



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO

UPAA TORONTO @ 40

November 6, 2017

Executive Council 2017 – 2018

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The Clerk's Office
City of Toronto

Dear Sir,

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Toronto strongly supports Councillor Shan's motion to declare the month of June as Filipino Heritage Month in 2018 and future years in the City of Toronto and the request for the provincial government and federal government to do the same. Canada has been home to Filipinos for 85 years now. The first Filipino arrived in Canada in 1931 and in Toronto in the 1960s. The Filipino Canadian population dramatically increased in 1997 due to the massive influx of hired skilled and well-trained workforce of health professionals and caregivers to fill the labour needs of Canada. They can be found everywhere in Canada: working in the hospitals, hotels, restaurants, agricultural and fishing farms, and most particularly, in private homes. We, Filipino-Canadians take care of the most valuable asset of the Canadian family, children and elderly. Canadians are enabled to do paid work and live comfortably because they entrust their children and elder loved ones to the care of the Filipinos.

Today, more than 800,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians call Canada their home. The recent Statistics Canada survey results showed that Canada welcomed 1.2 new immigrants between 2011 and 2016 and 15.6% of those are Filipinos. It is the fourth largest ethno- cultural group. Pilipino is one of the fast growing language. For years now, Philippines has been consistently in the top major source of skilled and trained temporary foreign workers to Canada. It is estimated that Filipino Migrant Workers alone contribute \$190 million yearly to the economy through payroll source deduction.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Alice B. Herrera
President