



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TORONTO

0VC-LTR-250-2020
Dear Chair Martino:

17 August 2020

My sincere congratulations on the success of your first-ever TCDSB live virtual Filipino-Canadian Heritage Day celebration last 12 June 2020 and we are much honored to be a valued partner. We thank you for formally recognizing the long and rich Philippine history, and the contributions of Filipino-Canadians to our homes, our schools, our faith and to our country as we promote Philippine culture and heritage amongst the growing Filipino community in Canada. To this end, this letter refers to the Philippines' commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the *Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines* in 2021.

The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto is coordinating with the *Toronto Organizing Committee-Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines* (TOC-QJCP), headed by Reverend Father Sherwin Holandez, Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) Church in Toronto.

We are cordially inviting Trustee Gary Tanuan to represent TCDSB and the Filipino-Canadian community in this historic milestone in the schools and homes.

The Archdiocese of Toronto approved the TOC-QJCP in taking the lead in the religious component of the quincentenary celebrations in Toronto, which includes a launch in **October 2020**. Various events and activities are being planned leading up to the Quincentennial commemoration in 2021 to encourage the active participation of young Filipino-Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) including an art competition proposal from the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, which will be open to students from Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Toronto. The entries to the competition will be exhibited during a proposed art exhibition, forming part of the events to celebrate the quincentennial jubilee next year. A Mass to be celebrated by Thomas Christopher Cardinal Collins will be the highlight of the Closing Celebration in **August 2021**. An invitation was also sent by the TOC-QJCP to His Eminence, Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, recently promoted to Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Vatican, Rome.

In view of the above, we would like to respectfully request that the landmark 500th Anniversary (Quincentennial Jubilee) of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines be celebrated at the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), alongside its celebration of Filipino Heritage Day on 12 June 2021 and Filipino Heritage Month in June 2021.

The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto looks forward to more collaborative projects, events, and activities with the TCDSB.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



ORONTES V. CASTRO
Consul General

The Honourable **Mr. JOSEPH MARTINO**
Chair, TCDSB Board of Trustees

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