



# KCC Multicultural Services

## Annual Report 2009-2010

### Message from the Chairperson and Executive Director

The key accomplishments of the Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services (KCCMS) for the year 2009-2010 are described in this report. It reflects the dedication and hard work of the staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and partners in community services. Empowering newcomers to achieve equity and adapt to new environment in Canada has been our significant benchmark in our success at KCCMS. Our commitment to empowering newcomers was provided through workshops, forums and individual counseling of mapping out a settlement plan.

This fiscal year, we have served a total of 5,138 clients. The total services provided to clients were 9,299. The total revenue we have received through the funding support of the federal, provincial, municipal government and fundraising efforts was \$492,442. It is with great appreciation, honour and respect that we acknowledge these levels of the government and supporters of KCCMS for without these funding, our services will not be possible to exist. With the increased funding, we were able to replace all the computers in the offices and the old computers were added to the public workstations for the use of the clients. The telephone system were also replaced and enhanced.

In our last AGM 2009, the members approved the rebranding of the Centre. The Centre's name Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services reflects the increased use of the services of the Centre by newcomers coming from other parts of the world living in Parkdale and not Filipino in origin.

It has been one of our significant year for the Live-in-Caregiver Program, there has been an increased need for individual and group educational support sessions for caregivers on the issues, challenges and changes on LCP as delivered by Honourable Minister Jason Kenney, Citizenship and Immigration Canada at the Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services office last December 12, 2009 on the improvement of the program.

A shared-care approach of providing services to clients is one of the strengths of the Centre. The joint initiative of orientation for newcomers by KCCMS, CCSYR and Philippine Consulate General/ Philippine Labour Attaché Office and also sponsorship from different organizations like Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) at the Metro Convention Centre and St. Paschal Catholic Church attracted 120-180 participants in one seminar. Active participation of KCCMS at Parkdale Service Providers Network and Bathurst –Finch Hub and two Local Immigration Partnerships (West Downtown Toronto and Bathurst – Finch Local Immigration Partnership) provided a network of resource in providing services to clients.

Indeed, all the services provided by the Centre for the year were made possible through the staff and volunteers' consistent passion and dedication in service to clients. We are thankful for the year that was past as another one begins. The year ahead of us is another year that we look forward to, as the initiation of the modernized approach to settlement will come into effect.

*Flordeliz M. Dandal*

Flordeliz M. Dandal  
Executive Director



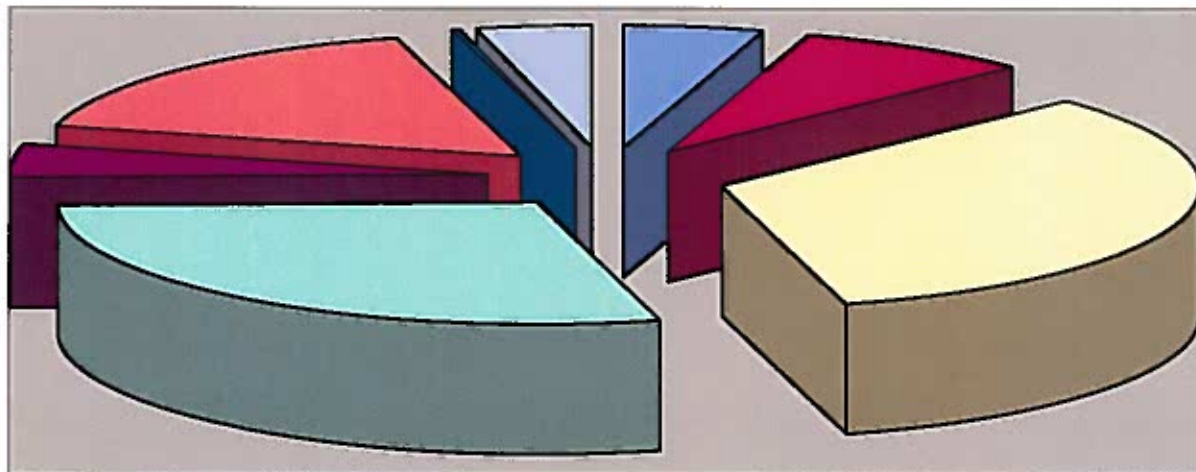
*Jelbert Real*

Jelbert Real, P. ENG., C.E.T  
Chairperson  
Board of Directors



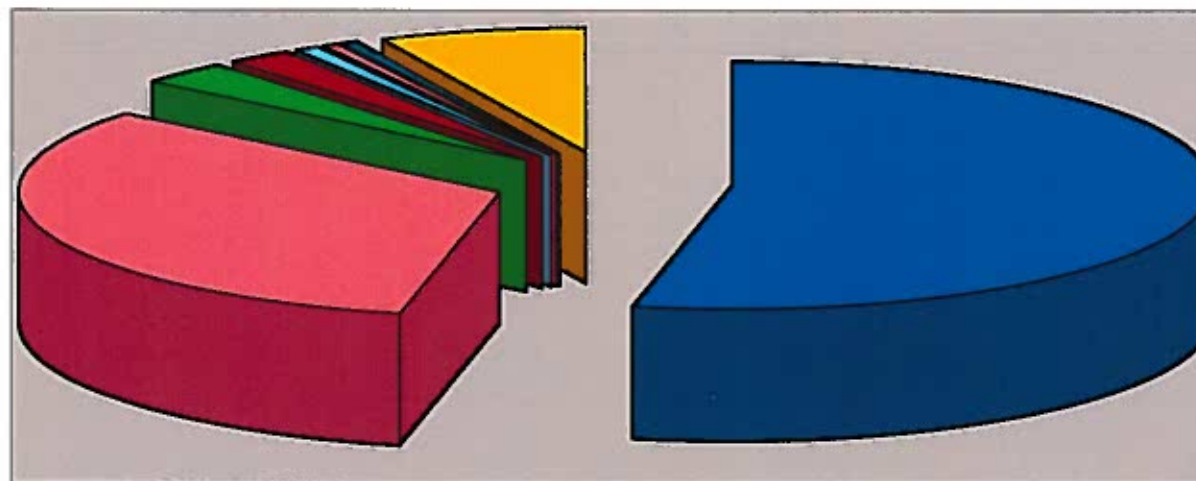
**Immigration and Settlement**

**Client Immigration Categories**



- Family Class
- Convention Refugees
- Live-In Caregivers
- Independent Immigrants
- Canadian Citizens
- Refugee Claimants
- Intend to Land
- Others

**Languages of Clients Served**

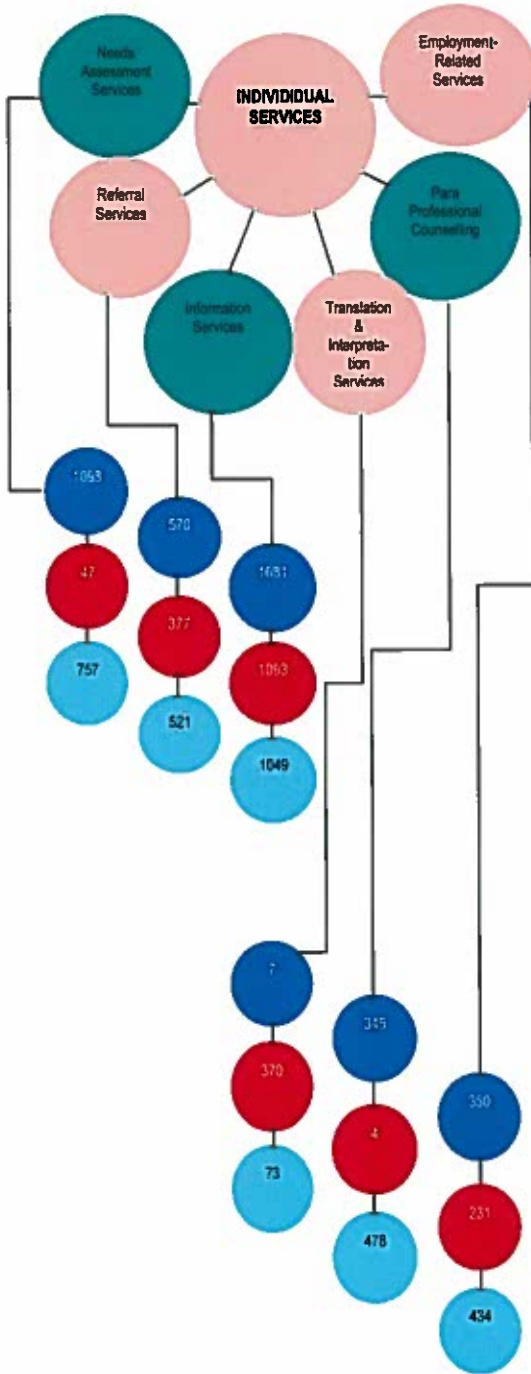


- Tagalog
- Tibetan
- Nepali
- Mandarin
- Czech
- Arabic
- French
- Others

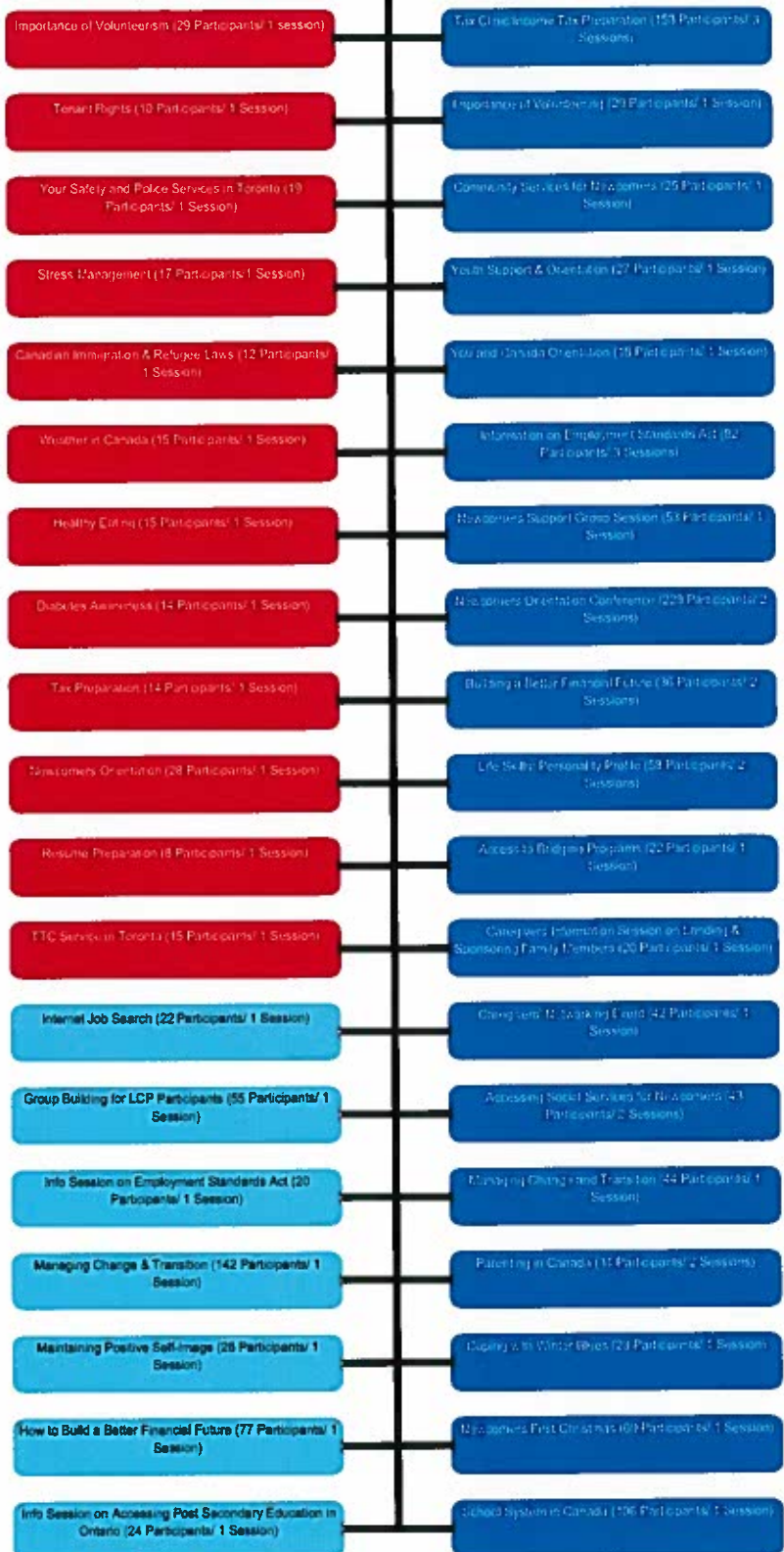
*\*Other languages include but are not limited to: Amharic, Chinese, Cantonese, Greek, Tamil, Swahili, Hungarian, Spanish, Persian, Hindi, Bengali, Polish*



**Programs and Services**



**IMMIGRATION & SETTLEMENT GROUP SESSIONS**







### The Panay Island Dance

One of Toronto's busiest intersections, the corner of Yonge and Dundas was transformed on August 16, 2009 into a giant street fiesta as part of this year's Filipinos Making Waves Festival. Residents and tourists alike were treated to a vibrant display of colour, music, food and entertainment as members of Toronto's Filipino community showcased the beauty, creativity and diversity of Filipino culture.

The highlight of this year's festival was the first-ever "Panay Island Dance" presented by the Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services (KCC) with the generous support of the Ontario

Arts Council (OAC) and in partnership with the United Aklanons Association of Toronto and Focus Philippines. Over 150 participants including dancers and musicians wearing traditional masks, vibrant costumes, and headdresses wended their way down the world's longest street. The participants captured the spirit of the *Ati-Atihan* festival, an annual event that has been held for hundreds of years in the Philippines and celebrates the history and heritage of the country's indigenous people. Spectators were treated to a dazzling imagery of drumming, and dancing as community members young and old proudly represented the three major islands of the Philippines: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The spectacular

display was part of the "Kawayan Parade," Toronto's ground-breaking Filipino Parade on Yonge Street.

The Panay Island of the Visayas region in the Philippines, composed of Aklan, Iloilo, Capiz and Antique are known for the glorious festivals they hold every year to celebrate heritage and identity. At the heart of these festivities is the *Ati-Atihan Dance*—the rhythmic, spontaneous and inspired street-dancing of people in costumes. The year 1212 first saw the celebration of the *Ati-Atihan Dance* in Aklan as a peace pact between migrating people from Borneo and the native Aeta (or Ati). The migrants, in their effort to seal their friendship with the natives,

smeared themselves with soot from their cooking utensils to look like the Aetas. Later on when the Spaniards came to the Philippines, the event was Christianized and made the feast in honour of the Infant Jesus. Today, the *Ati-Atihan Dance* is celebrated throughout Panay. It is called *Dinagyang* in Iloilo and *Bhirayan* in Antique.

Eventually, it became the annual Mardi-Gras event, highly successful and full of revelry. It is the symbol of devotion in dynamic movement. Indeed, it has stunned visitors and mesmerized the locals with all the sights and sounds—the entire city in a festive and thoroughgoing participatory celebration.



The festival in Toronto featured singers and musicians, folk dance companies and modern hip-hop troupes and the *Kawayan Parade* in which the Panay Island Dance was featured. Preparations for the 100 registered participants included making and handcrafting costumes and practicing the drum beats. The dance itself is a combination of rehearsed movements but also spontaneous expressions. Through the support of individuals, groups, sponsors, and some fundraising events, the whole affair successfully projected Philippine culture once again in a whole different level. Apart from the Filipino community and the clients that KCCMS serves, more importantly the parade was witnessed by the many people, locals and

tourists alike, who were within the vicinity of the square. The spectacle was irresistible and truly engaging. The venue was key—being directly on the subway line and adjacent to the Toronto Eaton Centre, Canada's busiest shopping centre with over a 52 million visitors annually. During the parade itself, people on the streets were encouraged to participate in the dance and celebration. Among the subgroups of the participants, children of parents were invited to join in the crafting of the costumes and props that were used in the dance to educate them about their backgrounds and art. The artistic presentation was aimed overall to the general public to facilitate enhanced cultural awareness of the Filipino people.





### Women's Support Group

Many members that participate in the KCCMS' Women's Support Group are from the Live-In Caregiver Program. This initiative is particularly effective in helping members deal with the many issues that they face in their day to day dealings.

### English Conversation Circle

A support group that meet to learn and practice conversing in the English language. Facilitators provide helpful tips and pointers to assist participants in their daily communication especially in activities that pertain to settlement such as transportation, housing, seeking social services etc.



### Computer Classes \* Saturdays and Sundays

In the years the KCC Multicultural Services has been conducting free basic to intermediate computer classes, it remains a successful and

and interactive programme where participants, especially newcomers learn as well as build their confidence in the office setting.

39 sessions/129 participants from 2009-2010







**COMMUNITY SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

The program works to support vulnerable, high-risk members of the Filipino Community. Program activities include: a Filipino youth group providing leadership development, tutorial support, cultural and intergenerational support; peer support, counselling, violence-prevention workshops and network for women; mutual peer support and education for seniors. Centre provides after-school programs for Jean Vanier and St. Patrick Secondary Catholic Schools.

**Youth Program**

All youth newcomers between the ages of 13-24 years old are welcome to join in the many different activities that KCCMS organizes throughout the whole year aimed to empower the youth to develop their leadership skills.

**Seniors' Program**

Another initiative of the centre is to engage seniors by arranging activities that will provide them an environment where they can reach out and receive support as well as give it to one another and to the community in general. The support groups that emerge in this undertaking help in addressing the concerns of the elderly in issues such as abuse, loneliness and family break ups. This program also handles the needs of seniors in their search for housing, employment, volunteer work as well as applications for pension and social services.

**Women's Program**

In this program, KCCMS organises support groups to enhance the leadership skills and capacity-building of women. This is also the setting where the agency conducts educational forums and engages in partnerships with other groups to uphold women's rights. Counselling about abuse is also accessible in this service.

**ACCESS, EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Works to increase community capacity while providing information on anti-racism, human rights and leadership skills for groups of internationally-educated professionals as well as connect the youth to professional organizations to build their capacity to respond to challenges of racism and discrimination.

Some examples of the fields of work:

- Social Work
- Engineering
- Teaching
- Physical Therapy
- Nursing

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS**



CSP  
Youth  
Women  
Seniors  
AEHR





≈ KCCMS in the COMMUNITY ≈

Kababayan Centre helped me a lot during my adjustment years here in Canada. It is because of them that I encountered new friends and acquaintances and through Kababayan, I was able to adjust to the Canadian System and the city of Toronto specifically. They opened up many interesting activities for me as well as volunteer opportunities. They also offered workshops that facilitate the adjustment to a new country and also tackled youth issues.

I would definitely recommend Kababayan Centre to other newcomers. They provide a tremendous number of services to help newcomers understand and alleviate the rigors and troubles of being in a diverse city.

Some of my best memories of moving here in Canada are of activities arranged by the centre. Being part of this organization surely changed my life.

*-Patrick Polvorosa, Youth Volunteer*

My first chance to know of Kababayan Centre was through the Newcomers' Orientation last year. I was enlightened by the workshops regarding services provided to newcomers such as myself and I gained new friends—as well I had an opportunity to gain Canadian experience through volunteering. I can't say enough that the workshops that KCCMS conducts are significant factors for an easy transition to Canada.

Whenever I need advice, I could easily reach KCCMS counsellors and they always answer my queries in a timely manner. They boost my confidence and actively help me in job searching—even supporting me by serving as a character reference.

Now I can say that I am a confident jobseeker and I know KCCMS contributed to that.

*-Mayumi Mitra, Volunteer*

Aside from directing us to organizations that enhances our employability, KCCMS provided us with good job leads and references that led us to be employed.

As a settlement agency, KCCMS provided us a friendly atmosphere where we can volunteer and help our fellow compatriots settle. This sense of helping other people helped me attain a sense of self-fulfillment to a certain degree as we continue to settle in our new home-Toronto

What is more beneficial was having access to assistance even on weekends which had provided us a peace of mind where any doubts would not be left answered.

My good memories of KCC are too many to mention. KCCMS opened the door of my life in Toronto and to a guided path of my adjustment process, so with my wife.

*-Gayle Russel Capulong, Volunteer*

It is the commitment of KCCMS to serve our community—the looking after the adjustment/settlement needs of newcomers, addressing the concerns of sectors such as caregivers, working for the accreditation of Philippine-educated professionals, and assisting our youth in adjusting, if not integrating into Canadian society that has somehow kept my bond with the organization since the early 1990s when I first arrived here in Canada.

Before moving here I had spent most of my time in popular education, community organizing and advocacy among the marginalized or less fortunate. It is in these fields that I hope to be able to contribute more to the tasks of KCCMS.

*-Enrico Esquerro, Member Board of Directors*

KCCMS helped me and my family, ease pangs of homesickness. It gave us a feeling of security that an office or an organization, whose staff speak our language, is intent on answering or finding answer to our questions as a newly-landed family. They provided us with information and a hotline when the need arose at a much later time.

As an individual, KCCMS provided an avenue for me to extend help and contribute to the community. I appreciate the chance for share information and helping out in programs that benefit my fellow immigrants who are seeking to pursue positive advancement for their family and in their respective professions.

*-Aguido dela Cruz, Vice Chairperson Board of Directors*

I came to Canada as a landed immigrant in 1999 and I was at a quandary as to where to start. Luckily, I found Kababayan Community Centre and this is where my Canadian life started—by doing volunteer work and eventually landing my first job through the help of KCCMS. The centre, through its many projects has done a lot for newcomers like me in terms of settlement assistance, finding jobs, counseling etc. and in helping us fit and assimilate into the Canadian way of life. For many, KCCMS is a second home where we seek assistance and advice for various problems mostly dealing with the government services and issues.

I believe that I should give back to the community whatever I can contribute to help by joining the board of directors of KCCMS. Being part of this family for the past 6 years, I wish KCCMS more power and success.

*-Lilia Sullit, Member Board of Directors*



### Acknowledgements

#### Staff

Executive Director  
Flordeliz Dandal

#### Settlement

##### Counsellors

Loida Gatchalian  
Aurora Rodulfa  
Shova Adhikari  
Amelia Basingan  
Alberto Rodil  
Melanie Canlas

Bookkeeper  
Irene Ventura  
Renato Ventura

Finance &  
Administrative Manager  
Giselle Del Rosario

Systems Administrator  
Joel Cuevas

#### Social Service Course – Placement Students

Tenzin Gethoktsang – George Brown College  
Rinzin Wangmo – Everest College  
Farzana Afroz – Humber College  
Titan Tulauan – Evergreen College

#### Board of Directors

Chairperson  
Jelbert Real

Vice Chairperson  
Aguido Dela Cruz

Treasurer  
Theresa Aenlle

Secretary  
Evelyn Lao  
Ma. Lily Avancena

#### Members

Lilia Sullit  
Letecia Campos  
Enrico Esguerra  
Tsewang Norbu  
Pura Velasco

Farha Akhtar  
Mercedita Gonzales

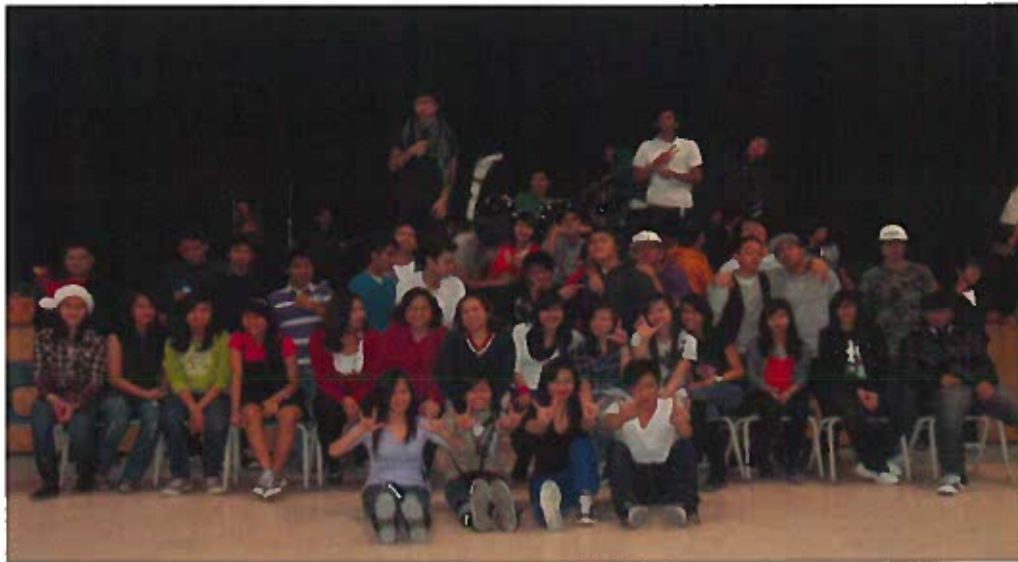
#### Partners



- Philippine Consulate General of Toronto
- Cross Cultural Services of York Region (CCSYR)
- Culture Link
- Community Alliance for Social Justice (CASJ)
- Toronto Police Services
- Asian Community Aids Services (ACAS)
- Ontario Association of Filipino-Canadian Engineers (OAFCE)
- Parkdale Community Health Centre
- Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA)
- CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses
- Philippine Educated Physical Therapists Association of Ontario (PEPTAO)
- Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS)
- Philippine Teachers Association (PTA)
- Parkdale Community Information Centre (PCIC)
- St. Christopher House
- Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)
- Parkdale Liberty Economic Development Corporation

- (PLEDC)
- Association of Filipino-Canadian Accountants (AFCA)
- COSTI Immigrant Services
- New Heights Community Health Centres

#### KCCMS Youth



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#### FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Province of Ontario

City of Toronto



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

