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LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE CANADIENNE DES PHILIPPINES

GANADALINKS



Team Canada is proud to stand alongside the **Philippines** in its pursuit of more jobs, investments, and opportunities.







The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham) joined forces with other foreign chambers and <u>Arangkada Philippines</u> at the Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum 2025 to unveil a bold new roadmap featuring 70+ actionable ideas aimed at growing the economy and creating more jobs.



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IN THE NEWS CAN-PH ROUNDUP

Disaster Response Solidarity

Cebu and Davao Earthquake Relief: Following the deadly earthquakes in in northern Cebu and Davao, Canada pledged humanitarian support and coordination with Philippine agencies.

- The Canadian Embassy expressed condolences and readiness to assist with urgent needs.
- Cebu has been placed under a state of calamity, with over 60 fatalities reported.

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Trade and Economic Engagement

Leaders' Call (July 2025): President Marcos, Jr. and PM Mark Carney discussed stronger trade, investment, and defense ties. Canada reaffirmed its Indo-Pacific commitment and invited Marcos for an official visit.

- Free Trade Agreement: Talks advance toward a bilateral FTA to boost trade and collaboration.
- Trade Snapshot: USD 3.4B in 2023 trade (up from 3.1B in 2022); USD 983M in Canadian FDI (2021).

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Defense and Security Cooperation

SOVFA Secured: Canada and the Philippines finalized their Visiting Forces Agreement in March 2025, paving the way for joint training and operations. Manila's envoy to Ottawa reaffirmed shared defense goals—strengthening regional security and marking 75 years of bilateral ties.

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CANADA PROVIDES HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PHILIPPINES

MOVE IS IN RESPONSE TO RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY

In solidarity with the Philippines' ongoing humanitarian crises following recent typhoons and earthquakes, Canada has announced \$650,000 in humanitarian assistance to support affected communities. This aid underscores Canada's continued commitment to helping the Philippines respond to natural disasters that have caused loss of life and significant damage to homes and infrastructure.

Of the total funding, \$350,000 will go to World Vision Canada, a member of the Humanitarian Coalition, to provide emergency shelter, relief items, protection services, and access to clean water and sanitation. Another \$250,000 will be allocated to the Philippine Red Cross for ongoing relief operations in Cebu through the Canadian Red Cross's Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund.

An additional \$50,000 will be provided through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to support Angat Pinas Inc., a Filipino non-profit organization, in distributing hygiene and dignity kits as well as emergency shelter. Canada has also offered to deploy relief supplies from its regional stockpiles and continues to coordinate closely with humanitarian partners. In fiscal year 2023–2024, Canada provided \$45.8 million in development assistance to the Philippines, reflecting its longstanding partnership and commitment to supporting the country's resilience and recovery.

READ FULL PRESS RELEASE



"My heart goes out to the Filipino families impacted by natural disasters. In this difficult moment, Canada is helping communities across the Philippines get back on their feet, providing life-saving assistance now and supporting resilience for the weeks ahead. We will keep working with trusted partners on the ground and stand with the Filipino people every step of the way."

HON. Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism)



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter the final quarter of 2025, CanCham is doubling down on cocreation and growth. We're calling on members to help shape the Chamber's future through surveys and small-group dialogues that will quide new, responsive programs.

Our focus: deepening Canada–Philippines business ties in ICT, sustainable infrastructure, and agri-food—driven by transparency, innovation, and collaboration.

Let's shape the next chapter together.

Christopher Ilagan, President & CEO, CanCham Philippines

PAL EXPANDS U.S., CANADA REACH WITH NEW CARGO AND SERVICE INITIATIVES



Philippine Consul General Neil Frank R. Ferrer met with Philippine Airlines (PAL) officials Catherine Guino and Dell Merano to discuss the airline's latest initiatives to expand its market presence in the United States. PAL outlined new partnerships with major U.S. carriers to boost connectivity and enhance cargo operations while reaffirming that passenger service remains its top priority. The effort underscores PAL's commitment to both the Filipino community abroad and strengthening its competitiveness in the U.S. market.

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CANADA INTRODUCES BILL TO STRENGTHEN BORDERS AND IMMIGRATION SECURITY



The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety, has introduced Bill C-12, the Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act, aimed at bolstering border security, enhancing immigration integrity, and protecting Canadians from transnational crime. The bill empowers law enforcement to combat illegal fentanyl trade, organized crime, and money laundering, while improving coordination among agencies. It also introduces stronger measures to secure borders, streamline asylum processes, and enhance information sharing across government. Bill C-12 builds on earlier initiatives, giving Parliament more time to refine reforms that reinforce Canada's commitment to safety, security, and fair immigration management.

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APF CANADA LAUNCHES WOMEN-ONLY BUSINESS MISSION

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) will host its 10th Canadian Women-only Business Mission, Securing Our Futures, in the Philippines and Singapore from February 5–11, 2026. The mission will connect Canadian women and gender-diverse entrepreneurs with business leaders to explore opportunities in food and energy security, infrastructure, and digital solutions. Backed by the Government of Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund and supported by Air Canada, a CanCham member, the initiative aims to strengthen inclusive trade and expand Canada's economic footprint in the Indo-Pacific. Applications close October 24, 2025.

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Canada, eh!

Newfoundland and Labrador Election

Voters in Newfoundland and Labrador head to the polls for a provincial election triggered by Premier John Hogan.

Mail and Parcel Delivery Returns

Canada Post Strike Update Canada Post workers have shifted from a nationwide strike to rotating strikes.





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FLIGHT	DEPARTS	TIME	ARRIVES	TIME	DAYS
AC18	Manila (MNL)	09:25	Vancouver (YVR)	06:20	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat
AC17	Vancouver (YVR)	01:55	Manila (MNL)	06:20 + 1 day	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat

^{*} Schedule shown subject to change without notice





CANADA CONNECTS: BUILDING STRONGER TIES ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC

The Canadian Chambers of Commerce of the Indo-Pacific gathered for two productive days of dialogue and collaboration, exploring how we can collectively advance Canada's ambition to strengthen its profile as a trusted and reliable partner across the region.

Fittingly, these discussions took place at the Canada Pavilion during the final stretch of Expo 2025 Osaka, a global stage that perfectly reflects our shared vision for innovation, partnership, and sustainable growth in the Indo-Pacific.

The future looks bright! CanCham Philippines is proud to stand alongside our counterparts across the region as part of this dynamic network—committed to deepening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties between Canada and the Philippines.

A heartfelt thank you to Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada and Canada's Indo-Pacific Trade Representative for making this important engagement possible.









ARANGKADA INVESTMENT FORUM 2025: BUILDING STRONGER TIES ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham) proudly joined forces with fellow foreign chambers and Arangkada Philippines at the Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum 2025, reaffirming a shared commitment to accelerate the country's economic growth and strengthen its global competitiveness. This year's forum unveiled a bold new roadmap featuring more than 70 actionable policy recommendations—each aimed at boosting investments, creating quality jobs, and fostering inclusive, sustainable development.

The roadmap highlights seven priority sectors that represent key drivers of national growth:

- Agribusiness advancing food security, rural development, and value-chain integration.
 Creative Industries positioning Filipino creativity as a global export and a catalyst for innovation.
 IT-BPM expanding digital capabilities and building a skilled, future-ready workforce.
- Infrastructure improving logistics, connectivity, and sustainable urban development.
- Manufacturing revitalizing industrial capacity, driving exports, and enhancing productivity. Mining unlocking responsible resource development through transparency and sustainability.
- Tourism strengthening destination competitiveness and supporting community-based growth.

government and industry, the Philippines can cement its position as a leading growth hub in the Indo-Pacific region.

As a long-standing advocate for stronger Canada–Philippines trade and investment relations, CanCham is proud to support this national agenda and contribute to shaping a more competitive and resilient Philippine economy.

Which of these seven sectors do you think holds the greatest potential to drive the country's growth in the years ahead? Share your insights and join the conversation.





Thanksgiving Canada

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines extends warm Thanksgiving greetings to our members, partners, and friends across Canada and the Philippines. May this season of gratitude remind us of the value of partnership, community, and shared prosperity.

Happy Thanksgiving!





Happy Thanksgiving from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines!

This season, we're thankful for the strong partnerships and friendships that unite Canada and the Philippines. At CanCham, we're proud to serve as a bridge for business—connecting enterprises, fostering collaboration, and driving shared growth.

Here's to gratitude, partnership, and continued success for Team Canada and Team Philippines.



CanCham IT Business Briefing on Al

On September 18, 2025, we partnered with Veratech Inc. to host an IT Business Briefing on Artificial Intelligence, where business leaders and innovators explored how AI is already reshaping Philippine industries. From smarter permitting systems and predictive analytics to enhanced environmental monitoring and customer experiences, the session spotlighted AI's power to enable real change.

CanCham President, Mr. Christopher Ilagan, opened the event by reaffirming the Chamber's commitment to digitalization, ethical Al adoption, and Indo-Pacific collaboration. This was followed by insights from Veratech President, Mr. Benjamin Tan, and presentations from TPLink, HP Inc., ICOM, and Sangfor Technologies, which showcased cutting-edge applications and solutions.

The event was not only packed with knowledge-sharing and dynamic dialogue, but also energized with raffle surprises and giveaways courtesy of our booth exhibitors.







AmCham x CanCham Business Briefing on: Understanding Local Implementation of Marketing to Kids (M2K) Ordinances

The American Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Mondelez Philippines and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, successfully hosted the "Understanding Local Implementation of Marketing to Kids (M2K) Ordinances" roundtable discussion on September 17 at the AmCham Robert Sears Hall.

This session was joined by Ms. Jenilyn Capalaran from the City Office Health Nutrition Office of Pasig City and Hon. Francine Gil from San Juan City for a dynamic exchange on navigating evolving M2K regulations.

Key takeaways included insights on LGU-level enforcement, compliance strategies for brands, and the broader implications for youth-focused marketing. The dialogue reinforced the importance of cross-sector collaboration in shaping responsible, informed, and inclusive marketing practices.







UPCOMING EVENTS



CanCham X PCCC X PCCI Collab

22 OCTOBER, 11 AM-5 PM In-Person, PCCCI Office (MCKinley, BGC)

Canadian Thanksgiving with Arch. Palafox

23 OCTOBER, 11 AM Seda Abreeza, Davao

Insider's View

13 NOVEMBER, 2 PM Venue: TBA

Canada-in-Asia: Momentum Manila

17 NOVEMBER, 1:30 PM Ayala Museum, Makati City

JFC Networking Night

27 NOVEMBER, 6 PM-9 PM The Bellevue Manila

CANCHAM MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

OceanaGold Philippines



OceanaGold (Philippines), Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Brian Martin as Chair of the Board of Directors, effective September 24, 2025.

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Converge Global



Businesses today face two major challenges: rising cyber threats and the need for fast, reliable connectivity. Converge Global Business, the enterprise arm of Converge ICT, introduces the Cyber Resiliency Bundle—a one-stop solution combining high-speed internet, advanced SD-WAN security, and full turnkey support. Designed to keep operations running smoothly even during high-performing connectivity ideal for industries like finance, healthcare, retail, and e-commerce. "We're equipping businesses to stay operational, secure, and ahead of the curve," said Converge CTO Paulo Martin Santos. Learn more at www.convergeict.com or contact globalbusiness@convergeict.com.

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Philippine **Property Market**Briefing

October 30, 2025 | 10:00 AM Zoom Webinar



MEMBER TALKS: MY JOURNEY WITH CANCHAM

by Victor Dela Casa



When CanCham President Chris Ilagan asked me to write about my experience as a member, I hesitated. As a writer, I'm not used to talking about myself — but I wanted to share what being part of CanCham truly means to me.

I'm a proud Canadian citizen, having migrated in 2001 and served in public roles with the Department of National Defence, Public Works Canada, and CMHC, as well as the Canadian Army Reserve. My time in Canada shaped me — the discipline, openness, and sense of community I found there remain with me today. Though I eventually left for career reasons, those were some of the happiest and most defining years of my life.

When Chris invited me to join CanCham, I saw it as a chance to give back — to help build bridges between Canada and the Philippines, two countries that have shaped who I am. Since then, I've been active in the Change, Advocacy, and Sustainability Committees and helped drive our communications and social media efforts, including writing and designing this very newsletter, CanadaLinks, with the help of our very own Carol Marcelo.

What's made this journey special are the people and connections: meeting innovators from OpenText, PressReader, PlasticBank, and Transitions Executive Search, and learning how chambers like the JFC collaborate to advance shared goals. These experiences reminded me that true value lies not just in opportunity, but in connection.

Today, I'm helping CanCham expand its presence beyond Manila—engaging with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to broaden our network and working closely with the Creative Economy Council of the Philippines to promote digital creativity. Soon, we'll feature more member interviews, and perhaps even launch podcasts and webinars. The sky's the limit—and I encourage all our members to share their own CanCham stories.

Joining CanCham has been more than a professional move — it's been a personal journey of rediscovery. It's allowed me to bridge two worlds I deeply love and contribute to a partnership built on shared values, purpose, and progress.

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES INC. SECRETARIAT OFFICE

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INSIDE THE JFC

Former Secretary Rene Almendras Honored with Arangkada Lifetime Achievement Award at 2025 Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) successfully concluded the 14th Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum on September 25–26, 2025, at the Marriott Grand Ballroom in Pasay City, highlighted by the presentation of the Arangkada Lifetime Achievement Award to Former Secretary Rene Almendras.

The JFC recognized Almendras for his decades-long contribution to improving the country's business climate through leadership in both government and the private sector, including his roles as Secretary of Energy, Cabinet Secretary, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as well as senior posts at Ayala Group, Aboitiz Group, Citibank, and Manila Water. His work advancing public-private collaboration and economic reform continues to inspire leaders across sectors.

The two-day forum gathered over 500 delegates from government, industry, and civil society to discuss policy reforms, investment priorities, and opportunities in key growth sectors such as agribusiness, infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, creative industries, tourism, and IT-BPM.

READ FULL STORY



Foreign Chambers Praise Passage of Landmark Economic Reforms

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce (JFC) hailed the enactment of three landmark laws that strengthen the Philippines' position as a competitive and attractive investment destination: the E-Governance Act, the Enhanced Fiscal Regime for Large-Scale Metallic Mining Act, and the amendments to the Investor's Lease Act.

These measures modernize government services through digital transformation, provide long-term security for foreign investors through extended lease terms, and establish a clearer and fairer fiscal framework for responsible mining. Together, they reflect the government's strong commitment to improving ease of doing business, attracting sustainable investments, and fostering inclusive economic growth.

The JFC commended President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Philippine Congress for advancing these reforms—calling them key milestones toward a more transparent, efficient, and globally competitive Philippine economy.

READ FULL STORY

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) is a coalition of the American, Canadian, European, Japanese, Korean chambers and PAMURI. We represent over 2,000 member companies engaged in over \$100 billion worth of bilateral trade and some \$30 billion of investments in the Philippines. The JFC supports and promotes open international trade, increased foreign investment, and improved conditions for business to benefit both the Philippines and the countries the JFC members represent.

JOIN CANCHAM

Grow Global with CanCham! Unlock doors to new opportunities, amplify your brand, and make your mark in the Canada–Philippines business community. From policy influence to powerful networking, member spotlights to exclusive events, CanCham puts your business on the map.

Promote. Connect. Influence. Grow.

Be part of a network that champions your success.

<u> Join the Canadian Chamber of Commerce today and power up your business!</u>



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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