

William Canero
Mabuhay House Society
info@mabuhayhouse.ca

October 8, 2024

Re: BC NDP Response to Mabuhay House Society

Dear William Canero and Mabuhay House Society,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to connect with you and respond to your important question.

If re-elected, David Eby and the BC NDP would be pleased to continue our commitment to working with the whole of the Filipino community to create and build a provincial Filipino Cultural Centre.

As you may know on May 31, 2024 the BC NDP government launched a new website and survey that provided British Columbians with opportunities to share their vision for a new provincial cultural centre dedicated to celebrating Filipino Canadians' heritage and contributions to B.C.'s success. The development of the website and survey followed multiple roundtables with community organization leaders.

During the engagement process, individuals and communities will have opportunities to provide input on key aspects of the project, such as scope, location and vision, ensuring it reflects community interests. We hope to work with the Filipino community and key stakeholders to make sure this cultural centre captures the diversity, vibrancy and resiliency of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who call BC home.

If re-elected, we commit to having the feedback from this engagement shared by spring 2025 and insights from the survey will inform the next steps in establishing a provincial Filipino cultural centre.

Thank you again for allowing us the chance to reaffirm our commitment to a provincial Filipino Cultural Centre and we look forward to working together to make it a reality.

Sincerely,

BC NDP

William Canero
Mabuhay House Society
Via email: info@mabuhayhouse.ca

RE: BC Green Response to Mabuhay House Society

Dear William Canero and Mabuhay House Society,

This October, I am back home to run in Victoria-Beacon Hill, where the Bayanihan Centre is located. I know the Bayanihan Centre is near and dear to the hearts of Filipinos across the Province, and I know that the community has struggled for decades to build a Filipino cultural centre in Metro Vancouver.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization for your leadership and commitment to the Filipino Community. As a member of the legislature for the past 7 years, it has been my privilege to hear the astounding work Mabuhay House Society has contributed to the Provincial Filipino Cultural Centre.

Should our party receive the privilege of forming a minority government, I commit to the Filipino Community that we work to support the development of the Provincial Filipino Cultural Centre. Our party understands that Arts, Culture, and Heritage are the essential ingredients to a flourishing society. We know that artists and cultural workers have been hit hard due to COVID-19, with the Filipino Community being no exception. That's why we included in our platform a commitment to strengthening the arts, culture, and heritage sector in British Columbia with increased funding and strategic planning.

Our party commits to increasing the annual BC Arts Council budget to \$55 million to enhance support for arts and culture initiatives, including in this is the Provincial Filipino Cultural Centre. Mabuhay House Society has done tremendous work supporting the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport toward early engagement with the public. It is clear to our team that Mabuhay House and the community you bring to the table are ready to do the work ahead.

This is why our party is willing to start a feasibility study for the center as early as Spring 2025. Being the third largest growing community in our province, with almost 175,000 Filipinos who call our Province home, as the Green Party Leader, we are ready to lift our sleeves up and do the work necessary so that those Canadians truly feel like they are at home through a new Filipino Cultural Centre.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a champion for your families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SF' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sonia Furstenau, Leader BC Green Party