

**Commission on Filipinos Overseas and Philippine Consulate General  
Successfully Hold Youth Forums during  
*Ugnaysa Canada* in Vancouver**



Upper Left Photo: Youth participants share their immigrant experiences during the Ugnaysa sa Canada Youth Forum and Consultation held in Vancouver on 18 May 2018. Upper Right Photo: Filipino singer-composer and musical artist Joey Ayala regales the youth/young adult crowd with his award-winning song "Walang Hanggang Paalam" at the Youth Forum. Bottom Left Photo: Youth participants and other attendees listen to the CFO presentation on Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead), a two-week cultural immersion program in the Philippines that enables Filipino youth overseas to rediscover their Filipino roots and appreciate the richness and diversity of their heritage. Bottom Right Photo: Consul General Neil Frank R. Ferrer and CFO Executive Director Pimentel-Naik are joined by Youth Forum speakers and resource persons, and officials of MOSAIC at the conclusion of the forum and consultation event. (Photocredits: Vancouver PCG)

21 MAY 2018 – The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver together with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) successfully held two youth forums and consultations as part of the *Ugnaysa sa Canada* on 17-18 May 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia. CFO Executive Director Astravel Pimentel-Naik led the delegation, together with folk singer-composer and musical artist, Mr. Joey Ayala.

The first forum was held at the John Oliver Secondary School in Vancouver on 17 May 2018. The school, which has one of the largest multicultural student demographic, has approximately 1150 students attending grades Eight to Twelve, with Filipinos and Filipino-Canadian youths comprising approximately 25% of the

student population. Executive Director Pimentel-Naik, in addressing the young audience, urged the youth participants to engage in dialogues and activities related to Filipino culture, heritage and identity. The delegation was treated to a musical performance presented by the youth participants.



Left Photo: CFO Executive Director Astravel Pimentel-Naik addresses the Filipino-Canadian secondary school students during the mini-youth forum held on 17 May 2018 at the John Oliver Secondary School in Vancouver. Right Photo: CFO Executive Director Pimentel-Naik is joined by John Oliver Secondary School Principal Pedro da Silva, Vancouver School Board youth coordinator Joy Jose, members of the Multicultural Helping House Society and representatives from the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver. (Photocredits: Vancouver PCG)

The second youth forum and consultation was conducted at the MOSAIC Center on 18 May 2018. Consul General Neil Frank R. Ferrer noted the critical role of the youth, particularly in forging greater understanding, friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and Canada. He encouraged the participants to actively engage during the forum, and share their ideas and experiences of living in Canada. The event serves as a channel where participants and youth stakeholders can explore the aspects of the various issues and concerns affecting Filipino-Canadian youth and young adults. The CFO gave a presentation on the Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD), a two-week cultural immersion program in the Philippines that enables Filipino youth overseas to rediscover their Filipino roots and appreciate the richness and diversity of their heritage. (END)