



## MESSAGE



The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver joins the entire Filipino community in British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories in celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

It has been one hundred and twenty years since the Philippine national anthem, "*Lupang Hinirang*", was first played and the Philippine national flag was unfurled, symbolizing a free and sovereign Philippines.

Today we are one with Filipinos around the world in commemorating the sacrifices, the battles, and the triumphs our forefathers endured and withstood so that we can live our lives free from oppression, and with dignity and pride.

We also take this occasion to celebrate the strong bonds of friendship between the Philippines and Canada, enriched and strengthened over the years by our shared values and enduring people-to-people linkages.

Guided by this year's Independence Day theme, "***Kalayaan 2018: Pagbabagong Ipinaglaban, Alay sa Masaganang Kinabukasan***," we call on every Filipino to support the momentum towards positive and constructive change. Wherever we find ourselves in this dynamic world, we should not fail to explore ways on how to contribute to our country's "present story", not just history, through our continued resilience, cohesiveness, and team spirit.

Going forward, allow me to extend my most profound thanks and appreciation to all of you. It has been the honor of my life to serve you as Consul General over the course of the past four years and a half. I have drawn from your enthusiasm and energy in your demonstration of unwavering affirmation of our Filipino identity and heritage amidst a multi-cultural and diverse environment. I could not be prouder. Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!

*Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at Canada!*

  
**NEIL FRANK R. FERRER**  
Consul General

12 June 2018  
Vancouver, B.C.