



UNITED AGAINST HATE CANADA

BY EMAIL AND MAIL

August 5, 2024

Dan Carter
Mayor
City of Oshawa
1st floor, West Wing City Hall
90 Centre Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

Re: 20th anniversary of the Montreal - Manila friendship agreement

Dear Mayor Carter,

United Against Hate Canada has an enduring partnership with the Filipino Heritage Month Society. Together earlier this year we celebrated May and June as Jewish and Filipino heritage months. We now wish to enlarge our work together.

Next year represents the 20th anniversary of the Montreal - Manila friendship agreement and we have launched a committee that will work to celebrate the occasion. We have recruited many prominent Filipino community leaders in Québec.

That has stimulated discussion as to the possibility of other Canadian cities such as Oshawa with its large and vibrant Filipino community pursuing agreements with cities in the Philippines. Numbering nearly 10,000 in Oshawa, the local Filipino community would be eager to see some sort of twinning link established. The possibility of a friendship agreement or statement with a similar sized community in the Philippines would certainly win approval of Filipinos in your municipality.

The Montreal - Manila agreement came about through my outreach during the time I served as a City Councillor. My invitation to then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza led to Manila motion 64 of 2004 calling for a twinning arrangement.

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The Borough of Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the heart of the Filipino community in Montreal, responded favourably in 2005 with motion CA05 170320, which was then ratified by the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal on October 5, 2005, via motion CE05 2003.

Former Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay was an extremely strong supporter of links between Montreal and Manila and hosted the Filipino community at City Hall to fete the agreement. Some 300 dignitaries attended that gathering.

However, the potential of the agreement has not been fulfilled. While there have been exchanges - including a ceremony at Manila City Hall hosted by Mayor Joseph Estrada to mark my formal visit - there has been almost no effort in recent years to cultivate cultural, sporting and economic links.

With the 20th anniversary now just a year ahead the timing provides an excellent opportunity to consult the community as to how we can enhance the Montreal Manila agreement.

We will keep you apprised of our work. The committee intends to meet several times in August and to hold a ZOOM event in September at which the elected officials will be invited.

We would ask that you consult Filipinos in Oshawa to ascertain if they are interested in some sort of link between your municipality and one in the Philippines. With over a million Filipinos now residing in Canada we feel friendship agreements can offer many benefits to each partner. We would be happy to facilitate introductions.

Please let us know if you agree that this would be a worthwhile initiative for Oshawa.

Yours truly,

Marvin Rotrand
Director General
United Against Hate Canada