

Second COVID-19 wave has already started: PM in address to nation

OTTAWA, September 23, 2020 -- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says that in some parts of the country the COVID-19 second wave has already begun, but Canadians have the power to flatten the curve again, in his evening address to the nation from his West Block office.

"In our four biggest provinces, the second wave isn't just starting, it's already underway," said Trudeau, of the current outbreaks in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. "We're on the brink of a fall that could be much worse than the spring."

COVID-19 cases have jumped nationally, from about 300 cases per day in mid-August to 1,248 on Tuesday, prompting Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam to implore Canadians and public health policy-makers to redouble infection prevention efforts now, or face a "very sharp and intense peak" in new COVID-19 cases that would likely lead to a return of national lockdowns. "I know this isn't the news that any of us wanted to hear. And we can't change today's numbers or even tomorrow's --



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivers his address to the nation in the evening after the speech from the throne from his West Block office, Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (cbc news)

those were already decided by what we did, or didn't do, two weeks ago. But what we can change is where we are in October, and into the winter," Trudeau said.

He went on to say that it's likely Canadians won't be gathering for Thanksgiving, but that "we still have a shot at Christmas."

"Together, we have the power to get this second wave under control," he said.

Trudeau implored Canadians to wear masks in public, get the flu shot this fall, and download the government's COVID Alert app that notifies users when they have come into contact with someone who has

tested positive for the virus.

"This is the time for all of us as Canadians, to do our part for our country, as government does its part for you," he said.

Responding to Trudeau's declaration of a second wave, CTV Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Abdu Sharkawy said that he thinks we're "very much there."

"We have seen that the numbers are rising disproportionate to the number of tests that are being done, and we've seen a consistent trend of community transmission that has been uncontrolled now for some time. And it's evidenced by people in my emergency room and in my ICU," Dr. Sharkawy said, adding that addressing the current testing backlogs and delays seen in some regions need to be rectified as soon as possible if Canada is to get this new spike in cases under control.

Trudeau's national remarks came just a few hours after Gov. Gen. Julie Payette delivered the minority government's speech from the throne

See Page 4 Second Covid 19 wave

COVID-19 infections in Philippines rise to 294,591

Gaea Katreena Cabico (Philstar.com) - September 23, 2020 - 4:54pm

MANILA, Philippines — The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the Philippines increased to 294,591 Wednesday as the Department of Health reported more than 2,000 infections.

The DOH logged 2,833 additional cases, of which 80% got infected within the last two weeks.

Forty-three percent of the new cases came from Metro Manila (1,222), followed by Cavite (228), Negros Occidental (206), Batangas (143) and Bulacan (141).

The Philippines still has the most number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia despite enforcing one of the world's longest and strictest coronavirus lockdowns.

The department also registered 765 additional recoveries, taking the total number of people who got well to 231,373.

But 44 more deaths related to COVID-19 were logged, raising the toll

to 5,091. Of the new deaths, 23 were from virus epicenter Metro Manila, six from Calabarzon and five from Western Visayas.

Active infections stood at 58,127 Wednesday.

More than 3.25 million people have been tested for the disease in the country.

Duterte: All nations should get access to COVID-19 vaccines

In his first speech before the United Nations General Assembly, President Rodrigo Duterte described the coronavirus pandemic as the "biggest test to the world and the United Nations faced since World War II."

"The invisible enemy that is COVID-19 has brought about an unfamiliar global landscape and unleashed a crisis without precedent," Duterte said.

The chief executive pointed out that universal access to anti-COVID-19 technologies and products is essential in recovery from the pandemic.



President Rodrigo Duterte virtually addresses the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on September 22, 2020, in New York. Presidential Communications/Screengrab

"When the world finds that vaccine, access to it must not be denied nor withheld. It should be made available to all, rich and poor nations alike, as a matter of policy," he said.

Duterte has repeatedly said in his speeches that the country's return to normalcy rests on the availability of

a COVID-19 vaccine.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 968,000 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December. More than 31.48 million cases have been registered.



From the Publisher's desk

Adapting to the new normal

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

era: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Overcoming our fears of getting the virus requires our vigilance and reliance on getting proper guidance and information from our medical authorities as well as helping disseminate accurate information to others. Let us not create panic nor downplay the danger of the virus. If we observe the safety protocols recommended, we are not only helping ourselves but also protecting others - our family, friends, and neighbors.

It may seem odd that we have to wear a mask when in a store, bus, shopping mall, and other places, both indoors and outdoors, if we are among a crowd but this is the best way to protect ourselves according to Dr. Robert Redfield, CDI director. We are not surrendering our rights but we are showing that we care and we want everyone else to be safe.

To survive this pandemic, we need to believe we shall overcome whatever happens as long as we keep ourselves safe for while there is life, there is hope. As the popular singer John Lennon said: "Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."

During these pandemic times, life has become uncertain and difficult. It is important to find ways to keep our hopes up and our faith that things cannot get any worse and that there are opportunities to discover amidst the bleak economic situation. As Fred Rogers said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." There are people who have become creative and developed a new hobby because of having more time in their hands, and also discovered that they have found joy in staying close to their family while they are in quarantine.

Although the world has known other types of pandemic, it is said that Covid 19 is the first of its kind in 100 years. We are living in a new normal, and we must therefore expect that there may be drastic changes that we must accept in order to move forward, and make the best of everything but most of all, overcome our fears. A quote from Marie Curie's famous words seems to be very relevant to our current

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Councilor Rotrand's Newsletter

City Budget 2021

The Government of Quebec has refused Valérie Plante's demand to allow Montreal to deficit spend. I can only assume that Minister Andree Laforest, like many Montreal Councillors, received many alarmed calls and emails from citizens opposed to giving the Mayor's spendthrift administration the right to spend even more. The Minister insists that, as per the long established law, Montreal must adopt a balanced budget.

Elected in 2017, Ms. Plante's Projet Montréal Party has ballooned Montreal's budget increasing spending by over a billion dollars. The rate of spending has been triple inflation. That has seen annual hikes to municipal tax bills, already high compared to other Canadian cities, and spurred rent increases for tenants as well. Despite all that spending, the municipality also borrowed heavily for capital projects, with many questionable priorities such as bicycle expressways forcing the City to assume a record debt. The province's position will now force some painful choices on Plante. The budget process for 2021 begins soon. Expect more tax hikes accompanied by service cuts - and, still, probably more bicycle expressways. I will send an update when the budget arrives in City Council.

Recently the City conducted an on-line survey as to what citizens want to see in next year's budget. The survey was criticized in the media as highly slanted and misleading, with questions framed in such a way as to justify choices the City was attempting to promote. Worse still, the Plante administration refused to publish an English version. I note that many residents contacted the City Ombudsman to complain.

Black Coalition of Quebec -

After 42 years as President of one of our city's principal organizations working to promote civil rights and racial equality, Dan Philip has retired. On August 25, City Council adopted my motion recognizing Mr. Philip's leadership and contribution to making Quebec a better place. The Coalition's new President, Max Stanley Bazin, pledges to continue the struggle against racial profiling and indicates the organization will remain vigilant in identifying and denouncing discrimination and inequality.

Voting By Mail

While City Council adopted my motion for a study of allowing a vote by mail option for the November 7, 2021 municipal election as a health measure against COVID and as a means to boost voter participation, the Commission hearing the matter, dominated by Mayor Plante's party, came back with an ambivalent report, neither fully accepting nor outright rejecting this possibility.

Voting by mail will play a major role in this year's United States Presidential elections. It is anticipated that the USA will see a record number of ballots cast this way as both Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State make it easier to

use mail-in as an alternative to traditional in-person voting. Canada's Chief Electoral Officer has written me to confirm that he also will be expanding voting by mail and may indeed ask Parliament for new legislation. In response to my queries, several provincial Ministers of Municipal Affairs have informed me that their provinces already allow voting by mail at the municipal level. The system is safe, secure and proven to be fraud-free as it is exceedingly well controlled.

Montreal, however, won't be allowing the system unless Quebec decides in favour. That's the essence of what the City Commission has concluded while recognizing that voting by mail certainly reduces the risks of the spread of COVID. I can assure you that my work on this important file will continue.

Queen Mary Road

Despite the observation by our Borough civil servants that a bus lane would compromise too much parking and impact merchants already seeing a decline in business due to COVID, the Plante administration is intending to push ahead with such a bus lane this autumn. This is despite the fact that COVID has seen transit ridership plummet to record low levels. I have asked for a one year moratorium to allow the street to regain its economic vitality but so far there has been no response from the administration.

Incidentally, my demands made in 2018, and repeated since, that Queen Mary be repaved if it could not be admitted into a program for commercial artery revitalization has been rebuffed. Under Mayor Coderre the City upgraded Victoria, Van Horne and de la Savane, all highly appreciated improvements. Under Mayor Plante, there have been no major projects aimed at our streets in the Borough. As you have no doubt observed, funding goes instead to bicycle paths. Queen Mary is Snowdon's main shopping street and it needs re-investment. The City's current financial situation more or less precludes anything in 2021 but I am hopeful that a change in administration could see funds budgeted for Queen Mary for 2022 or 2023.

Place Names

The City has followed up on my consultation of residents in 2016 for new place names for green spaces in the Triangle district. The City Place Name Commission accepted my proposal to name the new park in this new residential area for philanthropist Saidye Bronfman and the green walkway linking the area to the Namur metro for Yolene Jumelle. As well there has been work to respond to my motions to attribute place names in Montreal for Elie Wiesel and Warren Allmand. Some good news will be made public soon.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones good health as our summer ends and best wishes for a safe autumn season.

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Rivalries challenge UN as it marks 75 years since founding



September 22, 2020 AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

World leaders came together, virtually, on Monday to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, as the coronavirus pandemic and economic disruption challenge the effectiveness and solidarity of the organisation that was set up after the horrors of World War II. Millions of people were forced into lockdown and economies were devastated as COVID-19 began to spread around the globe earlier this year. Now, some countries find themselves facing a second wave and the 193-member UN has struggled to assert itself in the face of a distrustful United States, an assertive China and a growing rivalry between the two.

On its own website to mark the anniversary, the UN said the event was

in the video he recorded for the meeting. They were included in a longer statement that the Chinese UN mission said was submitted to the world body.

China has portrayed itself as the chief cheerleader for multilateralism after US President Donald Trump's disregard for international cooperation led to Washington abandoning global deals on climate and Iran, and leaving the UN Human Rights Council and the World Health Organization (WHO).

'Reasons for concern'

Trump was listed as the first speaker among member states on the UN's agenda for the event. Instead, it was US Acting Deputy Representative to the UN, Cherith Norman Chalet, who spoke in the General Assembly hall.

The world body had in many

and international cooperation.

"Our shared home is in disarray. Our foundations are crumbling," French President Emmanuel Macron told the assembly. "Wars of annexation, chemical weapons use, mass detention are all occurring with impunity," he continued. "Our international system is held hostage by rivalries. It is being weakened by its inability to prosecute individuals responsible for these abuses."

But Trump chose the moment of the UN's anniversary to impose sanctions on Iran for violating a UN arms embargo and demanded enforcement by US allies, despite his decision in 2018 to unilaterally withdraw the US from the six-power agreement. Allies says he has no authority to make such demands.

Reform calls

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the pandemic had exposed the world's fragilities. We can only address them together. Today we have a surplus of multilateral challenges and a deficit of multilateral solutions," he said. "No one wants a world government - but we must work together to improve world governance."

UN's 'global ceasefire' resolution falters

The 15-member Security Council took months to back a call by

Guterres for a global ceasefire - to allow countries to focus on fighting COVID-19 - as a result of bickering between China and the US.

Several leaders called for reform of the UN and the Security Council in particular, arguing it was unfair that the US, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom were the only permanent veto-wielding powers.

"A council structure that leaves the fate of more than seven billion people to the mercy of five countries is neither fair nor sustainable," Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. The one-day special event on Monday took place ahead of the annual meeting of world leaders at the UN, which starts on Tuesday. No presidents or prime ministers will be physically present in New York because of the pandemic and all statements have been prerecorded for broadcast in the General Assembly hall.

The UN was created after World War II when countries decided to come together to prevent another such conflict. While there has not been a war of that scale since, leaders adopted a statement on Monday acknowledging "moments of disappointment".

"All this calls for greater action, not less," the statement said.



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

taking place at a "time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts".

The coronavirus has intensified long-simmering tensions between the US and China. Washington accuses Beijing of a lack of transparency over the outbreak, which began in the Chinese central city of Wuhan late last year.

In an apparent swipe at Washington, China's President Xi Jinping said on Monday: "No country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others, or keep advantages in development all to itself. Even less should one be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world. Unilateralism is a dead end." Xi's remarks were not

ways proven to be a "successful experiment", she said, but added that there were "also reasons for concern".

"The United Nations has for too long been resistant to meaningful reform, too often lacking in transparency, and too vulnerable to the agenda of autocratic regimes and dictatorships," she said.

Al Jazeera's diplomatic correspondent James Bays said Trump's absence raised eyebrows.

"People are asking whether this was a deliberate snub or an indication of how important the US feels the UN is in its priority list," he said, speaking from outside the UN headquarters in New York City.

Other leaders spoke of the need for countries to work together on issues such as climate change and the pandemic, and lamented the rivalries that were undermining the UN

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From Page 1 Second Covid 19 wave

in which the federal Liberals promised to keep financially supporting Canadians through what's shaping up to be a fall resurgence of the virus, while repairing the inequalities the pandemic has exposed.

The prime minister also took this opportunity to personally pitch his government's economic and social response and rebuilding plan to Canadians. According to his prepared remarks shared with reporters in advance of his address, Trudeau will also soon touch on the measures his government has and will continue to take to aid out of work and ill Canadians in the months ahead.

"The federal government will have your back, whatever it takes, to help you get through this crisis," referencing the 9 million people who used the Canada Emergency Response Benefit which is now being transitioned into a modified Employment Insurance program, as well as the employees who were hired back because their employers accessed the emergency wage subsidy program that is now being extended until next summer.

This evening address is different than the more than 80 morning addresses to the nation that the prime minister held between mid-March and late June, where day after day he unveiled billions of dollars in aid to Canadians out of work, struggling businesses, and to procure personal protective equipment, test kits, and vaccines.

Though, he did have a similar tone, in imploring a team-Canada effort to fight the virus' spread.

"There are many days to go before we get to the other side of this, but there are also many of us to get us there, so long as we each remember to do our part, and I know that we will," Trudeau said.



Governor General Julie Payette, middle, looks on with Chief of Defence Staff Vance, left, and Prime Minister Trudeau as the Usher of the Black Rod leaves to summon the HoC to come listen to the throne speech in the Senate chamber on Sept. 23, 2020. (Adrian Wyld/CP)

'MUST REMAIN EXTREMELY VIGILANT': O'TOOLE

The three main opposition parties addressed the nation following Trudeau's comments, offering up their own words of encouragement about diligently keeping up the recommended public health measures, as well as launching political attacks on the Liberals' response.

Both Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole and Bloc Quebecois Leader Yves-Francois Blanchet delivered their remarks from self-isolation as they and their spouses have contracted COVID-19.

"The situation facing my family shows that we must remain extremely vigilant in our battle against COVID-19," said O'Toole before pivoting to a wide-spanning speech on his policy

proposals and panning the federal government for not yet approving rapid testing systems.

Blanchet spoke about where the Liberals have fallen short on supports for seniors, and said his caucus wants to see increased federal health transfers to the provinces.

"I know that you're worried," said NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh in his response. "I know that you're worried about your kids going to school. I know you're worried about paying the bills. I know you're worried about your jobs. I know you're worried about your loved ones and our elders in long-term care homes, and you're seeing the numbers rising and you're worried about a second wave," he continued, promising to push the government to do more to address Canadians' resurging health and economic

concerns.

In an interview with CTV News Chief Anchor and Senior Editor Lisa LaFlamme, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland defended the dual dose of federal messaging on Wednesday, saying that it's a key time for the government to deliver the message that COVID-19 still presents a real threat to the country.

"Ultimately, the way that we will all stop COVID, the way we will flatten the curve, is by each one of us personally doing the right thing. And that means limit your social interactions... wear a mask... wash your hands, socially distance."

Quebec's second COVID-19 wave presents new challenges, and they're daunting

Benjamin Shingler · CBC News ·
Posted: Sep 23, 2020 4:00 AM ET |
Last Updated: September 23

As case numbers increase, will the province be able to answer them?

In the spring, at the height of the first COVID-19 wave, Quebec struggled to control the coronavirus as it swept through the province's ill-equipped network of long-term care homes.

As the province went into lockdown, the vast majority of the deaths were among elderly people in care, while the general population saw far lower rates of transmission and hospitalization.

The contrast prompted Premier Francois Legault to remark, not without controversy, that the virus had created "two separate worlds": one inhabited by the residents of long-term care homes and the other by the rest of society.

This time around, with the virus already spreading in the



A COVID-19 screener administers a nasal swab at a drive-through COVID-19 testing centre in Longueuil, Que. (Ivanoh Demers/CBC)

community and the province reluctant to institute a second large-scale lockdown, the challenges are multiple and wide-ranging.

On the plus side, there are more resources on hand to fight off the pandemic. Provincial health authorities

have implemented tighter infection-control protocols and 10,000 new patient attendants were brought in to address the worker shortage in CHSLDs.

But a new problem presents itself: How do you keep things open

while COVID-19 is spreading in the community?

More crucially, is Quebec up to the task?

"It will really be something different," said Dr. Karl Weiss, who heads the infectious diseases department at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital, where there has been a recent surge in hospitalizations related to COVID-19.

"What we will have is outbreaks everywhere. We will have outbreaks in schools, we will have outbreaks in bars, associated with private parties, religious gatherings."

As a result, Weiss said, the challenge will be in ensuring these outbreaks are quickly controlled.

"There will be a lot more problems in managing, for example, schools," he said on the Radio-Canada program *Tout un matin*. "If there's an outbreak in a school, should the parent go to work? If they do, will they infect others?"

Health-care network feeling the strain

This week has provided evidence of what Weiss is talking about.

See Page 9 Quebec's second

Canada's daily new COVID-19 cases have tripled in past month

Colin Perkel The Canadian Press
TORONTO — A dramatic tripling of daily new cases of COVID-19 in the past month, mostly among young people, has prompted the prime minister to declare the arrival of the second wave of the pandemic and that Canadians likely won't be able to gather for Thanksgiving.

"In our four biggest provinces, the second wave isn't just starting, it's already underway," Justin Trudeau said Wednesday evening in a rare television address to the nation.

'We have room' in hospitals, Dubé says, as two more regions are put on orange alert

"We're on the brink of a fall that could be much worse than the spring."

Trudeau said Canadians can't do anything to change the numbers now, or even tomorrow.

"But what we can change is where we are in October, and into the winter," he said.

"It's all too likely we won't be gathering for Thanksgiving, but we still have a shot at Christmas."

Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, said the country had seen an average of more than 1,100 new cases of the novel coronavirus a day this past week compared with about 380 a day in mid-August.

"Canada is at a crossroads with the



People line up to be tested for COVID-19 at a testing centre in Toronto on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denette

COVID-19 epidemic trajectory," Tam said before Trudeau's address. "Unless public health and individual protective measures are strengthened and we work together to slow the spread of the virus, the situation is on track for a big resurgence in a number of provinces."

While the new cases were primarily among young adults, more than 400 schools in Quebec and another 153 in Ontario reported at least one case of the illness. The figures from the group COVID Ecoles Quebec and the Ontario government came as authorities seek ways to curb the

spread of COVID-19 among younger people.

Data from Ontario show cases among those in their 20s have risen sharply in the past month, with one expert attributing the increase in part to the reopening of schools and universities.

In an effort to tackle the problem, several provinces, cities and universities have warned of stiff fines for violating anti-COVID restrictions. However, Quebec said it would not allow police to enter homes without a warrant to break up gatherings that

violate the measures.

The worrisome upward trend in new cases came as the federal Liberal government laid out its plan to take on the second wave.

"To prevent small clusters from becoming major outbreaks, communities may need to enact short-term closure orders," the government said in its throne speech.

Stringent lockdowns in the spring caused unprecedented economic disruption, prompting the government to spend tens of billions of dollars on supports as unemployment skyrocketed.

The throne speech promised, among other things, an extension of the federal wage-subsidy program until next summer, more aid for businesses and help to boost testing capacity. People in various cities have waited for hours or even days for virus testing. Safety concerns led a hospital in Kitchener, Ont., to close its drive-thru testing centre as people arrived in the wee hours.

In all, COVID-19 has killed about 9,250 people in Canada, while the cumulative case count has been edging toward the 150,000 mark.

Quebec, with more than 69,000 cases, accounts for about 48 per cent of the total cases but 63 per cent of the deaths. Ontario's more than 48,000 reported cases account for 33 per cent nationally, and 31 per cent of fatalities.

On Wednesday, Quebec reported 471 new cases. Another four reported deaths from the novel

See Page 6 Canada's daily

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

By Fely Rosales-Cariño



Editha Fedalizo

Yay, it's fall! If you take a drive along Lakeshore Boulevard, you start to notice the subdued and calm waters. Soon, multi-colored leaves start to appear. Or, am I dreaming through my sunglasses? Or, am I daydreaming too much too soon? Hope springs eternal, so they say.

For the next minutes, get ready to sit in your favorite chair with plenty of chips, peanuts, two soft drinks, three cups of coffee, or five bottles of beer! (Ha! Be sober! Don't fall asleep! Don't snore!). You can't be interrupted. You can't receive calls. You can't visit the powder room. Prepare to be comfortable for I'm taking you along for a ride as we go through the rose-colored life of Ms. EDITHA FEDALIZO, the North American Filipino Star's PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH of September 2020).

Here we go. Edith was born in San Narciso, Zambales, Philippines. She remembers her early upbringing was greatly influenced by her late mother, Mrs. Juliana Bernardino Fedalizo, who exposed her to music by bringing her to church not only for worship, but also to encourage her to participate in church activities such as choir, plays, drama etc. Since her mother was quite sickly, she decided to choose a profession in health care. After high school, she took up nursing and finished her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Mary Johnston College of Nursing in Manila.

After graduation, she briefly joined the faculty of her school and served as a clinical nursing instructor. Not long after, she heard of a popular advertisement called the Exchange Visitors' Program, which invited doctors and nurses to go abroad and serve for a period of two years. She took this opportunity and worked as a nursing staff at the Rochester Methodist Hospital, Rochester, USA. At the end of

her contract, she (and some colleagues) heard of the 1967 World Expedition that was still on. As a testimony to her good work ethic, she found a job at the Royal Edward Chest Hospital, known as the Montreal Chest Institute (MCI). Very determined, Edith put her heart in everything she did and proved herself as a good worker. First accepted as a staff nurse, she was later promoted as assistant head nurse, then Head Nurse.

In the 1990's during the push from Accreditation Canada for a program for "high quality of care and for risk management across all health care institutions," while still at MCI, she was appointed as the coordinator for Quality Assurance (QA), first in the nursing department, then eventually the QA for the whole hospital. In 1996 during the amalgamation of McGill Affiliated Hospitals towards the establishment of a single health care institution, the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), she became the QA coordinator for the Montreal Neurological Hospital as well. In the midst of a very hectic professional career, an opportunity in music came up. She heard of the Filipino Choir of Montreal that was established in 1985. This later became the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble, sometimes called Panday, who chose her as the coordinator and pianist. Little did she know that this was the beginning of her musical involvement in Montreal. This year, 2020, marks the 35th year of the Panday, the most creative and enriching memory to her.

Five years following her retirement from nursing, an opportunity came to do teaching once again. Besides music, teaching is a passion that she enjoys doing. In this case, it was to teach the practice of being a "personal support worker" as they call it in Ontario and other provinces. In Quebec we call them the "préposé aux bénéficiaires." She said this was very

challenging as the students were actually professionals coming from the Philippines or other countries. These students just wanted a preparatory program that would eventually lead them to greater opportunities in healthcare.

Teaching at Gilmore was not only challenging but fun in a way. Her favorite subject was "Teambuilding" which she and her students turned into workshop opportunities. They were very creative. Together they created scenarios in a healthcare setting by presenting examples of situations during which solutions depended on strategic team efforts. She said that she and her students learned from these workshops.

She taught at Gilmore from 2005 to 2018. Thanks to Zenaida Kharroubi, Gilmore College International's founder and director and to her co-teachers, all Filipino retired nurses, who made their collective experience a memorable and productive one.

With all the accomplishments, awards, and accolades bestowed upon her, both in her nursing profession and in her music career, no one can argue if I vote for her as a musical icon of Montreal. Who else will vote? Ita-as ang kamay! (I raise two hands!)

One can say that Edith's life is already full, but it's not yet finished! Her music still goes on and on and on. We thank you, Edith, and members of the Panday for the priceless enjoyment you bring us during your concerts. Everybody looks forward to being there, in the audience, again and again whenever it is Panday's Showtime, the greatest Filipino musical exhibition in Montreal!

According to Edith, the most memorable experiences that the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble has ever produced are the two concerts presented at the Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, in New York: Aming Handang Musika in 1995 and Kapalaran in 2007. These two concerts presented a fundraising effort to support the establishment at the MUHC. They presented Sing to Health in 2009 and Love in Any Language in 2011. Also etched in her memory was a concert presented at Cinque Salle, Places Des

From Page 5 Canada's daily

coronavirus brought the province's total fatalities to 5,809.

Ontario, which has shown a steady increase in new cases since mid-August, after months of declines, reported 335 new cases Wednesday and another three deaths. Almost 70 per cent of new infections were in people under the age of 40.

Concern is also mounting as more long-term care homes in Ontario, brutally hit by the virus earlier in the year, report outbreaks. Almost 70 per cent of fatalities have been among those aged 80 and older and another 27 per cent were 60 to 79 years of age.

While older people and those with underlying health conditions are more susceptible to severe illnesses from SARS-CoV-2, younger people can spread the disease — often before showing any symptoms.

"When there's so much in the community, it can escalate into the populations with more vulnerability," Dr. Vera Etches, medical officer of health in

Arts. They are Pasko Noon, Pasko Ngayon in commemoration of the 100th year anniversary of Philippine Independence. Last but not the least is the concert staged at the Oscar Peterson Hall, Concordia University, Pasalamat in partnership with the City of Montreal in commemoration of the 375th anniversary of the founding of the City of Montreal.

Awards...awards...of course. The performances of Panday earned the following: The Most Outstanding Filipino Organization in Canada by the Binibining Pilipinas, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; the Banaag Award, a Presidential award from Malacanang Palace in recognition for its humanitarian activities, and in its effort to promote Filipino musical heritage through choral singing. Paul Imperial as musical director and Edith as coordinator and pianist represented the Panday in receiving the award from the then Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines. In her recollection, she also enjoyed the recent award she received from the TWENTY OUTSTANDING FILIPINO ACHIEVERS IN NORTH AMERICA (TOFA). Her Panday musical family accompanied her on her trip. The evening opened with their rendition of the Philippine National Anthem, the Canada National Anthem, and the American National Anthem.

Most recently, Edith joined the Filipino Heritage Committee of Montreal. In the first year, she served as secretary when musical director Paul Imperial was chairman. For sure, there will be more performances in the future for the Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble. Their Filipino songs never cease to thrill the audience and remind us of our beloved Philippines. (The Panday marked its 30th anniversary by producing its 3rd compact disc Hiwaga Ng Pag-Ibig/Mystery of Love) .

Edith, we owe you a debt of gratitude for your loving service to your Filipino community. You make us proud to be your kababayan. We thank the Lord for your gift of music! May your musical legacy continue to beat in the hearts of every Pinoy and Pinay. Mabuhay!!!

Ottawa, one of the harder hit cities, said.

Ontario data indicates new cases among people in their 20s have reached similar levels to those seen among people in their 80s in mid-April. Along with school reopenings, Dr. Brian Ward, a professor of medicine at McGill University, cited bars and parties as key factors, along with a "general sense of invulnerability" among younger people.

"COVID fatigue also clearly plays a role," Ward said.

Winnipeg, for example, accounted for 30 of Manitoba's 42 new cases reported Wednesday, with possible exposures at restaurants, bars and a pub trivia night, the province said.

Trudeau sympathized with Canadians feeling the stress of a second wave, but urged people to be strong.

"Can't will not define us," he said.

"We can bend the curve. We can build a stronger future. We can define the change."

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Sept. 23, 2020.

40 days until the U.S. election: A look at where things stand in Trump vs. Biden

Graham Slaughter CTVNews.ca
Writer

Four years ago, Donald Trump was having a bad week in the polls.

One survey suggested that most Americans feared him becoming president. Another suggested that 60 per cent of registered voters said he doesn't respect "ordinary Americans." In the national horse race, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton was leading in almost every poll.

Fast forward to today, and polls once again suggest Trump is the underdog. But, as the old saying goes, a week is a lifetime in politics, and Trump has a track record of defying pollsters and writing his own political playbook.

And yet, 2020 is not 2016, and the U.S. is in a radically different place than it was four years ago. The pandemic, ongoing unrest over police violence against Black Americans and the possibility of a conservative-majority Supreme Court have made this race one like no other.

Every week until Nov. 3, CTVNews.ca will offer a snapshot of the state of the race for the White House. With 40 days to go, here's a look at where things stand.

WHAT NATIONAL POLLS SAY

Unusually stable. That's how pollsters keep describing the numbers they see from statewide surveys, with Joe Biden holding a sizeable national lead by a larger margin than Hillary Clinton held at this time in 2016.

Biden holds a seven-point lead over Trump, according to Real Clear Politics and The New York Times' Upshot, which analyze national polls and calculate averages. FiveThirtyEight, which weighs polls and other factors such as past voter behaviour, suggests Biden has a roughly three-in-four shot of winning the White House — odds that have barely changed since June.

By this time in 2016, Clinton was leading Trump by about two points, but those numbers swung wildly throughout the campaign. In the end, Clinton won the popular vote by two points but lost the electoral college.

In the coming weeks, keep an eye on how polls react to the upcoming presidential debates. The first will be held next Tuesday, Sept. 29.

BATTLEGROUND STATES

While national polls offer insights into the general mood of the electorate, it's close statewide races that ultimately determine who wins the White House. Florida and Ohio have long been considered bellwethers, but this year, there are several other states in the mix.

Trump won Pennsylvania by less than one point in 2016, an upset win after Democrats carried the state



Joe Biden

for six straight elections. Biden — who was born in the state — is keen to win it back, and recently held a CNN town hall there. Polls suggest Biden holds a marginal but stable lead in Pennsylvania, and Democrats are breaking records with mail-in voting registration. The state's 20 electoral votes could play a decisive role on Nov. 3.

Democrats are also looking to win in Wisconsin, which was reliably Democratic until Trump carried by less than one point in 2016. Clinton notoriously didn't visit the state during her campaign, and — especially after the ongoing unrest in Kenosha, Wis. — Democrats don't want to make the same mistake twice.

Nevada may represent a Democratic weak spot. Trump has held multiple rallies and poured millions of ad dollars into Nevada, a reliably Democratic state that Clinton carried in 2016 and Democrats handily won in the 2018 midterms. But the pandemic has thrown a wrench into traditional door-knocking campaigns by Democrats there.

Four traditionally red states — Arizona, Texas, Georgia and North Carolina — are also highly competitive this election. The Cook Political Report, a non-partisan organization that offers snapshots of the race based on polls, currently lists Arizona as leaning Democrat, Georgia and North Carolina as toss-ups and Texas as "leans Republican."

And there are rumblings among Republicans in Ohio that Trump may be losing his support in the suburbs, with research showing a uniform drop in support across the state. That's important because no Republican has won the White House without Ohio since the modern two-party system began.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Money plays a major role in U.S. politics, and while Trump once held a sizeable lead over Biden in cash-on-hand, Biden has narrowed that gap.

In August, Biden broke records by raising US\$364 million — significantly more than Trump's \$61 million raised in the same month. Biden's campaign also saw a US\$26-



Donald Trump

million boost following the announcement of Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential running mate.

But Trump still holds the advantage. Analysis by NPR suggests Trump and the Republican Party have raised US\$1.33 billion total over Biden and the Democrats' US\$990 million.

Third-party donors could also play a role. Billionaire and former Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg recently committed to spending at least US\$100 million in hopes of pushing Biden to victory in Florida. However, Republicans have expressed confidence that they'll once again win the all-important battleground state, which Trump carried by 1.2 points in 2016.

RBG'S DEATH



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an icon of women's rights in America, and her death has thrown a curveball into the

U.S. election. Trump has indicated that he'll nominate a conservative judge to replace Ginsburg — likely a woman — by Saturday.

Democrats have indicated that they'll challenge the nomination in the Senate, which is responsible for approving justice picks, but the Republican-controlled Senate carries enough votes to push through the vote, barring any defections. The Republicans say they plan to hold a vote before the election.

The appointment of a right-leaning justice would give the U.S. Supreme Court a conservative majority for years to come, an imbalance that some on the left fear could have major implications for issues such as reproductive and LGBT rights.

As for the impact on the race, Ginsburg's death triggered a wave of donations to the Democratic party, with US\$71 million raised in the 24 hours after her death.

THE ENDORSEMENT RACE

Biden has earned the public support of Cindy McCain, the widow of late Republican senator and 2008 presidential nominee John McCain. It's the first time a member of the McCain family has endorsed a Democrat, despite longtime tensions between the family and Trump, who has questioned McCain's military service.

Several former Trump officials have also backed Biden, including a former adviser to U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence who served on the White

House coronavirus task force, a former chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security, and former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci.##

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Industries that are trending during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has swiftly changed the lives of Canadians. Federal and provincial governments have implemented measures to encourage Canadians to stay home and are actively enforcing social distancing. Countless businesses have been forced to close their doors and millions of Canadians have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. Though the economy has been hit hard by these changes, there are some bright spots. Several critical sectors are surging during the pandemic. Here are 10 sectors that are actively hiring right now.

ESSENTIAL RETAIL

In many provinces, non-essential businesses have been forced to close. Essential retailers are the exception; they're staying open so Canadians have access to necessities like groceries, cleaning supplies, pet food, medication and other supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are stocking up on several weeks' worth of essentials to reduce the time they spend outside their home. People are also cooking at home more often following the closure of local restaurants. These changes have led retailers in categories such as grocery and pharmacy to experience incredibly high sales volume during the pandemic. Discount retailers, such as dollar stores, that contain affordable essentials such as food, cleaning supplies and toiletries are also included in this category. You've probably heard on the news about people who are 'panic buying' and huge lineups at grocery stores. Essential retailers have responded to this increase in demand by hiring more cashiers, store clerks, shelf stockers, cleaners, and a variety of other roles.

BANKING AND FINANCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the economy into a tailspin. Thousands of businesses have been forced to close and millions of Canadians have been laid off. Financial markets have plummeted and

rebounded in a vicious cycle as news and announcements about COVID-19 emerge daily. In response to this financial volatility, many Canadians are turning to financial experts to help them secure their financial future, protect their savings, and access financial support. From working with a bank to access financial support, like the mortgage deferrals promised by the federal government, to meeting with an investment specialist to discuss protecting retirement savings or assets such as RRSPs and TSFAs, to understanding how their credit will be affected by lost income, Canadians are turning to financial institutions for support during this time. Financial advisors and customer service professionals with experience in the banking sector are particularly in demand.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Many service businesses have switched to a remote work model and requested that their employees work from home. This puts an incredible amount of pressure on telecommunications companies to provide high-speed residential internet. People who may have been fine with a mobile data plan prior to COVID-19 are setting up home internet to work more effectively. Instead of serving concentrated business networks, service providers must adapt to providing fast, stable and secure internet service to millions of workers spread out over smaller home networks. Networks are also under strain because of social distancing. When

everyone is confined to their home, more internet bandwidth is consumed watching videos, engaging on social media and keeping in touch with friends and family. Some service providers, such as Bell, have announced unlimited internet bandwidth for all residential customers during the pandemic to ease the burden of overage fees. Mobile phone networks are also under strain. With in-person meetings no longer an option, phone calls and video calls are the main way people are staying in touch, so mobile networks are experiencing higher volumes than normal. Workers in customer and IT support, installation, maintenance and repair ensure Canadians are able to access these critical services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Businesses across Canada are shutting down or adopting new ways of operating, so it's a given that their customers will have questions and need support. Customer service workers are in demand as companies in many sectors are responding to an influx of customer questions and concerns. Customers may have questions, need assistance cancelling or suspending their services, placing orders, or otherwise accessing support. From cancelling or rescheduling travel plans with airlines, hotels and other providers in the hospitality industry, to suspending ongoing subscriptions that won't be needed during lockdown, to clarifying questions about item availability, shipping, or other new policies that have been put into effect during the COVID-19 pandemic, customer service workers have their hands full. Call centre agents and supervisors are particularly in demand at this time. Call centre staff can often work remotely, allowing for social distancing. This makes hiring call centre agents an attractive solution for organizations to respond to a surge in customer requests.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the world into a sudden economic depression. According to current estimates, approximately 11% of Canadians are currently unemployed. That number is expected to climb if the pandemic drags on and more businesses scale back. In response, all levels of government have stepped in with policies to support Canadians experiencing hardship. The federal government announced a new expedited benefit to replace Employment Insurance (EI), the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit



(CERB). CERB received over 300,000 submissions within 24 hours of the application portal opening. Provincial governments, which are responsible for administering healthcare and education, are working around the clock to make adjustments and ensure Canadians have access to essential services. Public service workers are needed in areas such as benefits administration, social services, public health, education, and IT development, to ensure that Canadians are able to access critical services and connect with the support they need during this difficult time.

HEALTHCARE

It goes without saying that in the midst of a health crisis, healthcare workers are absolutely critical. Nurses, doctors,

and hospital support staff have been overwhelmed with the spike in patients admitted to hospitals. On a good day, Canada's healthcare system is already under strain. With the added surge of COVID-19 patients over the past few weeks, many of whom require long-term intensive care, hospitals and healthcare facilities are being pushed to their limits. Also compounding the situation is the extended length of time COVID-19 patients stay in hospitals and require access to ventilators; hospitalized COVID-19 patients may require long stays spanning several months in severe cases. Nurses, who are responsible for the day-to-day care of patients, are particularly in demand during this time. Respiratory specialists, physicians, and paramedics are also in demand. Outside of direct patient care, healthcare administrators are also in demand. The huge influx of patients means the volume of administrative tasks such as enrolling patients, updating records, and coordinating with insurance companies has surged as well.

MANUFACTURING

With Canadians stockpiling essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, many products are flying off the shelves and manufacturers are struggling to keep up with demand. We've all heard about the toilet paper shortages that stemmed from early panic buying. Thankfully, government officials stepped in to assure Canadians that there's plenty of toilet paper to go around and anyone who needs it should be able to find it in their local store soon enough. However, there have been plenty of other products that are difficult or impossible to find, such as soap or hand sanitizer. If you've been grocery shopping lately, you've probably noticed lots of bare shelves as people stock up in preparation for an extended lockdown.


Manufacturers in sectors like consumer goods and health supplies are ramping up production to respond to the increase in demand in consumer goods. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies for healthcare workers are also in short supply at this time. The shortages have been so acute that some manufacturers in other sectors are retooling their facilities to produce in demand products (for example: breweries or cosmetic companies retooling to manufacture hand sanitizer, or car parts manufacturers producing ventilators). The surge in demand for consumer goods and healthcare supplies has led to an increase in manufacturing jobs for line workers and supervisors, warehouse workers, manufacturing engineers, and quality control specialists, among others.

ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

Construction has been deemed essential in some provinces, including Ontario, Canada's most populous province. Building sites for projects related to critical infrastructure, healthcare, transit and residential housing remain active. In other provinces, such as Quebec, construction has been halted due to concerns about social distancing. However, for the time being, it's full steam ahead for construction projects in some parts of the country. Shortages of affordable housing have been well-documented in cities such as Vancouver and Toronto. Those shortages show no signs of going away, especially as people shelter in their homes and the number of homes available for sale on the real estate market takes a dive. With more Canadians unemployed in the coming months, affordable housing may become an even more urgent concern. Governments don't

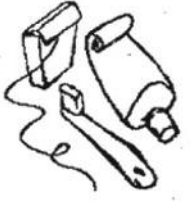
See Page 12 Industries that are trending

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Filipino-Canadian lawyer runs for Centre Member of Parliament nomination

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Ret.

Once anew, the Filipino Canadian community in the Greater Toronto Area is agog and delighted to have a "kababayan" throwing his hat in the political arena. Yes, folks! There is a fresh Filipino Canadian political "kid on the block".

Paul Jonathan Saguil, a 38-year old Filipino Canadian lawyer, is running for the nomination to become the Liberal Member of Parliament Candidate for the Toronto Centre Riding in Toronto, Ontario. He hopes to be the progressive voice for Toronto Centre as well as the Filipinos and other ethnic & minority groups in the Canadian Parliament should he win the Toronto Centre riding nomination and onwards, in the next Federal election by way of either a byelection or a snap election. He is the second MP nomination candidate in Toronto who is a Filipino Canadian lawyer after the candidacy of barrister-solicitor Rafael Fabregas in 2014.

A practising barrister-solicitor in Ontario, Paul Saguil was called to the bar in 2008 by the Law Society of Ontario. Paul is a graduate of the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University in-2007. He received his Bachelor of Arts(Honours)-Philosophy degree from York University in 2004. Paul came to Canada with his parents in 1991 at 9 years of age. Paul completed his high school studies at Chaminade College School in Toronto. He is an openly gay individual and solidly supports BIPOC and queer youths.

His professional background and experience include the practice of law and executive management roles. He is currently the Deputy Head of TD Bank Group's Global Sanctions Compliance and Anti-Bribery/Anti-Corruption Program since December 2019 rising from being the Associate Vice President, Innovation, Governance, and Risk Strategies from November 2016 to December 2016, as Senior Counsel, Disputes and Investigations from January 2016 - October 2016 and Counsel, Litigation December 2012 - December 2015. Formerly, he served as an Associate at Stockwoods LLP in 2008 until 2012 providing legal advice to and



litigating on behalf of individuals, public and private companies, and public and quasi-governmental institutions in regulatory and professional discipline matters, appeals and applications for judicial review, general civil, commercial, and criminal proceedings.

Paul also worked an Adjunct Faculty/Course Instructor in the Internationally-Trained Lawyers Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law May 2011 - August. 2011 and has taught "Foundations of Canadian Law" in a program designed to assist foreign-trained lawyers to qualify for licensing and obtain certification from National Committee on Accreditation of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. He served also in the Federal Court (Canada) from July 2007 -to July 2008 as a Judicial Clerk to the Honourable Justice Michael Phelan and has drafted case summaries and court decisions concerning various legal issues, including regulatory/administrative law, and intellectual property.

A recipient of numerous awards and recognition, Paul as a lawyer and community issues- advocate has been given the recognition for excellence, leadership, community-building and precedent-setting among others by prestigious organizations like the was closer to 8,000.

The increase in cases so far hasn't overwhelmed hospitals, though the number of hospitalizations is on the rise. In the past four days, the total has climbed by 20 per cent, to 168.

Weiss said a bigger increase is only a matter of time.

Limiting the spread among the general population will be key to avoid overwhelming the health-care system.

"Even if it's just one or two per cent of the infected that ends up hospitalized, it's a simple question of mathematics," Weiss said. "One or two per cent of 1,000 or 10,000 is a lot less than one or two per cent of 100,000 or 1,000,000."

There's another factor to consider: fatigue.

When Dubé was asked what's different about the second wave and why it might be harder on the system than the first, he said, "because people are tired, our employees are tired. It was

Ontario Bar Association, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, Canadian Corporate Counsel Association and Precedent Magazine. As a university student, a member of the Dean's Honour Roll and alumnus, he was awarded prizes and cited with distinctions for academic excellence & scholarship, outstanding contribution and exceptional commitment.

Paul Saguil's active involvement in the community includes voluntary- and -advocacy service as a chair or member of the board, corporate secretary or treasurer, with 1) Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, GTA, 2) 519 Community Centre, 3) "Start Proud/Out On Bay Street", 4) Law Society of Ontario Equity Advisory Group, 5) Ontario Justice Education Network and a host of other progressive community action groups.

As a legal scholar and writer, he has published materials in journals and magazines from 2004 to 2013 on topics dealing with diversity, hate speech, hate crime, freedom of speech, common law, ethical lawyering, legal services, statutory interpretations, wrongful conviction lessons, legal ethics concepts, and emotional implications

Paul, from a new beginning in Canada, when his family emigrated here as a child to serve as a lawyer, he was difficult."

"We gave them holidays, but that's not sufficient. I think we need to protect them," he said. "And I think it's like ... when you had a tough situation for a long time, you need, at one point, to see the end of it. And I think we are at the beginning of something that we don't know what will be ... So, I think it's understandable that our resources are tired. That's what is tough." Containing outbreaks

With cases surging and the province's businesses, schools and activities still open, rapid testing and contact tracing become essential.

Carl-Étienne Juneau, who holds a doctorate in public health and is a specialist on the subject, summed it up: "You basically have two choices: if people with the virus stay home and quarantine, then everyone can go out. But if people with the virus go out, then everyone has to stay home."

It won't be easy.

blessed and fortunate. He is also proud of what he has been able to accomplish as a solicitor-barrister, bank executive, community leader and advocate. WFG Senior Executive Vice-Chairman Agnes P. Miranda, a Toronto old-timer and community leader opined that "While the past many years have felt like a lifetime in many political ways, the community must continue to push forward. Whether we are ready for it or not, now is the time again for the community to come together and face the challenges" adding that "this opportunity has given us cause for both reflection and solidarity".

As another well-known community, PIDC Mabuhay Philippines Chair Emerita Norma Carpio said, "We must be grateful for the opportunities that we have had in our lives so far. We need to help and support Paul in his political journey, not only he being a "kababayan" but I believe he is a well-qualified individual to lead and represent our voice in the halls of governance in Canada. We really need to rally and reach out to everyone in the Toronto Centre electoral riding."

The political boundaries of Toronto Centre consist of the parts of East of Yonge & Bay Streets, West of Don Valley & Rosedale Valley, North of Front Street, the Esplanade & Mill Street, and South of Charles & Bloor Streets East. Demographically, Canada Census 2016 showed the riding has a population of 103,805 with Filipinos comprising 5% or 5,190, the sixth-largest ethnic population group and 2.7% are Filipino(Tagalog-based) speaking residents. In the 2019 Federal election, it recorded 83,076 eligible voters of which 66% or 54,896 voted. There are 23.5 % Catholics in the district covering Downtown Toronto, Regent Park, St. Jamestown, Cabbagetown, and Church-Wellesley, the historic LGBTQ2 community. <https://www.elections.ca/res/cir/maps2/mapprov.asp?map=35108&lang=e>

Please visit and register to www.votesaguil.ca. Paul can be reached at info@votesaguil.ca.

In contrast with the spring, when contact between people was limited, public health now sometimes has to track down dozens of people in connection with a single positive case.

Dr. Mylène Drouin, the city's public health director, revealed a troubling statistic on Monday: out of the 500 people they called this past weekend, only one-third picked up.

Dubé estimated last week that, overall, the province has been able to get in touch with roughly 70 per cent of contacts.

That's far below the level experts say is required to contain the spread of the pandemic.

In a recent study, Juneau and his colleagues at Université de Montréal concluded the baseline for effective virus hunting requires reaching at least 80 per cent of people who may have been

From Page 4 Quebec's second

On Tuesday, public health officials said they had logged 75 new outbreaks in the previous 48 hours. The province is now dealing with 250 separate locations where the virus is spreading.

With the virus being transmitted in the community, Health Minister Christian Dubé said exposing health-care workers to illness is perhaps his greatest worry as a second wave gains amplitude.

"Community transmission affects the staff of our health network and puts a lot of pressure on the health-care network," he said, adding that the province is already dealing with a backlog of surgeries and other medical services that had to be put on hold last spring.

As a result, the province has roughly 2,000 open beds for COVID cases; during the first wave, capacity

See Page 13 Quebec's second



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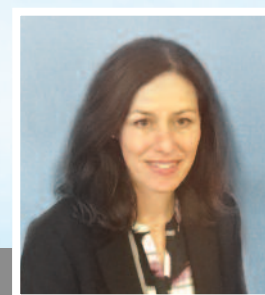
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Easy Beef and Broccoli

INGREDIENTS:

2/3 cup reduced sodium soy sauce
1/2 cup chicken stock
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
2 tablespoons brown sugar, packed
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon sesame oil
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon Sriracha, or more, to taste
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound flank steak, thinly sliced across the grain
1 head broccoli, cut into florets

DIRECTIONS:

In a medium bowl, whisk together soy sauce, chicken stock, honey, vinegar, brown sugar, garlic, sesame oil, cornstarch, Sriracha, ginger, red pepper flakes and 1/4 cup water; set aside.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add steak and cook, flipping once, until browned, about 3-4 minutes.

Stir in broccoli and soy sauce mixture until tender and slightly thickened, about 3-4 minutes.

Serve immediately.



Salmon gourmet recipe

Ingredients
for 2 servings

CREAMY SHALLOT POTATO PUREE

4 tablespoons butter, divided
2 shallots, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup whole milk (120 mL)
1 1/2 teaspoons white pepper
1 teaspoon salt
2 lb yellow potato (905 g), peeled, quartered, and boiled until tender
SAUTÉED VEGETABLES

olive oil, to taste
1 cup porcini mushroom (75 g), trimmed and quartered
1 bunch asparagus, ends trimmed
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
CRISPY SKIN HERB-CRUSTED SALMON

2 skin-on salmon fillets
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
fresh thyme, to taste
olive oil, to taste
2 tablespoons butter, cubed
3 cloves garlic, crushed
Nutrition Info

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Preparation

Make the creamy shallot potato puree: Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a medium pan over medium-high heat. Add the shallots and cook for 3-4 minutes, until softened.

Add the garlic and another tablespoon of butter and continue to cook for another 3-4 minutes, stirring frequently, until the shallots are browned.

Add the milk, white pepper, and salt and stir to incorporate.

Transfer the shallot mixture to a food processor and process until smooth. Mash potatoes in a large bowl. Add the shallot puree and continue to mash until fully incorporated. Set aside.

Make the sautéed vegetables: Heat a drizzle of olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until starting to soften. Push the mushrooms to one side of the pan and add a bit more oil. Add the asparagus and season everything with salt and pepper. Cook for 5

minutes, until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Make the salmon: On a cutting board, cut 4 slits in the salmon skin, roughly 1/4-inch (6 mm) apart and 1/2-inch (12 mm) into the salmon flesh. Season with salt, pepper, and thyme leaves. Heat a drizzle of olive oil in a medium pan over medium-high heat. Add the salmon, skin-side down. Cook for 3-4 minutes, or until a lighter pink color has reached 1/3-1/2 of the way up the side of the salmon.

Flip the salmon and immediately add the butter, garlic, and a few sprigs of thyme. Stir the garlic and thyme around the pan to infuse the flavors and spoon the butter over the salmon for 2 minutes more, until the salmon is cooked through. Remove the salmon from the pan.

Add the potato puree to plates and top with the sautéed vegetables and salmon.

Enjoy!



**Forgotten Jambalaya
(Chicken with shrimps)**

From Page 8 Industries that are trending

have the option to postpone building much-needed homes or infrastructure without causing a ripple effect that leads to greater problems in the future. As a result, a variety of construction, engineering and architecture jobs remain in demand in some areas.

TECHNOLOGY AND IT

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadians have been spending a lot of time indoors and on the internet, both for work and leisure. Social media, mobile apps, video conferencing, websites, online ordering systems and a variety of other digital channels are experiencing extremely high volumes as people turn to online channels to buy things and connect with others, while limiting in-person interactions. To operate smoothly, online tools and platforms require the skills and expertise of developers and other IT professionals, especially as user volumes surge. Many businesses are scrambling to ramp up their development teams to increase the capacity of their online ordering systems and troubleshoot issues that arise during the crisis. Having functional, user-friendly digital channels is especially critical right now as they offer retailers and other businesses a much-needed source of revenue while their physical locations are closed. Other IT specialties have also been in high demand due to remote work considerations. With a large portion of the Canadian workforce migrating to working from home, help desk, networking and data security professionals have been working around

During chilly months, this slow cooker jambalaya recipe is so easy...just chop the vegetables, dump everything in the slow cooker and forget it! But it's delicious.

Ingredients

1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (14-1/2 ounces) beef or chicken broth
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
3 celery ribs, chopped
2 medium green peppers, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
5 garlic cloves, minced
3 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
2 teaspoons dried basil
1-1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
1-1/4 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 pound smoked sausage, halved and cut into 1/4-inch slices
1/2 pound uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
Hot cooked rice

Directions

In a 5-qt. slow cooker, combine the tomatoes, broth and tomato paste. Stir in the celery, green peppers, onion, garlic, seasonings and pepper sauce. Stir in chicken and sausage. Cover and cook on low for 2 hours or until chicken is no longer pink. Stir in shrimp. Cover and cook 15-30 minutes longer or until shrimp turn pink. Serve with with the hot cooked rice.

the clock to ensure everyone is able to access the tools they need and work from home securely.

NEWS AND PUBLISHING

COVID-19 updates and news have dominated the newscycle for weeks now. There seems to be an endless stream of information and updates that the public needs to know about. Whether it's updates on best practices for social distancing, new government programs to support unemployed workers, or updates on the world economy, news organizations play a critical role in distributing information to the public. Both traditional news and digital media are making sure that people have the information they need to stay safe during the pandemic. Traditional media such as television news and newspapers are critical to reach older generations, while digital publications and social media reach younger people. In most provinces, government officials at all levels of government have been giving daily press briefings, updating the public on the latest measures they've implemented to protect residents. News organizations and digital publishers must stay on top of this 24-hour newscycle. The constant turnover of information requires a variety of skill sets and creates opportunities for reporters, editors, fact checkers, video production staff, web and IT specialists, among many others.

Source: Randstad



Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Cariño

Hello! How fleeting time is. It is like an unstoppable downward rush of the rapids, isn't it? We are now in the last gasp of summer and a week or two from now, fall will come-a-calling. We might as well start digging deep to find where you stashed your fall gears. My brother Nonol Rosales, wife Nina, their children and their families (who reside in Calgary, Alberta) said that this year's snow debut happened recently, September 6 to be exact. They said they are always on the ready because the whims of snow are unpredictable. Imagine, snow in September in Calgary! Snow there is concentrated in a beautiful resort called Banff Resort, an hour's drive from their place. Banff is a mountainous ridge resembling a descending rows of trees, usually the first to receive snowflakes. This is a picture perfect resort which I urge everyone to visit. Does this sound like a commercial? Yes, because I can't resist the memory of the majestic view when I was teaching there. I can't count how many times I've visited the place. If given the chance, I'd go visit again!

And here we go again. Despite the pandemic interlude, my social calendar does not relent. First in my calendar is the picnic that Quebec Association of Filipino Canadian Teachers (QACFT) President Bing Estopa and her board planned for August 29, 2020. It was to be held at Saint Malachy Park near Decarie Boulevard. But we were all informed that in case of uncooperative weather, we should proceed to another venue – Lilia Esguerra's school, also along Decarie Blvd. Well, the place was spacious, bright, and complete with tables and chairs. It was big enough to accommodate the five tables of food laden with native Filipino dishes of which lechon (roast pork) was the center of attraction. Around lunchtime, while waiting for the others to arrive (Filipino time), past QAFCT President Joseph Gonzalez tried to convince us

that he can sing! After belting a few songs karaoke style, the crowd's verdict: he can really sing! After a staggered lunch, Arthur Javellonar urged everyone to join him in his modern (but very graceful) tiktok style of dancing. Alas, no one could join. Everyone was not in a position to move, much less dance! QAFCT apologized to Cely Dagsaan who arrived late with her potluck because she couldn't find any parking space. Kennedy Estopa was quite late too because of some errands. We had so much fun that Bing Estopa even forgot her single agenda - the renewal of membership. Members were asking, "When is the next event?" Abangan ang susunod na kabanata.

Two weeks ago, Minda Mazzone, the President of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Association of Quebec (FFCAQ), took her troops to the great outdoors. They went to Laramée, Quebec, near the US border. They rented three power boats and Lucy Salazar reported that they couldn't stop laughing when one of the guys fell backwards while trying to reach the place. Who could it be? Was it Fred Narvas? Nicco Mazzone? Robin Hunter? Felix Salazar? Al Abdon? Your guess is as good as mine. They went fishing but they confessed that they didn't catch any, ha ha!

Buklod, Programming Pagtiti-bay ng Pamilyang Pilipino, is soon to open its doors. Minda Mazzone and Lourdes Fabia are spearheading this movement in collaboration with the Black community of Montreal. Here is an example where the Buklod can help needy families. Maria and her family moved to Montreal last July. Maria, waiting for the registration for Buklod's assistance, called FFCAQ through Minda and asked for help. So Minda and other FFCAQ officers went to work and delivered an assortment of school supplies. The Buklod Workshop will soon give out its schedule. Watch for it.

Likewise, the Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao, Kalinga (BIBAK) organization had a picnic at MacKenzie King Park along Cote St. Catherine, Montreal last August 29, 2020. Everyone enjoyed the sudden burst of sunshine. The day was spent mostly eating as everyone expected. After a lengthy lunch hour, everybody stood up and started singing their traditional songs. Later on, they also danced to their own kind of rhythmic music. Thanks to the enthusiasm exhibited by the officers led by Angie Talig-an, BIBAK President. Those who enjoyed the sounds and sights of BIBAK culture were Delima, Lourdes and Asuncion Fagsao, Geraldine, Arnel, Fely Juan, George Menzi, Maria Olivo, Rolly Maday-a, Jennifer Martin, Susan Juan, Flor Barcena, Esther Silteau, Ruthlyn Laoyan, Joyce Segundo, Rey Belloza, Margarita Patinlag, Rolante and Lucia Javinier. Trans Liganor, past QAFCT President, and yours truly were also in attendance.

"A moment of bonding," declared Sir Gerry Danzil when asked about the party invitation at Sir James & Lady Rose de la Paz's residence, "a get-together, barkada style!" Though the weather was slightly uncooperative, eating at the front porch gave it the ambiance of an outdoor picnic and was just as fun. It was even better than a picnic because we were surrounded with 3 big bowls of roses and other huge flowers. Bongga! Though a bit cool, we still enjoyed James' cooking. He must have spent the whole day preparing! There was so much food that the feast could have easily fed 20 people. Those who appreciated the gourmet presentation were Sir Dario Boco & Lady Claire, Sir Gerry Danzil & Lady Linda, Sir Boy Galang & Lady Annie, Lady Cherry Palmos and yours truly. We just spent that time eating together and telling nice stories while the boys were having their usual green jokes. It was really a pleasant evening to remember! Thank you, Sir James and Lady Rose! It is a unanimous decision – a chef is born!!!

Coming from Al Abdon, Chairman of the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM), these are the following updates that directly help seniors. First is Computer Retention for Seniors, a computer literacy project using tablets. Devices will be loaned to students during the course, and the instruction will be virtual. Second is

Covid-19 Lockdown Activities for seniors. This coming month, Chairman Al Abdon will start a new project called LA VILLE EXTRAORDINAIRE in partnership with Dr. Cynthia Hammond of Concordia University.

During the lockdown, there was also the AYUDA project of FHSM which was recently completed. The Pasaway members who participated (Rebecca Aguilar, Dolly Arjona, Dolly Belandres, Fely Bisares, Eppie Gevero, Nancy Karides, Trinidad Jimenez, , Minda Mazzone, Fely Rosales-Carino, and Elma Bolatao) revealed their culinary expertise in cooking for either lunch or supper. Everyone had the opportunity to showcase their own favorite recipe. Thankfully, Al & wife Cora's express delivery was eagerly anticipated every Tuesday or Wednesday, much to the delight of all members!

An update from Snowdon Councilor Marvin Rotrand. After the hard work of initiating and proposing a new basketball court at Mackenzie King Park, it is now officially open. Rotrand said, "Basketball is an extremely popular sport in the neighborhood. The new court will be part of the improvement to MacKenzie King Park that began last year with the creation of Place Jose Rizal and will continue next year with the construction of a chalet." The Filipino community and other ethnic communities whose kids live nearby are very thankful to Councilor Rotrand! Thank you so much, Marvin!

An update from MP Anthony Housefather. He announced the launch of the 2020-2021 New Horizons for Seniors program, a community-based project. Senior organizations are invited to apply for funding by getting in touch with Sonny Moros, Coordinator, Office of MP Anthony Housefather. Community-based projects are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in grant funding. Funds are set aside for small grants of up to \$5000 for organizations that have not received funding from the program in the past five years. These are the priorities: Support healthy aging, prevent elder abuse and fraud, combat ageism, celebrate diversity and promote inclusion, improve seniors' access to government services & benefits and adapt community-based organizations to a more virtual environment.

God Bless us all. May He help us stay safe, stay well and stay hopeful!!!

From Page 7 Quebec's second

exposed.

Juneau said there are two main problems with testing and tracing that need to be quickly addressed.

"It's too slow and we're not reaching enough people," he said on Daybreak.

The government needs to quickly improve its approach, Juneau added, whether it be through additional staff to make calls, putting more resources into testing or introducing a contract tracing app.

"People have a responsibility and I would say the government has one, too," he said. "If you feel sick, you need to go get tested. And pick up the phone."

It's not a coincidence Dubé put out a public call Tuesday for more



Most Montreal schools started in late August. Montreal remains the most affected region with 81 schools having at least one case of COVID-19. (Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press)

people to join the contact tracing effort. **Clear messaging needed**

Public health experts agree messaging takes on added importance in a second wave, when the directives

are more nuanced than simply "stay home."

The challenge has been relaying the new restrictions, even as schools, businesses and workplaces

open up.

"There's a danger when the rules are not clear," said Kim Lavoie, a professor of psychology in behavioural medicine at the Université du Québec à Montréal. "If it's not obligatory, then people seem to think it's not as important."

For example, the shifting rules for private gatherings (currently a limit of six, or two households) have been a source of confusion.

Dubé acknowledged as much. He said the province will make adjustments but that the public, as well, "will need to make sacrifices."

If both of those things don't come off smoothly, Quebec could soon find itself in a situation where more and deeper sacrifices are required.

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Angelica recalls breakdown after coming home from Dubai shoot at the height of pandemic



Angelica Panganiban

Angelica Panganiban admitted that, just like most people, she had cried a lot and had experienced “dark times” as she tried to adjust to life in quarantine. To calm herself during one panic attack episode, the actress said she had called up her bosses in the middle of the night.

During the recent virtual media gathering for her new digital show “#AskAngelica,” the 33-year-old actress and social media celebrity said she first experienced anxiety attacks after undergoing a two-week quarantine in early March.

“I had just returned from Dubai after a (film) shoot with Coco (Martin). We came home at the height of the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine). I had no food in my house. I also knew very little about the pandemic,” she began. “It helped that Ketchup (Eusebio, fellow actor) spent his two-week quarantine in my house. I was glad I wasn’t alone, but I experienced a breakdown shortly after he left. It was because I was worried for my safety. I was like, ‘If I get the virus, do I die immediately?’

“I called up my bosses in the middle of the night because I

needed answers. I wanted to know who was responsible for us (in case we got infected) since they were the ones who sent us to Dubai for work. Will they pay for us to get tested? Who will look after my mental health?”

Angelica said she eventually calmed down when she was able to speak to doctors, who explained to her how she could effectively avoid getting infected by COVID-19. “They said it’s safer to not go out of the house unless it’s really necessary. I then regarded the lockdown as a form of vacation, since I’ve been working nonstop for 28 years. I thought I also needed to rest.”

Lockdown projects

It turned out that Angelica didn’t rest for long. Shortly after, she was tapped by filmmaker and ABS-CBN creative department head Olivia Lamasan to work on a skit with Maja Salvador for the fundraiser, “Gabi ng Himala: Mga Awit at Kwento.”

While in quarantine, she also shot the Star Cinema digital drama “Love Lockdown” with Jake Cuenca, and worked on Avid Llongoren’s animated romantic

comedy “Hayop Ka!” alongside Sam Milby and Arci Muñoz.

Interesting challenge

She said she agreed to do all of these projects because she said, “I don’t want ‘what ifs?’ in my life.”

The actress added: “It’s also because I find working during the pandemic as an interesting challenge. As an actor, I want to say that I was able to experience it, too. Lastly, it’s because I know I would be working with good friends, and the environment wouldn’t be as bleak and miserable. It turned out that I was right. In a way, I did enjoy work because I was with them.”

Hosted by Angelica herself, “Ask Angelica” will air Fridays at 8 p.m. starting Sept. 25. It can also be seen on Star Cinema’s Facebook, YouTube and Spotify accounts; and will be available on the Facebook pages of ABS-CBN, Star Music, Rise Artists Studio and Sinehub. You can also catch it on TFC.TV, iWantTFC and Kumu. ■

Boy to return to full-time work next year



Boy Abunda

A phone call from Tito Boy Abunda never fails to make my day. My dearest “sistah” (that’s how we fondly call each other) has a way of making his presence felt, even in his absence. I cannot thank him enough for being in my corner all these years. Showbiz would be a kinder world if there were more people like him.

We all miss watching him on ABS-CBN’s “Tonight with Boy Abunda” and “The Bottomline.” These days, so many celebs and content creators have online talk shows, but the King of Talk cannot be dethroned. As we eagerly await Tito Boy’s TV comeback, allow me to share snippets of our recent phone chat:

“These days, everyone has become a reporter because of social media,” he said. “To keep up with the changing landscape and not to be pushed to the point of irrelevance, we must rediscover ourselves. Rediscovering does more than reinventing.

“Most likely, I will go back to full-time work next year na. When it’s already possible to fly, I want to spend a month in my hometown, Borongan. I’ll always be a probinsyano at heart.”

When I asked my sistah his famous question, “Sex or chocolates,” his reply was “sex.” ■

Maja Salvador says goodbye to ABS-CBN, treats family to street food party



Maja Salvador celebrates having over a million YouTube subscribers.

Kapamilya actress Maja Salvador bade farewell to ABS-CBN, her home network for almost two decades, as she thanked the TV station for the support through the years.

In her Instagram account, Maja said she will join Star Magic head Johnny Manahan in a project with another network.

“Ako po ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa mga taong walang sawang sumusuporta sa akin at sa ABS-CBN,” she said.

“Mga kapamilya, sasamahan ko po muna ang aking tatay na si. MR.M kaya sana wag po kayo magulat kung makikita niyo akong lumabas sa ibang network at patuloy makapagbigay ligaya sa inyo kahit sa



anong paraan at plataporma,” she added.

Maja also asked her fans to support her in her latest journey..

“Sana po ay tuloy tuloy niyo akong samahan at suportahan sa kahit anong landas na aking tatahakin. maraming salamat po,” she said.

Prior to this, Maja revealed that she now has over one million subscribers on YouTube. She celebrated her milestone with a street food party with her family and boyfriend Rambo Nunez. She documented the celebration in a YouTube vlog.

“Salamat sa pagsama sa

masayang journey na ito. Marami pa tayong pagsasamahan mga beshies,” she said.

“Isang milyong pasasalamat mga beshies. One million na tayo, one million subscribers. Maraming-maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. Isang milyong pasasalamat dahil sa sinamahan niyo ako sa journey na ito. Noong naisipan ko na gumawa ng YouTube channel mga beshies, ginawa ko ‘yon dahil mas gusto ko na makilala niyo po ba ako ng mas personal pa, kalalimlalaman na pagkakakilala, ‘yung ganu’n,” she added. ■

Enzo Pineda recovers from COVID-19



Enzo Pineda

Actor Enzo Pineda has declared he had won the battle against COVID-19.

According to Pineda, the pandemic, definitely made him closer to God.

And with such a humbling experience, he promised that he will come out stronger mentally, physically, and spiritually.

“God is good,” he pointed out, maintaining that it was the latter who gave him strength all throughout.

Enzo also extended his gratitude to his loving family and friends who kept him and his Dad in good spirits.

“Thank you to all the hardworking doctors, nurses, & crew of Cardinal Santos Medical Center who took good care of me and my Dad. Mga bayani kayo and salamat sa lahat ng sakripisyo na ginagawa niyo para sa ating bayan,” he added.

Other celebrities who recovered from COVID-19 were comedienne Kakai Bautista, Christopher de Leon, Iza Calzado, Sylvia Sanchez, Michael V, and journalist Howie Severino. ■

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Pandemic be damned, Gerald Santos gears up for virtual concert, action flick



Gerald Santos

After his cachet-boosting foray into theater by way of “Miss Saigon” (as Thuy) and “Sweeney Todd” (as Anthony), Gerald Santos is thrilled not only to return to the concert scene, but also to venture into the movies.

The former grand champion of “Pinoy Pop Superstar,” who turned 29 in a lockdown birthday fete last May 15, will begin shooting his scenes tomorrow—pandemic be damned—in the role of Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) commando Christopher Robert Lalan, the lone survivor of the grisly Mamasapano clash in Maguindanao province that claimed the lives of 44 soldiers and about 23 Muslim rebels in 2015.

“I’m deeply honored and overwhelmed by the offer,” Gerald said. “I cried just by reading the script. And while I’m starting to feel the pressure, I’m also thankful that this role landed on my lap. I will give my 200 percent to give justice to it.”

The other knockout hit in Gerald’s one-two punch provides just as big of a challenge for the balladeer: He is headlining the virtual concert “The Great Shift” at 9 p.m. on Oct. 17 (visit ticket2me.net) under the direction of Antonino Rommel Ramilo, with special guests Lea Salonga, Andrew Fernando, Joreen Bautista

and Elisha Pontanares.

“‘The Great Shift’ is unlike the usual online concert performed at home,” Gerald said when asked why concertgoers, theater buffs and music lovers should patronize the play-for-pay show. “We’re doing it on an actual concert stage, with a grand piano, cello and violin to accompany us. People will be able to watch it on their phones, computers or even TV sets, as if they’re watching a live telecast of an actual concert. I am also blessed to have internationally renowned Filipino performers as guests! What are the chances of gathering such a talented roster during a pandemic?”

More than that, his well-curated repertoire has everything for everyone, Gerald added: “They can expect a mixture of pop, OPM, as well as Filipino and Broadway showtunes. This concert aims to uplift the spirit of our ‘kababayans,’ providing entertainment with the feel of a live concert.

“This is also for a very good cause. We have two beneficiaries: Awpi (Artists Welfare Project Inc.) and the Good Samaritan Foundation. In my own little way, at least I can help fellow performers and other people in dire need of medical assistance, particularly those displaced by the pandemic.” ■

Gabbi Garcia marks milestone with gold play button from YouTube



Gabbi Garcia proudly displays her Youtube Gold Play button.

Actress Gabbi Garcia has unlocked another achievement: a gold play button from YouTube.

A Gold Play Button is given to a YouTube channel that has reached or surpassed 1,000,000 subscribers.

Garcia’s namesake channel already has 1.08 million subscribers as of writing.

“WE DID IT GUYS! My gold play button is finally here!!! Thank you again from the bottom of my heart! love you all!!! @khalilramos,” Garcia captioned a photo of her holding the award.

Garcia did an unboxing of her award in her “Live Wine Night” with boyfriend Khalil Ramos on Tuesday.

In the livestream, the actress

thanked her subscribers who she said played a big part in why she received the award from YouTube.

“Cheers also to you guys. Thank you for subscribing always and thank you for always watching our content,” Garcia said.

The actress-vlogger also thanked Ramos for helping her produce content for her channel.

Garcia said she actually wanted to give Ramos a Gold Play Button since they create vlogs together, however it’s “too expensive” to request another one.

“Khalil was so kind enough to just really say yes na name ko lang yung nasa button,” Garcia said. ■

YouTube sensation Zendee Rose Tenerefe gains ground on TikTok



Zendee Rose Tenerefe

Singer Zendee Rose Tenerefe has injected a new lease of life to her showbiz career, latching on to a new social media platform.

Not a few might still remember Tenerefe.

She first gained notice in 2012 as YouTube’s “Random Girl.”

It all started with a fan uploading on YouTube a video of her singing Whitney Houston’s version of the classic “I Will Always Love You,”

as with the “Dreamgirls” hit “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going.”

With both becoming huge hits, it led to Tenerefe landing an appearance on the GMA-7 show “Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho” and, eventually, “The Ellen Degeneres Show.”

More, Tenerefe, was able to secure a recording contract, releasing an album in 2013.

It didn’t catch on though, and her career noticeably waned.

Now, thanks to TikTok, she is back in business.

The 29-year-old went viral on the platform early this year parodying the popular Sarah Geronimo hit “Tala,” creating her own version dubbed “Gala.”

She has gained 4.9 million followers on TikTok since.

Happy as she is with her second wind, Tenerefe said she is doing it simply for fun, hoping to inspire fellow Pinoyos amid the ongoing pandemic. ■

Hands-on mom Solenn on show biz hiatus till year-end



Solenn Heussaff

As far as show biz work is concerned, 2020 is over for Solenn Heussaff. "[Year] 2020 is done for me, show biz-wise," she declared.

With a considerable number of COVID-19 cases still being recorded daily, health and safety remain her priority, especially now that she's raising her first child. But even if the situation does eventually return to normal, she doesn't see herself taking on the same kind of workload she used to juggle.

"The pandemic has made me rethink my job. I'm happy with show biz, but I don't want to be working six to seven days a week as I did before. When life goes back to normal, maybe I can allot three days a week for work," she told the Inquirer in a recent video interview arranged by the insurance company Philam Life, which she and her husband, Nico Bolzico, represent as celebrity ambassadors.

For now, it's all about her 9-month-old baby girl, Thylane. "I want to be present in the early years of her life, the first seven years at least. I want to focus more on being a mother," the 35-year-old GMA 7 actress said.

While long-term projects like drama series are out of the question this year, she has done quick, one-off shoots here and there. "We made sure everyone was tested ... You do have to start getting out a bit, because it's easy

to get used to this (staying at home). It's still scary, but you have to put a foot back in," she said.

Looking back, Solenn is grateful that she was able to give birth last Jan. 1, two months before the pandemic blew up and prompted strict quarantine measures across the country. She had a delicate pregnancy, and she couldn't imagine doing the things she did then now that there's a health crisis.

"That difficult pregnancy required me to go to the hospital every week or every two weeks for five months. Thank God I didn't give birth in the middle of the pandemic. If I were pregnant now, I would have been at risk all the time," she said. "It's scary."

Being a first-time parent is daunting enough. What more in this kind of situation?

"When they announced the lockdown last March, there were many things going through my head, because we have never had anything like this. You start wondering, 'What kind of world am I bringing my child into?'" she related. "Is this going to last for a week? Two weeks? And now we have been in this for so long."

"I'm afraid of anything that has to do with Thylane. I have started feeding her food. But what if she gets allergies? I'm afraid of doing something wrong," she said.

Fortunately, Nico is able to work from home and give all the

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Solenn Heussaff with her baby girl Thylane

support Solenn needs. "It's just Nico and I taking care of the baby.

He looks after her in the morning, so I can sleep in. And his office is upstairs, so he can always visit us. We then take a walk with her, bathe her, put her in the inflatable pool," she related. "Her room is my sanctuary."

"I didn't expect I would be as hands-on as I am now, and I wouldn't have it any other way," Solenn added.

Once in a while, if possible, Solenn visits her mom, so Thylane can get used to seeing other faces.

Like Solenn, Nico is making the most of his time with Thylane—

something he probably wouldn't get to enjoy if he had to go to the office. "Since I'm staying at home now, I get to see my baby every hour, even if it's my work hours," he said.

"We don't know everything. We don't know if we will be able to protect our children 100 percent of the time. So, it's good to have that support, knowing where or who to go to when needed," said Nico, explaining the need to have "a variable" life insurance plan for children. "I hope that never happens, but ... it's a tool that can help parents raise their children with less worries." ■

'Sana all': Liza Soberano, Bela Padilla, Julia Barretto get fast response over internet woes



From left: Julia, Liza and Bela at the 2019 ABS-CBN Ball.

Kapamilya celebrities Bela Padilla and Julia Barretto reacted on telecommunications giant PLDT's initiative to provide Liza Soberano a faster internet connection.

In her Twitter account, Liza recently criticized her Converge internet provider for the slow connection.

Days after Liza tweeted, PLDT provided her with fast internet.

"Okay so @pldt came to my house yesterday and hooked me up with the best internet I have ever experienced in my whole 5 years of living in this house. 300 MBPS. What a lifesaver. Lag? I don't know her," Liza wrote.

PLDT then replied to Julia's tweet, saying: "Hey there, Julia! Came across your tweet and wanted to check if everything's a-ok over there! Slide into our DM if you need any help."

Bela, meanwhile, said that PLDT should fix her internet connection.

"PLDT, bekenemen! My pldt wifi doesn't reach 1 MBPS for downloading and/or uploading everytime I test it...ONE," she said.

"Less than 1 teh eh. Di ko nakikita ending ng mga pinapanuod koooo hahahah," she added.

PLDT also replied to Bela, saying: "Uh-oh! Don't worry, Bela! Help is here! Just simply follow us back so that we could resolve this is no time. And oh, please don't forget to provide us your account number, okay? We'll wait for your

DM."

Many of the stars' fans got excited for the exchanges between the telecommunications provider and the three actresses.

"THANK YOU PLDT ambait mo samen HAHAAHAH," one Twitter user said.

"Hahahahaha winner," said another.

Other Twitter users, however, alleged that the company was only prompt and responsive when it is the celebrities who post the complaints.

"Kapag sikat ka, mag tweet ka lang sa mga internet provider na yan, nagkukumahog na sila sa pag ayos ng internet mo. pero pag ordinaryong tao ka lang, natawagan mo na lahat mg hotline nila, lahat ng email account napadalhan mo na ng love letter pero wala pa ding response," a Twitter user claimed.

"Sis ipaglaban mo naman yong mg PLDT users na nagbabayad din naman ng maayos, pero trash customer service natatanggap. Kapag artista special treatment nila," added another user.

"Unfortunately, for small, ordinary people like us, we don't earn enough respect pra installan ng service maski the use is for kids who have started school August pa," said another.

With many people studying and working from home nowadays due to the coronavirus pandemic, a fast and reliable internet service has become a must-have for everyone, celebrity or not. ■

First-ever Miss Universe Philippines pageant will be both traditional, virtual



Miss Universe Philippines (MUP) organization announced that the coronation night will be aired on GMA on October 25.

Miss Universe Philippines 2020 will push through despite the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In its official Facebook account, Miss Universe Philippines (MUP) organization announced that the coronation night will be aired on GMA on October 25.

"See Miss Universe Philippines in a new light! The biggest online pageant series of the Philippines premieres on September 27, 2020! It is an incredible look in the journeys of the contenders culminating on the main pageant night on October 25, 2020 to be aired on national TV!" the organization wrote.

"We're happy to officially announce that Miss Universe Philippines 2020 will be aired this October 25 on GMA!" it wrote in another post.

Jonas Gaffud, MUP creative and events director, said that traditional segments are expected but viewers should watch out for twists.

"It will have the traditional

segments expected from a beauty pageant, but watch out for a fresher and insightful take. Our team poured their heart and soul to this and we are so excited to finally unveil our work," he said.

MUP National Director Shamcey Supsup-Lee told "24 Oras" in a Tuesday interview that this year's first ever MUP pageant will mix both virtual and face-to-face events, with some pre-pageant segments to be released in episodes.



According to her, the international competition will push through since there is still no advice from the Miss Universe Organization about a cancellation.

RELATED: First ever Miss Universe Philippines announces new finals date. ■

Ricin letter: Quebec woman charged with threatening the U.S. president

Brooklyn Neustaeter, Ben Cousins
CTVNews.ca Writer
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TORONTO -- A Quebec woman accused of sending envelopes containing the poisonous substance ricin to the White House has now been charged with threatening U.S. President Donald Trump.

During a brief court appearance on Tuesday in Buffalo, N.Y., Pascale Ferrier of Quebec had a plea of not-guilty entered on her behalf. She is being held without bail and is due back in court on Sept. 28.

Ferrier, 53, wore a tan jail jumpsuit for the appearance, with handcuffs and a chain around her waist. She was also wearing a blue mask over her face.

Timothy Lynch of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Buffalo told the court that Ferrier should remain detained in the United States given the allegations against her and out of concern she might flee.

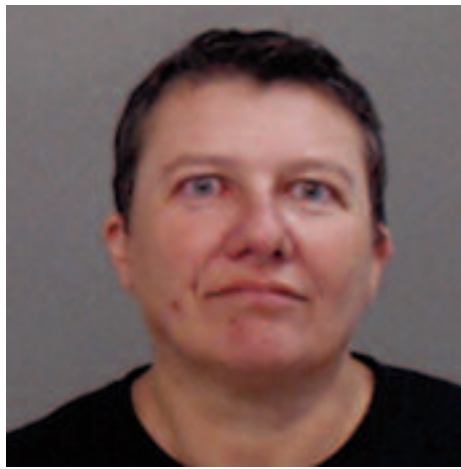
"The charge in the criminal complaint is a crime of violence," Lynch told the court. "The defendant is a serious risk of flight."

Ferrier was arrested at the New York-Ontario border on Sunday.

According to an affidavit filed on Tuesday by an FBI bomb technician, Ferrier mentioned that she may be "wanted by the FBI" for the ricin letters during her arrest at U.S. Customs. She was also carrying a loaded gun in her waistband at the time and had a knife on her person.

The affidavit also revealed portions of what was allegedly written in the letters.

In a letter addressed to Trump, the affidavit says, Ferrier told the president



to "give up and remove your application for this election." She allegedly wrote that the ricin was her "gift" to him and if it did not work, she would find a recipe for another poison or use her gun against the president.

According to the affidavit, fingerprints belonging to Ferrier were found on the envelope and the letter, as well as six similar envelopes and letters sent to addresses in Texas.

U.S. officials said the letter was intercepted on Friday before reaching its destination. All mail for the White House is sorted and screened at an offsite facility before reaching the president's official residence.

During the investigation, the FBI say they discovered that six additional letters containing ricin appeared to have been received in Texas in September. According to court documents, those letters "contained similar language" to the letter that was sent to Trump and were sent to people affiliated with facilities where

Ferrier had been jailed in 2019.

During her court appearance on Tuesday, Ferrier -- through an interpreter -- asked for an identity hearing, which would force the government to prove that she is the person for whom the arrest warrant was issued for, and a probable cause hearing, which forces the government to prove there is sufficient cause to proceed in the matter.

"She has a presumption of innocence and that'll be pursued further after today," Fonda Kubiak, the public defender assigned to Ferrier, told reporters outside the courthouse.

Kubiak added that Ferrier could be transferred to the District of Columbia after her hearing on Monday.

In Facebook and Twitter posts in September, Ferrier also wrote "#killTrump" and used similar wording as she did in the letter, calling him an "Ugly Clown Tyrant," according to the affidavit.

Ferrier, originally from France, became a Canadian citizen in November 2015 and is a computer programmer, according to sources.

She moved back to Laval last spring, weeks after being released from a prison in Texas.

Court documents show that in 2019, she was charged with unlawfully carrying a weapon and knowingly using a fake Texas driver's license. According to arrest records, Ferrier spent three months in jail.

A team that specializes in biohazards swarmed a Montreal-area condo on Monday morning, evacuating several units as they looked for evidence connected to the ricin-laced letter sent to the White House.

The home is located in a multi-unit building on Vauquelin Blvd. in St-Hubert, Que., bordering a forest and not

far from an airport.

RCMP said they didn't know if Ferrier lived at the condo, but added that there was a clear connection between her and the home.

"There's a link between the female suspect that was arrested in Buffalo, New York yesterday and this residence," RCMP Cpl. Charles Poirier said Monday, explaining to reporters in St-Hubert that police had a search warrant for the residence.

An RCMP team dedicated to chemical threats and explosives is leading the ongoing investigation, with support from local police and fire units.

Canadian law enforcement was called to help the FBI investigate after American authorities found evidence the ricin-laced letter to the White House had originated in Canada.

Ricin is a deadly substance extracted from castor beans. It is a plant that is not restricted and is easy to grow. With enough exposure, the poison can be fatal within 36 to 72 hours. There is no specific test for exposure and no antidote.

This isn't the first time a U.S. president has been sent ricin. Letters containing the substance and addressed to former president Barack Obama were intercepted on two separate occasions in 2013.

In those cases, each of the accused pleaded guilty to possession of a toxin for use as a weapon and received sentences between 18 and 25 years in prison.

None of the charges against Ferrier have been tested or proven in court.

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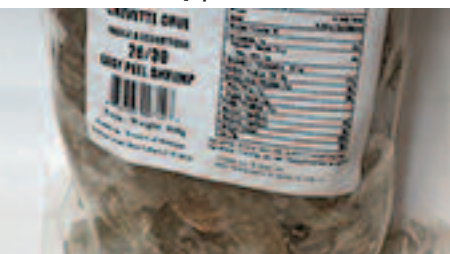
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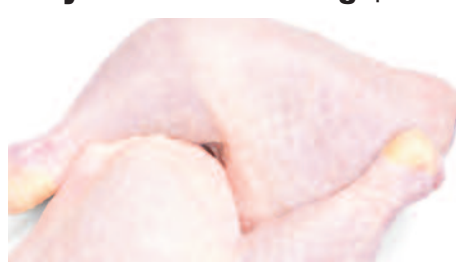
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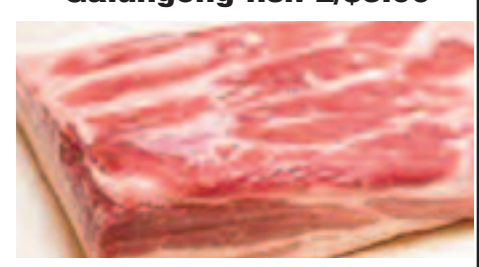
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