



Philippine Consulate General, Calgary

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PR- 27 -2019

CONSUL GENERAL ASUQUE CONGRATULATES 12 FILIPINO CHAMPION AWARDEES, CHALLENGES THEM TO REACH OUT TO FILIPINOS IN CANADA AS ROLE MODELS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN CAREERS AND FAMILY LIFE

14 June 2019, Calgary – Consul General Gilberto Asuque challenged the twelve Filipino Champion Awardees to reach out to Filipinos in Canada and be the role models for change and improvement in their careers and family live.

Consul General Asuque spoke at The Filipino Champions of Canada (TFCC) Awards and Heritage Gala 2019 where 12 Filipinos and Filipino-Canadians were recognized for their outstanding achievements in their careers and business endeavors as well as for their civic / philanthropic work for the community.



Consul General Asuque speaking at the TFCC Awards and Heritage Gala 2019

“There are over 950,000 Filipinos in Canada and the TFCC awardees could set the benchmark for our *kababayan* to succeed in their work, careers and family life,” the Consul General stressed in his remarks. During the presentation of the awards, each of the recipients spoke of their challenges, experiences, hard work and perseverance to achieve their goals as migrants in Canada. The 12 TFCC 2019 awardees are:

1. Ms. Marites Aielio, Certified Recruiter/Coach and Award-winning Community Leader, The Royal Bank of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba;
2. Mr. Jose Angeles Jr., Publisher/Award-winning Financial Advisor and Community Leader, Edmonton, Alberta;
3. Mr. Ramon Cairo, Engineer and President of the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba;
4. Mr. Mark Calvelo, President and CEO, Complete Real Estate Group and Director of Calvelo Holdings and Investment Corporation, Award-winning Realtor and Philanthropist;
5. Ms. Narima Dela Cruz, Top 25 Canadian Immigrants Award, Founder of SPIDS and Award-winning Community Leader, Surrey, British Columbia;
6. Mr. China Gapido, Nurse, Chief Operating Officer, Ohana Care Health Services, Calgary, Alberta;
7. Ms. Pilar “Pinky” Kowalchuk, Award-winning Fitness Trainer, Calgary, Alberta;
8. Ms. Flora Kupsch, International Award-winning Female Cowboy Action Shooter, Owner of Wild West Shooting Centre, Edmonton, Alberta;

9. Ms. Beverly Mendoza, Lawyer, Wills and Estate Group, McLeod Law, Calgary, Alberta;
10. Ms. Rosanna Penilla-Bharucha, Award-winning Entrepreneur and Community Leader, Toronto, Ontario;
11. Mr. Rey Rosales, Award-winning Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication, MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta; and
12. Ms. Desiree Tan, Team Lead and Senior Defence Lawyer, Legal Aid Alberta Youth Office, Calgary, Alberta.



Consul General Asuque with the 12 TFCC Awardees at the Awards and Heritage Gala 2019 in Calgary



Consul General Asuque with TFCC Founder Jerry Caingcoy (3rd from left, front row), TFCC members and volunteers

Consul General Asuque also thanked the TFCC, headed by founder Jerry Caingcoy, its members and volunteers for this annual event and encouraged them to resonate to all the Filipinos the achievements and experiences of the awardees and be role models for life-changing paths in Canada.

The Consul General noted that the TFCC Awards 2019 form part of the celebration of Philippine Heritage Month, which was proclaimed by the Provincial Government of Alberta in June of each year in recognition of the significant contributions of Filipino-Canadians in Alberta to the “social, economic, cultural and historical richness of the Province of Alberta” and who “represent a vibrant and dynamic component of our cultural mosaic.” The House of Commons of the Federal Government also passed a motion declaring June of each year as Philippine Heritage Month all over Canada. END