ER. Bitten by a ‘small dog’ in bgc,” Kim wrote.

Kim added that she learned her lesson not to pet a stranger dog even how cute they are. She reminded dog owners to be mindful of their furry friends.

“Lesson learned never pet a ‘stranger’ dog, just because they’re cute and small. To all the owners walking their dogs, please be mindful and always keep them on a leash. Look after them and never leave them unattended,” she wrote.

“Thank you to shangrilafort for the urgent assistance and st lukes bgc. #antirabiesshot,” she added.

Kim also hoped that her message will not be taken out of context as she only wanted to remind the public about this scenario.



“HOPE this message will be taken not to blame anyone but to be warned by this kind of incident especially to people who doesn’t have any idea on how to approach a dog properly like me. #lessonlearned,” she wrote.

In her Instagram story on Tuesday, Kim gave an update on her hospitalization.

“Thank you for all your messages. Ok now,” she said. ■



## Anne Curtis, Solenn Heussaff take parenting class



**Solenn Heussaff and Anne Curtis are going through the pregnancy journey together.**

Moms-to-be and sisters-in-law Anne Curtis and Solenn Heussaff bonded over a parenting class last Sunday, Nov. 19, to prepare for their bundles of joy. The class was hosted by The Parenting Emporium in Quezon City.

With Heussaff was husband Nico Bolzico, while Curtis' husband, Erwan Heussaff, could not make it. Bolzico noted on his Instagram Stories that "[a]s a father you should know about breastfeeding also!" Curtis, sharing his Story, addressed her husband: "Take note @erwan you're taking a make-up class when you get back."

Curtis and Heussaff listened attentively to the talk and were pictured taking notes. Curtis poked fun at Bolzico who lounged on a LazyBoy. "You look super into the breastfeeding talk," she jested on her Instagram Stories.

According to the official

Instagram account of The Parenting Emporium, Curtis asked, "Will my baby's head ever be normal if it emerges as a cone head?" Meanwhile, Heussaff and Bolzico engaged in playful banter.



Curtis described the class as "the most educating and fun morning with fellow to-be-mamas."

The "It's Showtime" host and actress announced that she was expecting last Nov. 10 and on her fifth month of pregnancy. Heussaff is now seven months pregnant. ■

## Catriona Gray answers what it's like to be 4th Filipina Miss Universe



**Catriona shared her Miss Universe journey with "Maghanda" via Instagram TV.**

Catriona Gray showed what Filipina Miss Universe winners are made of, as she spoke about her journey last year of earning the crown.

Gray proudly explained how one could raise the country's flag in the international stage with her video "Maghanda" via Instagram TV yesterday, Nov. 25.

The beauty queen got into detail about working with local historians to study Philippine history, in line with her aim to embody a modern Filipina. She also talked about her training to perfect her "lava walk," her "Luzviminda" national costume and her efforts to promote her causes like AIDS awareness, and the education of underprivileged youth.

"Preparing to represent the Philippines at the 67th Miss Universe competition was a journey that led me to discover my own country along with answering for myself the question: What does it mean to me to be a Filipino?" she said.

The beauty queen stated that she saw the pageant as an opportunity to be a passionate representative of the country, to be able to showcase it. She also stated that as she carried the

nation's name, it also carried her.

"The crown isn't the greatest honor of my life," she stated. "It was in bringing pride to my country of the Philippines that remains to be my greatest honor and my crowning glory."



Catriona Gray is the fourth Miss Universe Philippines to bag the prestigious crown. Another aspiring Filipina beauty queen, Gazini Ganados will take a shot at winning the pageant for the country on Dec. 8 in the United States.. ■

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Colm Keena, Legal Correspondent, The Irish Times, Nov. 26,. 2019

The Government has said it is “deeply concerned” about credible reports of mass detentions and surveillance in Xinjiang province in northwest China.

A statement was issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in response to the China Cables reports, which were published on Sunday by The Irish Times and other media partners of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

The reports, based on leaked documents from the Chinese Communist Party, show how inmates in the camps are being held against their will, under constant video surveillance, and must undergo “ideological transformation” in order to be released.

International observers believe up to one million, and quite possibly substantially more, members of the Uighur and other, predominantly Muslim, ethnic minority populations may be in the camps. The leaked documents show that each person has to spend at least a year there before being considered for release.

Support of statement

Asked to comment, the department said the government, as a matter of practice, did not comment on leaked documents.

“However, we remain deeply concerned about the credible reports

Government ‘deeply concerned’ following publication of China Cable reports



A re-education camp for ethnic Uighur Muslims in Hotan, in China’s Xinjiang province in August. File photograph: Gilles Sabrié/The New York Times

of the treatment of ethnic Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, including reports of mass detentions and surveillance.

China Cables: ‘The largest incarceration of a minority since the Holocaust’

China Cables: More than a million people detained against their will in Chinese province

Xinjiang policy ‘about fighting terrorism and separatism’, insists envoy

“We take these reports very seriously, and have consistently raised our concerns directly with Chinese counterparts at official and political level, including through the EU.”

The department pointed out that Ireland was among 23 countries

that supported a statement on the human rights situation in Xinjiang at the UN Third Committee in New York in October.

“Ireland, along with our EU partners, will continue to raise our concerns at both political and official level with Chinese authorities.”

The UK’s Foreign Office said it had serious concerns about the Chinese government’s “escalating crackdown” on Uighur and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

“We want to see an end to the indiscriminate and disproportionate restrictions on the cultural and religious freedoms of Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. The UK continues to call on China to

allow UN observers immediate and unfettered access to the region.”

‘Consistently spoken out’

A spokeswoman for the European commission said it did not comment on leaked documents but the EU’s position on the restriction of fundamental rights in Xinjiang was well known and had been consistently raised both bilaterally and in relevant multilateral fora.

“We have consistently spoken out against the existence of political reeducation camps, widespread surveillance and restrictions of freedom of religion or belief against Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.”

In a statement to The Irish Times on Sunday, China’s ambassador to Ireland, He Xiangdong, said that as a result of “preventive counter-terrorism and de-radicalisation efforts, Xinjiang, a place that once suffered gravely from terrorism, hasn’t seen a single violent, terrorist incident over the past three years”.

“We will continue to implement our Xinjiang policy and ensure Xinjiang’s sound development,” he said.

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**PAB students on practicum at St. Margaret CHSLD with their teachers at left: Amy Manon-og and Herminia Cortez (right)**



**PAB students: Standing L to Right - Ethel Tugna, Annie Signey, Janet Haydock, Lourdes Lubang and Annabelle Allosa. Teachers seated L to R: Edith Fedalizo, Amy Manon-og, Director-Gen. Zenaida Kharroubi, PAB instructors Clarice MacKay and Josefina Toledo. At St. Margaret CHSLD**

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**Batch 11 PAB graduation, July 8, 2017. Teachers and guests: L to R: Dolores Belandres, Edith Fedalizo, Clarice MacKay, Nina Schiff, Sonny Moroz (Representing MP Anthony Housefather), Zenaida Kharroubi, Josefina Toledo, Amy Manon-og and Terry White.**