

FILIPINO STAR

Volume XXXIX No. 10 October 2021 Montreal, QC

www.filipinostar.org

Who will be elected Mayor of Montreal on November 7?

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Published Tuesday, October 12, 2021

MONTREAL -- Mayoral candidate Balarama Holness plans to ask Montrealers if they want a referendum on language if he's elected on Nov. 7.

The Mouvement Montreal leader said Montreal can be bilingual while still protecting the French language.

"So whether you are a small business, whether you're a new immigrant, whether you are a resident of the city of Montreal, you can have your opinion heard," he said.

"We will determine if Montrealers want to hold a referendum to define the official languages here in Montreal."

The City of Montreal charter is clear that Montreal is a French-speaking city, and the mayor can't unilaterally change that.

Holness said, however, that he believes he could take referendum results to the National Assembly, which would have no choice but to listen, in his view.

Projet Montreal leader Valerie Plante, meanwhile, wanted to speak on Tuesday about her plans to revitalize downtown.

That includes spending \$1 billion by 2030 to create more urban

Parks, parking and a referendum on Montreal bilingualism: mayoral candidates make their pitches



Projet Montreal's Valerie Plante, Ensemble Montreal's Denis Coderre, and Mouvement Montreal's Balarama Holness remain on the campaign trail leading up to the Nov. 7 municipal election. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes; THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz; THE CANADIAN PRESS/Paul Chiasson)

parks, plant thousands of trees, convert certain office buildings into housing and offer free parking on evenings and weekends.

"We need to invest in big projects that embellish, that make our city better," she said.

As far as official bilingualism

goes, for Plante, it's a non-starter.

"[That's] the most divisive idea

See Page 4 Parks, Parking

Unvaccinated Quebec nurses to have licences suspended Friday, says Order of Nurses

The Canadian Press
October 12, 2021 9:33AM EDT

MONTREAL -- The Quebec Order of Nurses (OIIQ) announced on Monday that it will suspend the practice permits of its members who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of next Friday.

The decision comes three days after Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services Christian Dub   urged the various professional orders of health-care workers to suspend the licences of those who have not been vaccinated.

The minister added on Friday that recalcitrants who thought they could work elsewhere might be in for a surprise in the coming days. OIIQ president Luc Mathieu said in a Radio-Canada interview on Monday that as of the end of last week, 4,338 of his members had not been properly vaccinated and that the status of 5,716 others remained to be



Health-care workers prepare doses of the Pfizer vaccine at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic, Thursday, May 13, 2021 in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz

verified.

The decision on the licence suspension is expected to be officially

communicated to those affected on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mathieu noted that the

suspensions will remain in effect until proof of proper vaccination is provided.

Mathieu said the members of the nurses' order are responsible for protecting the public and that vaccination is a recognized means of doing so.

He added that members who refuse to be vaccinated could be assigned to telepractice duties if the institutions for which they work allow it.

As of March 31, the Order had close to 80,500 members, including just over 900 who were inactive and another 1,347 who had limited practice rights to participate in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. A decree from the Quebec government will force the suspension without pay of all health-care personnel who are not vaccinated as of Friday, Oct. 15.

The College of Physicians has already announced that it will suspend its own recalcitrant members' right to practice.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published in French on Oct. 11, 2021.



From the Editor's desk

The stakes are high in this election where personality seems to count more than policy

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

We cannot overemphasize the fact that it is important to exercise our right to vote during elections but it is particularly crucial to do so in this coming November 7 elections. Political pundits have pointed out that the stakes are high. Polls have suggested that Valerie Plante, the incumbent mayor, is in a tight race with her predecessor, Denis Coderre. According to political observers, both have made some mistakes and now must prove which one has learned from them. They have also pointed out that it is so tight that personality may count more than policy. According to an article written by Christina Bently in the Leadership magazine, a good leader must possess seven personality traits as listed in the following excerpts:

1) Relationship builder - Never underestimate the value of building relationships with each other, with staff, and with the greater community

2) Team player - A healthy governing body knows that each person was elected by the public as individuals, but that they must work together as a team.

3) Emotionally mature - Being emotionally mature means staying engaged, welcoming dissent, and not over-reacting to it.

4) Approachable - Elected officials are expected to be accessible to the community through meetings and events, and by phone and email. Commitment to clear, diverse, and regular communication with the community is key.

5) Critical thinker - Today's problems often come from yesterday's solutions. Elected officials should consider how to best limit shifting a problem into the future by maintaining a long-term perspective and considering the potential impact of decisions.

6) Prepared - Mental preparation is required to make decisions about the long-term sustainability of a community. Effective elected officials are committed to doing their homework. They come prepared to participate in discussions by researching and reading background materials prior to attending meetings, sessions, committees, etc.

7) Financial acumen - Policy makers need to understand basic financial information and be able to evaluate budgets and financial statements.

Perhaps, after due consideration of these personality traits of a good leader, we might have a better idea on how we should vote for the next mayor of Montreal.

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Published by: Filcan Publications, Inc..**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

October 10, 2021

**FILIPINO LEADERS ENDORSE
ENSEMBLE MONTREAL**

Dear Editor,

We are Filipino community leaders and we are urging our community to elect the Ensemble Montreal team in the Borough of Cote des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grace and indeed citywide.

The Ensemble Montreal ticket is headed by Denis Coderre, a former Liberal cabinet Minister, who changed immigration laws during his time in Ottawa facilitating the entry to Canada of many Filipinos. Mr. Coderre epitomizes our values of a tolerant and inclusive Canada and he deserves our community's support. Moreover, he has pledged to enhance the friendship motions linking Montreal and Manila.

Heading the local slate is Councillor Lionel Perez, current representative for Darlington district, who is running for Borough Mayor of Cote des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grace. He is an honorary Knight of Rizal and worked with outgoing Councillor Marvin Rotrand to have the Borough recognize and support Filipino Heritage Month and to create the beloved Place Jose Rizal at Mackenzie King Park. Lionel is a friend and we will work hard to elect him.

Lionel's team reflects our diversity. Running to replace Lionel in Darlington district is Stephanie Valenzuela who we hope will be the first person of Filipino heritage to be elected to City Council. She is an active member of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal. Ensemble's candidate in Snowdon is Sonny Moroz, the Chief of Outreach for Member of

Parliament Anthony Housefather. Sonny has helped our community enormously. We know him from the Liberal Party and his work to aid us.

We urge Filipinos reading this to help elect these candidates and the other Ensemble candidates in the Borough including Dimitra Kostarides (Cote des Neiges), Ashley Thornton (Notre Dame de Grace) and Gabriel Retta (Loyola). Those living in other Boroughs can consult Ensemble Montreal's web site for local candidate information.

Election Day is Sunday, November 7 but there are Advance Polls, October 30, 31 and November 6. We invite the Filipino community to join us in voting Ensemble Montreal.

Yours truly,

Al Abdon
Bert Abiera
Ludzviminda Mazzone
James De La Paz
Gerry Danzil
Corazon Santiago
William Fabia
Lilia Esguerra
Bing Estopa
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Illuminada Averion
Sylvia Lemaire
Josefa Catuba Nicolas
Alejandro Jr. Toledo
Valent Lloyd Hughes
Cherry Palmos
Cecilio Flores Javier
Svetlana Suarez

October 11, 2021

Dear Editor,

Many seniors just voted by mail in last month's federal election. It was safe, secure and easy. Moreover, for many of us worried about being among unvaccinated people, it gave us peace of mind to know we were not taking a risk that might see us infected with Covid.

That is why many of us welcomed the Government of Quebec's decision to allow municipalities to offer voting by mail to seniors. Most cities have moved quickly to allow voting by mail. My friends in Laval, Brossard and Cote St. Luc will be among the many seniors who will take advantage of this voting option. You can thus imagine how stunned I am to learn that Montreal has refused voting by mail.

Apparently, Valerie Plante and her Project Montreal party used its City Council majority to block allowing

seniors to use this safe alternative. I see this as pure voter suppression. I don't buy for a minute Plante's explanation that voting by mail is "too complex". Rather, our Seniors' club sees this as an effort to lower turnout by seniors. Perhaps Project Montreal realizes that many seniors are angry about the imposition of bike paths everywhere and the massive removal of parking with no regard to the needs of older less mobile people.

It is our intention to organize car pools and to get all our members' votes into the ballot box. We urge other seniors' organizations to do the same. Plante's refusal to allow easy access to voting is shameful and that alone should be incentive for voters to turf her.

Lilia Esguerra
President
Filipino Golden Agers Association

Official says journalist's Nobel Prize not a slap on Duterte

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's administration belatedly congratulated journalist Maria Ressa Monday for being one of two winners of this year's Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her fight for freedom of expression under grave risks.

However, it rejected criticisms that it was a slap on Duterte's leadership, despite Ressa being a critic of the president's leadership, which critics say veers toward authoritarianism.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Ressa, the 58-year-old co-founder of the Rappler news website known for its probing reportage into Duterte's bloody anti-drugs crackdown, has been convicted of cyber libel and faces other criminal charges which courts would independently decide on. Journalists were not being muzzled in the country, he said.

It was the first time the Duterte administration has publicly reacted to Ressa's victory since she won the award Friday.

"There is no slap there because as everyone knows, no one has ever been censored in the Philippines," Roque said in reply to a reporter's question at a televised news conference.

Roque sought to back up his statement by citing a Filipino National Artist awardee, Francisco Sionil Jose, who said in a statement that Ressa did not deserve the award and that "the Philippine press is alive and well not because of" her and added that there were no writers in jail nor did censorship exist in the country.

Duterte has not shut down any newspaper or radio station, Jose said, while adding that, even though the president exerted influence on Congress, which did not renew the license of leading TV network ABS-CBN, leading to its closure last year, that was not a press freedom issue.

Jose conceded that journalists have been killed after attacking local politicians and officials under Duterte — similar to what had happened under his predecessors. However, "those killings cannot be laid at Duterte's door," said the 96-year-old multi-awarded novelist, whose comments drew intense criticism and ridicule.

Despite that, Roque said the presidential palace agreed with his views.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee noted that Ressa's Rappler news site which was set up in 2012 has put a spotlight on Duterte's "controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign" in the Philippines. Other domestic and international news agencies have also closely reported on the brutal campaign, which Duterte launched when he took office in 2016 and which has left more than 6,000 mostly poor suspects dead.

The committee also cited the work of Ressa and Rappler in documenting "how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse."

Ressa won the award with Dmitry Muratov of Russia, a co-founder of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which the Nobel committee called "the most independent newspaper in Russia today, with a fundamentally critical attitude towards power." Six of its journalists have been killed since its founding in 1993, the committee said.

Ressa was convicted last year of libel and sentenced to up to six years in jail in a decision which media watchdogs called a major blow to press freedom in an Asian bastion of democracy.

The Manila court found Ressa and a former Rappler reporter, Reynaldo



The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace. Oslo, October 8, 2021.

Santos Jr., guilty of libeling a wealthy businessman, who was linked to a murder, drug dealing, human trafficking and smuggling in a story that cited an intelligence report. The businessman denied the allegations and complained that Rappler did not publish his side of the story. The news site's lawyers disputed any malice and said the statute of limitations for filing the libel complaint had passed.

Ressa and Santos appealed the convictions.

"The Philippine government filed 10 arrest warrants against me. In the last year, the government has prevented my travel four times, including when my mother was diagnosed with cancer and I needed to go to see my aging parents," Ressa said in a Zoom interview after she won the Nobel Prize Friday.

Duterte and other Philippine officials have said the criminal complaints against Ressa and Rappler were not a press freedom issue but a part of normal judicial procedures arising from their alleged violations of the law.

Duterte has openly lambasted

voice in a country that leaves no room for criticism — is a joint victory that highlights their resilience in the face of near-daily harassment. Both continue to publish critical work in countries run by strongmen who will stop at very little to silence them.

Novaya Gazeta has been under pressure throughout Vladimir Putin's presidency. Fifteen years ago nearly to the day, Anna Politkovskaya, an investigative journalist working for Muratov's paper who chronicled abuses in the region of Chechnya, was shot dead in Moscow. The statute of

limitations for the crime expired on Thursday. Ressa, meanwhile, critical of police violence in Duterte's drugs war, has been tangled in libel and tax evasion cases. The Philippines remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

The shutdown has been criticized as it cut off a major source of information on the COVID-19 pandemic in a Southeast Asian hot spot of the disease.

The Philippines has remained one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists even after the 1986 downfall of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who had muzzled the media, imprisoned journalists and opponents and tortured activists.

In 2009, 58 people were gunned down in the country's volatile south in a brazen assault sparked by an electoral rivalry between two powerful local political clans that horrified the world. Thirty-two of those gunned down were local reporters and media workers in the world's single worst recorded attack on journalists. Source: AP News Wire, Independent October 12, 2021

But this year's prize celebrates more than just the outstanding work of its recipients. It acknowledges many thousands of other reporters who run risks daily — keeping democracy and

See Page 6 A Nobel to remind

A Nobel to remind us there's no peace without free speech



A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE doesn't solve thorny political problems. It didn't draw a line under Apartheid when South African activist Albert Luthuli won it in 1960, or bring freedom to the Soviet Union when physicist and human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov did in 1975. But it does, unfailingly, shed light on causes that need global attention. And rarely has a cause been in greater need of support than press freedom in 2021.

By Clara Ferreira Marques

Friday's win for Maria Ressa — indefatigable Filipino journalist, co-founder of digital media company

Rappler, and bete noire of President Rodrigo Duterte — and Dmitry Muratov — co-founder and editor-in-chief of Russia's Novaya Gazeta, an opposition

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Quebec pushes back vaccine deadline to Nov. 15 for health-care workers

JOE LOFARO CTV News
Montreal.ca Digital Reporter
Published Wednesday, October 13, 2021

MONTREAL -- Despite repeated claims that the Oct. 15 deadline would not be pushed back, Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé announced Wednesday he is giving health-care workers 30 more days to get their two vaccine doses.

Admitting that losing thousands of workers due to the vaccine mandate will cause Quebec to "run into a wall," the minister said workers in the health-care network will now have until Nov. 15 to get their two shots to avoid being suspended without pay.

In the meantime, workers in the public system who aren't vaccinated and have direct contact with patients will have to be tested for COVID-19 three times per week before their shifts, beginning on Monday. The measure could be extended to the private network, too, according to the health minister.

"Giving yourself a 30-day deadline is, therefore, reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances," Dubé said at a news conference Wednesday morning in Montreal, noting that the decision to postpone the deadline was a "difficult" one.

"And I have a last message for health-care workers who are not vaccinated yet: we are reaching out to you, and we sincerely hope that you will take this offer," he said.

"Please do it for yourself, for your loved ones. Otherwise, please do it for your colleagues, because they really need you."

Dubé also announced that all new hires in the health-care workers will have to be fully vaccinated, and reminded the public that caregivers and visitors must show their vaccine passport when entering a health-care facility. The policy does not apply to patients.

The Legault government had announced the vaccine mandate back in September as a warning to all health and social services workers to get immunized by Oct. 15, but on Wednesday the health minister acknowledged that the goal was unattainable.

About 96 per cent of health workers in Quebec have received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the health minister said, but still there are approximately 22,000 workers who are not adequately vaccinated.

"We want to give the unvaccinated staff extra time to collect their dose, but I want to be clear: we will apply the mandatory vaccination for healthcare workers, but postponing the 30-day deadline is the best solution," he said, adding that he understands not everyone makes the decision to get vaccinated at the same speed.

Just yesterday in Gatineau, Dubé told a press scrum "there will be no change" to the Friday deadline, standing firm on the government's plans to enforce the sweeping vaccine mandate. **CRITICAL CARE WOULD HAVE CONTINUED, PROVINCE SAYS**

Had the province gone ahead

with its original deadline, there would have been a "considerable reduction" in healthcare in Quebec, according to the associate deputy health minister Dr. Lucie Opatrny.

The regional health boards conducted an analysis to determine where in the system were there unvaccinated workers and what the impact could have been. Dr. Opatrny said workers would have had to be shifted around to accommodate the loss of workers. Critical care, however, would have been maintained.

"Critical, and important, and urgent [care] would have still continued, because those plans had been worked on for weeks. So, it wouldn't have been a breakdown, but it would have been an important stress and an important reduction of services."

The delay comes one day after a Montreal lawyer filed an emergency injunction in Superior Court contesting the validity of the government decree. The court challenge argued that routine COVID-testing is a better alternative to curbing the spread of the virus in the health-care network than mandatory vaccination.

Natalia Manole, who is representing more than 100 health-care workers in court, confirmed to CTV News she intends to proceed with the legal challenge and will ask the court to declare the vaccine mandate invalid under the law.

Dubé did not address the court case during Wednesday's news conference, but said one of his top priorities is to maintain a safe environment for people who work in and visit health-care settings.

"If they [workers] are not vaccinated, I need to have something else," he said, adding that "it's wiser to get the vaccine as opposed to being tested three times a week."

UNION APPLAUDS POSTPONEMENT OF VACCINE MANDATE

At least one union said it is pleased with the decision taken by the government.

The Fédération de la Santé du Québec (FSQ-CSQ), which represents 5,000 nurses, respiratory therapists, and nursing assistants, said it had recommended pushing back the deadline during a public meeting last week. The president of the FSQ, Claire Montour, said the union is pro-vaccine and has advised all of its members to get their shots, but that the Oct. 15 deadline was not realistic.

"As he acknowledged, the minister simply had no choice, given the fragile state of the network, to make this responsible decision," said Montour said in a statement.

"Christian Dubé seems to have listened to the message sent by the health-care unions last week. We now encourage all our members to take advantage of this additional time to complete their vaccination."

From Page 1 Parks, parking

that we've had since the 1995 referendum," she said. "I feel we're in a time where people need to work together."

Ensemble Montreal leader Denis Coderre wanted to talk about his green plan, which also includes planting more trees, particularly in low-income areas, as well as taxing parking lots.

Candidates in Montreal municipal election campaign say they've been the targets of racism

By Phil Carpenter Global News

Posted October 15, 2021 6:58 pm

Mouvement Montréal leader Balarama Holness said he was feeling more energized Friday, after meeting with his team in Saint-Leonard to reveal the party's platform in the borough.

A day earlier, however, things weren't so pleasant. The Montreal mayoral candidate, who's Black, said he was targeted with racial attacks.

"I was depressed for a few hours," he told reporters. "It wasn't easy."



Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, Projet Montréal Candidate for Borough Mayor, CDN-NDG Borough

On Thursday, he shared via social media what he says was a letter sent to him, laced with racist slurs and death threats.

In a statement, Montreal police told Global News that their "Hate

"There's no Plan B for the planet, and to do so we need to take our responsibility," he said.

Coderre said he also has no time for a referendum on bilingualism in the metropolis.

"I'm against it," he said. "I think it's too divisive and I think Montreal is a Francophone metropolis."

Holness said he's been having trouble making his case for a bilingual status because he keeps getting shut out of mayoral debates.



Balarama Holness, Mouvement Montreal Mayoral candidate

Crime and Incidents Unit are aware of the matter."

According to Holness, this is the worst of the racial attacks that he's received since he began campaigning, and that he's had several.

"It's not easy but to be honest, being here today, seeing the team, being around positive energy was very helpful," he remarked to applause from his team.

Other racialized candidates who spoke to Global News said they experienced racism, like Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, a Black Project Montréal candidate for borough mayor in Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

The first-time candidate stated that sometimes it's so bad, she's shocked.

"I'm like, 'Is this really

See Page 18 Targets of racism

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From housing to bike paths: where Montreal's municipal parties stand

Laura Marchand, Benjamin Shingler ·
CBC News · Posted: Oct 12, 2021
5:17 AM ET

With the election less than a month away, Montreal's political parties have been busy making promises.

Projet Montréal, led by Valérie Plante, has released the most comprehensive platform to date, with a document totalling 24 pages.

Denis Coderre's Ensemble Montréal has released an 11-page document and is planning to announce further details in the coming weeks.

Balarama Holness, the leader of Mouvement Montréal, says his party's platform will remain the same even after joining with Ralliement pour Montréal.

Here's a breakdown of their proposals on key issues ahead of the Nov. 6 and 7 vote. This story will be updated as the campaign goes on.

Housing

Projet Montréal has committed to building 60,000 affordable housing units over 10 years, a number opponents have derided as unrealistic. The party also says it would implement an "owner certificate" for landlords who



own buildings of eight or more units. The certificate would act as a register to control illegal rent increases and to keep track of renovation or construction requests. It also announced a project to convert some unused office spaces downtown into residential dwellings.

Ensemble Montréal would create a rent registry and increase the

number of inspectors. Companies that own housing would have to have any unit that's over 20 years old independently inspected. Coderre has also promised to build 50,000 new housing units in his first mandate if elected, though that information was not noted in the platform.

Mouvement Montréal would create a register to serve as a rent

control system. A landlord licensing system would also be put in place, with the idea of conducting yearly inspections of rental properties. The party has committed to increasing the city's housing budget two per cent every year for four years. It says it would build 30,000 affordable rental units next to major transportation hubs.

Policing

Projet Montréal promises to give \$5 million to local community groups that work to prevent violence, while maintaining funding for dedicated anti-firearm units within Montreal police. The party has also committed to outfitting Montreal police with body cameras in 2022. Despite previously saying she was open to redistributing police funds, in the latest municipal budget, Plante's administration increased the police budget by \$15 million.

Ensemble Montréal does not mention the police budget in its platform but has committed to implementing body cams in a first mandate. Coderre has also said he would not cut funding to the police.

Mouvement Montréal's platform

See Page 13 From housing

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

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

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Anthony Housefather

Member of Parliament · Mount Royal

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Why the stakes are high in Montreal's municipal election

A look at the most pressing issues heading into the Nov. 6 and 7 vote

Benjamin Shingler · CBC News ·
Posted: Oct 04, 2021 4:00 AM ET |

Fresh off a federal election, Montreal is now in the throes of another campaign — one that could have major consequences for the city as it emerges (hopefully) from the pandemic.

Voters will head to the polls Nov. 6 and Nov. 7 to decide on the city's next mayor, their borough mayor and their councillor. More than 1,100 municipalities across the province are also holding elections.

In Montreal, incumbent Valérie Plante of Projet Montréal is facing a challenge from her predecessor, Denis Coderre and his party Ensemble Montréal.

Their dividing lines are shaping up to be much the same as last time around, in 2017, when Plante beat out Coderre on a promise to boost funding for public transit, increase social housing and improve the city's network of bike paths.

Coderre has promised a more balanced, business-friendly approach to help the city out of the pandemic.

Balarama Holness, an activist

and former pro football player, is among the new faces running for mayor as head of the upstart Mouvement Montréal.

Balarama Holness, a prominent activist and former football player, is vying to be Montreal's next mayor. His party, Mouvement Montréal, recently merged with Ralliement pour Montréal. (Kate McKenna/CBC)

Holness — an outspoken figure on issues of social justice — made the surprise decision this week to merge with Ralliement pour Montréal, a party led by Marc-Antoine Desjardins that gained traction on a promise to protect the French language.

The unlikely partners have promised a more community-based approach to politics, and policies aimed at addressing the shortage of affordable housing.

There are also several new parties at the borough level, including Sue Montgomery's Courage in Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, and Quartiers Montreal in Villeray-St-Michel-Parc-Extension.

Municipal elections tend to have a low turnout — in 2017, only 43 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot, while 62 per cent voted in last month's



federal election.

But the stakes are high. There are major decisions ahead as the city adjusts to new, post-pandemic realities.

On the whole, municipalities are responsible for nearly 60 per cent of public infrastructure. In Montreal, city hall oversees services crucial to everyday life, ranging from parks and the police department to public transit and bike paths.

"It's not abstract. It's daily life," said Caroline Patsias, a political science professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Big questions, and lots of them

Heading into the election, Montreal faces an ever-tightening housing market, questions about the role of policing after a spike in shootings, growing concerns over the

climate crisis and the resulting extreme weather and, yes, the lingering pandemic.

With the price of both rentals and real estate climbing, housing ranked as the top issue in a recent opinion poll among voters by Léger, commissioned by Le Devoir.

Some landlords are running for office during Montreal's housing crunch. Advocates say that's a problem Montreal's rising rental and real estate prices central to municipal election

All the mayoral candidates have promised to take steps to address the problem, even if much depends on the actions of the federal and provincial governments.

Plante and Coderre in particular, though, differ in their approaches, with the former promising to build more affordable housing under a model that places more requirements on developers, and the latter advocating a more business friendly approach.

All three main candidates have promised to create registries that would help apartment dwellers better track rent increases.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"
Nelson Mandela

From Page 3 A Nobel to remind

free speech alive. It's a victory for civil society.

More journalists than ever were in jail last year and the number of media workers killed rose by a third compared with 2019, numbers that speak to a global attack that is stifling democracy. According to the latest survey from Reporters Without Borders, journalism is completely or partly blocked in nearly three-quarters of the 180 countries ranked by the organization. It's a grim picture that few pause to take in — much less to consider its consequences.

Russia has been waging the most aggressive crackdown in years on independent media, labeling critical outlets as "foreign agents," hampering their ability to operate. But there are more pervasive everyday pressures, including the squeeze on media owners, the rise of state-owned outlets and the fostering of disinformation by the powerful. Not to mention basic financial troubles that reduce the ability of any news gathering organization to adequately investigate and report.

It's significant, in that sense, that the committee chose two different journalists working in different parts of the world, under different political regimes. The Philippines is still a democracy, though one left bruised by Duterte's years in power. Russia is far harder to define that way. But free speech, assaulted by demagogues and misinformation, is under fire everywhere, and by extension so, too, is democracy and peace. We need only think back to Donald Trump's years in the White House to remember a time when even in the United States, where press freedoms

are guaranteed by the constitution, the president referred to critical media as "enemies of the people."

The Nobel Prize is often castigated for awarding prizes to those who have not achieved enough. The committee has certainly not always got its choices right. But it very clearly understands its role as an amplifying force, one that takes into account not only what individuals have achieved, but the positive effects that attention might bring to the issue at hand. It loudly proclaimed, in the words of Ressa on hearing the announcement, that a world without facts means a world without truth or trust. And one where giant challenges like coronavirus and climate change cannot be conquered.

There are risks too. Regimes may not take kindly to having their critics lauded, and can come down even harder. But for those who live in countries like Putin's Russia, those risks already exist.



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Filipino Centre Toronto Now Accepting Candidates For 2021 Outstanding Students Awards

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

Purposefully committed to encouraging and challenging Filipino Canadian students in Ontario to excel in school performance and to achieve student success, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) is now accepting candidates to its annual competition for "2021 Outstanding Students Awards."

This year's FCT Outstanding Students Awards event started in 2005, is an annual program of selecting and recognizing outstanding and exemplary elementary, high school, and post-secondary graduates from Public, Catholic, and other government-supported educational institutions in Ontario.

Through its Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA), the Centre will present awards to chosen outstanding student graduates who have completed their elementary or high school or post-secondary studies. The selection criteria include 1) scholastic achievement/academic marks – 50%, 2) community involvement, and extra-curricular activities – 30%, and 3) interview

performance – 20%.

All applicants, who have been screened and approved by the Outstanding Student Awards Committee, will be recognized and honoured appropriately in a ceremony. Monetary awards, trophies, plaques, and certificates will be presented to the winners and/or nominees of each category.

The overall requirements for the 2021 FCT-RCJ Outstanding Student Award Competition are as follow:

A. General Requirements for All Categories: Any applicant or candidate for an FCT Award must be a 1) Natural-born Filipino or of Filipino descent (either parent is Filipino); 2) Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada; 3) Of the good moral and exemplary character, i.e. has no pending charge involving sexual or child abuse or criminal case.

B. Specific Requirements for Elementary and High School Graduates. To qualify:

1) The applicant should be currently registered in the secondary school or college in Ontario, under one

of the following categories: The elementary school applicant should have completed Grade 8 in June 2021, and be going into high school (grade 9); The high school applicant should have completed Grade 12 in June 2021 and be accepted and going into university or community college or apprenticeship program.

2) The student should have a minimum academic average of 85% (or equivalent) during the last two (2) school years(Grades 7 & 8) or (Grades 11 & 12) and must be involved in extra-curricular and community/volunteer activities.

3) The applicant must submit the following documents: For the elementary school graduate – Original copies of final report cards for the last two years. For the high school graduate – A current and original transcript bearing the school's official seal. Additionally, two (2) original letters of character reference (one from the school, excluding immediate family), two (2) passport-size photos, and a completed FCT application form.

C. Qualification Requirements for Post-Secondary Honour Candidates: 1) For Undergraduate or Baccalaureate Degree candidates: Must have achieved Academic Honours, with Notation printed in the candidate's degree diploma, such as any of the following: "Summa Cum Laude" or "Magna Cum Laude" or "Cum Laude" or "With Highest Distinction" (GPA 3.8 or higher) or "With Distinction" (3.5 to 3.79) or "First-Class Standing"; or other university/college equivalent academic honours distinction awards. 2) For

candidates with graduate Masteral or Doctoral degree: Must have achieved Graduate Average Grade of Letter Grades of A+, A, A- only; or Numerical Marks of 90-100%, 85-89%, 80 -84% only; or High Pass-Clear Excellence or acceptable equivalent marking scale. 3) Documents (Photocopies only) to be submitted: a) Undergraduate program: Bachelor's Diploma with Academic Honours Notation; b) Graduate program: Transcript of Academic Record or Master's/ Doctorate diploma, and 4) Passport-size Photo; 5) Completed "FCT Application Form". Academic awards received must not be more than 5 years old, from the date of application.

The members of the FCT-RCJ Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA) include notable Filipino Canadian professionals and educators composed of Tony A. San Juan, as Chairman, and the members are Jodelyn Huang, Steve Pagao, Mary Ann S. San Juan (Co-chair), Fermer Santos, and Rose Tijam.

Application forms for the FCT's Outstanding Students Awards are now available at FCT, call 416-335-0485. or at www.filipinocentretoronto.com. The Deadline for submission of forms and documents is December 10, 2021, Friday. Personal interviews will begin on December 27, 2021, Monday. Completed forms and requirements are to be submitted or mailed to The Filipino Centre Toronto, RCJ OSA Committee, c/o Tony A. San Juan, Chairman, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M1S 1T9 (Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired).



I thank the Filipino community for its years of support. My mandate as a Councillor remains valid until November 17.

MARVIN ROTRAND
City Councillor - Snowdon

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Trudeau visits First Nation, apologizes for skipping invitation on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc Chief Rosanne Casimir speak during an event outside the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Kamloops, B.C. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

Nick Boisvert · CBC News · Posted: Oct 18, 2021 2:13 PM ET | Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc Nation on Monday and apologized in person for failing to respond to an invitation to join the community for the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir and Trudeau held a joint news conference and ceremony near the site of a former residential school where unmarked graves were discovered this spring.

"When we imagined welcoming Prime Minister Trudeau to our community, it was envisioned that it would be an

opportunity for him to interact with a wide array of survivors, intergenerational survivors and many different First Nations as part of September the 30th, the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation," Casimir said during her opening remarks today.

Casimir said Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc sent two letters of invitation to Trudeau's office before Sept. 30.

The nation was in the midst of its ceremony when it learned that Trudeau had instead travelled with his family for a vacation in Tofino, B.C.

"The shock, anger and sorrow and disbelief was palpable in our

community," Casimir said. "Today is about making some positive steps forward and rectifying a mistake."

Trudeau, seated directly to the right of Casimir, spun a pen between his fingers as she spoke. He later apologized for failing to attend the ceremony.

"It was a mistake and I understand that it made a very difficult day even harder," he said. "You didn't have to invite me back, I know that. Thank you for doing so."

Trudeau said he also met with community leaders in the morning before the news conference.

"This morning we had an important and necessary conversation about how we, not just as Canadians but as an entire country, move forward given the reality of residential schools," Trudeau said.

The Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc announced in the spring the discovery of roughly 200 possible unmarked burial sites at Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Casimir made three requests of the federal government on the First Nation's behalf during her meeting with Trudeau: "full, unfettered access" to student attendance records from residential schools; funding for a new healing centre for the survivors of residential schools; and assistance for further surveys to search for unmarked burial sites.

Trudeau did not announce any

new funding commitments or plans. He said later that his government is working through many requests from First Nations hoping to search for graves.

"We will be there with as much as is necessary to get closure and to move forward right across the country," he said.

Survivors of residential schools and intergenerational trauma later spoke as Trudeau and Indigenous leaders looked on.

"When I left that school up there, I didn't know how to love myself. I didn't know how to love my children," said Charlotte Manual.

RoseAnne Archibald, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, also attended Trudeau's visit. She repeated her call for an independent inquiry into Canada's historic residential school system.

"These are very difficult times for our survivors and our intergenerational trauma survivors. Old hurts and trauma are being triggered as we recover our little ones," Archibald said. "Someone must be charged for the death of our children."

Earlier this summer, Trudeau visited Cowessess Nation in Saskatchewan, where about 750 possible unmarked graves were discovered at a former residential school in June.

Trudeau signed an agreement during that visit to turn over some child welfare responsibilities to Cowessess.



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Filipino-Canadians Hold Victory Celebration for First Pinay Member of Parliament in Canada

BY: TONY A. SAN JUAN, OCT-RETIRED

Truly proud and grateful for the historic win of Rechie Valdez as the first Filipina and second Filipino Canadian to be elected as Member of Parliament (MP), the Filipino Canadian community in Ontario conducted a victory celebration in honour of the newly-elected MP for Mississauga-Streetsville, Ontario. Rechie Valdez was convincingly victorious in the recent 44th Canadian parliamentary election on September 20, 2021.

Born in Zambia, Central Africa to Filipino parents Zosimo and Normita Salazar, Rechie immigrated to Canada with her parents and brother in 1989. A dedicated mother of two and computer science graduate from the University of Windsor, Rechie's interesting journey is a special story of successful immigrants to tell and relate to. As new immigrants, Rechie and her family have experienced adjustment and settlement situations including challenges in the year in, year out responsibilities of schooling, socializing, training, working, learning and living to meet the requirements in this adopted country. With personal determination and dedication as a banker, baker, podcaster, sports



Left photo: Fil-Can MP-Elect Rechie Valdez and MP & Minister of Immigration & Citizenship Hon. Marco Mendicino; Right photo: Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen De Villa with Miss International 2013 Bea Santiago, Ophelia Santiago, Norma Carpio, & Sonia Balinas. (Photo Credit: Jean Pardo.)

Among the leaders and organizers who initiated and supervised the weekend event were: Gene Pardo Elamparo, Karen Pascual-Binaday, Amalda Ada, Danny Orbillo, Louroz Mercader, Aurora Elefano, and Al Tupe. Administrative assistance was provided by Suzy Llanera, Edmundo Miranda, Ophelia Santiago, Aris Elefano, Nanding and Nene Ticzon. Catered meal boxes were supplied by Casa Manila, FV Foods, Intramuros Resto, and Max's Restaurant; the

Sonia Balinas, Philip Beloso, Lapu-lapu & Ligaya Cana, Nestor Von Canton, Norma Carpio, Ben & Paulina Corpuz, Cory Coutts, Noel Cruz, Rose Cruz, Frank Cruzet, Joe Damasco, Candace David, Vivienne Lotilla Dela Cruz, Ronnie & Claire Dela Gana, Josie De Leon, Henry & Rosalie Dulay, Li Eron, Rosary Escano, Imee Espiritu, Delano Europa, Rechelle Everdeen, Mel Galeon, Joseph Guiyab, Dr. Solon Guzman, Erlinda Insigne, B. K. Jimenez, Robert King, Helen Lao, Chalen Lazerna, Marita Lee, Janet Lim, Bin Kon Loo, Theresa Lumanlan, Rommel Lumbao, Gisele Mirasol, Felix & Lita Ordonez, Steve Pagao, Edward Que, Wilfredo Rapanan, Joseph & Lorelei Redoblado, JR Reyes, Resty & Luz Del Rosario, Maria Samonte, Mary Ann San Juan, Tony & Joy San Juan, Bea Santiago, Cecille Santiago, Alston St. Louis, Edgar Sulit, Sherry Lacson Tan, Tom Tan, Mon & Tess Torralba, and Zeny Zagala.

Spearheaded by community leaders from different community-based organizations and entities such as the: Philippine Independence Day Council, World Financial Group, Amp-Ed Workshop, Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants, Atin Ito, Battle

416, B2Bpreneur, Camarines Norte Association Canada-Ontario, Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan, Filipino-Canadian Architect Association, Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan, Filipino Canadian Dental Association, Filipiniana, Filipino Buletin, Filipino Centre Toronto, Filipino Heritage Council of Canada, Filipinos Making Waves, Filipino Renal Nurses Association of Ontario, FTV-Filipino Canadian Ethnic Channels Group, Filipino Workers Network, Gawad Kalinga, Golden Balangay Awards, Imperial World, Inc., Inquirer.Net, IPEN, JDL Performing Arts School, JR Reyes & Associates, Kababaihang Rizalista, Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre, Knights of Rizal-Canada Region, Liberal Party of Canada, Masbate Association, Party On, Philippine Advancement Through Arts and Culture, Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto, Philippine Heritage Band, Philippine Star-Manila, Pinoy Radio-MCBN, Pinta, Rise Tribe, San Pablenyo Association, Scarborough Ontario Seniors Association, Seed of Hope, TFC-The Filipino Channel, TOMZ Radio, and 89 DMZ Dance Music.

In her addresses to the many enthusiastic guests, admirers, supporters, volunteers, and event organizers, R. Valdez was highly respectful and appreciative of the outpouring of congratulatory greetings and good wishes. To the attendees, she reiterated her pledge to hopefully "serve well the interests and issues of her constituents as well as to represent and articulate the voice of her "kababayans" (compatriots) in the Canadian parliament". Rechie Valdez, in most of her personal messages, was confidently expressing her utmost gratitude and "pasasalamat" of "the great gifts" she deservedly received. Mabuhay ka Rechie! Mabuhay ang Filipino!



WFG Senior Executive Vice-Chairman Agnes P. Miranda (R), with Suzy Llanera, Amy Ada and Tony A. San Juan. (Photo by Jean Pardo.)

enthusiast, and entrepreneur, these all paid off, highlighting in her recent election to Canada's House of Commons and in achieving the historic political distinction in the Filipino diaspora.

The celebration was held on September 26, 2021, at the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC) at 5225 Orbitor Drive, Mississauga, Ontario.

A common but traditional exercise, the celebratory expression was successfully planned and organized by notable community leaders and stakeholders, superbly led by prominent business executive Agnes Miranda, the Executive Senior Vice Chairman of World Financial Group- WFG who was highly assisted by several officers and members from different associations in the province.

banners & masks by Paulo Bucod; DJ Service by Sherwin Sunico; and photographers Raymond Santos, Salome Mader, Nick and Cora Rivera. KCCC President Resty Del Rosario offered the venue rental at a generous discount.

To meet provincial health and safety protocols, the celebratory event was carried out in 2 sessions at 2:00-5:00 pm, and 6:00: 9:00 pm. Ably hosted by Louroz Mercader and Karen Pascual-Binaday, the early afternoon gathering has MP and Minister of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Hon. Marco Mendicino for its guest speaker and Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen De Villa, the evening session speaker.

Those who attended and congratulated Rechie Valdez were Cecille Araneta, Paul & Wendy Arena,

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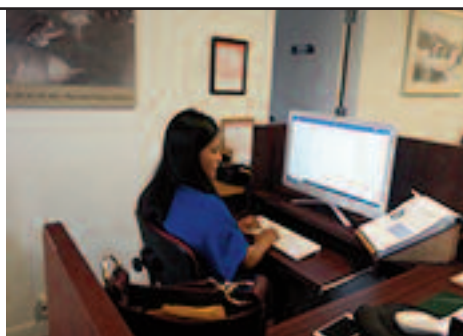


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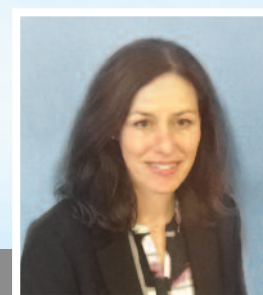
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Sesame Garlic Ramen Noodles

INGREDIENTS:

3 (3 oz) packages
Instant ramen noodles, flavor packets
discarded
¼ cup Low sodium soy sauce
¼ cup Oyster sauce
1 tbsp Rice vinegar
1 tbsp Brown sugar, optional
½ -1 tsp Chili sauce like sambal or
sriracha
¼ cup Water
2 tbsp Toasted sesame oil
4 Cloves garlic, minced about 2 tsp

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) In a large pot of boiling water, cook ramen according to package, about 3-4 minutes; drain well.

2) In a small bowl, whisk together soy sauce, oyster sauce, rice vinegar, brown sugar, chili sauce and water.

3) Heat sesame oil in a large skillet set over medium heat. Stir in garlic and ginger until fragrant, about 1 minute.

4) Pour in the bowl of sauce and simmer for 3-4 minutes. Stir in cooked ramen noodles until heated through and evenly coated in sauce, about 3 minutes.

5) Garnish with green onions and sesame seeds. H



Easy Harissa Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

Serves 6
4 lbs bone-in, skin-on chicken, hind
quarters or mix of thighs and legs
1 (12 oz) jar roasted red peppers,
drained
6 garlic cloves
1 tsp caraway seeds
1 tsp coriander seeds
2 tsp smoked paprika

1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
2 tsp salt
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
3/4 cup mayonnaise

INSTRUCTIONS:

Make the harissa marinade. You could even do this a day or two ahead of time, if you're trying to work ahead.

Coat the chicken pieces with the harissa marinade and let it sit for at least 30 minutes, or as long as overnight. Before you toss the chicken with the marinade, save about 1/4 cup of the harissa sauce, because you'll need it later.

Make a quick harissa mayo to serve with the grilled chicken by mixing together that reserved harissa sauce and some mayonnaise. YUM.

Grill the harissa chicken! Grill over high heat until you see an internal temp of 165°F. Then your chicken is done and it's time to dig in



Hoisin glazed pork chops

INGREDIENTS

4 Pork chops, boneless (about 2 lbs)
3/4 tsp Salt
2 tbsp Sesame oil
2 Garlic cloves, minced
2 tsp Ginger minced
1/3 cup Hoisin sauce
2 tbsp Rice vinegar
2 tbsp Water

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a small sauce pan set over medium heat, simmer the garlic, ginger, hoisin, rice vinegar and water, whisking occasionally until the mixture is fully combined, about 4 minutes. Set aside. Lightly salt pork chops. Heat the sesame oil in a large skillet over high heat. Once oil is smoking, place the pork chops in the skillet, cook without turning until well browned, 3-4 minutes on each side (adjust timing based on how thick your pork chop is). When an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part registers 135°F, remove the pork chops from the pan. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest 5 minutes. Serve with hoisin sauce drizzled over top.

FHSM visits Philippine Ambassador to Canada Rodolfo D. Robles



Kimberly Gultia

Director of Outreach Programs

Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal

Last October 7, 2021, the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) met with the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Rodolfo D. Robles. With our chairman, Al Abdon, we travelled from Montreal to the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa to visit the Ambassador to deepen the organization's relationship with him. The Ambassador, his wife, Mrs. Nora Robles, and their staff warmly welcomed us. The meeting started

photoshoot.

FHSM's Ottawa trip, however, did not end with this important event. We proceeded to Port de Plaisance Jacques-Cartier to go on a cruise along the Ottawa river. On board the Paula-D, an entertaining and knowledgeable tour guide showed us the area's urban development, historic architecture and landmarks, and the beautiful natural landscapes that line the river. By the end of the cruise, it was time for dinner. We then drove to Casselman to enjoy the delicious Filipino food some prepared and



with an engaging speech from Ambassador Robles, followed by an informal conversation with him and his wife. The chat allowed us to better know the kind and witty Mrs. Robles and the remarkable Ambassador. Like visiting a pleasant Filipino home, our hosts offered us delectable pinoy refreshments. The meeting came to a close with lively camaraderie and a fun

brought to share.

All in all, the trip was a pleasant break from all the organization's work in Montreal. It was a chance for the administrators and members to relax and enjoy each other's company. But more importantly, it was a great privilege for FHSM to visit Ambassador Rodolfo Robles and Mrs. Nora Robles.

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Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Hi ladies and gentlemen! We are now in a sort of acceptance of the 'new normal' we are in. Sort of acceptance I say because a few still do not feel the impact of it. Only those who have directly suffered a loss will accept and feel it. Our very sincere condolences to MP Anthony Housefather who lost his dad to Covid-19 in the early stages of the pandemic. We, as a community, are with you in your grief. God doesn't let you grieve alone.

Since the announcement of our wellknown Councilor Marvin Rotrand's retirement, the community has been honoring him in deep gratitude for his past and current services. Many Filipino-

Canadian associations are, in fact, continuing the celebrations for his retirement. The Council of Canadian Filipino Associations of Quebec with the founder, Sir James de la Paz and the president, Sir Dario Boca were at McKenzie-King Park on August 29th to receive greetings from many guests and present their gifts of appreciation. The sun cooperated so they had a grand time! The next party was held indoors - at the Olympia Restaurant on St. Jean Blvd, D.D.O. The Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) headed by chairman Al Abdon hosted this party to honor Councilor Marvin Rotrand.

At the same venue was another gathering held last August 25th, 2021 honoring Marlene Birao on her 80th birthday. Old friends attended to reminisce 'for old time's sake' stories. Co-hosts Svetlana Suarez and Adiva Estinoso livened up the party. It's no wonder as these two are masters in merrymaking! For those of us who were invited but couldn't make it, here's a greeting from all of us: "Happy Birthday to our very dear Marlene!"

Chairman Connie Fabro of the Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) would like to announce that the chalet is now open as usual every Wednesday for bingo and small celebrations. To assure acceptance to the venue, SWIS members are urged to register on a Wednesday before the bingo game. Please register with Vangie Salvador, SWIS Secretary.

As a reminder of what the Filipinos are grateful for, Councilor Marvin Rotrand was involved in many important initiatives, namely, tenants' rights, naming the Place Dr. Jose Rizal in the Mackenzie King Park, renaming a park in honor of Warren Almand, sponsoring a resolution to declare June as Filipino Heritage Month in Montreal, reviving the Montreal-Manila Agreement

and resolutions against anti-Asian racism.

MP Anthony isn't retiring yet - far from it. He updated us on the following important measures that the Liberal Government has taken to help people during this pandemic. The Liberal Government has announced the addition of \$810 million to the Emergency Food Security Fund for people experiencing hardships during the pandemic. It also extended the eligibility period for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), extended lockdown support until October 23, 2021, extended the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canadian Caregiver Benefit (CCB) and the Canadian Recovery Sickness Benefit until October 23, 2021.

As we keep on battling our current circumstances, keep on looking up to God for our salvation. Ask the Promise Keeper; He does not disappoint. As a testimony, read Psalm 121:1,5,6, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. The Lord Himself watches over you. The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not harm by day nor the moon at night. See you next issue, God bless!

From Page 5 From housing

proposes reducing the Montreal police department's budget in favour of increasing funding for "affordable and social housing; health and social services; leisure, recreation and sports infrastructure." Holness says up to \$100 million of the SPVM's \$679 million budget could be reallocated.

Environment

Projet Montréal has pledged to make Montreal carbon neutral by 2050. The plan includes banning single-use plastics by 2023 and planting 500,000 trees to reach 25 per cent tree canopy cover, starting with "at-risk" boroughs. The city would also create electric-car-only parking spots downtown and make the downtown core a zero-emission zone by 2030.

Ensemble Montréal says it would promote the densification and electrification of transit. It would also form a committee with the province to reduce carbon emissions. Locally, it has committed to having trees planted on every street in Montreal and says it would push to have UNESCO recognize Mount Royal as a heritage site.

Mouvement Montréal says it would also create an independent council on "climate justice" to advise the mayor's office and incorporate Indigenous knowledge into environmental policy. It would also invest in green spaces and community gardens, though the party did not offer specific targets.

Public transit

Projet Montréal says it will push for further Metro line expansions, including the Blue line extension. The platform specifically mentions the Pink line, which was one of Plante's signature promises in 2017. Projet would also add 300 buses to the STM network, and commits to making all public transit buses fully electric by 2025, making rides free for seniors and cutting the cost of a pass by half for those age 12-17.

Ensemble Montréal would create a "commitment of quality" charter for public transit and a monitoring committee to ensure projects, such as the Blue line expansion, stick to schedule. Expanding existing services is not mentioned in the platform.

Mouvement Montréal says it would offer free public transit to young Montrealers (25 and under) and seniors (65 and over). It also aims to make STM stations fully accessible by 2028 and would hold STM public consultations to identify and address gaps in service.

Bike paths

Projet Montréal says it would build more cycling infrastructure, including expanding the Réseau express vélo (REV). In addition, it would add more bicycle parking and create a program to subsidize the cost of family bikes, electric bikes or bikes adapted to those with mobility issues. Projet also pledges to implement awareness campaigns around cycling and road safety, with a focus on youth and children.

Ensemble Montréal would prioritize improving existing cycling infrastructure and training for young cyclists. The party says it would only expand the bike path network after consulting with stakeholders. Coderre has also said he would remove part of the REV bike path on Bellechasse Avenue in Rosemont and turn the space back into parking.

Mouvement Montréal does not mention cycling in its platform.

Neighbourhood life

Projet Montréal says it wants to continue the summer pedestrianization of Montreal streets and extend the patio season. Projet also wants to create more public spaces, such as sitting areas, and wants to make museums and other cultural venues free for those 17 and under.

Ensemble Montréal says it would try to make the city's east end a "green Silicon Valley" by encouraging

green start-ups and ecologically minded businesses. For the city at large, Ensemble says it would create two new animal shelters, one in the city's east end and one in the west. It has clarified that it would not implement a bylaw against pitbull-type dogs, as it had proposed in 2017.

Mouvement Montréal says it would make recreational facilities free for low-income families and invest in creating "youth hubs" in community centres. It also plans to create "economic zones" in low-income neighbourhoods, which would include tax incentives for small businesses in the area.

The French language

Projet Montréal would create an action plan to promote the French language and would appoint a French language commissioner for the city. It also says it wants to work with partners to better help new arrivals learn French, and to encourage the use of French in businesses and workplaces, but has not offered specifics on what those initiatives would be.

Ensemble Montréal says the city should capitalize on the economic, touristic and cultural benefits of being a francophone metropolis, but does not have anything in its platform concerning the protection of the French language.

Mouvement Montréal wants to have Montreal recognized as an officially bilingual city. That would include having all city documents and websites available in both languages, as well as allowing businesses to operate in the language of their choosing. It would also offer subsidized English and French classes for everyone, and encourage anglophones who lack "high-level" French to apply for government jobs.

Reviving downtown

Projet Montréal says it would invest \$1 billion in downtown revitalization. It would also extend operating hours for restaurants and entertainment in the downtown core, adopt an nightlife strategy and try to

promote Montreal as a food destination in North America. It also says it would work with provincial authorities to force building owners with vacant storefronts to contribute to the local merchant association. It also said it would designate zones downtown where construction work could happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to speed up the process.

Ensemble Montréal says it wanted to work with partners (like the convention centre and Tourisme Montréal) to attract international events and foreign investment to the city. It also aims to "promote Montreal as a student city" to attract foreign students, and offer tax credits to encourage them to stay.

Mouvement Montréal says it would reduce industrial and commercial property taxes by 2025, and lock them in at 2.75 times the residential property tax rate. It has also proposed creating a business centre to streamline applications and permits for businesses.

Interesting tidbits

Projet Montréal would institute a free "baby box" program for Montreal newborns. It would also build a network of refillable water bottle stations in the city and create a park specifically for mountain biking.

Ensemble Montréal says it would expand the water taxi linking Pointe-aux-Trembles to the Old Port and reach out to other municipalities (such as Terrebonne and Repentigny) about including them in the service. It also would also reinstate the "Passeport MTL," which gave free access to cultural activities for international students.

Mouvement Montréal is promising to abolish Montreal's "welcome tax." It also says it would implement online voting in municipal referendums and would freeze elected officials' salaries for four years.

Nov. 7 - Montreal Elections Day

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Maine Mendoza names her worst critic



Maine Mendoza

Because she's her "own worst critic," Maine Mendoza still gets shy and awkward when her costars shower her with praise about her growth as a performer.

"I still don't know how to react because we're our own worst critic, and we sometimes feel that what we're giving is not enough in the things we do," Maine said in reaction to her "Daddy's Gurl" costar Vic Sotto describing her as a "natural talent" who has "evolved into a better actress and host."

In fact, she still gets nervous when doing scenes with Vic, even if the latter works from home and shoots through online means. "I don't think that will ever go away and it's not his fault I find him intimidating," she said. "He just has that kind of charm ... you become unsure of how to act with him."

Improvement

"But I'm happy that there are people there who appreciate what I do," the 26-year-old star said in a recent Zoom conference for the said weekly sitcom, which is now in its third year.

Whatever improvement the

viewers see in her, she credits to her longtime colleagues. "Whatever I'm able to deliver now or the growth people see, I have Bossing and my

'Eat Bulaga!' Dabarkads to thank for that. They're the reason why I'm here. They all bring out the best in me," she said.



In "Daddy's Gurl," which airs Saturday evenings, Maine plays the city girl and "pa-sosyal unica hija," Stacy. When her mother dies, her father Barak (Vic) in the province moves in with her in a plush condo unit. And now, they must deal with each other's contrasting lifestyles.

She attributed the show's continued success to the rapport of the cast members. "We all get along off-cam so people see that on television, too. Our relationship with each other comes natural and it looks natural," Maine said, adding that playing Stacy has been a learning experience as well.

"Prioritize your family. Always think of the consequences of your decisions and ask your family for guidance. Don't just make big and risky decisions on impulse. That's what Stacy is like and sometimes she ends up in bad situations," related Maine, who feels blessed that her real father trusts her.

"Even if he's quiet, I know he's keeping a watchful eye. He trusts us to handle our own lives or make the right decisions. But if they notice that something's wrong, he's there," she said.

One thing to look forward to in the upcoming episodes, director Chris Martinez said, is that Stacy will finally meet her first love interest. "We're working on it. We held auditions and we have already chosen someone. Magkaka-boyfriend na si Stacy. That's coming up," she said, adding that the actor who got the role is a relative newbie.

Despite the pandemic, Maine stayed booked and busy. Aside from "Eat Bulaga!" and "Daddy's Gurl," she also hosts the TV5 talent search "POPino," the Cignal TV travel show "Maine Goals." And on top of those are various endorsements and show biz commitments.

It can be taxing, Maine admitted. But she chooses to be thankful instead. "Sometimes it's tiring. But you have to value the jobs you get instead of thinking about how mentally or physically draining they are. I try to make the most out of the opportunities I get," she said.

With the help of her handlers, Maine said she still manages to maintain work-life balance despite her busy schedule. "Kinakaya pa naman. It's all about time management and mind-set. I don't want to get burned out. But at the end of the day, I'm grateful for the blessings in the middle of a pandemic," she added. ■

'Nawala rin ako sa sarili ko': Kylie Verzosa opens up about Jake Cuenca's police incident

Beauty queen-turned-actress Kylie Verzosa showed full support to her actor-boyfriend Jake Cuenca after he was arrested following a car chase with the police early this October.

Even if she was away from Manila at that time, Verzosa became worried after he learned about what happened to her boyfriend.

"Sobrang nalungkot ako sa nangyari at that time," Verzosa told ABS-CBN News. "I was in Mindoro and we were shooting 'Sisid.' Hindi ako nakatulog after I learned what happened to Jake."

Cuenca's black Jeep Wrangler allegedly hit a police vehicle in Barangay Barangka Ibaba in Mandaluyong City, while the cops were in the middle of a buy-bust operation.

Instead of stopping, Cuenca was said to have sped

away, prompting the police to chase him and fire at the actor's vehicle.



Celebrity couple Kylie Verzosa and Jake Cuenca

A 43-year-old delivery rider was even hit by a stray bullet and was brought to the hospital.

"I was so worried about Jake," Verzosa said. "Parang

nawala din ako sa sarili ko. It took time for me to know the real story. I felt bad for all the

parties involved. Very unfortunate event lang talaga."

Verzosa is happy that her boyfriend is "recovering," after everything that happened.

"All parties are healing

with that situation," Verzosa said. "Magkausap kami ni Jake when that happened."

"Every hour, I was calling him up and happy ako that he was taking the call every time. Very responsive siya sa akin whenever I would check up on him. Fully supportive ako talaga. I know he will get through this."

Cuenca is getting better, according to Verzosa. "He's recovering," she said of the actor. "He's presently taping for a series."

Cuenca is wrapping up taping for ABS-CBN's forthcoming series, "Viral Scandal," with Dimples Romana, Joshua Garcia and Charlie Dizon. The series will premiere November 15 on the Kapamilya Channel. ■

Kris Aquino now engaged: 'I'm looking forward to be a Sarmiento'

After months of silence since first revealing their relationship, Kris Aquino announced on Instagram on Sunday her engagement to former Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) secretary Mel Sarmiento.

"We discussed this post and I thought about it carefully... marami kasi sa followers ko ang nagtatanong kung kamusta na ko because matagal na kong nawala (many of my followers have been asking me how I've been since I've gone on an hiatus for so long)," she wrote on her post's caption.

"Aamin ako (I'll admit) I'm only 95 pounds now. This pandemic and many stressful events that happened since mid August really caused my weight to drop & my health to suffer," she added.

She added that it has also been exactly four months since the Aquino family lost former President Benigno "Noy" Aquino III.

However, despite the

unfortunate events, her late brother remains the "matchmaker in heaven."

"Somehow I believe there really was a matchmaker in heaven who must be smiling now- I can almost hear his voice telling me, 'Kristina, tama na, respect the fact na gusto ni Mel ng tahimik na buhay' And finally,

rest of my life with, thank you for as bimb said, loving me for me, with no agenda, and for being just an overall good and patient man. It's unreal how much more calm & peaceful I feel now that you're here," she added now talking about her beau.

Aquino explained that she and Sarmiento would have never

Sarmiento.

"Thank you, you must have known how broken I'd be to lose you, so you made sure there was someone who not only helped wipe away my tears, he's made it possible for me to smile and laugh again. Dumating nung hindi ko hinahanap o inaasahan - kaya nga tama silang lahat na nagsabi in God's perfect time," she said.

"We agreed, what's personal shall remain private so hanggang dito lang ang pwede kong ma-share. Except I guess to say as much as I am proud to be an Aquino, looking forward to na kong maging Sarmiento," she added.

Sarmiento was DILG secretary from 2015 to 2016 under the administration of former president Noy Aquino.

He also served as secretary-general of the Liberal Party.

Sarmiento also served as Western Samar representative from 2010 to 2015. ■



FILE PHOTO: Former DILG chief Mel Senen Sarmiento (left) and Kris Aquino.

'bunso' has learned to obey," she said.

"To my best friend and the man I said yes to spending the

met if it was not for ex-president Noy. It was even only after her brother's death last June when she "reconnected" with

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15***Richard Gutierrez's lavish gift to wife Sarah Lahbati**

Actress Sarah Lahbati was speechless.

This was after she received a lavish gift from her husband, actor Richard Gutierrez, recently.

On Instagram, she uploaded a photo of her sitting on the hood of her new sarge green compact mid-size four-wheel drive off-road SUV.

According to her, she's not one to ask for material things because she enjoys working hard for what she wants.

"@richardgutz, i'm speechless," she said. "besides being the best dada to Zion & Kai, you make me feel like a queen even

when i least expect it."

Sarah reiterated that she's "grateful" to Richard for a lot of things – for his "insane surprise" but mostly for his "unconditional love, through ups and downs."

She also likes the car's color, noting "(sarge) green; the color of life, nature, balance, growth & prosperity."

A few days ago, Sarah turned 28 years old.

Sarah and Richard have been together for over nine years.

They were married last year.

The couple has two sons, namely Zion and Kai. ■

Enchong Dee on him being vocal about social issues: 'It's a responsibility'**Enchong Dee**

Enchong Dee is not bothered one bit that many are annoyed about him dipping his fingers in various social concerns.

He believes it is actually his duty given his status as celebrity.

The 32-year old actor told us in a recent interview: "I feel like it's a responsibility."

"Bilang celebrity maraming nakatingin sayo e, maraming

nakikinig...you have this influence, power to affect change and you know, you have to use it for the common good. You have to speak up," he added.

"It should be a collective effort. If you want change, hindi puwedeng puro pansarili lang. Dapat we get involved somehow. Sabi nga, if you learn, teach, if you have, give." ■

Alden Richards renews contract with GMA, hopes to pursue college degree**Alden Richards**

Multimedia Star Alden Richards has revealed he wanted to pursue a college degree to fulfill the wish of his father as he renewed his contract with GMA recently.

"Ang gusto ko pang ma-add sa ginagawa ko is to finish school. I've been working on it lately. I've been studying and collecting data kung magkaroon man ako ng free time is to really finish school," said Alden, during a Zoom conference with the entertainment press recently.

"Ang gusto ko kasi i-major is Business Economics, like stock market. Anything that involves yung ekonomiya ng isang bansa. It's very

interesting to see.

"Parang with those knowledge kasi, I will know that my country and other countries are performing well. Isa yun sa mga plans ko in the near future," he added.

Alden said his late mother Rosario Faulkerson wanted him to become a movie star. But his father Richard Faulkerson Sr. dreams of earning a college diploma for him.

"Kung yung mom ko po is yung dream niya sa akin is to be successful in the field of entertainment, yung dream naman ng diploma is for my dad. Siya naman ang may gusto," Alden said.

Philippine cinemas to strictly implement health protocols



Health and safety protocols to be implemented in cinemas in the country

"It's Showtime" host Kim ChiCinemas and movie houses in the Philippines will strictly implement health protocols when these establishments reopen soon.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) put Metro Manila under Alert Level 3 and allowed the reopening of cinemas with restrictions. Only fully vaccinated people will be admitted and seating capacity will be limited to 30 percent.

The actual date of reopening of cinemas is still subject to confirmation and the public is advised to wait for further announcement, according to the Cinema Exhibitors Association of the Philippines (CEAP).

Cinemas in Metro Manila have been closed for 19 months due to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

"That is the main goal right now," said CEAP Charmaine Bauzon. "We have devoted the past 19 months of cinema closure identifying solutions and precautions based on science. We will implement these measures to confidently welcome back movie fans to cinemas and send them home safe."

Cinemas are safe spaces

Bauzon assured "the public that cinema is a safe place. In fact, LGUs [local government units] have converted some theaters into vaccination centers, and no super-spreading were ever reported, even though people waited inside for hours."

CEAP cited a recent study in Germany which concluded that

cinemas are safer than almost any other indoor environment as long as safety guidelines are followed like wearing face masks, physical distancing and proper air ventilation.

The German study considered the following factors in its conclusion: People spend an average of only two hours at a cinema; people inside the cinema simply sit down and face the same direction which is known to reduce transmission risks; and people are not talking to each other during a movie, which minimizes possibility of infection.

Cinemas to strictly impose all safety protocols

According to CEAP, besides adhering to the IATF-mandated health standards, it also developed the "Sa Sine Safe Ka" protocols patterned after the "CinemaSafe" measures set by America's National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) and endorsed by epidemiologists.

Dr. David F. Goldsmith, occupational and environmental epidemiologist at the Milken Institute School of Public Health in Washington, D.C., reviewed the efforts of NATO and said, "These protocols demonstrate a serious, comprehensive effort by movie theater owners to identify potential risks, and reduce them."

These safety protocols are:

- Monitoring of moviegoers' body temperature as they enter the cinema
- Moviegoers to present authentic vaccination card
- Implement regulations set

by the IATF and LGUs on facial coverings

- No eating inside the cinema
- Enforce socially-distanced seating
- Encourage contact-less transaction in ticket-purchasing
- Improved air ventilation
- Availability of hand sanitizers at cinema entrance
- Mandatory hand-washing every 30 minutes for cinema employees
- Deep cleaning between screenings

CEAP stressed that only healthy, fully vaccinated people will be allowed back to cinemas.

"If you are experiencing a fever, cough, or other symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 – or think that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home and we welcome you to join us again in the future," said Bauzon.

According to CEAP, the 19-month closure of cinemas dealt a severe blow to the entire movie industry, leading to unprecedented massive unemployment.

It is estimated that a workforce of some 336,000 lost its livelihood. These are hardworking women and men from various fields intersecting the movie business. ■

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Shatner's spaceflight is a "testament to the human imagination," astrophysicist says

By Jackie Wattles, Meg Wagner, Melissa Macaya, Mike Hayes, Melissa Mahtani and Veronica Rocha, CNN
Updated 4:11 p.m. ET, October 13, 2021

William Shatner's journey into space this morning is much bigger than tourism for the ultra-wealthy but a symbol of the power of the human imagination, Adam Frank, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Rochester, said today.

"It's really a testimony to the human imagination ... the power of science fiction and the stories it tells us about a hopeful human future," Frank told CNN.

Frank went on to suggest that Shatner, an actor best known for his portrayal of Captain James T. Kirk on "Star Trek," served today as symbol for humanity's extraterrestrial hopes and dreams.

"Who is William Shatner?" Frank

Whistleblower: 'Almost no one outside of Facebook knows what happens inside Facebook'



Frances Haugen said Facebook must declare "moral bankruptcy."
Jabin Botsford/Pool via AP

By Samantha Murphy Kelly and Seth Fiegerman, CNN Business
Updated 7:16 PM ET, Mon Oct 4, 2021

Frances Haugen, the Facebook whistleblower who released tens of thousands of pages of internal research and documents, said the social media company could "destroy" her for speaking out, but she believed that "as long as Facebook is operating in the dark, it is accountable to no one."

In her prepared testimony obtained by CNN on Monday ahead of her Tuesday appearance before the Senate subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, Haugen said, "I believe what I did was right and necessary for the common good — but I know Facebook has infinite resources, which it could use to destroy me."

Haugen added: "I came forward because I recognized a frightening truth: almost no one outside of Facebook knows what happens inside Facebook."

Facebook declined to comment Monday.

The 37-year-old former Facebook (FB) product manager who worked on civic integrity issues at the company revealed her identity during a "60 Minutes" segment that aired Sunday night. In that segment, she said the documents show that Facebook knows

asked. "He's just an actor, but James T. Kirk, he is...a part of our imagination about a vibrant human future that includes space, so I think that's really the importance of James Kirk being in space today."

Frank went on to say he hoped that as mankind continues to fix its gaze again on the heavens, it might become easier to come together to solve problems on Earth.

"You'll have enough of humanity recognizing that the Earth is the only home," he said. "You cannot mess with the planet."

"We have so much science... and climate denial that the more people can understand that there is this thin, thin veil that separates us from the cold death vacuum of space...Kirk is right...the faster we're going to be able to take care of the problems we have on Earth," he said.



Credit: AP
Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket latest space passengers from left, Audrey Powers, William Shatner, Chris Boshuizen, and Glen de Vries raises their hands as they talks about snake bites during a media availability at the spaceport near Van Horn, Texas, Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

From Page 4 Targets of racism

happening to me?" she said "Did this person really just say that to me?"

She refused to give details, believing doing so could risk giving too much attention to the acts. But she noted that on top of the racism, there's sexism.

"You know, sexism is sometimes so insidious," she said. "It's some comments on the way you look, sometimes they make you feel like you cannot run the borough."

Ensemble Montréal's mayoral incumbent for the Saint-Laurent borough, Alan De Sousa, noted that racism can be subtle, too.

He served five terms as borough mayor and claimed to have not experienced overt racism.

He acknowledged that racism exists, saying he's not naive, but that he tries not to allow it to preoccupy him.

"When I talk to people, while it might be in the back of my mind, I try to make sure that I can get above that," the Pakistani Canadian stressed, while insisting that diversity is vital in public

office.

"We have to have a space where these people can feel comfortable and safe," he emphasized.

Fo Niemi, executive director of the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations, believes acts of racism have become more overt.

"This is an attack on what we call mosaic democracy," he observed. "Democracy is becoming more diverse, more multicultural, more multiracial, multi-sexual and so you'll see more of these acts as traditionally marginalized people take their place in the political sphere."

Holness vowed to keep fighting and had a message for anyone wanting to run for office and is afraid of facing racism or sexism.

"First step is to denounce [racist acts], he advised, "and to ask for help from those around you."

Katahwa agrees, saying it's important to support each other and to stay strong.

"When they go low," she smiled, "you go high."

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College faculty and administration: L to R: Terry White, Clarice Mackay, Kadri Shérifi (Director of Studies), Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi (Director-General & Founder), Editha Fedalizo, Amy Manon-og and Sophie Toledo.



Proficiency Certificates in French 1 and 2 presented to: (L to R): Yuri Ynion, Lyka Ynion, Dalia Belen, Maricris Monis, Joan Mendoza and Randy Agno. Not in picture: Reyna Reginio (February 2019)

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Adele Lascano (October 2009)



Gilmore College gave me the opportunity to start a new career. I got a job easily because I learned new things from the course which focused on how to care for the elderly and the sick. I'm proud to be part of Gilmore College International
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Batch 11, PAB students on practicum at Chateau Westmount with their instructors seated: (L to R) Amy Manon-og, Terry White and Sophie Toledo