

## UPF Toronto, Canada Celebrates Asian and Philippine Heritage Month

David Stewart  
May 29, 2022



**Canada** -- UPF was able to support and participate in the 17th Annual Asian Heritage Month Gala which was chaired by our good friend and Ambassador for Peace, **Norma Carpio**, and organized by the Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Toronto (CMC) on May 29th, 2022. The CMC, established in 1998, is a Toronto-based non-profit, non-political umbrella organization of more than twenty Asian Canadian associations representing various Asian countries and cultures. All were on display through a parade of national costumes and several through excellent cultural performances. After a video message from **Prime Minister Trudeau**, several MPs greeted the large crowd. **Senator Victor Oh** gave an excellent keynote address highlighting the contributions of Asian ethnic communities and the greater awareness of Asian Heritage Month. UPF was represented by **David Stewart**, who is pictured together with the current president of the CMC, **Mar Mar Cho**, and board member and Ambassador for Peace **Henry Lee**.



The Heritage Month theme was continued in UPF's presentation of its video overview at the Hamilton gala celebration of 124th anniversary of Filipino independence and Philippine Heritage Month on the evening of June 10. This was followed by some brief remarks by David Stewart and the presentation of Ambassador for Peace certificates to the Board of the Hamilton Filipino Community Centre (HFCC) and its president, **Bonner Villabraza** along with copies of UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's *Mother of Peace* memoir. UPF has a long history of collaboration with the HFCC. This was the first event in a weekend of celebrating Filipino Heritage month at the HFCC, supported throughout by local UPF member **Lito Paghubasen**, whose son Leo was the object of UPF-stalwart Ryan Abenir's vigorous Tong-Il-Moo-Do demonstration!

UPF is looking forward to future fruitful cooperation with both the CMC and HFCC.