

Appendix A

FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH COUNCIL – FHMC
7th Floor, 160 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto , Ontario M4P 3B5

Mr. Rory McGuckin
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario

April 19, 2018

RE: Declaration of June 12 as *Filipino Heritage Day* and June as *Filipino Heritage Month* at TCDSB

Dear Director R. McGuckin,

Greetings!

The City of Toronto Council in November, 2017 has formally declared June as the "*Filipino Heritage Month*" for the City of Toronto in 2018, and for future years. In its declaration, through the approval of Motion MM34.15, the City Council has recognized the "*Filipino community's rich cultural and social make-up, to its economic and social impact*" to the City of Toronto and which "*will be a much -deserved acknowledgement of the Filipino community and its history.*"

In proclaiming June as "*Filipino Heritage Month*", it coincides with the *Philippines' Independence Day on June 12* and will give Filipino Canadians in Toronto an "*opportunity to learn, celebrate, enjoy and experience the rich heritage and histories of the Filipino Canadian community*". Furthermore, it will provide the City with a chance "*to reflect on the many outstanding contributions Filipino Canadians have made in our society, and in the world*".

To commemorate this auspicious milestone, the Filipino Heritage Month Council (FHMC) has been formed and organized to initiate, lead and support in celebrating the contributions and achievements of Filipino Canadians to Toronto, as well as the rich diversity of the Filipino Canadian culture during this historic and inaugural month in June. The FHMC is composed of interested individuals, professionals, community leaders, and community & business organizations in the Filipino Canadian communities in the GTA. The Group has in its roster 45 leaders, students, youths, professionals, media practitioners, and entrepreneurs affiliated with 30 community-based organizations.

Therefore to enhance the participation at the TCDSB, on behalf of the Filipino Heritage Month Council, we would like to request that the TCDSB consider celebrating the *Filipino Heritage Month* in June with its tens of thousands of Filipino students in our elementary and secondary schools. Specifically, we would like to request the

declaration and meaningful celebration of *Filipino Heritage Day* on June 12 at TCDSB starting this year and every year thereafter to coincide with the annual *Philippine Independence Day celebrations* on June 12. For 2018, it is a landmark 120th commemoration year.

To promote the *Filipino Heritage Day & Month*, we are looking at some ways by which our FHMC and supporters, can collaborate with the TCDSB on various educational and cultural activities within identified high ratio of Filipino heritage students and / or staff at elementary and secondary schools. We are positive that the Philippines' rich cultural heritage and vibrant passion for our Catholic faith would greatly enhance TCDSB's Mission & Vision which hopefully would encourage and engage our Catholic schools especially those with plans to offer in-school events during the month of June and perhaps a Board Mass celebration during the *Filipino Heritage Day* commemoration. These events could be similar in format to those being done or has been done by other multicultural groups during their respective heritage month celebrations.

We pray and will certainly much appreciate your favorable consideration of our request.

Most sincerely,

Tony A. San Juan, OCT
Chairman - FHMC
416-491-2346

CC:

Board of Trustees Chair Barbara Poplawski

Trustee Garry Tanuan

Philippine Consul General Rosalita S. Prospero