

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**[WWW.PCCM.CA](http://WWW.PCCM.CA)

# The Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba

Early immigrants and refugees from the Philippines, the majority of which were medical professionals, began to settle in Winnipeg in 1959. Half a century later, in part due to the Government of Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program, Winnipeg's Filipino community is the second fastest growing ethno-cultural community in the city with a population of over 50,000 people.

As a result, Winnipeg has become Canada's largest Filipino per capita community in the country.

As the central hub for cultural, social and educational activities for the Filipino community, The Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba (PCCM) provides extensive programming for immigrants and refugees, including: monthly welcoming meetings for new Filipinos; candle lighting ceremonies; orientation, information and citizenship lessons; ESL classes; dancing classes; martial arts classes;

and indigenous language classes. To ensure that new Filipinos arriving in Winnipeg are fully aware of the social and economic opportunities and support services available to them, the PCCM also arranges for networking sessions where speakers inform them of services and resources for newcomers.

PCCM is a member-led organization, and as such, the Filipino community is actively engaged in electing board members and setting organisational direction through open dialogues during their annual general meetings. The community advises and →



→ recommends programming activities to the board, which then reports back to the community on accomplishments achieved over the year.

PCCM generates revenues from its membership fees, one major fundraising event, renting out its Multipurpose Room and various projects and grants from public and private granting agencies. The innovative approach the PCCM took in building their facility has also become an important source of revenue for the organization, as well as an added attraction for the Filipino community. The PCCM's facility hosts several commercial spaces that not only generate revenue from the leases, but are also an opportunity for Filipino businesses to operate near a high traffic area in their community. This mutually beneficial arrangement results in a strong and sustainable Centre.

Despite these accomplishments, PCCM has ambitions of growth. They hope to expand their facility to include classrooms for adult and heritage classes, a housing project for seniors and an international library for ethno-cultural organisations in Manitoba. Other potential projects include youth engagement and capacity building, self-employment supports, and youth employment initiatives.

PCCM has also been involved in the settlement of newcomers, especially from the Provincial Nominee Program which allows people to immigrate to

Manitoba with skills needed in the ever-growing economy. Every other month, the PCCM hosts the "Welcome Bagong Dating" event which provides newcomers with the necessary information for settlement. Various speakers discuss topics such as: the importance of education and the role of par-

ents in the educational system in Canada; introductions to various social services available to newcomers; employment information services for newcomers; and information on federal, provincial, and municipal government services. PCCM also welcomes resumes and requests for employers, and has committed to following up and staying in touch

with newcomers who have been looking for work.

As Winnipeg's Filipino community grows, PCCM and its business and agency partners will continue to respond to the needs of its constituency. As a social, cultural and educational hub, the PCCM connects young and old, Filipino and non-Filipino, and new and established Winnipeggers to build and strengthen the Filipino community. In supporting local businesses, facilitating social and economic opportunities for their community, and in pursuing additional community assets such as housing and self-employment initiatives, PCCM is taking an integrated approach to their role in strengthening Manitoba's Filipino community.

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