



## BREAKING NEWS



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## UNCERTAINTY: We've Been Here Before

By Waves Staff

The uncertainty surrounding Trump's tariffs and the COVID-19 pandemic echoes past periods of economic turbulence.

Trump's tariffs, particularly the sweeping "reciprocal tariffs," have disrupted global trade, leading to increased costs for businesses and consumers. These measures have sparked retaliatory actions from other nations, further straining international relations and economic stability.

Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions, with global supply chains faltering and economic uncertainty skyrocketing.

Both events highlight how sudden policy changes or global crises can ripple through economies, creating volatility and uncertainty. History shows that such periods often lead to market corrections and shifts in economic strategies. The key takeaway? Resilience and adaptability are crucial

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FUN! FUN! FUN!



A historic and FUN experience on Victoria Day long weekend

## FUN PHILIPPINES OTTAWA STREET FESTIVAL MAY 17 & 18

Get ready to immerse yourself in a celebration of Filipino culture and heritage at the Fun Philippines Ottawa Festival, from May 17 to May 18. This unique event, organized by Toronto's PLACA and Ottawa's Kampi-ca, is set to coincide with Ottawa's famous Tulip festival and the Philippines' National Heritage month.

### Strategic Location and Significance

Located in front of the iconic Parliament buildings, the festival will be the first to welcome and celebrate the newly elected federal government. This historical event is a perfect blend of cultural celebration and political significance, showcasing the rich traditions of the Filipino community in the heart of Canada's capital city.

### Enticing Culinary Delights

Food lovers are in for a treat with a wide range of Filipino culinary offerings. Festival visitors can indulge in mouth-watering dishes that have gained global recognition, from savory street food to delectable desserts. The diverse food vendors promise to deliver an unforgettable culinary experience that highlights the best of Filipino cuisine.

### Non-stop Entertainment

Entertainment at the Fun Philippines Ottawa Festival will be nothing short of spectacular. Following the success of Toronto's Fun Philippines festivals, Ottawa's event will feature non-stop programming and quality shows that have received rave reviews. Enjoy performances from cultural



Singing, Dancing, Bands, non-stop FUN to rock Ottawa!

dance groups, youth and adult performers, and vibrant street dancing. The festival will also include cultural installations, such as the iconic jeepney, along with a Kids Zone, Beer Garden, and various crafts and diverse businesses.

### A Showcase of Filipino Culture

The festival is an oppor-

tunity for the Filipino community to present the amazing people, arts and culture, wonderful entertainment, delectable cuisine, and world-renowned Filipino hospitality that define them. Visitors will be captivated by the lively atmosphere and engaging activities that celebrate Filipino heritage.

### Festival Dates and Attractions

Join us at the Fun Philippines Ottawa Festival from May 17 to May 18. Don't miss the chance to explore Ottawa's attractions, including the stunning Parliament buildings and the breathtaking Tulip festival. This event promises to be a memorable experience, blending the beauty of Ottawa with the vibrant heritage of the Philippines.

Make it a FUN holiday! Fun Philippines Ottawa Street Festival will be held on Victoria Day weekend which gives festival visitors a day to rest after an exhilarating 2-day fun event.

Come and be a part of this historic celebration – see you at the Fun Philippines Ottawa Festival! ■



# Carney, with FilCans, will make Canada Strong

The Filipino community in Canada has always been a pillar of hard work, resilience, and dedication. We contribute to this country's success, and we deserve leadership that stands up for us in times of crisis. Today, our economy and our future face new challenges, but with strong leadership, we can rise above them.

As we wrap up the first week of the campaign, it's clear that leadership matters. President Trump's unfair tariffs are threatening over 500,000 Canadian workers, including many in industries that employ Filipino Canadians. His goal? To weaken Canada so that America can own us. We won't let that happen! Mark Carney and the Liberal team are standing up for us, with a clear plan to fight back, protect our workers, and build a stronger, more independent economy.

## Here's what a Mark Carney-led Liberal government will do:

- **Protect Jobs & Strengthen Our Economy** – Investing \$5 billion into the Trade Diversification Corridor Fund to create new jobs, build essential infrastructure, and reduce our reliance on the U.S.



- **Cut Taxes for the Middle Class** – Putting more money back into the pockets of hard-working families, saving up to \$825 per year, without adding to the deficit.

**Mark Carney and the Liberal team will deliver a middle class tax cut that will:**

- ✓ Put up to \$825 back in your family's pocket.
- ✓ Build the fastest growing economy in the G7.
- ✓ Help us stand strong against Trump's tariffs.

- **Support Filipino Workers & Businesses** – Fighting against unfair U.S. tariffs and building a stronger Canadian supply chain to protect industries where many of us work.



- **Invest in Our Future** – Rebuilding, reinvesting, and strengthening Canada's Armed Forces to protect our country at home and abroad.

It's easy to make bold promises, but without a real plan, those promises don't get delivered. Pierre Poilievre claims he will cut income taxes by 15%, but he hasn't explained how he will replace the billions in lost revenue without cutting

services that families rely on. In the past, Conservative tax cuts have often favoured the wealthy while leaving the middle class behind. Worse, without a plan, these promises can lead to higher deficits or deep service cuts, something we can't afford.

Mark Carney and the Liberal team will **fight US tariffs**, **protect our workers and industries** and **build a new Canadian economy**.

**LIBERALS WILL BUILD CANADA STRONG.**

Mark Carney, on the other hand, has spent his career managing economies at the highest levels. As a former Governor of the Bank of Canada and Bank of England, he knows how to implement tax relief responsibly without sacrificing essential programs or driving Canada deeper into debt. His plan ensures that Filipino-Canadian families get real financial relief while keeping our economy strong.

As Filipinos, we know what it means to work hard and build a better life. Let's stand together and build Canada strong.

**Sama-sama tayong babangon para sa isang mas matatag na Canada!**

## Seven Filipino Canadians Enter the Race for Federal Parliament

By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Just as the dust has barely settled and the smoke cleared from the recent Ontario provincial election held on February 27, 2025, the newly designated Canadian Prime Minister dropped the writ on March 23, 2025, calling for snap elections on Monday, April 28, 2025. Latest reports indicate that seven courageous and determined Filipino Canadians have entered the political arena for the upcoming federal elections. Dubbed the "Fantastic Seven," they have been nominated, declared, or acclaimed by their respective political parties in electoral districts

across Canada. Running for a seat in the House of Commons are four Filipino Canadian women and three men from the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party, the Conservative Party of Canada, the Green Party, and the People's Party of Canada. Geographically, there are two candidates in the Greater Toronto Area (Ontario), two in Vancouver (British Columbia), and one each in Montreal (Quebec), Calgary (Alberta), and Winnipeg (Manitoba). Here are the Pinoy and Pinay federal candidates:



**RECHIE VALDEZ**  
**MISSISSAUGA-STREETSVILLE**

Rechie Aileen Salazar Valdez, a politician and entrepreneur, is running for re-

election as a Member of Parliament for Mississauga Streetsville. Born in Kitwe, Zambia, to Overseas Filipino Workers parents, Valdez and her family immigrated to Canada in December 1989 and settled in Erin Mills, Mississauga, where she grew up. She attended St. Joseph Secondary School and completed her secondary education at Holy Name of Mary College School in 1998. She earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Windsor in 2003. Valdez then spent over 15 years as a corporate banker with BMO Financial Group. Married to Christopher Valdez

since 2007, she is the mother of two children. After winning the 2021 federal election, Valdez became the first federally elected Filipina Canadian member of Parliament, representing the riding of Mississauga-Streetsville in Ontario as a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. In 2023, she made history as the first Filipino woman to serve as a Cabinet minister, having been appointed Minister of Small Business. Valdez has expressed great pride in her Filipino heritage, particularly in 2022 when she highlighted how many Filipino immigrants, like her mother, came

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WAVES NEWS

Pope Francis, beloved ‘Lolo Kiko’ to Filipinos, has passed away: Vatican

Erik Tenedero,  
ABS-CBN News,  
Agence France-Presse

Pope Francis, known and loved by Filipinos as "Lolo Kiko," has passed away, the Vatican said Monday. He was 88.

The Argentine pontiff, leader of the Catholic Church since March 2013, spent 38 days being treated for double pneumonia at Rome's Gemelli hospital before seeming to recover and leaving the facility on March 23.

His death came a day after making a much hoped-for appearance at Saint Peter's Square on Easter Sunday.

"Dearest brothers and sisters, it is with deep sorrow that I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis," said Cardinal Kevin Farrell in the statement published by the Vatican on its Telegram channel.

"This morning at 7:35 am (0535 GMT) the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father.

"His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His church."

Francis's death came just a day after he delighted the crowds of worshippers at the Vatican on Easter Sunday with an appearance on the balcony at Saint Peter's Basilica despite still convalescing after a severe illness.

Francis had come close to dying twice earlier this year while suffering from pneumonia.

He spent 38 days in hospital before he was released on March 23.

On Sunday he wished the crowds on Saint Peter's Square a "Happy Easter" as he waved and in his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" ("To the City and the World") benediction he called for freedom of thought and tolerance.

His death sets in motion centuries-old traditions that will culminate in the gathering of a conclave of cardinals to choose a successor.

In the meantime, the day-to-day running of the tiny Vatican City state will be



Pope Francis in PH: A look back at his 2015 trip to Manila, Leyte (Inquirer Photo)

handled by the camerlengo, a senior cardinal, currently Dublin-born Kevin Farrell.

Francis's desire to chart a different path was evident right to the end, with his decision to be buried not in St Peter's Basilica but in Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore basilica.

He will become the first pope in more than 100 years to be laid to rest outside the Vatican.

Francis also rejected the tradition of popes having three coffins, instead choosing to be buried in just one, made of wood and zinc, to reflect his role as a humble pastor.

CHAMPION OF REFUGEES

Throughout his 12 years as the 266th pope of the Catholic Church, Francis's leadership has been centered

on the theme of mercy.

He championed the welfare of refugees and other marginalized peoples. He also pushed for a more tolerant Catholic Church, including the LGBT community, and the divorced and remarried.

He also criticized economic policies that according to him aggravated poverty and inequality.

His declarations focusing on what he called "the peripheries" of society earned the ire of the conservative block, especially in the United States, accusing him of diluting the teachings of the Church.

Elected to the Chair of Saint Peter in 2013, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires in his native country of Argentina was one of the old-

est popes in history.

Benedict XVI — his immediate predecessor, who resigned at the age of 85 due to declining health — died at 95. John Paul II, later declared a saint, died at 84. John Paul I, passed away at 65 while Paul VI died at 80.

In 2022, Francis started using a wheelchair in his public appearances due to a painful torn ligament in his knee.

From time to time, the pontiff used a cane when walking. But since then, he was never seen atop the high altar of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome to celebrate the Holy Mass.

Instead, he presided over some parts of the liturgy from a platform on the side of the basilica and delegated cardinals to lead the rest

of the Holy Mass at the altar.

Francis, who had part of his lung removed when he was young, has battled other health problems throughout his pontificate.

DOCTOR EXPLAINS POPE'S 'CHALLENGING' DOUBLE PNEUMONIA

In 2023, he was hospitalized twice: first was due to a respiratory infection and second was to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia.

In November of that same year, he canceled a scheduled trip to Dubai due to a "very acute infectious bronchitis."

During one of his travels as pope, he was asked by journalists if he was not afraid of going around without the security of a bulletproof popemobile

He famously answered: "At my age, I've got nothing to lose."

FRANCIS AND THE PHILIPPINES

He worked as a bouncer in a club before graduating as a chemical technician and then choosing the path to priesthood.

In 1973, he made his final profession with the Jesuits and quickly became the Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina — a post he held for six years.

He was consecrated bishop in 1992 and ultimately became the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998. He was later created a cardinal by John Paul II in 2001.

He was said to be the runner-up during the conclave that elected Benedict XVI.

Francis, aside from being the first pope from the Americas, was also the first from the order of Jesuits and the first to take the name Francis, after the famous 13th-century saint Francis of Assisi.

Some of his apostolic journeys were the firsts in papal history, including visits to Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, and the French island of Cosico.

In 2015, Francis made a very emotional visit to the

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Pope Francis (PNA file photo)



# Every Canadian should Wear the Employer Hat when Choosing the Right Prime Minister

By Waves Staff

In any democratic nation, leadership is a reflection of its people. In Canada, the Prime Minister is not just a political leader but also an employee of the citizens. As employers, Canadians hold the responsibility of hiring the best candidate for the job—a task that, in many ways, mirrors the hiring process in the corporate world. Just as companies scrutinize resumes to select the most qualified candidate for a role, voters must evaluate a leader's credentials, experience, and past performance before making their decision.

Evaluating the backgrounds of Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre reveals distinct differences in their career trajectories, experiences, and leadership styles—factors that Canadians, as the employers of their Prime Minister, should consider when assessing their qualifications.

## Mark Carney

- Economic Expertise:** Carney's career is deeply rooted in economics and finance. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University, followed by a master's and a doctorate in economics from the University of Oxford. His professional journey includes a 13-year tenure at Goldman Sachs, where he worked in London, Tokyo, New York, and Toronto, gaining extensive experience in global financial markets.



Mark Carney

- Central Banking Leadership:** Carney served as the Governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013, steering the country through the global financial crisis with policies that contributed to Canada's relatively swift recovery. He then became the Governor of the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020, where he managed challenges such as Brexit and the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Climate Advocacy:** Beyond central banking, Carney has been active in addressing climate change, serving as the UN's special envoy for climate action and finance. This role underscores his commitment to integrating sustainable practices within financial systems.

**Political Leadership:** In 2025, Carney transitioned into politics, becoming the leader of the Liberal Party and serving as Canada's Prime Minister. His technocratic approach and emphasis on economic stability have been central to his political platform.

## Pierre Poilievre

- Political Career:** Poilievre's background is primarily in politics.



Pierre Poilievre

He was elected to the House of Commons in 2004 at the age of 25, representing the Carleton district in Ottawa. His early involvement in politics included serving as parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and holding cabinet positions such as Minister of Democratic Reform and Minister of Employment.

- Conservative Leadership:** In 2022, Poilievre was elected leader of the Conservative Party. He is known for his populist approach, often drawing comparisons to U.S. political figures for his confrontational style and emphasis on individual freedoms and low taxes.

- Policy Focus:** Poilievre has been a vocal critic of Liberal policies, advocating for reduced government spending, tax reductions, and a focus on personal liberties. His support for movements such as the "Freedom Convoy" protests against COVID-19 lockdowns highlights his alignment with populist sentiments.

**Public Perception:** Despite leading in some polls, Poilievre faces challenges regarding public perception, with a significant portion of Canadians expressing unfavorable views of him.

ans expressing unfavorable views of him.

## Comparative Analysis

- Experience:** Carney brings a wealth of international economic and financial experience, having led major central banks and engaged in global financial policy-making. Poilievre offers extensive political experience within Canada's parliamentary system, with a focus on domestic policy and governance.

- Leadership Style:** Carney's leadership is characterized by a technocratic, measured approach, emphasizing economic stability and evidence-based policy. Poilievre adopts a more populist and confrontational style, prioritizing individual freedoms and limited government intervention.

**Policy Priorities:** Carney focuses on economic resilience, climate change mitigation, and maintaining strong international relationships. Poilievre emphasizes fiscal conservatism, personal liberties, and a nationalist approach to policymaking.

The resumes of Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre reflect their distinct paths—Carney's rooted in global finance and economic policy, and Poilievre's entrenched in Canadian politics and populist advocacy. Canadians must weigh these differences carefully, considering which blend of experience and leadership aligns best with the nation's current needs and future aspirations.

■

## The Bottom Line

### The Liberal Party, with Mark Carney at the helm, is poised to win on April 28

The Liberals are outpacing the Conservatives, making significant gains under Mark Carney's leadership.

A recent Nanos poll reveals that the majority of Canadians favor the Liberals to manage negotiations with Trump. Carney emerges as the preferred candidate for engaging with the U.S. president, surpassing Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre. When respondents were asked who would handle negotiations most effectively, 40% selected Carney, while Poilievre garnered just 26%.

Mark Carney's vast economic expertise is profoundly influencing his political vision. As the former head of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, Carney was instrumental in steering economies through the tumultuous waters of the 2008 global financial crisis and the complexities of Brexit, solidifying his status as an adept crisis manager. Carney's economic expertise and proven ability to manage crises have positioned him as the leading contender in the elections.

Trump's policies have served as a unifying force for Canadians. Amid escalating concerns over economic sovereignty and trade tensions with the U.S., Carney has successfully garnered public trust on pivotal issues like the economy and the cost of living.

MARK CARNEY:  
the clear choice. ■

### Pierre Poilievre dismisses Conservative strategists' calls for change as Liberal poll lead grows

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's decided to maintain his current campaign strategy despite calls from within his party to shift focus.

Poilievre refuses to change his campaign messaging, continuing to criticize the Liberal government's "lost decade," which he blames for rising crime, housing costs, the fentanyl crisis, and affordability issues. He emphasizes his "Canada First" agenda.

Some Conservative

strategists, like Ontario Progressive Conservative strategist Kory Teneycke, argue Poilievre should prioritize addressing economic threats from U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policies. They believe the tariffs should be a central issue in the campaign.

Recent polls show Mark Carney's Liberal Party gaining more voters than the Conservatives. There are signs of campaign infighting, with public and private criticism

of Poilievre's approach.

Tory MP Michelle Rempel Garner defends Poilievre's strategy, saying affordability issues resonate with voters. She dismisses Teneycke's criticism, suggesting he should actively support local Conservative campaigns.

Former Conservative insiders stress the need for party unity to win elections, emphasizing that divisions could undermine their efforts. ■



WAVES NEWS—CANADA

Seven Filipino Canadians enter Fed election race

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to Canada to build a better life for their families. As an MP, she has advocated for foreign-trained workers, particularly caregivers, offering them pathways to permanent residency. Valdez has also called for investments in women entrepreneurs by sponsoring a bill in 2022 to establish a National Women’s Entrepreneurship Day. In March 2025, Valdez became Chief Government Whip as part of Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal Cabinet.

BENJAMIN ABIS  
ETOBICOKE NORTH



Benjamin Abis is the New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate for Member of Parliament in Etobicoke North, Toronto. Before immigrating to Canada, Abis was a practicing lawyer in the Philippines, where he provided free legal aid to those in need. In Ontario, he transitioned to becoming a paralegal practitioner and instructor, aiding individuals in navigating the legal system. As a retired public servant, Abis served as a Correctional Officer at the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC). He was a vocal advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, regularly speaking out against racism and promoting rehabilitation programs for inmates at TSDC.

Additionally, in his role as an officer with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), Abis fought tirelessly for better wages, benefits, and safer working conditions for his colleagues. His commitment to public service earned him recognition from the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Fire Services for his selfless contributions. As a parent, he dedicated his time to serving on school councils, working to strengthen the ties between families and educational institutions.

Having called Etobicoke

North home for 20 years, Benjamin Abis understands the challenges facing working-class families and the importance of robust public services. He is dedicated to fighting for real and meaningful solutions for Canada, particularly for his constituents in Etobicoke North—lowering the cost of living, protecting public healthcare, and creating stronger schools and safer communities. His rallying call resonates throughout the community: "Etobicoke North, Benjamin Abis is ready to stand up for you!"

MARGIE RAMOS  
AHUNTSIC-CARTIERVILLE



Margie Ramos is the official candidate for Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic-Cartierville in Montreal, Quebec, under the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC). Ramos proudly calls her Ahuntsic-Cartierville community home. After immigrating to Canada at the age of ten, Margie embraced Quebec’s French-Canadian culture and language, deepening her love for the province that gave her family a new start.

A seasoned tech professional and entrepreneur, Margie founded Tallowed and Free, a natural skincare line she developed in her kitchen in Ahuntsic. Her passion for health, wellness, and supporting local businesses is a testament to her pragmatic approach to problem-solving. During her time in Toronto, she brought together professionals at tech events, demonstrating her ability to unite people around shared goals.

Margie's priorities include reducing the cost of living, lowering taxes, and ensuring access to quality health care so that families and seniors can live with dignity. She is committed to protecting pensions and strengthening support services for seniors. A staunch defender of individual freedoms as well as Quebec language and culture, Margie is ready to serve Ahuntsic-Cartierville with integrity, compassion, and a

vision of a united Canada, where each generation can flourish.

LITA CRUZ PINLAC-CABAL  
WINNIPEG EAST



Lita Cruz Pinlac-Cabal is the Conservative Party candidate for Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, B.C. Born and raised in Parang, Marikina City, Philippines, she is the second youngest of seven siblings. During her college years, Cabal pursued a career in computer programming and was actively involved in social activities, serving as the Club President of the Computer Management Society Club and as the Secretary of the Student Council.

Cabal worked as a Programmer Analyst at National Panasonic in the Philippines, where she participated in company initiatives like tree-planting projects and Alay Lakad (walkathon) events, highlighting her commitment to community service. She immigrated to Canada in 2003 and joined the Canadian Cancer Society-BC & Yukon Division as a Database Administrator.

Lita’s passion for helping others extends beyond her professional life. Married to Michael Cabral, they have three children and lead a small group in their church. They are dedicated volunteers at the City Dream Centre, demonstrating their commitment to making a difference in their community through various charitable initiatives.

RACHEL PUNZALAN



WINNIPEG NORTH

Rachel Punzalan is the official candidate for Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North, Manitoba, under the Conservative Party of Canada. A devoted mother of four, Rachel combines her experience as a successful lawyer and small business owner to deeply understand the challenges faced by families, workers, and business owners in Winnipeg. Her supporters describe her as dedicated, hardworking, and ready to make a real change.

Rachel’s campaign is focused on fighting for affordable living, fostering safe communities, and providing genuine support for working Canadians. With a robust educational background, including a Bachelor of Arts degree, she brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to her candidacy. "I’m excited to continue to spread the Common Sense Conservative plan and bring it home to Winnipeg North," Rachel enthuses during her campaign events. Her vision for Winnipeg North promises a brighter, more secure future for all constituents.

JAYDEN BALDONADO  
CALGARY CENTRE



Jayden Baldonado is the Green Party of Canada’s candidate for Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre, Alberta. Having previously run as a candidate for the Green Party of Alberta in the Calgary-East district during the 2023 provincial election, he subsequently embraced the role of Executive Council member for the provincial party.

Currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Science at Mount Royal University, Jayden has distinguished himself as a governor of his students’ association and an active participant in numerous socioeconomic and environmental activism-oriented student clubs. With a diploma in Environmental Technology from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Jayden’s academic back-

ground complements his fervent advocacy for urgent climate action, poverty elimination, and socioeconomic equity.

Jayden passionately believes in the necessity of dismantling the interconnected systems of colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy, and patriarchy through a community-oriented approach, echoing his profound commitment to creating a just and sustainable future for all.

DESIDERIO MAGTANGGOL REYES  
VANCOUVER FRASERVIEW—SOUTH BURNABY

Desiderio Magtanggol Reyes is the candidate for Member of Parliament representing Vancouver Fraserview-South Burnaby under the banner of the People’s Party of Canada (PPC). Reyes is fervently committed to his community, advocating for core values such as freedom, personal responsibility, respect, and fairness. He passionately believes that “Canada can reclaim its prosperity and return power to the people, provided we have the courage of our convictions.”

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All seven Filipino-Canadian political candidates are exceptionally qualified, boasting solid professional backgrounds and extensive experience. Their strong advocacy and volunteer service within their communities further underscore their dedication. These candidates possess admirable people skills and a diverse focus on organizing initiatives for the common good.

The four Pinays and three Pinoys pledge to uphold their political platforms, goals, and aspirations, if elected. They are committed to engaging with and advocating for local issues, serving as the relevant voice for their respective constituencies and the long-voiceless members of the ever-growing Filipino-Canadian community.

Let us all support our kabayans candidates for a better tomorrow. ■

FILIPINO CANADIANS  
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD

GO OUT  
AND VOTE



WAVES NEWS—PHILIPPINES

Remembering Filipino Legends:  
Nora Aunor and Pilita Corrales

*This week, referred to by most religions as Holy Week, the Philippine music, film and broadcasting industries are mourning the loss of two of its most extraordinary talents, Nora Aunor and Pilita Corrales. Their contributions to music, television, and film have left an indelible mark on the industry and the hearts of their fans. As we reflect on their legacies, we celebrate the immense impact they had on the arts and their unparalleled achievements.*

Nora Aunor  
National Artist and “Superstar”



Veteran actress and Philippine cinema's "Superstar" Nora Aunor. Photo courtesy of Kristoffer Ian D e Leon Facebook page)

I can only imagine the profound shock that swept across the Philippines upon hearing the news of Nora Aunor's passing. I had just finished an interview shoot with Anjo and Jeff for FTV when I received the news. This moment will forever be etched in my memory as my personal "Where was I when..." moment.

My first message was to BabyK Jimenez, our cherished friend in Toronto, a long-time confidant, publicist, and maternal figure to the Philippines' beloved "Superstar." As anticipated, she was heartbroken, reflecting the sentiments of the many Noranians (fans of Nora Aunor) upon hearing the news.



Mon Torralba and Ella Del Rosario line up to get Nora's autograph, a scene from Hotdog Band's "Unang Kagat" 1975 full-length film.

Although my connection with Nora wasn't as close, I have my share of memorable encounters with the Superstar. The first was when I asked for her autograph during a scene in the film "Unang Kagat" by Hotdog Band. I was pleasantly surprised to see Nora mingling casually with us at a post-production backyard gathering at the late Director Raul Silos' residence. The band and Nora shared the stage at numerous concerts across the Philippines, and Hotdog Band guest on her TV show, "Superstar." This show was the longest-running musical variety show on Philippine television, airing for 22 years, only surpassed by the still-running "Eat Bulaga" (42 years) and "ASAP" (30 years). A local singer's FB post reminded me that I directed her show in Toronto 15 years ago.

Ms. Nora Aunor's passing marks the end of an era for Filipino cinema. Her demise, although anticipated due to her health complications, has left an irreplaceable void in the industry and in the hearts of her admirers. Ms. Aunor's legacy is one of excellence, perseverance, and an unwavering dedication to her craft. Her contributions to Filipino culture and cinema will continue to inspire future generations.

As we commemorate Ms. Aunor, we celebrate her achievements and her unforgettable performances that have left an indelible imprint on the artistic landscape of the Philippines. Her life's work remains a beacon of inspiration, embodying the spirit and resilience of Filipino talent.

Nora Aunor's journey from a small-town girl to a national icon is a testament to her unyielding spirit. She broke barriers and set high standards for acting, with each role meticulously crafted to perfection. Her commitment to her roles and her ability to breathe life into her characters won her numerous awards and accolades, both locally and internationally.

Nora Aunor has acted in over 170 films and received numerous awards both locally and internationally for her performances. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) noted that Aunor's accolades include Best Ac-

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MUSIC STAND

Mon Torralba



Pilita Corrales  
Asia's Queen of Songs

Pilita Corrales, known as the Asia's Queen of Songs, graced the Philippine music scene with her melodious voice and impeccable performances.



Pilita Corrales was a special guest in many Philippine TV shows. 2017 Photo taken in 2017 by An Evening with Raoul Season 1.

Born on August 22, 1939, in Cebu City, Pilita embarked on a musical journey that spanned over six decades, earning her a revered place in the hearts of millions.

Her breakthrough came in the 1960s when she started performing in Manila's top nightclubs and television shows. Her unique voice and charismatic stage presence quickly garnered attention, and she became a household name.

Pilita's versatility allowed her to master various musical styles, from traditional Filipino ballads to contemporary pop, making her a beloved figure across generations.

Her talent transcended national borders, earning her international acclaim. She performed in prestigious venues worldwide, including

Las Vegas, Australia, and Europe. Her ability to sing in multiple languages, including Spanish, English, and Filipino, broadened her appeal and showcased her remarkable adaptability.

Throughout her career, Pilita delivered numerous iconic renditions that have become part of the nation's musical heritage. Her performances of "Rosalinda," "Kapantay Ay Langit," and "A Million Thanks to You" are timeless contributions to music.

Beyond music, Pilita made significant strides in television and film. She hosted and appeared in several popular Filipino TV programs, winning the hearts of viewers with her charm and wit. Her roles in films also added to her multifaceted legacy, cementing her status as an entertainment icon.

Pilita Corrales was not only a remarkable artist but also a dedicated mother to Jackielou Blanco and Ramon Christopher Gutierrez and grandmother to Arabella and Rikki Mae Davao, and Maxine, Diego, Jessica, and Janine Gutierrez. Her family remained a cornerstone of her life, providing her with unwavering support throughout her career. Pilita's humility and grace endeared her even more to her fans, who admired her both on and off the stage.

The passing of Pilita Corrales on April 12, 2025, was a significant loss to the music community. Tributes for Pilita also poured in from around the globe, highlighting her legacy and contributions to music. The heartfelt messages from fellow artists, industry professionals, and fans underscored the profound impact she made on the arts. ■

*Nora Aunor and Pilita Corrales' legacies endure through their timeless music and the countless lives they touched with their voices. Their extraordinary careers and the love they shared with their audiences remain testaments to their greatness. As we bid farewell to these legendary figures, we celebrate the lives of true icons whose spirits will forever resonate in the hearts of those who cherished them.*

*Rest in peace, Nora Aunor and Pilita Corrales. Your music will continue to inspire and uplift generations to come.*



ENTERTAINMENT

Girl Group BINI to Embark on First-Ever World Tour

Pop Sensation kicks off their “BINiverse” world tour across Southeast Asia, Middle East, Europe, and North America

The record-breaking Filipina girl group, BINI, is dominating the scene yet again. Fresh off the release of their highly anticipated single, “Blink Twice,” the group is thrilled to announce their first world tour. The first leg of the world tour kicked off at the Philippine Arena, the biggest indoor arena in the Philippines on February 15, and will be followed by upcoming performances in Dubai and London – two vibrant cultural hubs where the group's fanbase has expanded significantly – before making their way stateside. With over 100 million followers across all platforms, BINI is poised to take on the world.

The Philippines continues to emerge as the leader of the rapidly rising “Asian pop” movement, while BINI stands as the next powerhouse group in the genre. The octet’s rapidly expanding global audience has led to over one billion streams, including over 100 million combined audio/video streams of their previous single, “Cherry On Top.” These shows mark the collective’s first official performances on the international scene, promising high-energy sets filled with fan-favorite hits and fresh new music. Their dedicated



MAY 18	DUBAI, UAE	COCA-COLA ARENA
MAY 25	LONDON, UK	OVO ARENA, WEMBLEY
MAY 30	TORONTO, ON	COCA-COLA COLISEUM
MAY 31	NEW YORK, NY	THE THEATER AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
JUNE 3	WASHINGTON, DC	THE THEATER AT MGM NATIONAL HARBOR
JUNE 4	BOSTON, MA	MGM MUSIC HALL AT FENWAY
JUNE 6	ROSEMONT, IL	ROSEMONT THEATRE
JUNE 9	HOUSTON, TX	713 MUSIC HALL
JUNE 10	DALLAS, TX	THE PAVILION AT TOYOTA MUSIC FACTORY
JUNE 13	LAS VEGAS, NV	THE THEATER AT LAS VEGAS VIRGIN HOTELS
JUNE 14	LOS ANGELES, CA	PEACOCK THEATER
JUNE 15	TEMECULA, CA	THE SUMMIT AT PECHANGA RESORT AND CASINO
JUNE 17	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	BILL GRAHAM CIVIC AUDITORIUM
JUNE 20	SEATTLE, WA	THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
JUNE 21	VANCOUVER, BC	DOUG MITCHELL THUNDERBIRD SPORTS CENTER

#BINIVERSEWORLDTOUR2025

fanbase (affectionately called Blooms) will have multiple opportunities to secure tickets through exclusive pre-sales ahead of general on-sale dates given the rising demand for BINI’s live performances. Last summer, they became

the first Filipino pop act to perform at KCON in Los Angeles, heworld’s largest Korean culture and music festival with over 5.9 million attendees. Their electrifying performance and their engagement with fans at KCON can be relived in this recap video. Further securing their place in pop culture, the ensemble was recently spotlighted in Billboard’s "Global No. 1's" and Grammy.com’s "Pinoy Acts You Should Know." Continuing their global ascent, BINI collaborated with AGNEZ MO - Asia's most highly awarded recording artist and actress with over 350 accolades and 60 million followers across social platforms. BLOOMS should stay tuned for a surprise global feature coming soon.

In 2024, BINI reached monumental milestones including becoming the first Filipino group to win the MTV Europe Music Awards Best Asia Act and Spotify’s Global Breakout Artist. Multiple awards in additional international territories have expanded awareness and interest in this talented group. In Los Angeles last year, over 500 fans gathered within an hour’s notice to watch their favorite musical act's surprise performance aboard the iconic Wish Bus. ■

**Nora Aunor:  
National Artist and  
Superstar**

(Continued from page 6)

tress for “And God Smiled at Me” (1972) and Best Actress awards from Gawad Urian and FAMAS for “Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos” (1976).

In 1990, Aunor achieved a grand slam by winning all the Best Actress awards from Urian, Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences Awards (FAMAS), Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), Metro Manila Film Festival, and Philippine Movie Press Club for her role in Gil Portes’

“Andrea, Paano ba ang Maging Isang Ina?” She was inducted into the FAMAS Hall of Fame in 1992.

Aunor also received the FAP Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 and was recognized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) as one of the 100 Filipinos who made significant contributions to culture and the arts in the 20th century. She was awarded the Centennial Honors for the Arts by the CCP and named Best Actress at the 6th Asia Pacific Screen Awards in 2012, becoming the first Filipino actor to be inducted into the Asia-Pacific Screen Academy. She received another Best Actress award at the 7th

Asian Film Awards the following year.

Aunor is an icon in the local musical variety show genre, having hosted her own show that aired for more than 20 years. Her extraordinary skills and talents were also showcased on the theater stage in two major productions by the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA).

Beyond her career in film, Aunor's voice captivated the hearts of many. Her singing career, which began in her youth, paralleled her acting endeavors, with hits that resonated deeply with the Filipino audience. Her melodic voice and heartfelt renditions of songs became

the soundtrack to many lives.

Despite her success, Aunor remained grounded, often reflecting on her modest beginnings and the journey that brought her fame. She attributed her success to hard work, perseverance, and an unshakeable belief in her dreams. This humility and gratitude endeared her to fans and colleagues alike, making her a beloved figure in the entertainment industry.

As we bid farewell to the "Superstar," we are reminded of the brilliance she brought to the world of cinema and music. Nora Aunor's legacy will live on through her films, her

songs, and the countless lives she touched with her talent and kindness. Her story is one of triumph and inspiration, encouraging future generations to pursue their passions with determination and to strive for excellence in all that they do.

In her passing, the Philippines has lost a national treasure, but her memory will continue to shine brightly, a guiding light for those who aspire to follow in her footsteps. Nora Aunor's life and career will forever be a testament to the power of talent, dedication, and the enduring impact of true artistry. ■



WAVES NEWS—PHILIPPINES

Philippines sees possibilities in Trump's tariff push

Agence France-Presse

The Philippines reacted with "guarded optimism" Thursday to US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, saying higher rates placed on its neighbours could present an opportunity.

The longtime US ally was hit with a reciprocal levy of 17 percent, though Manila's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) noted the country ranked among "the least hit".

"As we have expected, the Philippines is among the least hit among key exporters to the US," it said, noting significantly higher tariffs placed on Vietnam (46%), Thailand (36%) and Taiwan (32%).

"The new tariffs also put the Philippines in a more advantageous position... specifically for certain export products," said trade secretary Cristina Roque, citing coconuts as a possibility.

"The task at hand right now for DTI and other government agencies is how to act fast and take advantage of this new development," she said.

While the percentage of Philippine GDP derived from exports is significantly lower than its neighbours, Roque said the United States remained a "crucial export market".

US TARIFFS	
...	
Philippines	17%
Taiwan	32%
Thailand	36%
Vietnam	46%
...	

US Embassy data shows Washington's trade goods deficit with Manila stood at \$4.9 billion in 2024, up 21.8 percent on-year.

But while Manila saw the positive side, it also signaled a readiness to engage in talks.

The Philippines was prepared to discuss "enhanced market access" for key US "export interests, such as automobiles, dairy products, frozen meat, and soybeans", Roque said.

She has already reached out to her US counterpart to set up talks, her statement said.

While slightly more than half of the roughly 17 percent US share of Philippine exports is represented by electronic components, specifics about targets were thin.

"As of now, we still don't have the details on the industries that will be affected," presidential palace spokeswoman Claire Cas-

tro told reporters.

But Victor Abola, senior economist at Manila's University of Asia and the Pacific, told AFP he expected semiconductor exports and "probably a bit of wiring harness" sales to be impacted.

Many electronic components, however, were already going to Japan and China, the Philippines' two other top markets, he said.

And even if electronic parts were targeted, the Philippines could still come out ahead given the higher duties placed on regional competitors, Abola said.

That disparity could even see factories lured to the country, he added, while cautioning that could take time.

George Barcelon, chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also said he preferred to look at the tariffs "from the positive side" owing to the fact other countries faced higher levies.

While admitting US consistency on the issue could be cause for concern, Barcelon suggested pushback at home could eventually see Trump revisit the issue.

"Sometimes, you know, imposing these kinds of tariffs may have a downside for the US consumer, so (Trump) might react later on and change it," he said. ■

Fun Philippines Ottawa Street Festival on May 17 & 18 to celebrate Philippines' National Heritage Month

Not to be confused with Filipino Heritage Month, celebrated in Canada in the month of June, National Heritage Month (NHM) is observed in the Philippines the whole month of May under Presidential Proclamation No. 439, s. 2003, which designates the month to honor and preserve the nation's cultural, historical, and natural heritage. In 2025, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) will lead the observance with an emphasis on the power of heritage to empower communities and help shape future generations.

The 2025 theme, "Preserving Legacies, Building Futures", underscores the importance of heritage conservation and capacity-building initiatives that not only honor the past but also enable communities to thrive. From the indigenous people to urban communities, the call is for collaboration and collective effort to safeguard our rich cultural identity.

DepEd is encouraging all regional offices, schools, and learning centers to take part in activities that celebrate and promote the

value of heritage. Filipino organizations are encouraged to host Heritage events and for all Filipinos to participate in the NHM activities.

The theme "Preserving Legacies, Building Futures" speaks to the vital role of heritage in shaping our collective future. Heritage is not just a reminder of where we've been but also a beacon guiding the way forward. By preserving our cultural practices, historical landmarks, and traditions, we foster a deep sense of identity and belonging, making our communities stronger and more resilient.

As we look to future generations, it's essential to instill the importance of heritage conservation in both young and old. Through collaboration, education, and a shared commitment to our past, we can ensure that the legacies of today are preserved for tomorrow.

The 2025 National Heritage Month celebration offers an excellent opportunity for us all to reflect on the importance of heritage in shaping our cultural identity and future. ■

**Uncertainty: We've Been Here Before**

(Continued from page 1)

in navigating these challenges.

During the tough pandemic times, the government provided stimulus packages

and relief funds for businesses and individuals. Today, with Prime Minister Mark Carney at the helm, the government responded with tariff exemptions and negotiations to stabilize trade. Carney's priorities are to unite us by eliminating provincial barriers, using the proceeds of Canada's retaliatory tariffs to benefit affected workers in the industries vulnerable to

the US tariffs.

Though there are similarities between both disturbing events, the differences may favor our hopes:

- While the virus that hit us was unknown and even our top doctors were caught not having an immediate solution, the whole world knows the cause of the U.S. tariffs and global instabil-

ity – one very unpredictable man called Trump.

- Unlike Covid, we know the potential end of the global tariff threats - a little over 1300 days (US Presidential Election Day is on November 7, 2028) or shorter. It is important to know that the US midterm elections (scheduled on

November 3, 2026) will change the makeup of the two chambers of Congress: the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

For now, fasten your seat belts. Buckle up. Let's be united in looking after each other. Prayers will help to calm us. The turbulence will be over soon. Let go of fears and let God. ■





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**IBOTO ANG LIBERAL**







CANADA STRONG

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- ✓ Deliver a middle class tax cut.
- ✓ Create new jobs.
- ✓ Build the fastest growing economy in the G7.
- ✓ Stand strong against Donald Trump.

MATATAG NA CANADA

Ang mga Canadian ay handa na para sa isang matatag na liderato. Tanging si Mark Carney at ang partido Liberal lang ang may payak na plano na:

- ✓ Bawasan ang buwis ng middle class.
- ✓ Lumikha ng mga bagong trabaho.
- ✓ Gawing pinakamabilis at pinaka malagong ekonomiya sa G7.
- ✓ Manindigan nang matatag laban kay Donald Trump.

“It’s time to build together. Because we are strong – Canada strong.”  
— MARK CARNEY

“Oras na para tayo ay mag sama sama. Dahil tayo ay matatag – Matatag na Canada.”  
— MARK CARNEY



FILIPINO FOOD MONTH

PBBM endorses’ experiential tourism’ through Filipino delicacies



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. encouraged local and foreign tourists to enjoy “experiential tourism” by sampling diverse delicacies as they explored various country regions.

President Marcos made the pitch during the Filipino Food Month (FFM) or Buwan ng Kalutong Pilipino National Kick-Off Celebration in Quezon province on Friday.

Speaking during the event at the Quezon Provincial Capitol Grounds in Lucena City, the President explained how Filipino cuisine has evolved throughout the country’s history.

“Sa pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Kalutong Pilipino, ginugunita natin ang ating mga kusina bilang santuwaryo ng ating kasaysayan, ng ating kultura, at pagkatao bilang Pilipino,” he said.

The President said of the Filipino Food Month: “Ipinagdiriwang natin ang linamnam ng ating mga putahe at ang lalim ng ating kakayahan bilang isang bayan.”

“Mahalaga ang lahat ng ito sa ating isinusulong na tinatawag na experiential tourism,” he also said.

The President noted that most tourists seek more than just relaxing on the beach; they desire joyful and enriching activities rather than merely sightseeing.

“Napakalaking halaga na ipakilala natin ang pagkaing Pilipino. Dahil kapag nakakain na ang isang dayuhan nang masarap, kahit ano man na klaseng Filipino food, basta’t natikman na niya, malaki na ang kanyang pag-unawa sa kultura

ng Pilipino” he said.

The President stated that tasting regional delicacies is the quickest way to appreciate Filipino culture and discover the culinary skills of Filipinos in creating delicious dishes.

He specifically cited Ilocos region’s “bagnet”, Pampanga’s “sisig”, Cebu’s “lechon”, Quezon’s “pancit habhab,” Bicol region’s “laing”, Lucban’s “longganisa,” and Mindanao’s “piyanggang manok.”

The President shared that he, too, sampled “pancit habhab” before inaugurating the Filipino Food Month.

“At siyempre po, dito naman sa Quezon – natikman po natin kani-na ang pancit habhab—pansit na kinakamay at kinakain na direktso mula sa sariwang dahon ng saging. Mas lalo pa sumasarap ito ‘pag nilagyan pa natin ng topping ng ano pa? Longganisang Lucban na may tamang asim at masarap na bawang,” the President said.

“Mga kababayan, sa pamamagitan ng ating mga pagkain, matutuklasan natin ang ating pagka-Pilipino—malikhain, matatag, at may malasakit sa kapwa,” he added.

Presidential Proclamation No. 469 designates every April as FFM to conserve, promote, and popularize Filipino cuisine as a national culinary heritage.

The month-long celebration includes activities like the KAINCON Filipino Food Conference and the AngSarap! Philippine Food Festival and other events. | PND

Celebrating Filipino Food Month 2025  
Honoring our Culinary Heritage, Supporting Filipino Restaurants, and Harnessing Filipino Talent



This April, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto joins the nation in celebrating the 7th year of Filipino Food Month (FFM) with the theme: “Sarap ng Pagkaing Pilipino, Yaman ng Kasaysayan, Kultura at Pagkatao.”

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 469 declaring the month of April of every year as Filipino Food Month (FFM) or Buwan ng Kalutong Pilipino, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture (DA) as the lead agency, in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Department of Tourism (DOT), this month-long celebration is made possible through the invaluable partnership of the Philippine Culinary Heritage Movement (PCHM) and other dedicated stakeholders.

This year’s commemoration highlights the urgent need to preserve and promote the country’s rich culinary traditions. By safeguarding age-old recipes, indigenous tech-

niques, and regional flavors, the celebration fosters appreciation, empowers communities, and ensures the legacy of Filipino cuisine thrives for future generations.

In line with this, the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in Canada invite everyone to join the fourth iteration of the Filipino Restaurant Month Canada (FRMC). FRMC aims to promote and mainstream Filipino cuisine in Canada, support Filipino restaurants, highlight the skills of Filipino chefs, and encourage the use of Philippine-made ingredients. A total of 19 restaurants representing the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are participating in the FRMC, offering prix fixe menus to its customers throughout the entire month of April.

Recognizing the potential of the Filipino diaspora in Canada to amplify our efforts in keeping alive and continuing our culinary traditions, the Consulate is also bringing in renowned Filipino chef and co-author of the book KULINARYA: A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine, Jessie Cruz Sincioco, to conduct cooking masterclasses for temporary foreign workers serving as personal support workers, caregivers, kitchen assistants and cooks on 23 April 2025.

Our food is more than just nourishment — it’s a rich tapestry of heritage, history, and identity woven through generations.

Let’s unite in preserving and championing our culinary treasures — because every bite of Filipino food is a taste of our history.

Mabuhay ang Kalutong Pilipino!



CULINARY FEATURE

Nozomi Fusion Kitchen: Takeout Food that Hit the Spot!

Nozomi Fusion Kitchen, nestled at 3415 Bathurst Street in Toronto, is a culinary gem that seamlessly blends Asian-inspired comfort food with bold flavors and generous portions. Though primarily a takeout spot, Nozomi has gained a devoted following for its innovative menu and quality dishes.

Let's start with their home-made, thin-sliced and crispy Taro Chips, an appetizer or a perfect side for any of Nozomi's delicious entrée.

A standout choice is the Hot Honey Inferno Sandwich. This dish features a double deep-fried chicken breast, infused with chili and drizzled with signature hot honey sauce. The crispy exterior, juicy interior, and toppings of lettuce, pickled jalapeños, herb mayo, and chili-infused oil create an explosion of taste and texture.



For those who love poke, the Salmon Poke Bowl is a must-try. Fresh Atlantic salmon is served atop sushi rice or salad, garnished with furikake, cucumber, edamame, wakame, sesame seeds, taro curls, ginger dressing, and a homemade



poke sauce. The combination is both refreshing and satisfying. There is a variety of poke bowls to choose from: Beef Bulgogi, Tuna, Chicken and for vegetarians, the Tofu Poke Bowl.

The Kalbi Burger is another crowd favorite. It combines marinated beef with kimchi mayo, Monterey jack cheese, grilled onions, zesty pickles, and crisp lettuce, creating a fusion masterpiece that delights the palate.



Customers consistently praise the quality and value of the food. One satisfied patron remarked that the food is "really tasty, good portion size, and won't make a dent in your wallet." Others have lauded the freshness and flavor of the Salmon

Poke Bowl, calling it a "sizeable portion and delicious."

Although Nozomi Fusion Kitchen is a takeout-only establishment, it ensures that orders are well-packaged for transport. The friendly and accommodating service further enhances the dining experience.

Nozomi adapts this dynamic culinary trend that merges flavors, ingredients, and techniques from multiple Asian traditions to craft unique and innovative dishes. By blending elements from different cultures, this style creates a harmonious fusion of tastes, often balancing sweet, savory, and spicy notes.

Menu items blended with with Korean, Japanese and Filipino flavours are among the favorites.

And don't forget to add Nozomi's freshly baked in-house cookies and

delectable banana pudding in your takeout.

Behind the scenes are Asian kitchen staff and a very nice Filipino couple who owns the business.

Nozomi Fusion Kitchen delivers a delectable fusion of Asian flavors in a convenient takeout format. Whether you're craving a spicy chicken sandwich, a fresh poke bowl, or a flavorful burger, this spot is well worth a visit. ■

Nozomi Fusion Kitchen

3415 Bathurst Street  
North York, Ontario M6A2C1  
(647) 676-4841  
info@nozomi.ca  
  
www.nozomi.ca



The owners, staff and four very satisfied Filipino customers at Nozomi.  
WAVES PHOTO



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RELIGIOUS INSPIRATIONS



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A Time of Renewal and Joy

Easter Revitalizes Hope

Easter, celebrated by millions around the world, is a time of profound renewal and the revitalization of hope. This cherished holiday marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair.

Easter is rich with symbols that convey messages of rebirth and new beginnings. From the blooming of spring flowers to the tradition of exchanging colorful eggs, each element of Easter carries an essence of renewal. The egg, in particular, is a universal symbol of life and fertility, representing the emergence of new life from the shell. Decorating and sharing eggs during Easter signifies hope and the promise of new possibilities.

The Resurrection: A Beacon of Hope

The central narrative of Easter—the resurrection of Jesus Christ—is a beacon of hope for Christians. It is a powerful testament to the belief that life transcends death and that despair can be overcome. This story inspires individuals to look beyond their struggles and to find solace in the promise of better days ahead. It reminds us that our trials are temporary, and there is always a path to redemption and renewal.

Easter is also a time for family and community gatherings, fostering a sense of unity and shared joy. Families come together to celebrate with festive meals, egg hunts, and various traditions. These gatherings strengthen bonds and create lasting memories, reinforcing the idea that hope flourishes in the presence of love and support.

Spring: Nature’s Rebirth

Easter coincides with the arrival of spring, a season

that itself symbolizes renewal. As nature awakens from the dormancy of winter, we witness the blossoming of flowers, the return of migratory birds, and the lengthening of days. This natural rebirth complements the themes of Easter, enhancing the sense of revitalized hope. The beauty of spring serves as a reminder that life continuously renews itself, offering fresh starts and new opportunities.

For many, Easter is a time of personal reflection and spiritual growth. It offers a moment to pause and consider the deeper meanings of life, faith, and hope. Individuals may engage in practices such as prayer, meditation, and acts of kindness, all of which contribute to a sense of renewal. This introspection encourages people to set new goals, embrace change, and cultivate a hopeful outlook.

The celebration of Easter extends beyond individual communities, resonating on a global scale. It unites people of diverse backgrounds and cultures in a shared experience of hope and renewal. The universal themes of resurrection and rebirth transcend religious boundaries, making Easter a symbol of global unity and optimism. Through this collective celebration, the world is reminded of the enduring power of hope.

Easter revitalizes hope in myriad ways, from its profound religious significance to the joyous family and community traditions it inspires. It is a time that encourages reflection, renewal, and the embracing of new beginnings. As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the resilience of the human spirit and the eternal promise of hope. This holiday, intertwined with the beauty of spring, serves as a powerful testament to the enduring optimism that defines us all. ■

Pope calls for peace, warns against ‘logic of fear’ in Easter message ‘urbi et orbi’



Pope Francis at the main balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica during the Easter message “Urbi et Orbi” on April 20, 2025. VATICAN MEDIA

By AC Wimmer  
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis decried the numerous conflicts plaguing the planet and appealed to world leaders “not to yield to the logic of fear” in his Easter message “urbi et orbi” (to the city and to the world) on Sunday.

The pope’s traditional blessing, “urbi et orbi,” was read by Archbishop Diego Ravelli, the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations, as the 88-year-old pontiff, still convalescing, was present but physically limited.

Francis, who arrived at the central loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica in a wheelchair, greeted the faithful with a brief “Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter” before asking Archbishop Ravelli to read the message on his behalf.

“I appeal to all those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development,” the message stated.

Earlier in the morning, at approximately 11:30 a.m., Pope Francis held a brief private meeting with U.S. Vice President JD Vance at the Casa Santa Marta, according to the Holy See Press Office.

The meeting, which lasted only a few minutes, provided an opportunity for the two to exchange Easter greetings.

Vice President Vance met Cardinal Pietro Parolin on Saturday regarding international relations, religious freedom, and humanitarian concerns.

The pope’s Easter address — delivered amid a confluence of global conflicts — focused particularly on war-torn regions, including Ukraine, the Holy Land, Myanmar, and various parts of Africa.

Regarding Gaza, where “the terrible conflict continues to generate death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation,” Francis called for concrete action: “I appeal to the warring parties: call a ceasefire, release the hostages and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace!”

The Holy Father also lamented the “growing climate of anti-Semitism throughout the world” while expressing closeness to “the sufferings of Christians in Palestine and Israel, and to all the Israeli people and the Palestinian people.”

The pope’s message emphasized that “there can be no peace without freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and respect for the views of others.” He added that peace is also impossible without “true disarmament,” warning against the “race to rearmament” that threatens global stability.

Reflecting on the spiritual significance of Easter, Francis reminded the faithful that Christ’s resurrection represents “the basis of our hope” and that “hope does not disappoint!” He characterized this hope not as “an evasion, but a challenge” that “does not delude, but empowers us.”

The message “urbi et orbi” concluded with the pontiff’s customary invocation for a peaceful world: “Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new.”

This year’s Easter celebration held particular significance as it coincided with this year’s 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and was celebrated on the same day by Catholics and Orthodox Christians following the Julian calendar.

After the blessing, Pope Francis greeted jubilant pilgrims from the popemobile, to shouts of joy from the crowd. It was the first time the pontiff used the popemobile to visit the square since his hospitalization. ■



RELIGIOUS INSPIRATION

Pope Francis, beloved “Lolo Francis to Filipinos passes away

(Continued from page 3)

Philippines after the massive devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda).  
He was the third pope to visit the Southeast Asian country after Paul VI and John Paul II.  
He visited the Manila Cathedral and the pontifical University of Santo Tomas. He also met then President Benigno Aquino III at Malacañan.  
In the typhoon-ravaged Tacloban, he held an outdoor Mass amid intense rains and wind brought by an approaching storm.  
"I am here to be with you – a little bit late, but I'm here," he said.  
He was fondly called "Lolo Kiko" during his apostolic visit. "Lolo" in Tagalog means "grandpa" while "Kiko" is the localization of

his papal name "Francis."  
Months after his trip, the pope seemed to reminisce about his visit, including the nickname he earned from Filipinos.  
"When I was in the Philippines, the Filipino people greeted me saying 'Lolo Kiko'" — meaning Grandpa Francis — 'Lolo Kiko, they said," the pope said during his March 11, 2025 general audience at Saint Peter's Square.  
To conclude his visit, he held a Holy Mass at the historic Luneta Park, which was attended by around 6 to 7 million people — so far, the largest in history.  
In his two decades of pontificate, he made over 40 international trips.  
Francis created three Filipino cardinals: Cotabato Archbishop Emeritus Orlando Cardinal Quevedo; Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula; and Kalookan Bishop Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David.  
In 2019, the pope called Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle to serve in the Roman Curia as prefect of then Congre-

gation for the Evangelization of Peoples. At present, Tagle is the pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization.  
Pope Francis wrote four encyclicals: Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith), which further elucidated the Christian faith; Laudato Si (Praise Be to You), which was about the care for the natural environment; Fratelli Tutti (All Brothers), which aimed to promoted fraternity and social friendship; and Dilexit Nos (He Loved Us), which sought to remind the faithful of God's infinite love.  
In one of his audiences in 2022, Pope Francis reflected on the topic of death.  
"Dear brothers and sisters, it is only through faith in resurrection that we can face the abyss of death without being overwhelmed by fear," he said.  
"It is good to die reconciled, without grudges and without regrets! I would like to say one truth: We are all on our way towards that door, all of us." -- with Agence France-Presse

Prayer for the soul of our beloved, Pope Francis

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,  
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,  
whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church,  
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven  
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,  
which he faithfully ministered on earth.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

- The Roman Missal, Prayers for the Dead – For A Pope

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FILIPINOS MAKING WAVES

*Alex Eala’s historic performance at the Miami Open has not only propelled her career to new heights, it sparked a growing viral inspiration to countless fans in the Philippines and around the world.*

Alex Eala Rises to Career-Best 73rd in WTA rankings

By Niel Victor C. Masoy

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino tennis ace Alex Eala improved from 75th to a career-best 73rd in the latest Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings on Monday.

This is likely because players ahead of Eala lost points and dropped in the rankings, pushing the Philippine pride a little higher in the process.

Prior to her latest ascent in the rankings, Eala leaped from 140th to 75th after a historic run in the recently concluded Miami Open, where she defeated three Grand Slam winners to reach the semifinals.

She became the first Filipino netter to have topped three Grand Slam champs in a single tournament and went that deep in the competition.

Eala started her tear with a 7-6 (2),



7-5 win over then world no. 25 (now no. 24) and 2017 French Open titlist Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia in the round of 64 on March 22.

The 19-year-old then took down

reigning Australian Open champ and world no. 5 Madison Keys of the United States in the round of 32, 6-4, 6-2, on March 24.

Eala got a walkover in the round of 16 after then world no. 11 (now

world no. 9) Paula Badosa of Spain withdrew from the match due to a back injury.

The lefty Eala then pulled off one of the biggest upsets in the sport after topping world no. 2 and 5-time Grand Slam champ Iga Swiatek of Poland in the quarterfinals, 6-2, 7-5, on March 27 to enter the semifinals.

Eala's historic run ended in a 6-7 (3), 7-5, 3-6 semis loss to world no. 3 Jessica Pegula of the United States on March 28.

The 5-foot-9 netter incurred an ankle injury in the second set of that match, but she said in a recent interview with Power and Play that she's fully recovered.

Eala will next compete at the the Mutua Madrid Open in Spain from April 22 to May 4. - **manilatimes**

Air Canada’s direct Vancouver-Manila flights to boost PH tourism

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Department of Tourism (DOT) is seeing a significant boost in leisure and business tourism with Air Canada’s new Vancouver-Manila route.

The passengers of the maiden direct Vancouver to Manila flight arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 Gate 116 in Pasay City on Thursday at 6:04 a.m.

The DOT prepared a festive welcome, including performances from local talents, as well as giving of leis and tokens.

Air Canada will operate three non-stop flights per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) throughout April and increase to four flights per week by May.

The DOT’s Office of Market Development said that the mounting of the direct operations between Vancouver and Manila will provide a total annual capacity of 57,216 seats, averaging 4,768 seats per month.

Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco said she expects the new route to provide more opportunities for tourism and business, providing easier access for Filipino-Canadians to fly to Manila while further opening up the country to the Canadian market.

“The launch of this nonstop flight is to significantly boost leisure and business tourism, further contrib-



**TOUCHDOWN MANILA.** The inaugural Air Canada direct flight from Vancouver lands at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 Gate 116 in Pasay City at 6:04 a.m. Thursday (April 3, 2025). Air Canada will operate nonstop Monday, Wednesday and Friday per week throughout April and increase to four days by May. (Photo courtesy of DOT)

uting directly to our local economies and enhancing the livelihood of our communities," she said in a news release on Friday.

Frasco highlighted that Canada plays a significant role in Philippine tourism as a source market.

"Canada, being home to nearly 1,000,000 people of Filipino descent, is one of the largest diasporas globally. And therefore, this inaugural Air Canada flight will further foster cultural connections between our countries and drive economic growth," she said.

"(The) inaugural flight represents

more than just mere travel, for it symbolizes a powerful bridge connecting our countries closer than ever before," she added.

Based on DOT data as of April 3, the Philippines has welcomed 1,682,531 visitors this year, including 91,671 from Canada.

In 2024, Canada ranked sixth in tourist arrivals in the Philippines, with 269,300 visitors contributing USD304.32 million to the local economy.

This represents a 6.80 percent growth in arrivals from Canada compared to the previous year.

The introduction of Air Canada’s non-stop flights between Vancouver and Manila reduces the previous 20-hour journey to just 12 to 14 hours.

Air Canada managing director Rocky Lo recognized the Philippines as a fast-growing market.

"The flight has solidified Air Canada's position as the North American airline, serving the most non-stop destination in this region, supporting Canada's Inter Pacific strategy," Lo said.

Lo added that Filipino students represent the third-largest overseas student population in Canada, underscoring the importance of direct flights for both educational and cultural exchanges.

Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman, for his part, said this new route was mounted in part due to the “new and economic reforms in the Philippines”.

“Recognizing the importance of this route and investing in a service that meets the growing demand for travel between North America and the Philippines,” he said.

“This flight not only reflects the deep ties between our nations, but it will also opens new opportunities for trade, tourism and overall people to people connections,” he added. (PNA)



# Dr. Jose Rizal Monument Groundbreaking Ceremony at Niagara Falls

The Dr. Jose Rizal Monument Groundbreaking Ceremony was held March 9 in Niagara Falls at the site where the unveiling of Rizal’s commemorative sculpture will be held in the Summer of 2025.



PHOTO BY WAVES

Hosted by Jose Rizal Memorial Niagara, the event was attended by Niagara Falls representatives from our three levels of government: MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates and Mayor Jim Diodati. Also present were Phillippine Consul General Angelica Escalona with Consul Rodney Jonas Sumague, Bob Gale - Chair of the Niagara Parks Commission with Steve Barnhart – Senior Landscape Architect, and Niagara Falls City Council members – Victor Pietrangelo, Mike Strange & Mona Patel, and members of JRM Niagara.

The Jose Rizal Memorial Niagara is a Filipino community group that has been advocating and raising funds for this memorial.

The event celebrates the arrival of a brand-new plaque dedicated to Dr. Jose Rizal, National Hero of the Philippines. Dr. Jose Rizal’s legacy continues to inspire people around the world to value freedom, pursue knowledge and strive for meaningful change.

Dr. Jose Rizal made a stop at Niagara Falls on May 12, 1888, enroute to Europe. The ceremony was held at

the very spot where he admired the beauty of Niagara Falls and the grandeur that amazes million of visitors each year.

This monument will stand as a lasting symbol of friendship between Canada and the Philippines and a tribute to the many contributions of Filipinos to Canada, their adopted country. Ontario is home to the largest Filipino Canadian population in the country.

Rod Quizon, chairman of the Jose Rizal Memorial of Niagara, stated that the Jose Rizal Memorial of Niagara

shovels are already painted in gold for the groundbreaking for the construction of Dr. Jose Rizal monument.

“We now have reached a milestone. A milestone unthinkable 27 years ago. A longtime coming laboured by the Filipino Canadian Association of Niagara, one of Canada’s oldest Filipino organizations. This milestone would not have been reached without the generosity and support of many,” Quizon said.

Quizon thanked the dignitaries who attended the

event and extended his gratitude to the National Parks Commission of Niagara that approved the project.

In her speech, Consul General Angelica Escalona mentioned that this memorial is the 7<sup>th</sup> Rizal monument in Canada: three in Ontario (Earl Bales Park, Markham and Brampton), one each in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary. “But what makes this so special is the fact that this is the only place that Dr. Jose Rizal visited in Canada, Escalona said. ■



Officers and members of the Jose Rizal Memorial Niagara join the dignitaries who graced the event. PHOTO BY WAVES



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