

# Canadians have re-elected a Liberal minority government

Final seat tally may not look very different from composition of the House of Commons when it was dissolved

John Paul Tasker · CBC News · Posted: Sep 20, 2021 7:01 PM ET | Last Updated: September 21

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has won enough seats in this 44th general election to form another minority government — with voters signalling Monday they trust the incumbent to lead Canada through the next phase of the pandemic fight by handing him a third mandate with a strong plurality.

After a 36-day campaign and a \$600-million election, the final seat tally doesn't look very different from the composition of the House of Commons when it was dissolved in early August — prompting even more questions about why a vote was called during a fourth wave of the pandemic in the first place.

As of 4 p.m. ET, Liberal



**Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he understands that voters want to get back to normal life and not worry about an election.**

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## Why Canadians need to keep their guard up in the 4th wave — even if they're fully vaccinated



**Despite efforts to stave off another wave of the pandemic through widespread vaccination, Canada is continuing to see a troubling rise in COVID-19 levels across much of the country. (Evan Mitsui/CBC)**

Delta variant changing rules of the game, but unvaccinated prolonging pandemic

Adam Miller · CBC News · Posted: Aug 28, 2021 4:00 AM ET |

Canadians are entering one of the most confusing chapters of the

pandemic — and many may be left wondering why we're not where we'd hoped to be after becoming one of the most vaccinated countries in the world.

Reports of waning immunity from COVID-19 vaccines, the potential

need for booster shots and the possibility of breakthrough infections among the fully vaccinated may be leading many of us to second guess what we can and can't do safely in the fourth wave.

And the more contagious, potentially more deadly delta variant has prolonged the pandemic, made daily life more difficult to navigate and turned back the clock on our collective plans to return to a relatively normal life.

"Everyone needs this damned virus to go away," said Dr. David Naylor, who led the federal inquiry into Canada's national response to the 2003 SARS epidemic and now co-chairs the federal government's COVID-19 immunity task force. "But it's not done with us yet."

It was easy to think that once most of us rolled up our sleeves and did our part to get vaccinated and protect ourselves and our communities from COVID-19 that this would all be over, but the unfortunate truth is that we still have a ways to go.

"We need to rethink this," said Linsey Marr, an expert on virus transmission at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. "It is emotionally upsetting because we thought we saw the light at the end of the tunnel — but apparently the tunnel is longer."

### Unvaccinated driving Canada's 4th wave

The hard truth is that despite our collective efforts to stave off another wave of the pandemic through widespread vaccination, Canada is continuing to see a troubling rise in COVID-19 levels across much of the country.

Over the past week, new COVID-19 cases have risen to an average of 2,848 per day — an increase of 29 per cent over the previous seven days.

Daily hospitalizations have also climbed 39 per cent week-over-week to an average of 917 across the country, while ICU admissions are also

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## From the Publisher's desk

### Personal reflections about September

Zenaïda Ferry Kharroubi

September is almost past by the time you read our selected news articles but it seems to have a lingering effect on our thoughts about what has been happening in our environment, personally, socially, and politically. Besides the painful memories of 9/11 on its 20th anniversary, we are also marking for the first time in Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th. The residential schools must be understood by every Canadian in order to feel how much pain they caused the Indigenous people. Let not history repeat itself.

We have always been reminded about Covid 19 on its 4th wave, specifically among the unvaccinated. Everyone by now feels quite tired that Covid is still a threat to everything. Then we have the protests of anti-vaxxers who demonstrate near hospitals and schools. The Quebec government has just passed a bill to prohibit such activity. Covid has impacted people in many different ways, some reacted in creative activities during quarantine, while others have remained hesitant to be vaccinated.

In spite of the pandemic, we have just had the Federal elections that resulted again in a minority government

for the Liberals. It was a big political risk that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau decided to try and win more seats but it was a real disappointment to see that there was little change after all the costs incurred. There was a low voter turn out that seems to suggest how people have lost their interest in politics as they are more concerned with surviving than going to the polls.

On the other hand, we will soon have the municipal elections on November 7 that will decide our political future for the next four years. Needless to say, we must have the interest to go to the polls and exercise our right to vote. We must realize that our daily life is affected more directly by the policies of the local government in terms of municipal services, taxation, safety, and health. In order to put the right people in the position of power that will serve our needs, we must take the effort of understanding the different platforms.

The end of summer happens in September and the nostalgia we feel that time is fleeting too fast. Pretty soon, we will be busy preparing for the holidays. But one good thing to remember is we are grateful for all the things we have overcome in keeping safe and healthy until now.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



September 14, 2021

Zenaïda Kharroubi  
 Editor  
 North American Filipino Star

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Filipino community leaders who attended en masse Ensemble Montreal's Meet and Greet event recently held at Mackenzie King Park.

I appreciate the community's strong endorsement of my candidacy for Mayor of the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce as well as for our local candidates for City Council, Stephanie Valenzuela in Darlington, Sonny Moroz in Snowdon and Dimitra Kostarides in Côte-des-Neiges. I know that the community is particularly proud of Stephanie who we all hope will be the first person of Filipino descent ever elected to Montreal City Hall.

The Meet and Greet was a poignant occasion. It gave us an opportunity to thank beloved Councillor Marvin Rotrand for his many years of service and to wish him a happy retirement. It also allowed the community to meet Denis Coderre running to be re-elected as Mayor in a more informal setting and to chat about how the City can reengage with Filipinos.

One of the questions that came up at the Meet and Greet was what can be done to enhance the Montreal Manila friendship. As many know Councillor Rotrand and I raised exactly this at the June 7 Borough Council. Our motion demanding that the declarations of friendship adopted by each city in 2004 and 2005 be renewed and enhanced was adopted. Our motion was tabled formally at the August 23 City Council session.

Denis Coderre told those assembled that if he is re-elected as Mayor on November 7 that he will organize a mission to Manila in his first year of office aimed at forging economic links between the two cities and fostering cultural and sporting exchanges. He promised to be present and visible in support of Filipino community events.

That will stand in marked contrast to the incumbent City Mayor. It is almost insulting to think that four years have elapsed since her election and she has not participated in any major Filipino event or given support to any of the community's organization.

Should I be elected as your Borough Mayor, I will expand the links between the Borough and the Filipino community. As a regular participant in your community life, I understand the needs and I will be your voice to ensure that you benefit fully from municipal programs. Permit me to thank you in advance for your support at the polls for the municipal election on November 7.

Best wishes,

*Lionel Perez*

Lionel Perez  
 City Councillor – Darlington  
 Candidate for Borough Mayor  
 Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce  
[lionel.perez@montreal.ca](mailto:lionel.perez@montreal.ca)

**A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position. —John Maxwell**

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# National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is Sept. 30, but some provinces won't make it a stat holiday

Jill Macyshon, Winnipeg Bureau Chief  
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CTV National News Manitoba Bureau Chief  
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Published Saturday, September 18, 2021 10:09PM EDT

WINNIPEG -- Much of Canada will observe a second holiday this month.

On Sept. 30, federal offices, banks and post offices will be closed to mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"The idea is really to set aside a day that we honour all the children who survived residential schools, as well as honour and recognize those who did not return," Brenda Gunn, academic and research director at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, told CTV National News.

The new federal statutory holiday coincides with Orange Shirt Day, which was started in 2013 as a way to honour Indigenous children and educate Canadians about the impact the residential school system had on Indigenous communities.

Creating such a federal holiday was one of the 94 calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission back in 2015.

Many provinces and territories have followed the federal government's lead in marking in the day as a designated holiday and day off for students.

Private companies and



**A memorial to the 215 children who lost their lives at Kamloops Indian Residential School in B.C. (Jonathan Hayward/CP)**

organizations can decide if they want to honour optional or unofficial holidays, and provinces can also designate holidays.

However, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario have chosen not to recognize Sept. 30 as a statutory holiday. It's a decision some say is callous, but not unexpected.

"It kind of goes along with that 'get over it' attitude that many Canadians have, but we must never forget, or we end up repeating our mistakes." Robert Kakakaway, a residential school survivor, told CTV

News. "It should not be a time of celebration, but a time of education."

Kakakaway spent six years at Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, where more than 700 unmarked graves were discovered in June.

Beyond the statutory holiday, work to recognize the damage done to Indigenous peoples through colonization continues. Dozens of First Nations have started searching for graves at former residential school sites, and across Canada more people are educating themselves to learn what reconciliation means.

"To our groups, reconciliation means, 'How can I take action in my personal life and affect change within my own community?'," explained Lori Abraham, Indigenous cultural program director at 1JustCity.

At the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, where a suspected 215 graves were found in May, members of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation will play an honour song on Sept. 30. It will be played at 2:15 P.T., coinciding with the number of graves that "shocked the world," the First Nation said.

## 'I'm going to die, aren't I?': Saskatchewan's unvaccinated express regret about not getting COVID-19 jab

*Dr. Alex Wong shares horrifying reality for those inside Saskatchewan's ICUs*  
Alexander Quon · CBC News · Posted: Sep 28, 2021

glimpse of the reality inside the province's ICUs.

Wong said he's heard dying patients express regret about not getting

taken to the ICU to be intubated, a procedure to assist someone when they are no longer able to breathe on their own.

"He told them how sorry he was over and over again," Wong said, "and, unfortunately, three days later, he died alone."

Wong believes many of those who come into the hospital without a vaccine do so because Saskatchewan's reopening plan for the summer gave them a false sense of security.

The people felt that COVID-19 was over or, at the very least, was no longer a concern, Wong said.

"We've seen so many people in a hospital like this, and they are so regretful."

### It is so hard right now

Wong and other health-care workers have shared their stories, hoping that they would serve as lessons for those who remain unvaccinated or who have family members who are unvaccinated.

Vaccination remains one of the most important tools against the virus. It reduces the most serious effects of COVID-19. A vaccinated person with

See Page 8 "I'm going to die,



**Elected officials in Saskatchewan need to send a clear, strong message to residents about 'how serious this really is,' said infectious diseases specialist Dr. Alexander Wong. 'People don't see what's going on in the hospitals,' he said.**

As Saskatchewan makes its way through its fourth wave of COVID-19, health-care workers across the province are sharing their difficult experiences continuing to treat those suffering from the virus.

Dr. Alex Wong, an infectious diseases doctor at Regina General Hospital, is one of the workers who has taken to social media to give the public a

a COVID-19 vaccine dose when they had a chance.

He used an example of one man who was unvaccinated.

"I should have had my shots ... my wife had hers. She kept telling me to get mine. I'm going to die, aren't I?" Wong recalled the man saying.

The man was able to speak with his family one last time before he was

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### From Page 1 Canadians elect

candidates were leading or elected in 158 ridings, a pick up of just one seat compared with the 2019 contest.

It's a reversal of fortunes for Trudeau. He launched this campaign with a sizeable lead in the polls — only to see his support crater days later as many voters expressed anger with his decision to call an election during this health crisis. Two middling debate performances by Trudeau and renewed questions about past scandals also put a Liberal victory in

up by an average of 29 per cent per day to 340 over the past week. That's despite having 66 per cent of the Canadian population fully vaccinated — a number that has plateaued in recent weeks, but is remarkably high nonetheless.

So why isn't that enough? The answer lies with those who haven't yet gotten a shot.

Since vaccines became available in December, just 0.8 per cent of cases, one per cent of hospitalizations and 1.4 per cent of deaths from COVID-19 have been in fully vaccinated Canadians, according to the latest available data from the

### From Page 1 Why Canadians need

Public Health Agency of Canada.

"When we look at where cases and certainly hospitalizations are showing up right now, we're seeing massive over-representation in unvaccinated communities," said Jason Kindrachuk, an assistant professor of viral pathogenesis at the University of Manitoba and Canada Research Chair of emerging viruses. "So the vaccines are working."

But there are still millions of Canadians who have yet to get vaccinated — either by choice or due to a lack of access or eligibility — and that's putting all of us at risk. Unvaccinated Canadians pose risks to vaccinated

The bottom line is the vaccines

question.

But in the end, voters decided the Liberal team should continue to govern a country that, while battered and bruised by a health crisis, has also fared well on key pandemic metrics like death rates and vaccine coverage. Trudeau called this election on Aug. 15, saying he wanted Canadians to weigh in on who should finish the fight against the pandemic and lead the country into a post-pandemic recovery. He promised a plan for child care, more aggressive climate action and a fix for Canada's housing

Dr. Allison McGeer, a medical microbiologist and infectious disease specialist at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital who worked on the front lines of the SARS epidemic in 2003, says the unvaccinated pose two different threats to vaccinated Canadians in the fourth wave.

"Firstly, they pose a direct risk of transmission, and while the vaccine is very effective at protecting you from serious illness and death — it's not 100 per cent. Nothing in life is 100 per cent," she said.

"The second thing that unvaccinated people do is they increase the spread of coronavirus in the population. So if you release restrictions, unvaccinated people contribute substantially more to the growth of transmission in the community."

To put it bluntly, the longer the remaining Canadians put off getting a shot — and until we can get kids under 12 vaccinated — the more the pandemic drags on. And while we've come a long way since the beginning of the pandemic, we're still nowhere near where we need to be to control the delta variant.

Naylor says that even though Canada has vaccinated over 83 per cent of our eligible population over the age of 12 with one dose and more than 75 per cent with two, that's still not enough to stave off a fourth wave.

"That's very helpful and should mitigate the toll of the fourth wave

shortage.

In his victory speech in Montreal in the early hours of Tuesday morning, Trudeau said the result suggests Canadians are "sending us back to work with a clear mandate to get Canada through this pandemic and to brighter days ahead."

"The moment we face demands real, important change, and you have given this Parliament and this government clear direction."

After a divisive campaign that saw a great deal of partisan sniping, Trudeau struck a more conciliatory

a recent report that the delta variant has kicked the possibility of herd immunity further down the road — meaning we may now need an estimated 90 per cent of the population fully vaccinated to get there.

"Vaccines are not a panacea, but if everybody got vaccinated — this is done," said Raywat Deonandan, a global health epidemiologist and associate professor at the University of Ottawa. "Despite the fact these vaccines aren't perfect."

### Delta changing rules of the game

The problem we face at this stage of the pandemic is that delta has changed the rules of the game — raising the immunity threshold we need to hit, increasing risk in our day-to-day lives and meaning even fully vaccinated Canadians need to keep their guard up.

But instead of coming together in a cohesive way, the country is once again divided over vaccine passports, mask mandates and reinstating public health restrictions — leaving a patchwork system across the country that leaves room for the virus to spread.

Ontario and Alberta have vehemently rejected the idea of vaccine passports to date, although Ontario may soon change course, while British Columbia joined Quebec and Manitoba in announcing passports for the fully vaccinated in response to the fourth wave

Saskatchewan announced this week that not only would it not be

tone on election night when he spoke directly to opposition leaders and those who didn't vote for a Liberal candidate.

"I hear you when you say you just want to get back to the things you love and not worry about this pandemic or about an election," he said. "Your members of Parliament of all stripes will have your back in this crisis and beyond. Canadians are able to get around any obstacle and that is

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implementing vaccine passports — it also won't reintroduce indoor mask mandates or lower capacity limits on gatherings despite rising COVID-19 levels.

That's despite the fact that both B.C. and Quebec saw massive upticks in vaccinations after introducing vaccine passports and Manitoba brought back mandatory masks indoor

Delta is obviously much more transmissible and the vaccine helps protect against that, but it's not 100 per cent. So it almost puts us back where we were a year ago with a less transmissible virus and no vaccines," Marr said.

"At the same time, it's not as upsetting as the first time around because we know what we need to do."

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Miller  
Senior Writer

Adam Miller is a senior health writer with CBC News. He's covered health, politics and breaking news extensively in Canada for over a decade, in addition to several years reporting on news and current affairs throughout Asia.

## The vast majority of Canadian COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated

As of August 07, 2021



aren't perfect (and were never purported to be) and even the fully vaccinated are at some risk of COVID-19, which adds to the confusion of how Canadians should proceed in the weeks and months ahead.

compared to earlier waves," he said. "But it makes no sense to leave a lot of immunological room for this virus to spread and cause more harm."

Public Health Ontario, a provincial government agency, said in

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## 9/11 20 years updates: Tribute in Light shines at end of anniversary

The memorial, which opened in 2008, is located just feet from where the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 struck the west wall of the Pentagon.

The wreath-laying ceremony was Biden's final scheduled event to mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, following visits to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and New York City.

Biden visits with Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department President Joe Biden made an unannounced stop Saturday afternoon at the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department -- the first to respond to the United Flight 93 crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 11, 2001.

The president spent nearly an hour taking photographs and speaking with over 100 first responders and their families.

After his visit, Biden spoke briefly with reporters, where he reflected on the importance of memorials, like the ones erected in Shanksville to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 attacks.

"These memorials are really important, but they're also incredibly

difficult for the people who were affected by them because it brings back that moment you got the phone call. It brings back that instant you got the news, no matter how many years go by," he said.

Unprompted, Biden said he thought former President George W. Bush gave a "really good speech" Saturday about about who Americans are.

"The core of who we are is not divided," Biden said.

When asked how the nation can get back to that state of unity, Biden said, "By being honest when I make a mistake. By being straightforward, telling people exactly what I want to do."

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**resident Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden followed by Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentlemen Doug Emhoff, attend a wreath laying ceremony as they pay their respects to 9/11 victims at the Pentagon, Va., Sept. 11, 2021.**

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ABC News' Justin Gomez

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### Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Anthony Housefather

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# China claims Kovrig, Spavor freed for health reasons

Foreign ministry sought to downplay connection between their release and the return of Meng Wanzhou

-China's foreign ministry says Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who were allowed to return to Canada late last week after nearly three years in detention, were released on bail for health reasons.

A ministry spokesperson made the comments Monday as Beijing sought to downplay the connection between their release and the return to China of a long-detained executive of Huawei Technologies.

Spavor and Kovrig were detained in December 2018, days after Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, was arrested in Canada at the request of U.S. authorities.

Many countries labelled China's action "hostage politics," while China accused Ottawa of arbitrary detention. The two Canadians were jailed for more than 1,000 days. Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau touched on the arrests during his speech before the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday.

"Canada observed the rule of law and two Canadian citizens paid a heavy price for this commitment," Garneau told delegates in New York.

"Canada will never forget this experience and this lesson. We shall continue to press for an end to arbitrary detention, wherever and however it occurs."

Garneau did not indicate that Ottawa would pursue any further action against China.

Meng fought the U.S. demand for extradition from Canada. She landed in China on Saturday after reaching a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Justice Department that led to a prisoner swap.

"The case of Meng Wanzhou is completely different from that of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor in nature," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily briefing on Monday.

The two men were suspected of endangering national security, Hua said

## White House says 'no link' between cases

On Monday afternoon, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there is "no link" between the U.S. Justice Department's deal to release Meng and China's decision to free Kovrig and Spavor.

"We have an independent justice department that made independent decisions, law-enforcement decisions," she said. "At the same time, we have made no secret about our push to have the two Michaels released. That's certainly positive news and good news."

Psaki noted that Biden raised



**Michael Kovrig embraces his wife, Vina Nadjibulla, following his arrival in Toronto on a Canadian Air Force jet after his release from detention in China. Michael Spavor, right, is seen leaving Calgary International Airport. Both men spent more than 1,000 days in a Chinese prison. (Cpl. Justin Dreimanis/DND-MDN Canada/Reuters; Colin Hall/CBC)**

"the two Michaels" in his last call with Chinese President Xi Jinping and said that every member of the administration who has contacts with Chinese officials has pushed for the release of the Canadians over the last nine months.

John Bolton, who was U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser at the time of Meng's arrest, described the development as a "hostage swap." He went on to argue that the Biden government should have pressed on with its case against Meng.

been sentenced to 11 years in prison, accused of spying. Kovrig had not yet been sentenced but was facing similar charges.

China released the two Canadians on bail after a "diagnosis by professional medical institutions, and with the guarantee of the Canadian ambassador to China," Hua said.

Hua did not answer questions from journalists about whether the prisoner releases were entirely unrelated and what the health reasons were.

When asked if China was making

year. In return, she is accepting responsibility for misrepresenting the company's business dealings in Iran.

Her return to China was broadcast live on the country's central broadcaster, CCTV, as she wore a red dress the shade of China's flag and thanked the country's leader, Xi Jinping, and the ruling Communist Party.

On Monday, Hua said Meng was a victim of "political persecution" and was able to return to China thanks to the "government's unrelenting efforts." In contrast, news about the release of the two Michaels was reported by the state-owned tabloid Global Times, and while the news spread online, it was not carried by more authoritative state media agencies like CCTV or Xinhua.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies. It has been a symbol of China's progress in becoming a technological world power — and a subject of U.S. security and law enforcement concerns.

Former president Donald Trump's administration cut off Huawei's access to U.S. components and technology, including Google's music and other smartphone services, and later barred vendors worldwide from using U.S. technology to produce components for Huawei.



**Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou reads a statement outside the B.C. Supreme Court following the conclusion of her extradition hearing. (Ben Nelms/CBC)**

"I think it was a very ill-advised decision," Bolton said of the deal struck with Meng.

"I think the whole world thinks there was a hostage swap here and I think that's bad for the United States and bad for Canada." The swap "during an interview on CBC's Power & Politics.

## No word on what health problems are

Spavor, an entrepreneur, had

statements to save face, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau said he was "not going to predict why they would have made that statement."

"But I will agree with you that it is primarily for local consumption," he told CBC's Rosemary Barton Live on Sunday.

"I saw the two Michaels yesterday. They're in fine form."

Meng reached an agreement with U.S. federal prosecutors that will drop fraud charges against her next

**Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about. – Benjamin Lee Whorf**



# Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor greeted by Trudeau in Calgary after detention in China

CP, The Canadian Press

Publishing date: Sep 25, 2021 •

Two Canadians who languished in Chinese prisons for nearly three years held emotional reunions with their loved ones on Saturday after the culmination of a geopolitical saga that saw them return safely to Canadian soil.

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor first landed in Calgary aboard a Canadian Forces plane early Saturday morning and were personally welcomed home by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Global Affairs Minister Marc Garneau, according to a spokesperson from Trudeau's office.

After exchanging hugs with the prime minister and bidding goodbye to his fellow captor, Kovrig then boarded another plane bound for Toronto. His wife Vina Nadjibullah and sister Ariana Botha greeted him with emotional embraces on the tarmac, prompting Kovrig to offer a brief assessment of his changed circumstances.

"It's fantastic to be back home in Canada," Kovrig told reporters. "I'm immensely grateful for everybody who worked so hard to bring both of us back home."

Greetings and well-wishes poured in from across the country after the return of the men who have come to



**Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor are back in Calgary, after nearly three years of detention in China. PHOTO BY GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

making her way back to China from Vancouver after resolving the legal saga that mired all three of them in a geopolitical melee.

The case connecting the three detained citizens' fates came to an

Prosecutors also agreed to drop a request that Meng be extradited to the U.S. from Canada.

Soon after, Meng walked out of a British Columbia Supreme Court after a judge agreed to a discharge order that withdrew a U.S. extradition request that led to her 2018 arrest in Vancouver.

Meng's arrest in Vancouver in December 2018 at the behest of the U.S. has been a source of simmering tensions between Ottawa, Washington and Beijing.

Kovrig and Spavor were arrested in China on espionage charges just days later in apparent retaliation. China has publicly

maintained that there is no connection between her case and the men's imprisonment, but had also dropped broad hints that her freedom could benefit the two Canadians.

Many countries labeled China's action "hostage politics," while China accused Ottawa of arbitrary detention.

Last week, Trudeau said Canada spearheaded an international declaration denouncing state-sponsored arbitrary detentions because of China's decision to imprison "The Two Michaels."

Guy Saint-Jacques, a one-time Canadian ambassador to China and Kovrig's former boss, said the events of recent days further highlight the true nature of the situation.

"Clearly, the Chinese were so eager to get Meng back that they jettisoned all pretensions that the two Michaels had been arrested for good reasons," he said. "They must acknowledge that their reputation has been severely tarnished."

While Meng was kept under house arrest at a mansion in that city, the Canadians faced much harsher conditions in Chinese prisons where their access to the outside world was extremely limited.

Trudeau alluded to those conditions at a Friday news conference where he announced their release from China and imminent return home.

"These two men have gone through an unbelievably difficult ordeal," Trudeau said.



**FILE PHOTO: Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou reacts as she leaves her home to attend a court hearing in Vancouver, Canada, August 10, 2021. PHOTO BY JENNIFER GAUTHIER /Reuters**

be known around the world as "The Two Michaels."

"Welcome home, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor," Trudeau tweeted after their arrival. "You've shown incredible strength, resilience, and perseverance. Know that Canadians across the country will continue to be here for you, just as they have been."

Kovrig and Spavor's safe return to Canada marks an uplifting end to a tense international standoff surrounding the U.S. extradition case against Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou.

Just as Spavor and Kovrig took off for Canada late Friday, Meng was

abrupt conclusion when Meng, the chief financial officer at Huawei Technologies and the daughter of the telecom's founder, reached a deal with U.S. prosecutors over fraud and conspiracy charges related to American sanctions against Iran.

In a virtual appearance in a New York courtroom, Meng pleaded not guilty on all charges as the judge signed off on a deferred prosecution agreement that would see the indictment against her dismissed after Dec. 1, 2022 — four years from the date of her arrest — provided that she complied with all her obligations under the terms of the deal.

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# PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



**Sonny Moroz**

Hi ladies! You are in luck. If you are looking for someone young, handsome, personable, and ambitious, I have one for you - his name is Sunny Moroz, 31 years young. He is the son of Jill Silverstone and Ronnie Moroz. He loves his dog Perry (five) and cat Pepper (11).

Sonny went to Ecole St. Clement for his elementary education and Lower Canada College for high school. He attended McGill University and University of Edinburgh. He is a people person. He is entering politics because it is about helping people. Early on, he chose politics over any other profession because directly

interacting with people is his forte. He works tirelessly until the job is done. His priority is to continue fighting for a fair representation for cultural communities, increased safety, and welfare of the youth.

An early riser, he plans his daily routine in helping solve problems his constituents bring to him. He is running as a Counsellor for Snowdon in Cotes-des-Neiges and Notre-Dame-de-Grace under the banner of Ensemble Montreal. When I asked why he chose Snowdon, he said he loves the place where he has lived in for a long time. His great plans for Snowdon include: to improve services for residents, to ensure that local

opportunities and issues are heard, to help disseminate all community networks by utilizing modern communication technology, to simplify accessibility to programs that the constituents do not know, to continue the support of housing through better inspection of apartment buildings, to assure clean and safe housing, to promote Snowdon's rich diversity, to assure the borough's continued support for the FHSM's Heritage Month, to support the Tamil's demand for better cricket facilities, and to aid the Bangladeshi community in its Shaheed Minar Project. Sonny, your hands will be full and I applaud your desire to help!

Sonny is always thinking how to meet his constituents' expectations. He says multiple times a day, "If you ever need my help, call my cell.WOW ! Sonny, I will memorize your cell number.

Sonny is lucky in that he has two important mentors in his life. The first is Anthony Housefather, whom he admires as someone who is always available to his constituents and will provide detailed answers promptly when an email is sent to him. He appreciates Housefather's honest response when a question is asked. His second favourite mentor is the retiring Councillor from Snowdon, Marvin Rotrand. Sonny admires Rotrand the way he listens to constituents' issues. He observes that Marvin is always the representative who takes necessary action to have the three levels of government react appropriately.

Asked about his greatest strength, he states, "My greatest strength is my patience and love for helping people no matter how small their concern might seem. In my

almost 10 years in politics, I find it amazing how often residents do not realize that their issues are important and that it might be the first time someone articulated the situation to someone who can do something about it. That's why it is always important to take time to listen."

When asked about what he loves about Filipinos, this is his reply: "Where do I even begin to answer this question! What I love the most is there is a deep appreciation for family and loyalty in the community. I grew up in a Jewish family and I see a tremendous amount of familiarity in what is emphasized at home. Education, honesty, empathy, and respect for your elders are always paramount. These are values I admire and as I learn Tagalog, I see how the Filipino culture is built upon these pillars, both culturally and linguistically. Also, I love Filipino food. It is as diverse, interesting, and complex as the people who are cooking it. I will never turn down an offer to sit down and eat with your family and friends!" I think he loves pancit. (I think Sonny is part Filipino!)

There you go. If you are looking for someone reliable, one who enjoys helping until your issues are resolved, Sonny is the man for you. A keen helper, a great listener, and cheerfully accessible. Mothers can only hope for a son in law like you! And you do look dashing in a Barong Tagalog! So, remember him when you vote. November is coming. He works hard though not for fame. Helping others is his aim. Sonny Moroz is his name! Good luck, Sonny. You are the best! In closing, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

From Page 3 "I'm going to die,

COVID-19 is also less likely to infect others. But vaccination isn't the only tool available to help stop the spread, Wong said. Saskatchewan residents can wear masks indoors — as mandated by the province — but they can also avoid large gatherings.

"Honestly, some people will listen to this and just roll their eyes and think again that I'm just fear-mongering or whatever," he said. "But it is so hard right now, what it is that we're dealing with in our hospitals, in our ICUs."

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Wong's plea comes as the fourth wave of COVID-19 has plunged the province into the worst stage of the pandemic so far, despite the adoption of vaccines.

Multiple COVID-19 records have been broken in the past week, including

the number of new cases, number of active cases, hospitalizations, patients in the province's intensive care units and deaths.

Rising ICU numbers have resulted in the slowing down or pausing of non-critical and elective services, while Saskatchewan's organ donation program has been halted as the province's health services shift to focus on COVID-19 efforts.

## Corrections

A previous version of this story stated that being vaccinated prevents the spread of COVID-19. In fact, a vaccinated person with COVID-19 is less likely to spread it to others.


Sep 28, 2021 9:24 AM CT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alexander Quon  
Reporter

Alexander Quon was born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. He has an interest in data reporting and political coverage and started at CBC Saskatchewan in 2021 after spending the first four years of his career in Atlantic Canada.


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# Liberal Rechie Valdez Wins Mississauga-Streetsville Riding; Makes History in the Fil-Can Community

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT-Retired

In the 44th Canadian federal election held on September 20, 2021, Filipino Canadians welcome a historical development in parliamentary politics. Filipino Canadian Rechie Valdez wins the electoral riding in Mississauga- Streetsville in Ontario. R. Valdez wins the seat for the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC). With her victory, she becomes the First Filipina and the Second Filipino Canadian to become a Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, after the final term of Liberal MP for Winnipeg North (Dr.) Rey Pagtakhan in 2004.

Political newcomer Rechie Valdez won her Member of Parliament seat against four opponents from the other political parties. Rechie garnered 24,054 votes, more than 6,875 against



**Rechie Valdez**

Whenever that day comes, I will be ready to lead Canada's Conservatives.

"We worked hard, we made progress, but the job is not done yet." O'Toole reaffirmed his commitment to take the party to the centre of the political spectrum even as it faces challenges on its right flank from the People's Party of Canada (PPC).

"We must continue this journey

her nearest Conservative rival.

During the snap parliamentary pandemic election, seven Filipino Canadians ran for Member of Parliament seats across the country, the largest number of Filipino candidates to date. Of the seven brave candidates, six Filipino Canadians did not make it. Among the unsuccessful candidates for Member of Parliament were Liberals Elizabeth Quinto of Oxford County, ON., Virginia Bremner of Vancouver-Kingsway, B.C., Paul Ong of Winnipeg, MB., New Democrats Naden Abenes of Vancouver-Quadra, B.C., Elaine Perez of Lethbridge, AB., and Green Party's Phil D Luna of Toronto-St. Paul's, ON.

The Liberals, led by Justin Trudeau, are returning to power in Ottawa with a minority government.

Liberal government will have to depend on at least one opposition party to help it pass its legislation.

Like O'Toole, Singh signalled he has no intention of stepping down as leader despite an underwhelming performance.

"Friends, I want you to know that our fight will continue. I also want you to know that we are going to keep on fighting to make sure that the super wealthy pay their fair share," Singh said in his concession speech, referring to his signature election promise to make the "ultra rich" pay much more in taxes to help cover the cost of new social programs.

"To all of your struggling, we see you, we hear you," Singh said. Greens' Paul loses but May poised for re-election

The Green vote collapsed and the party's leader, Annamie Paul, finished a disappointing fourth in her Toronto Centre riding. For months, the party has been beset with internal squabbling and that hampered its electoral efforts.

But in the southwestern

Unofficially, the election results showed the Liberals are winning 158 seats, the Conservatives picking up 119 seats, the Bloc Quebecois with 34 seats, the New Democrats counted 25 winners, and the Green Party with 2 seats. A party needs to win 170 of the 338 ridings to form a majority government. With this outcome, Canadians have decided to "stay the course", that is minority government as in 2019.

Under a Liberal government, with R. Valdez's win, many Filipinos are hoping and expecting that the Filipina legislator will represent and articulate the voice of her many compatriots in the Canadian Parliament. Albeit, not a "big deal", observers believe that her winning is a big step forward for Filipinos anew "to be at the table" in the realm of Canadian politics.

Ontario riding of Kitchener Centre, where the Liberal candidate dropped out amid allegations of harassment, Green candidate Mike Morrice was elected. The party's former leader, Elizabeth May, was also re-elected in her B.C. riding of Saanich—Gulf Islands.

Speaking to reporters in Toronto, Paul said she was disappointed to finish so poorly.

"It is hard to lose. No one likes to lose but I'm so proud of the effort," she said.

With nearly 16 million votes counted so far, the Conservatives have about 34 per cent of the ballots cast, the Liberals have 32 per cent and the NDP nearly 18 per cent. The Green Party captured 2.3 per cent of the ballots cast, while the PPC has more than five per cent — a much better result than the 1.6 per cent of the national vote it fetched in the 2019 election.

PPC Leader Maxime Bernier — a libertarian who has long railed

From Page 4 Canadians elect

exactly what we will continue to do."

## O'Toole's moderate conservatism falls short at the polls

Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole has missed his chance to unseat a prime minister who has faced his fair share of challenges during six



**Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole said in his concession speech Monday night that he anticipates Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau will soon call another election since he did not get the majority he wanted.**

years in office. O'Toole ran on a plan to boost health care spending, shrink the deficit over 10 years and tighten ethics rules for politicians — a more moderate take on conservatism that ultimately fell short.

The Conservatives are on track to win in 119 ridings — two fewer seats than the party won under former Conservative leader Andrew Scheer.

Speaking to supporters in Oshawa, Ont., O'Toole said he had no plans to resign even though his party saw little if any growth in its vote share and seat count. He vowed to stay at the helm to take another swing at defeating Trudeau in the next election, which could come as soon as 2023.

"My family and I are resolute in continuing this journey for Canada," O'Toole said. "If Justin Trudeau thinks he can threaten Canadians with another election in 18 months, the Conservative Party will be ready.

of welcoming more Canadians to take another look at this party," he said.

With Trudeau and the Liberals committed to progressive policies such as child care and new housing supports, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh ran even further to the left, promising a dramatic expansion of the federal government through \$200 billion in new spending commitments for promises such as national pharmacare.

Singh vows to continue fight to make 'super wealthy' pay fair share But Singh was criticized for putting out a platform with few details on how any of this transformative change would be implemented.

When all the ballots are counted, it could prove to be a disappointing night for Singh, with the NDP expected to pick up only one more seat than it won in 2019. Singh may have more clout in Parliament to look forward to, however — a minority

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See Page 18 Canadians elect



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# A tribute to our retiring Councilor Marvin Rotrand



**PIERRE ARCAND AWARDS THE MEDAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
TO MARVIN ROTRAND**

Montreal, August 25th, 2021. – Pierre Arcand, Member of the National Assembly for Mont-Royal-Outremont, Chair of the Official Opposition Caucus and Official Opposition Critic for Energy and Natural Resources, today awarded the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec to the Dean of Montreal City Hall, Mr. Marvin Rotrand, Municipal councillor in Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and representative of the district of Snowdon, to highlight his political career and his contribution to the influence of the city of Montreal. “It is with gratitude that I presented this honourable distinction to Mr. Rotrand, with whom I had the pleasure of collaborating. This gesture is a way of thanking him for his invaluable contribution to Quebec society and his exemplary achievement after 39 years of public service. I wish him a well-deserved retirement with his loved ones,” said Mr. Pierre Arcand.



**CCFAQ (Council of Canadian Filipino Associations of Quebec) held a retirement party for Mr. Marvin Rotrand, September 19, 2021 at MacKenzie King Park, and gave him a souvenir gift and plaque of appreciation for his excellent record of 39 years service to the Montreal community.**



**FFCAQ (Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec) held a hawaiian party for Marvin Rotrand, August 15, 2021, MacKenzie King Park.**

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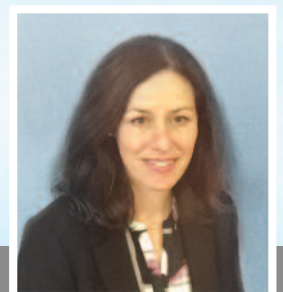
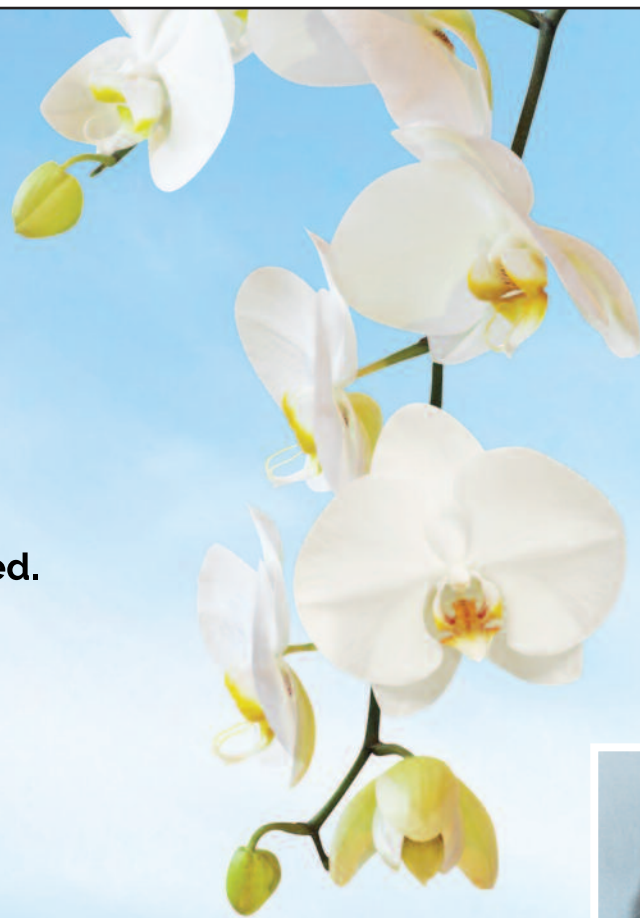
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### Simple Chicken and Tomatoes Skillet with Garlic and Capers



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/4 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 4 small or 3 medium breasts)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt divided
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper divided
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil divided
- 1/2 medium red onion diced (about 1 cup)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic about 3 cloves
- 4 cups grape tomatoes or other assorted tomatoes, or diced plum tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 cup drained capers
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1) lightly pound the chicken breasts to an even thickness. Sprinkle with 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. In a large, heavy-bottomed skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium high. Once hot, add the chicken breasts, top-side down, and let cook undisturbed for 4 minutes, until lightly browned. Flip and cook an additional 4 minutes. Turn again and continue cooking 3 to 5 additional minutes, flipping every few minutes, until the chicken is cooked through and reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. The total

cooking time will vary depending upon the thickness of your chicken. Remove to a plate and cover to keep warm.

2) Without wiping the pan, reduce the skillet heat to medium. Add the remaining tablespoon olive oil, swirl to coat the pan, then add the red onion and let cook until slightly softened, about 3 minutes, scraping the browned bits off the bottom of the pan as it cooks. Add the garlic and let cook 30 seconds until fragrant, then add the tomatoes, capers, red wine vinegar, honey, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper. Let cook until the tomatoes begin to soften, about 2 minutes. Return the chicken to the pan. Sprinkle with fresh parsley and serve.

### Pork Chops with Creamy Mushroom sauce



#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 pork chops, bone in or boneless (about 1-inch thick)
  - 1 teaspoon Seasoning salt (adjust to your taste)
  - 1/3 teaspoon cracked black pepper
  - 2 tablespoons olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Creamy Mushroom Sauce:**
- 1 cup sliced brown mushrooms
  - 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley, divided
  - 1 tablespoon fresh chopped thyme
  - 4 cloves garlic crushed
  - 3/4 cup reduced fat cream or half and half, (heavy cream or evaporated milk)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Season chops with seasoning salt and pepper. Heat oil and butter in

a frying pan or skillet over medium-high until butter is melted.

When pan is hot, sear chops for about 3-4 minutes per side until golden browned and the centre is no longer bright pink (fry in batches if you need to). Transfer to a warm plate. Set aside.

Add the mushrooms to the buttery juices in the pan and cook for 3-4 minutes over medium heat. Scrape up any bits left over from the chops. When mushrooms are browned, add half parsley, half thyme and all of the crushed garlic; sauté for 30 seconds until fragrant.

Pour in the cream and bring to a gentle simmer for 3-4 minutes until slightly thickened. Season with salt and pepper, to your taste.

Add the chops back into the sauce, allow to simmer for a minute to heat through. Garnish with remaining herbs and serve immediately.

### Stir-fried steak and veggies



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch, divided
- 2 tablespoons plus 1/2 cup water, divided
- 1 pound boneless beef top round steak, cut into thin 2-inch strips
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons canola oil, divided
- 4 cups fresh broccoli florets
- 1 small onion, cut into thin wedges
- Hot cooked rice

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Mix garlic powder and 2 tablespoons each cornstarch and water; toss with beef. In a small bowl, mix soy sauce, brown sugar, ginger and the remaining cornstarch and water until smooth.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat; stir-fry beef until browned, 2-3 minutes. Remove from pan.

In same pan, stir-fry broccoli and onion in remaining oil over medium-high heat until crisp-tender, 4-5 minutes. Stir soy sauce mixture; add to pan. Cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Return beef to pan; heat through. Serve with rice.

### Wild Mushroom Chowder with Bacon and Leeks



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4-6 Strips of thick bacon, sliced into 1/4 inch strips
- 2 tbsp Butter
- 1 cup Leeks, white and light green parts, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup Celery, finely chopped
- 8 oz Chanterelles (or other mushrooms) roughly chopped
- 1 tsp Fresh thyme
- 1 Bay leaf
- 1 tbsp Flour (optional)
- 3/4 cup Dry white wine
- 4 cups Chicken stock
- 1 tsp Sea salt
- 1/4 tsp Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp Nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp Cayenne pepper
- 1 lb Baby yukon gold potatoes, cut in half
- 1 cup Cream
- 1 tbsp Raw honey
- 1 tbsp Fresh squeezed lemon juice

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In a large, dutch oven or soup pot, over medium heat, fry the bacon pieces until slightly crispy. Add the butter, leeks and celery. Sauté the leek mixture for 5-7 minutes until the leeks and celery begin to soften.

Turn the heat to medium-high and add the chanterelles, thyme and bay leaf. Sauté for 3-5 minutes, until the mushrooms are soft.

Add the flour and stir to incorporate.

Slowly pouring the white wine in, scraping the bottom of the pot. Allow to simmer for 3-5 minutes until the wine reduces by half.

Add the chicken stock, potatoes, salt, pepper, nutmeg and cayenne. Bring to a boil. As soon as the stock begins to boil, turn heat back down and simmer for 15 minutes until the potatoes are tender.

Add the cream and raw honey. Heat through.

Finish with a squeeze of lemon juice and serve with freshly ground pepper and fresh herbs.

### 3-ingredient Strawberry Icebox Cake



#### INGREDIENTS (for 9 servings)

- 5 cups sweetened whipped cream (300 g)
- 11 large rectangular graham crackers
- 3 cups strawberry (450 g), chopped

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Spread a thin layer of whipped cream in a square glass baking dish. Layer graham crackers on top, then cover with a layer of whipped cream. Sprinkle 1/3 of the strawberries on top, then layer with cream again. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until no more ingredients remain. (The top layer should be strawberries and should not be covered with cream.) Refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Enjoy!





## Social Tidbits Community News

**Fely Rosales Cariño**

There might be little good news from this column when it comes to our liberation from this pandemic. We're still in the middle of it and let's be assured God knows when it disappears forever. Nevertheless, let's get on with our lives and make the best of it.

Many organizations felt claustrophobic and took advantage of the outdoors. They wanted to breathe the fresh air. They wanted to party! I begin with the picnic party held for Snowdon Councillor Marvin Rotrand who, after 39 years of service, is retiring. This picnic was given by the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) led by President Minda Mazzone and her executive board. It was held at Mackenzie King Park near Dr. Jose Rizal's bust. Thanks to Tata Bert Abiera who secured the place the night before. The sun shone and the weather was just right. Food and drinks were on two tables. Was Councillor Rotrand ever surprised! He arrived with wife Jacqui and their dog. Also present were hopeful mayor candidate Lionel Perez, Outreach Officer Sonny Moroz, and Stephanie Valenzuela. The last two are aspiring Councillors for Snowdon and Darlington respectively. Marvin, seeing many familiar faces, was overwhelmed. The occasion was just a happy one! In his speech, he was full of gratitude to all who came to bid him farewell. The occasion was a joyous one - a celebration and an acknowledgement of his fruitful service! There's no one like you, Marvin, a very great friend to Filipinos! Hurray to you!

Not to be outdone was a picnic at Van Horne Park thrown by the Chess and Social Club. President Manny Lagasca and wife Lina arrived at lunchtime to find chess players already at the designated places. I heard Sonny Moroz went earlier in the morning to bring tables and chairs! Sonny, you have a big heart! Food was supervised by Tess Teodoro, assisted by Social Committee Chairman Cherry Palmos. Rose Jacinto, a club member, and I kept on nibbling at assorted snacks while waiting for lunchtime. Nearby were athletes playing cricket. (I didn't know that cricket was such an interesting game. Four sets of teams played until a champion emerged). In the afternoon, more members arrived after their work. Supper was served as more food arrived, not to mention the barbecue that was cooking in the premises. What a fun picnic party that went on until the evening!

The Filipino Heritage Society of

Montreal (FHSM) went out of town for a break. They went to Magog and anyone I talked to was just thrilled. They enjoyed every part of the trip, especially the cruise. Huge thanks must go to FHSM Chairman Al Abdon, always ingenious and tireless in serving the association. He is already shopping around for another out-of-town trip!

August 22 was a nice, sunny



**L to R: Councilor Lionel Perez, Councilor Marvin Rotrand and Mrs. Rotrand. Photo taken during the Meet and Greet Ensemble Montreal candidates at MacKenzie King Park, August 22, 2021**

day to be in the park. It was also a day that Councilor Lionel Perez, Sonny Moroz, and Stephanie Valenzuela invited everyone for a MEET & GREET session at Mackenzie King Park. A good crowd came by for lunch which was taken care of by the able cooking skills of Stephanie's mom. There were several associations there. Some also came to see Marvin and wished him well for his retirement. I don't know who came from Hawaii but Marvin received the biggest multicoloured lei I've ever seen in my life. It was so long that it reached the ground! Lionel looked after the picture taking with the different organizations. Present were Sir James & Rose de la Paz, Sir Dario Boco, Sir Gerry Danzil, Ramon & Ester Vicente, Trans Liganor, Zeny Kharroubi, Cherry Palmos, Mercy Sia, Epang Nicolas and many others. After lunchtime, Mr. Dennis Coderre, running as a candidate for Mayor of Montreal, gave a speech the crowd wanted to hear. It was all about improving the quality of life of Montreal.

August 28 Townhall Meeting. A Meet & Greet session was held at Ruby



**Ambassador Rodolfo Robles (center) met Members of Parliament Anthony Housefather (2nd from right) and Annie Koutrakis (3rd from left)**

Foo's Singapore Room. Alwin Conchas III, Attaché (Cultural Section), Embassy of the Philippines, invited Montreal community leaders. Emcee First Secretary and Consul Greg Marie Marino started and ended the program on time. Deputy Chief of Mission Francisco Noel Fernandez III gave the opening remarks. This was followed by updates on cultural programs of the Philippine Embassy given by Consul General Eric Aquino. After the preliminary updates, Ambassador Rodolfo Robles gave his message. Here are some of the Filipino organizations presented: Romeo Remigio (FAMAS), Minda Mazzone (FFCAQ), Sir Dario Boco (FCCAQ), Norberto Mandin (Canadian Radio Pinoy), Michael Davantes & Tenne Dayandante (Pinoy Pa Rin), Alice Arseno (Aklan Association of Montreal), Jeannette Perignon (Kahirup & PBSSQ), Sir Gerry Danzil (KOR Central Chapter), Estela Tablas (Pangasinan Association), Zenaida Kharoubi (Gilmore College & The North American Filipino Star), Michelle Vargas Lao (FCAAM), Amelia Manonog (Filipino Nursing Guild of Quebec), Lilia Esguera (Ahmon Institute), Mercy Sia (Volleyball), Filipino Parents Association of Montreal, Glenda Lasaten (Ilocano Association of Montreal), M. Aguirre (Grandby Migrants of Quebec), Pete Ison (Novo Ecijano of Quebec), Editha Fedalizo (Panday Tinig Ensemble), Remedios Monteagudo (Quebec Council Business & Trade), Bing Estopa (QACFT), Lolita Odulio (SWIS), Ricardo Ribaya (Tennis Association of Montreal), Evelyn Calugay (Pinay), Tess Tesssalona (Support for Filipino Parents), Mary Grace Ocampo (FNAQ), Sir James de la Paz (KOR, Eastern Canada Region) and Alfonso Abdon (FHSM Chairman). Chairman Abdon presented Ambassador Robles with a book entitled Montreal, Then & Now, and an FHSM coffee mug. Coffee and snacks were served after the event. The evening ended with a picture taking with Ambassador Robles and the Embassy staff.

Last September 5 was the WATWAT Festival 2021 at Angrignon Park, Montreal - This is an event celebrated by the Philippine Cordillera Cultural Association of Quebec (PCCAQ). Judging from the several

colourful tents posted, members from Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Apayao, Kalinga, and Abra turned out in full attendance to celebrate. Though the weather did not cooperate, they were able to hold their Induction of Officers led by their President Manuel Faroden. The WATWAT program began with a parade. An Invocation was done by Judith Cosidon. This was followed by the National Anthems and the Cordillera Hymn performed by the PCCAQ officers. An inspirational message was given by Elder Rey Balansi. The Organizing Committee prepared a presentation from each province, a Ganza competition, and some games. Intermission numbers were performed by Ada & Jad Angngaway and Arnold Buliyat. Some games were cancelled due to the rain. Nevertheless, the festival was a complete success enjoyed by everyone who was there.

August 28 Swiss Family Picnic at Chalet, Spring Gardens, DDO - Yes, the weather was good but it was super windy! Paper plates, paper cups, etc. were flying! However, almost all members were in attendance and food was in abundance (as usual!). Officers led by Chairman Connie Fabro received visits from candidates on their campaign trail. Dollard Des Ormeaux Mayor Alex Bottausci, accompanied by his young son, came by to say hi to everyone. How thoughtful of the mayor! At the end of the day almost everyone went home with a doggy bag. Because of the windy weather, no games were played but a jolly fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

Here's a little juicy bit of news from Tenne Rose of Pinoy Pa Rin. It seems that vandalism has hit the FAMAS Center. The Philippine Flag was pulled down and burned to a crisp. Who would do this? Is this done for mindless attention or is it part of anti-Asian hatred? Perhaps an investigation should start right away? Thanks, Tenne.

Let me end with an encouragement from Philippians 4:13, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Until the next issue. God Bless!



# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Filipino designer Rojen Morris makes waves at New York Fashion Week



**Rojen Morris**

Rojen Morris is a Filipino designer who owns a modeling and talent agency in the Mid-Atlantic Region in the US.

She was raised and grew up in Sapang Dalaga, Misamis

gives opportunities to women. Her company provides one-on-one management to its models.

Rojen has moved away from the traditional factory-style agency, recognizing her for her unique

runway modeling.

Rojen's agency has large clients based across the Asia Pacific and just started in the US. Her talents are seen in different catalogs, magazines, billboards, TV

and client and models are essentials for me. I treat them as a part of my family. My models' careers are carefully thought-out, and it takes time to fully develop them. It really needs hard work," she said in an interview.

Rojen has been designing dresses for five years now. She designed clothes that her models and her daughter wore during national and international pageant competitions.

She has showcased her various designs in fashion shows and events in the US.

Last Sept. 11, Morris showcases her collection at the famous "New York Fashion Week produced by VIP pageantry, VIP New York Fashion Week.

Here, she paraded her line the "Nejor Empire Collections," where the GMA7-produced series "Encantadia" was her theme.

Rojen also collaborated with another Filipino pride, sketch designer, hair-and-makeup stylist Jan Quijano, and her designer's team associates Carlos Granadillo and Gary Morris in this showcase.

Their line offers basic RTW gowns for beauty queens and colorful and trendy gowns for kids and teens.

Rojen keeps these things in mind when she creates her brand: to make them feel good wearing it, affordability, and being unique.

"Truly, it is a pride to be making your name in the international scene. I am very thankful for this opportunity, and I am thankful for VIP New York Fashion Week for allowing my team and me to be part of this prestigious event. I want to continue to represent my beloved Philippines to inspire my fellow kababayan that anything is possible with hard work and determination don't give up



Occidental in Mindanao, where she owned a ready-to-wear boutique in her town.

When she moved to the US, Rojen continued her passion for designing, training, and directing pageants and fashion shows as she

approach in the competitive industry.

Her creative team strives on a daily basis to ensure that each model reaches his/her fullest potential, ensuring that every avenue of career development is explored and able to experience different aspects of



commercials, and print advertisements to mention just a few.

"Building and nurturing a healthy relationship between agency

Dream what you want to dream go where you want to be, because we only have one life and one chance to do it all," she said. ■



# Kris Aquino admits: “I am not my parents, I am not my brother.”

Kris Aquino reflected on the past months via social media, recently.

She described it as a rollercoaster ride of sorts noting “may sobrang lungkot, may very stressful, (someone special to my brother & now me was in ICU BUT survived), and may special & unexpected.”

She maintained she now completely understands why her mom, late former President Cory Aquino, would often remind her “to whom much is given, much is expected in return.”

Despite the ups and downs, Kris is thankful that a certain brand promised they have her back.

According to Kris, she actually did a promotional post for the brand the day prior to her brother former President Noynoy Aquino passed away.

According to her the brand

actually waited until enough time had passed for her to post it on social media.

Kris then later declared she’s donating her talent fee for the said post for government

healthcare workers “who are yet to get their backwages (we are in contact with PGH).”

“And I’m giving the rest sa Malabon program: Karinderiya para sa Kalusugan nl Chikiting,”

she added.

“Naniniwala pa rin ako na may kinabukasan ang (Philippine flag). Kaya para sa mga bumubuhay sa ‘tin ngayon at para sa dapat mabuhay na malusog para makabangon tayong muli, kayo ang pinili ko.”

Prior, Kris noted how she’s so unlike her mother and brother.

“Hindi ako ang magulang ko, hindi ako ang kuya ko- BUT everyday I’m grateful more of them is coming out in me, especially my ability to make the difficult decisions when needed and to put others’ needs before my own,” Kris said.

“Alam ko ang ilan sasabihin dapat tahimik ko ‘tong ginawa pero kung hindi ko ‘to i-post, hindi makakalampag yung kailangan makarinig that it’s our responsibility to have our fellow Filipinos’ backs.”



(Left) Noynoy Aquino & Kris (Right) Corazon Aquino

## Gretchen Barretto shares golden rules of life



Gretchen Barretto

Actress-socialite Gretchen Barretto looked beyond the bling as she shared some golden rules she abides by in her life.

On Instagram, Gretchen said that these simple golden rules were reminders from her mom.

“Early morning reminder from my mum and I say LIVE EACH DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST. Live, love & love,” she wrote on social media recently.

### Few common sense HEALTH TIPS FOR ALL

#### A. Two things to check often:

- (1) Your blood pressure
- (2) Your blood sugar

#### B. Three things reduced to minimum:

- (1) Salt
- (2) sugar
- (3) starch (Carbohydrates)

#### C. Four things to increase:

- (1) Greens
- (2) Veggies
- (3) fruits
- (4) Nuts

#### D. Three things to forget:

- (1) Your age
- (2) your past
- (3) your grudges

#### E. Three things to have:

- (1) True Friends
- (2) Loving family
- (3) Positive thoughts

#### F. Four acts to stay healthy:

- (1) Fasting
- (2) Laughing
- (3) Exercise
- (4) Weight loss

#### G. Four things not to wait for:

- (1) Don't wait till you are sleepy to sleep
- (2) Don't wait till your tired to rest
- (3) Don't wait till your friend is sick to go to see him.
- (4) Don't wait for problems to pray to God.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.. & STAY YOUNG!!

“A New Year, A New Start, and Miles to Go.



**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15*

# Angel Locsin shares encouraging words for people struggling to lose weight



Actress Angel Locsin has surprised fans with a recent post featuring her body transformation.

But after it trended, she immediately shared some inspiring messages.

"Hello everyone! About my recent post that became viral, first, I want to say that knowing how to pose the right way can help you look slimmer. I think everyone who posts ootd's or watched Top model knows this," the Kapamilya star

started.

She advised people struggling to lose that extra weight not to feel the pressure.

"I tell you that I understand that it's not easy, having been fighting weight gain for years," Angel related.

The 36-year-old celebrity said pressure won't do any good.

"Just take your time. Your body, your rules. Just don't forget to love every inch of you in the

process, no matter what other people may say. You are more than your weight or how you look. What's important is how you feel and think of yourself. Shine. Don't let the perception of others dim your light. I know you are trying. I know it's hard. I understand."

Angel said that though she was able to slim down, she's also acknowledging the fact that she's still a "work in progress."

"Though, I feel good now.

I've been taking care of my health and trying out something new. I will share with you my process and journey some other time when I'm more confident na. But this is not without struggles and bumps," said she.

"I will not let anyone dictate my pace. But I am looking forward to what I can achieve in the next three months or so. Love you, fats and all ♥." ■

## Claudine Barretto to run for Olongapo councilor in 2022



Actress Claudine Barretto is venturing into politics in 2022.

Barretto will run for councilor in Olongapo City, the slate Bangon Olongapo announced on Friday.

She will run under the same ticket as starmaker and talent manager Arnol Vegafria, who is seeking the mayoral post in the city.

Another celebrity in the local slate is JB Saliba, the 2019 Mr. World Philippines titlist, who is also running for councilor.

Barretto is the latest showbiz personality to indicate seeking an elected post, for the first time, in the 2022 elections.

Barretto, 42, is a screen veteran who traces her career beginnings in 1992. Dubbed

local showbiz's "Optimum Star," she was the lead star of successive ABS-CBN soap operas in the '90s and early 2000s.

In recent years, she has been a frequent subject of headlines for the controversial feud among her family members, including her sisters Gretchen and Marjorie, and niece Julia. ■



# Kim Chiu on cheating: 'I was also a victim'



**Kim Chiu**

"It's Showtime" host Kim Chiu cleared the issue about her allegedly "justifying" cheaters.

She reiterated that it's far from the truth, relating that she was even a victim of a cheating partner.

"The other day, I was not given a chance to explain further what I said. I just want to tell everyone and clarify – I am not in favor of cheating. I will never really be in favor of that, because I was also a victim then. It was not easy, and it was very painful," said Kim in mixed English and Filipino.

Kim used to date controversial actor Gerald Anderson.

"Again, I am not in favor of cheating and I will never be in favor of that," she added.

The actress, on the other hand, greeted her longtime boyfriend Xian Lim, when co-host Jugs Jugeta added in jest that she should look for "loyal" men.

"Love, love, love. Respect,

respect, respect. Let's spread love and happiness."

Recall that the issue started when Vice Ganda asked Kim's two cents about the saying "Once a cheater, always a cheater."

When another of their co-hosts Teddy Corpuz revealed that he once cheated on a former girlfriend, Kim interjected: "Baka mag che-cheat kung hindi siya naging masaya... Baka bubukas yung mundo ng cheating kung di siya masaya sa partner."

Vice disagreed, lecturing Kim: "Again Kim Chiu, there's no acceptable reason for cheating. Masaya ka or hindi ka masaya, walang pass yun to cheat. Hindi ka ma absuelto dun: 'Eh kasi hindi siya masaya...' Walang ganun, Kim."

Prior, Vice already disapproved of Kim's view seemingly justifying cheating men as simply weak. ■

## Dennis Trillo finds pieces of broken glass on Jennylyn Mercado's food



Kapuso actor Dennis Trillo took social media to spread awareness about his recent experience with food delivery.

Apparently, pieces of

shattered glass were found on the food he ordered online for his partner, Jennylyn Mercado.

In fact, he even uploaded the video of it, where the Kapuso actress was heard saying: "Buti hindi ko nalunok."

"Ayaw ko lang na mangyare pa sa iba ito... Since wala kayong contact number, at hindi kayo nag rereply sa IG message ko, baka sakaling makarating na sa inyo ito..." wrote Dennis in the caption.

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### From Page 9 Canadians elect

against government overreach — became a champion of the "no more lockdowns" crowd during the pandemic, routinely appearing at well-attended protests against public health measures.

He is also vehemently opposed to vaccine passports — a position that appears to have given the PPC a boost among unvaccinated voters. But the

counted, Liberal cabinet minister Deb Schulte is also in a tough fight in her riding of King-Vaughan. Bloc looks to pick up two seats in Quebec

In Quebec, where the separatist Bloc Québécois is poised to pick up two more than the 32 seats it held in the last Parliament, the Liberal brand also performed well — although the Liberals were hoping for more gains there to vault it into majority government territory.



**No one likes to lose, but I'm so proud of the effort, the creativity, the innovation that our team brought to this race: Green Party Leader Annamie Paul speaks after 2021 election results in her losing race for Toronto Centre riding. CBC.ca**

improved showing failed to produce any seats in Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system. Bernier finished a distant second in his riding of Beauce, which was easily won by the Conservative incumbent, Richard Lehoux.

"This is not just a political party. This is a movement. It is an ideological revolution that we are starting now," Bernier told supporters in Saskatoon.

The Liberals owe their re-election to strong performances in the country's two most populous provinces, Ontario and Quebec.

Toronto and its surrounding suburbs — colloquially known as "the 905" after its area code — proved to be a resilient Liberal fortress; the Conservatives failed to make any significant gains among GTA voters. Only one of the area's many seats, Thornhill, elected a Conservative MP. However, with votes still left to be

Trudeau cruised to victory in his own riding of Papineau. Other cabinet ministers, including François-Philippe Champagne in Quebec's Saint-Maurice-Champlain and Mona Fortier in Ontario's Ottawa-Vanier, also posted lopsided victories and were easily re-elected.

But at least one Liberal cabinet minister from Ontario, Maryam Monsef, went down to defeat. Monsef was easily bested by Conservative candidate Michelle Ferreri in the eastern Ontario riding of Peterborough-Kawartha — a seat that, until tonight, had a 40-year record as an election bellwether.

Liberal cabinet minister Bernadette Jordan loses her N.S. seat While voters have returned a Liberal government to Ottawa, results from Atlantic Canada's 32 seats suggest O'Toole's more centrist brand of conservatism resonated in the region

Newfoundland and Labrador and the Maritimes have been a Liberal



**Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet during a news conference Sept. 18, with candidate Louis Sansfacon in Quebec City. (Jacques Boissinot/The Canadian Press)**

Jordan served as fisheries minister in Trudeau's cabinet. The Conservative candidate in Cumberland-Colchester, Stephen Ellis, easily picked off Liberal incumbent Lenore Zann.

O'Toole, who has appointed a number of Maritimers to senior roles in the party, performed better than his recent predecessors in this region.

Former prime minister Stephen

As Alberta grapples with another public health emergency under the leadership of Premier Jason Kenney,



**People's Party of Canada Leader Maxime Bernier, with his wife, Catherine Letarte, speaks from a podium to supporters during the PPC headquarters election night event in Saskatoon on Sept. 20, 2021. (Liam Richards/The Canadian Press)**

Harper was shut out of Atlantic Canada in 2015 while Scheer picked up only four seats in the 2019 contest.

Conservative candidates have been declared elected in seven of the region's ridings. Conservative Rick Perkins has unseated Liberal incumbent Bernadette Jordan in the Nova Scotia riding of South Shore-St Margarets.

the Conservative brand took a hit in that province. Liberal candidate George Chahal beat the Conservative incumbent in Calgary Skyview and Edmonton Centre was also on track to go red, but the margin is so thin that the race is still too close to call.

## Canada, China trade barbs at UN General Assembly over 2 Michaels, Meng Wanzhou

Canada and China were involved in a war of words at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Monday over the detention of their citizens who were released over the weekend in an apparent prisoner swap.

Speaking on the closing day of the 76th session of the UNGA in New York, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau thanked international allies for their support in the case of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who returned to Canada after nearly three years in Chinese detention.

The announcement of their release by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday night came hours after a deferred prosecution agreement in the case of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, who was accused of committing fraud in order to circumvent

U.S. sanctions against Iran.

On Friday, a B.C. Supreme

Court judge withdrew the U.S. extradition charge against her, allowing

her to return home to China.

Garneau told the UNGA that Canada applied both Canadian and international law in response to the U.S. request for extradition of Meng, and that the "two Michaels," as they are known, paid a "heavy price" for Canada's commitment to the rule of law.

"We continue to oppose the way these two citizens were treated," Garneau said, adding that Canada "will never forget this experience."

China has long maintained that there is no connection between Meng's case and that of Spavor and Kovrig, who were arrested over espionage charges just days after the Huawei executive's apprehension.

Using the right to reply at the



**Canadian Foreign Minister Marc Garneau speaks at the UN General Assembly in New York on September 27, 2021.**

See Page 20 Canada,, China



# Manila mayor announces bid for president of the Philippines

**Isko Moreno takes aim at President Duterte for his 'failures' in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and alleged corruption.**

The mayor of Manila has launched his bid for the presidency of the Philippines, promising to fight poverty and taking aim at his former ally, President Rodrigo Duterte, for his alleged failures in the COVID-19 pandemic and corruption.

The election is due to take place in May 2022 and Duterte is barred from running for a second term.

Instead of flattening the curve we have flattened the economy, yet many people continue to flatline in our hospitals," Isko Moreno said on Wednesday, speaking from a new housing development in the Manila slums of Tondo, where he grew up and worked as a rubbish collector before he became an actor.

Moreno was born Francisco Domagoso, but he is more popularly known by his screen name.

He is the third high-profile politician and former ally of Duterte to declare a presidential bid. In recent days international boxing champion, Senator Manny Pacquiao, and Senator Panfilo Lacson also confirmed they would run.

Moreno has been performing strongly in recent opinion polls. In a Pulse Asia survey released in July, he was the second choice to become the country's next leader, behind Duterte's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

While Duterte himself cannot run for the presidency again, he has accepted his party's nomination to run for vice president – an unprecedented political move in the Philippines.

Duterte-Carpio had earlier said she was not running for president, citing her own father's unconventional bid for vice president. But she continues to travel around the country, meeting regional and provincial political powerbrokers, which has only fuelled



**Moreno is the third high-profile politician and former ally of Duterte to declare a presidential bid for the May 2022 polls [File: Noel Celis/Reuters]**

speculation of a last-minute announcement.

Candidates for national office, including the president, vice president

Moreno was only elected mayor of Manila in 2019, beating another popular politician, the incumbent Joseph Estrada, who was also a former



**In 2013, Moreno (right) ran and won as vice mayor of Manila alongside Mayor Joseph Estrada, a former Philippine president. But when Estrada sought a third mayoral term in office in 2019, Moreno defeated him [File: Romeo Ranoco/Reuters]**

and the 12 seats in the Philippine Senate, have until October 8 to formally file their certificate of nomination.

**We can make it better'**

judicial independence as Meng did.

Meng was kept under house arrest in one of her Vancouver mansions, while the two Canadians faced harsh conditions in Chinese detention — where they had limited access to the outside world and their families.

"We continue to oppose the way these Canadian citizens were treated and we will continue to speak out against arbitrary detention in state-to-state relations," the Canadian diplomat added.

The Chinese representative fired back a final time, saying China could not accept what the Canadian representative said.

"We can't deny the facts," he said.

**Analysis of the relationship between Canada and China after**

Philippine president.

He had previously served as a city councillor and vice mayor. In 2016, he ran for senator in a coalition ticket

**the return of the two Michaels**

With Kobrig and Spaver safely returning to Canada on Saturday and greeted by Calgary's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the tense international conflict that has strained relations between Ottawa and Beijing has come to an end.

In another twist early Monday, China's Foreign Ministry said Spaver and Kobrig were released on bail for health reasons.

In a daily briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said China had released two Canadians on bail "with a diagnosis by a specialized medical institution and the guarantee of the Canadian ambassador

Two Michaels are at home. But what about the 115 Canadians who are still detained in China?

In an interview with Global

with Duterte and his allies.

When he failed in his bid for a Senate seat, Duterte made him chairman of the board of the North Luzon Railways Corporation and later a senior social welfare official.

As mayor of Manila, Moreno has earned praise for cleaning up the Philippine capital and building new housing for many poor settlers. But he has also been criticised for his silence on Duterte's deadly war on drugs in which thousands have been killed, including many drug suspects in the slums of Manila.

Moreno has become more critical of Duterte and his government in the last year amid the worsening pandemic, prompting Duterte to mock Moreno's life as an actor. He also withheld the mayor's power to distribute aid to those under the pandemic lockdown.

On Wednesday, he appealed for the support of the Filipino public, invoking his background as a former rubbish collector while alluding to the president's crude public pronouncements.

"It is not a crime to wear threadbare clothes because of poverty. What is wrong is to praise an emperor's clothes when in fact he is wearing none," he said in a mix of Tagalog and English.

"Yes, I grew up being poor. But I have never been bad-mannered. Although I've lived in the trash, not once did I become foul-mouthed," he said, while taking a swipe at the alleged corruption in the Duterte administration's purchase of medical equipment during the pandemic.

Moreno picked Dr Willie Ong, a physician and failed senatorial candidate, as his running mate.

Before his announcement on Wednesday, Moreno acknowledged that he was also in talks with Senator Pacquiao and Vice President Leni Robredo to forge a possible coalition.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

News on Sunday, Garneau said the federal government's "eyes are wide open" when it comes to China.

"It's a spectacular policy about (the Chinese government)," Garneau told Mercedes Stephenson in an episode of Global News. He added that the arbitrary detention of "two Michaels" stopped relations between Canada and China.

But relations with China are constantly evolving, Garneau said, and said the two would still "coexist."

"We compete. We work in areas that require cooperation, such as climate change, and challenge China where appropriate, whether human rights or arbitrary detention," he said

Source: Global News Emerald Bensadoun, The Canadian Press, Associated Press files

From Page 18 Canada, China

UNGA, a representative for China's UN mission, speaking shortly after Garneau's address, said Meng's case is "completely different" to the Canadian men.

He accused the U.S. and Canada of arbitrarily detaining Meng, categorizing it as a "complete political incident and frame-up."

"We hope that Canada can face up to the facts squarely, correct their mistakes and draw lessons from what happened so that they could not make further mistakes," the Chinese diplomat added.

Exercising its own right to reply, a representative for Canada's UN mission said the "two Michaels" did not benefit from a similar degree of transparency, respect, due process or





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