



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TORONTO

OVC-LTR-255-2020

10 September 2020

Dear Chair Martino:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for receiving me this morning at your Office in the Catholic Education Center of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) despite the short notice.

As I conveyed to you during our meeting, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto and the Filipino Canadian community are forever grateful to the Toronto Catholic District School Board as it proclaimed and celebrates June 12 as *Filipino Heritage Day* and the month of June as *Filipino Heritage Month* in the TCDSB annually. At present, there are an estimated 400,000 Filipino Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Next year (2021) is a significant milestone in the history, social, cultural, and religious identity of the Filipinos in Canada with the celebration of the **500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines**, as well as the 123rd Anniversary of the proclamation of *Philippine Independence* in 1898, the proclamation of the month of June as *Filipino Heritage Month* by the Toronto City Council on 08 November 2017, and the proclamation of the month of June as *Filipino Heritage Month* across Canada by the Parliament of Canada on 30 October 2018.

The Philippines' cultural heritage and dedicated passion for our Catholic faith significantly enhance the TCDSB's Mission and Vision in schools under the TCDSB. We expect that activities such as the art competition proposal from the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto will encourage the young students in schools under the TCDSB to actively participate.

Trustee Gary Tanuan's motion for a *Proclamation* is fully supported as it highlights the importance of the commemoration and celebration of the *Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines*.

Before I close, I also would like to thank Dr. Brendan Browne, Director for Education, for receiving me this morning.

Please accept the assurances of our highest esteem.

Very truly yours,


ORONTES V. CASTRO
Consul General

The Honourable Mr. JOSEPH MARTINO

Chair

Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)

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