



Filipino-Canadian Association of Saskatoon, Inc. (FILCAS)
18 - 115 3rd Avenue South | Saskatoon SK S7K 1L7
Tel.: 306-653-4499; Email: filcas@sasktel.net W: www.filcas.ca

April 19, 2020

Members and Filipino Community
Filipino-Canadian Association of Saskatoon, Inc. (FILCAS)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought uncertainty not only in the health of people and our economy, but also forbids us to gather as family and community. Celebrations in Saskatoon are no exemption with many activities being cancelled due to social distancing enforcement, which are difficult but instrumental in avoiding the spread of the virus.

At this time of the year, FILCAS is usually in the middle of preparation for the *Kalayaan* celebration as well Kumintang Folkdance Ensemble's Folkfest preparations. In light of the concerns of COVID-19 and in consideration of the health and welfare of our members--especially our young dancers--the FILCAS Board of Directors has decided to cancel participation at this year's Folkfest—a first in over 40 years. We will personally notify our concessionaires and other stakeholders soon.

The Board is hoping to organize some small activities to allow us celebrate the Filipino-Canadian month in Saskatoon, in commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day in June. Watch for an announcement about this.

FILCAS is also working on putting together resources that may be beneficial to those affected by COVID-19. Please remember that safety has to be given high regard as well as recommendation from our government health officials. Information will be posted at www.filcas.ca, filcas fb, and filcas community classifieds as they arise. Links to some important information for individuals and small businesses are include below.

This is also an excellent opportunity to salute the frontline worker from our community especially our fellow Filipinos. We commend the courage and dedication of each health care worker, and we are proud of all of you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Executive of FILCAS, I thank you for your continued patience as we await for healing of those who are sick and end to COVID-19 pandemic. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions. God Bless our community. Let's be considerate and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Felicitas Santos-Vargas
President
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Cell: 306-292-6452



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Mga Miyembro ng FILCAS at mga Kababayan:

Ang kasalukuyang pandemyang COVID-19 ay nagdulot sa atin ng walang katiyakan na bukas hindi lamang sa kalusugan ng mga tao at ekonomiya, kundi pati na rin ang pagbabawal ng pagtitipon-tipon bilang pamilya at komunidad. Ang mga selebrasyon sa Saskatoon ay hindi nalalayo sa maraming aktibidad na na-kansel dahil sa ipinatutupad na social distancing—mahirap ngunit nararapat para maiwasan ang pagkalat ng virus.

Sa kasalukuyang panahon na dapat sana ay nasa gitna na tayo ng preparasyon sa pagpapalano ng selebrasyon para sa *Kalayaan* at pati na di ang paghahanda ng mga mananayaw ng Kumintang Folkdance Ensemble para sa nararapit na Folkfest. Dahil sa banta na dala ng COVID-19 at sa pagbibigay importansya sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng lahat—lalo na ang ating mga kabataang mananayaw, minabuti ng FILCAS Board of Directors na mag-desisyon na hindi sumali sa Folkfest sa taong ito--sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon sa loob ng 40 taon. Amin pong ipinapa-alam ang desisyon na ito sa lahat.

Ganun pa man, ang samahan ng Board of Directors ng FILCAS ay naghahangad na magkaroon ng maliit na selebrasyon para sa buwan ng Hunyo, bilang Filipino-Canadian month sa Saskatoon—ito ay sa pag-gunita ng Kalayaan ng bansang Pilipinas. Abangan po natin ang mga patalastas tungkol dito.

Kami po ay nagtutulong-tulong din upang ipahayag ang mga importanteng impormasyon para sa mga apektado ng COVID-19. Atin pong alalahanin na ang kaligtasan ay dapat bigyan ng importansya kasama ng mga rekomendasyon mula sa mga health officials ng ating pamahalaan. Abangan din po ang mga posting sa www.filcas.ca; filcas fb, at filcas community classifieds. Makikita po ang mga links sa ibaba ng sulat na ito ang mga bagay na dapat at pwede ninyong malaman.

Ito ay isa din pong oportunidad na salduhan natin ang mga frontline workers mula sa ating komunidad lalong-lalo na ang ating mga kababayang Pilipino. Amin pong pinupuri at binibigyang pugay ang katapangan at dedikasyon ng bawat isang health care worker. Very proud po kami sa inyong lahat!

Sa pangalan ng mga Opisyal at Board of Directors ng FILCAS, ako po ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa inyong patuloy na pasensya habang ating hinihintay ang paggaling ng mga maysakit at katapusan ng pandemyang COVID-19. Mangyari lamang pong ipaalam sa akin kung meron po kayong mga komento, tanong, o kaya ay suggestion. God Bless our community. Stay safe po!

Sincerely,

Felicitas Santos-Vargas
President
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IMPORTANT and Related Information About COVID-19

- **Canada**: includes Outbreak update, Being prepared, Travel restrictions and exemptions, Symptoms and treatment, For health professionals, Awareness resources, Prevention and risks, Canada's response, etc.

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?utm_campaign=gc-hc-sc-coronaviruspublicedu2021-2021-0001-9762248618&utm_medium=search&utm_source=google-ads-99837326356&utm_content=text-en-428935858540&utm_term=covid-19%20canada

- **Canada Emergency Response Benefit**: includes What is CERB, Who is eligible, How to apply, etc
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

- **Canada's Economic Response**: includes support for individuals, businesses, industries
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

- **Saskatchewan data**:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/cases-and-risk-of-covid-19-in-saskatchewan>

- **Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment Program**:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/saskatchewan-small-business-emergency-payment-program>

- **City of Saskatoon**: No in-person access, but call for service

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/>

- **Advisory from the Philippine Consulate General**: flight to the Philippines

<http://www.vancouverpcg.org/advisory-13-philippine-airlines-special-flight-to-manila/>

- **Advisory from DOLE – Abot Kamay Ang Pagtulong (AKAP)**: For Filipino TFW in Canada

https://www.facebook.com/POLOinVancouver/photos/pcb.127500038885813/127497015552782/?type=3&ifg=1&_tn=HH-R&eid=ARCOdtvoB2FR0lXrmEiwKf1XdINzS2J3n6gFdSN81ljxyLcir6BRR3EhmMfwTlud9v0_7VB4yTHodsx

Please note that FILCAS office is currently closed, but you can contact the following:

- **Settlement Advisors (FILCAS)**: for new immigrants, Filipino Workers in Saskatoon
 - ➔ Beth Dickhoff: Email – filcasbdickhoffsaskatoon@gmail.com
 - ➔ Isabel Aguilera: Email – iaquilera.angel@gmail.com
- **Filipino Temporary Workers needing accommodation during COVID-19**: Contact Beth Dickhoff if you qualify—contact as per above email.

- **Passport renewal and other consular services** at the Philippine Consulate General Calgary
CLOSED until further notice <https://www.philcongencalgary.org/>

- **NBI Clearance**: includes those issued before 2014 and those issued 2014 onwards
<https://www.philcongencalgary.org/nbi-clearance-outside-philippines>

- **Covid-19 sa Pilipinas**

<http://www.covid19.gov.ph/>

- **OPTIONAL**: The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Foreign Service Posts all over the world, including the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) in Calgary, are collecting stories of Filipino migrant workers at the frontlines of this global health crisis to ensure that their contributions and experiences are brought out to the wider global community. (attached)