



March 13, 2023

TO: Hon. Premier David Eby, Premier@gov.bc.ca

CC:

Hon. MLA Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport,
TACS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. MLA Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing, HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. MLA Niki Sharma, Attorney General, AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. MLA Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services,
CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. MLA Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care,
educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives MLA Mable Elmore,
Mable.Elmore.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Hon. David Eby, K.C.
Premier of British Columbia
Victoria, BC

Dear Premier Eby:

We, the Board of Directors, officers, members, families and friends of One Filipino Cooperative of BC (OneFilCoopBC), endorse the letter to the Premier entitled "Provincial Filipino Cultural Centre", dated March 6, 2023.

OneFilCoop is a pioneering Filipino credit cooperative in BC which was established in 2009 by a group of community organizers, social workers, healthcare professionals, government employees, skilled professionals, and caregivers who immigrated to Canada and started their new lives in BC.

Numbering over 650 regular members (and benefiting almost 2000 family members), OneFilCoop provides an alternative financial platform to Filipino Canadians and permanent residents that is owned, controlled and managed by them. We are a self-organized Filipino community organization in BC whose organizers relied on the Filipino resilience, character and hope for a better future for our families in Canada.

OneFilCoop provides members with credit facilities for the members' (and their almost 2000 family members) personal and family needs, such as children's education, monthly rent, basic goods, and financial support to families in the Philippines. It also has providential, disaster support, and

housing funds contributed by the members. Finally, OneFilCoop regularly delivers pre-membership orientation seminars as well as information sessions on government programs and services and social issues and concerns.

A provincial Filipino Cultural Centre means for us a place for gathering to reconnect with our heritage, a venue for expressing our solidarity with our fellow Filipinos and British Columbians, a home where our children, seniors and young adults can connect and an anchor to our lives as productive British Columbians and Canadians. The centre can serve as the venue for our regular member orientation and other educational activities. We can hold our Filipino festivals and celebrations there amidst a setting filled with reminders of our cultural heritage, historical legacy and collective aspirations.

We, therefore, urge you and your Government to proactively ask, seriously hear, and earnestly engage us in the successful establishment of our own provincial Filipino Cultural Centre in Vancouver.

We affirm our call and request by including our names in the following list.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors and Officers

(SGD) Vivian Paule, President

(SGD) Mary Joy Neri, Vice President

(SGD) Marilyn Bajarias, Board Member

(SGD) Aurelia Carpio, Board Member

(SGD) Felix Mejica, Board Member

(SGD) Alma Prudencio, Board Member

(SGD) Ricardo Talay, Board Member

(SGD) Tito Valdez, Board Member

(SGD) Nenita Yap, Board Member

(SGD) Joselito Palencia, General Manager

(SGD) Sonia McLaughlin, Treasurer

And endorsed by 281 Members, Family and Friends of OneFilCoopBC