

Filipino youth in Canada face many challenges, which include impacts of family separation and reunification, employment, adjustment in school, language barriers, questions of identity and belonging, racism and discrimination.

Being proud to be Filipino in Canada also means not forgetting (and sometimes re-learning) the Filipino people's history and being inspired by it. The Filipino youth are heirs to a long line of Philippine heroes and heroines that have resisted occupation after occupation, from the Spanish colonizers to the neo-colonial stronghold of Philippine economics, politics and culture.

With the continuing growth of the Filipino population in Canada and in British Columbia, Filipino youth need to find their voice and take active part in their communities, their schools, neighbourhoods, including the political arena.

The Filipino youth in Canada must also be supportive and participative of the movement for democratic and genuine change in the Philippines for these are the ties that bind the youth and the Filipino community with that of the country and people they have left behind.

Young Population

Filipinos in Canada are more likely to be children or young adults in their prime working years.

Education

- Filipino youth are about as likely as other young Canadians to be attending school.
- In 2001, the majority of Filipino youth aged 15 to 24 were enrolled in a full-time educational program.
- Young Filipino women are more likely than their male counterparts to be attending school.
- The 2002 Statistics Canada Ethnic Diversity Survey showed that children whose parents were from the Philippines had significantly lower university completion rates.

Family Reunification

- One far-reaching consequence of the live-in caregiver program is that a large proportion of Filipino young immigrants has been separated from their immediate families for significant periods of time.
- With the increase of Filipina caregivers who are divorced, separated or widowed, more Filipino children may be re-uniting with a single parent when they arrive in Canada.

Employment & Low Income

- Young Filipinos are more likely to be unemployed than older adults.

- The unemployment rate of young Filipinos is below that of young people in Canada overall.
- Filipinos are about as likely as the rest of the population to be below the low-income cut-offs (commonly known as poverty lines).
- Filipino children under the age of 15 are also about as likely as other children in Canada to live in a low-income family.

Violence against Filipino Youth

This includes the following cases.

- 1998: 14 Filipino youths and two others were attacked by a group of 30 white youth in Squamish, B.C.
- Sept 1999: 25 Filipino youths at the Vancouver Technical Secondary School were harassed and attacked by other students – from graffiti "all Flips must die" on the walls to telephone death threats.
- Nov 2003: 17-year-old Jomar Lanot was beaten to death outside his school, Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School in Vancouver.
- April 2008: 24 year-old Charles Dalde was stabbed and killed in Richmond; the police claim that it was gang-related was later proven false.

- May 2004: 17-year-old Jeffrey Reodica died after he was shot in the back by Toronto's plainclothes police, an incident that rallied the Filipino community in Toronto.
- Jan 2008: 15-year-old Deward Ponte was stabbed to death near a Vancouver park.

Filipinos in Canada & B.C.

- 410,700 Filipinos are in Canada, a country which has a population of roughly 31,241,000. (2006 Census)
- 88,075 Filipinos live and work in British Columbia. (2006 Census)
- Filipinos make up the third largest visible minority group in metropolitan Vancouver and fourth in Canada.
- Philippines is currently the top source country of immigrants and temporary foreign workers in Canada.
- The majority live in either Toronto or Vancouver, two of Canada's largest cities.

Sources:

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**FILIPINO YOUTH
 in B.C. / CANADA**
some facts and figures