



PROCLAMATION

Filipino Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the Filipino community has become an essential and cherished part of the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Canada—bringing with them a legacy of resilience, service, and a deep commitment to family and community; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Canadians are one of the fastest-growing communities in Alberta, contributing meaningfully across a wide range of sectors—including healthcare, education, construction, hospitality, and business—through their strong work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Saskatchewan recognizes and celebrates the rich history, culture and remarkable contributions of Filipino Canadians and honors the many ways they have helped shape the growth, spirit, and future of our City, our Province, and our Country; and

WHEREAS, the month of June holds deep significance for the Filipino community, coinciding with the celebration of Philippine Independence Day on June 12, and offering all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about the culture, values, and traditions that enrich our shared experience; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2018, the Government of Alberta became the first province in Canada to officially declare June as Philippine Heritage Month, with a proclamation signed in perpetuity by Premier Rachel Notley and Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell, thereby ensuring that the celebration would be automatically recognized every June, year after year; and

WHEREAS, this provincial initiative was strongly supported by over 50 community leaders from Edmonton and the surrounding region - further demonstrating the collective commitment to affirm the significance of the Filipino Canadian contributions; and

WHEREAS, Alberta's leadership has inspired other Canadian provinces to adopt similar declarations and municipal proclamations have also been made in the Cities of Edmonton, Calgary, and Fort Saskatchewan, and on October 30, 2018, the House of Commons unanimously passed Motion M-155, declaring June as Filipino Heritage Month across Canada; and

WHEREAS, the strength, compassion, and unity of the Filipino community reflect the very best of who we are as a City and as a Nation—reminding us that diversity is not only our strength, but also our shared story; and

WHEREAS, by celebrating Filipino Heritage Month, we acknowledge and uplift the vibrant cultural traditions of the Filipino people—from their music, dance, and language to their cuisine, faith, and artistic expressions—that continue to shape the character and identity of Fort Saskatchewan;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gale Katchur, Mayor of the City of Fort Saskatchewan, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2025, as **FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH** in the City of Fort Saskatchewan, and encourage all residents to take part in the celebrations, to take time to reflect on the history, resilience and achievements of Filipino Canadians, and to join in building a more inclusive, respectful, and united community.

Mayor Gale Katchur

June 6, 2025