

OUR MISSION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.



Garry Tanuan *Trustee Ward 8*

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To: Regular Board Meeting, March 23, 2023

From: Garry Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8

Subject: Notice of Motion - Board Resolution: Outstanding Catholic Community Leadership Citation - Hon. Orontes V. Castro, PH Consul General - Toronto

MOVED BY: Garry Tanuan, Toronto Catholic District Board, **seconded** by

WHEREAS: Consul General Orontes V. Castro, as a devout Catholic faithful, made a courtesy call to His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto on December 12, 2019. He made it a top priority to connect with the Catholic Church, start a relationship and obtain the Metropolitan Toronto Archdiocese spiritual leader's blessing and;

WHEREAS: Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) holds the distinction of being the first foreign government or its agency worldwide to recognize and proclaim the *Quincentennial Commemorations in the Philippines*. The TCDSB unanimously approved the once-in-a-lifetime *500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines* Proclamation in close partnership with the Philippine Consulate General's office celebrating the **Quincentennial Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP)** in all TCDSB schools and;

WHEREAS: The historic live and virtual Proclamation Launch and Signing of the *Quincentennial Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP)* celebration at the TCDSB and launch of Sentro Rizal Toronto's **Padayon** Art Competition "*Paghilom at Pag-asa Mula sa Pandemya*" (Healing and Hope from the Pandemic) in collaboration with the Philippine Consulate General's (PCG) office and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) was most successful amidst very tight health and safety measures during the pandemic and;

WHEREAS: The TCDSB celebrated virtual / live Filipino Heritage Month in June 2020, 2021, and 2022 in close collaboration with the Consul General and PCG to promote “every Filipino Youth’s consciousness of being a Filipino and awareness of their Philippine Heritage and growing in grace, faith, hope and charity.”

WHEREAS: Winners of Sentro Rizal Toronto's **Padayon** Art Competition from TCDSB elementary and secondary students were announced and awarded by the Consul General on 31 March 2021. The fulsome participation of diverse ethnic students with a record 111 Artwork entries showcasing the talents across the Board was most impressive and;

WHEREAS: Several virtual school visits were made by the Consul General at various TCDSB schools celebrating the *Quincentennial Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines* (QJCP) and featuring the best work in the **Padayon** Art Competition. A *Jeopardy*-like game show with prizes during the visits highlighting Philippine history and culture were a hit with the students and;

WHEREAS: The joint TCDSB/QJCP Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Toronto Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins in close partnership with Philippine Consul General Orontes V. Castro and staff culminated in the successful presentation of *Quincentennial Awards* to all TCDSB Trustees, Director Brendan Browne, administrative, and technical staff and;

WHEREAS: ConGen hosted a special meet and greet with two Filipino Canadian TCDSB Student Trustees of the largest Catholic District School Board in Canada and the world and;

WHEREAS: The PCG and Sentro Rizal Toronto showcased the soft launch of “Children’s Corner” with TCDSB poster at TCDSB website and;

WHEREAS: The Philippine Consulate General recently hosted the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Elementary School as part of the school's “*Beyond the Classroom Experiential Program*” for its elementary students on 24 February 2023.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In recognition of Consul General Orontes V. Castro’s outstanding leadership and community inspiration to all our students, staff, and families in our home, school, and parish community; TCDSB recognizes and cites him as the **first-ever Philippine Consul General (Toronto)** to proactively build strong relationships with our Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) community, Toronto Archdiocese and the Vatican by helping us reach deeper into our Catholic faith; strongly supporting heritage awareness in our Filipino youth and for being a great role model for the greater common good of the wider diverse community.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: TCDSB honours ConGen for his outstanding achievements and accomplishments during his three-year tour of duty in Toronto. We express our sincere gratitude to him for being our most vibrant partner in the milestone live and virtual TCDSB Filipino Canadian multi-event celebration of the **Quincentennial Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP); Padayon Art Contest** and culminating in the joint **QJCP Thanksgiving Mass** and Awarding ceremony at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.

His earnest collaboration in making TCDSB the first foreign agency worldwide to recognize and proclaim the historic **500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines** is much appreciated.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The By-law 175, Article 10.8, 30-day notice be waived and that the Notice of Motion be considered at the March 23, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Garry Tanuan
Trustee Ward 8
