

## To Register for the Filipino-Canadian Women's National Forum

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special food needs? (vegetarian, allergies) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee of \$100 ☐ enclosed (please make cheque / money order to the Philippine Women Centre)

Send this form to the Philippine Women Centre Or Fax to (604) 215-1103 or E-mail to <pw@netcom.ca>  
451 Powell Street, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6A 1G7 Registration deadline: February 15, 1999

## Participants

The Forum aims to gather 150 Filipino women from across Canada. All Forum participants, panel speakers, facilitators and resource people will be Filipino women.

## Logistics information

The registration fee for the Forum is \$100 (including opening night on Thursday). This will include the conference kit and food. Accommodation cannot be provided, although the Forum Secretariat will be happy to assist you with information on local accommodation.

## To get involved...

- **Volunteer!** You can join one of the committees (Cultural; Outreach /Publicity/ Media; Logistics; Documentation) helping to prepare for the Forum.
- **Contribute your story!** We are creating a visual display of the history of Filipino women's migration to Canada. Any photos, stories or mementos are greatly appreciated.
- **Contribute your talent!** If you have visual art you would like displayed, contact us.

**Call or E-mail Ning Alcuítas or  
Jane Ordinario at (604) 215-1103  
or <pw@netcom.ca>  
for more information or  
to get involved!**

The Philippine Women Centre  
of BC invites you to...

## The Filipino-Canadian Women's National Consultative Forum



## "Towards Filipino Women's Equality"

**March 11 to 14, 1999  
Heritage Hall /  
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada**

## As Filipino women in Canada...

**The Filipino community** in Canada has a rich history of stories and experiences. Since the 1960s, we have been coming to Canada as garment workers, domestic workers, teachers, nurses and other professionals.

One outstanding characteristic of our community is the strong presence of Filipino women. In fact, Filipino women are the majority of our growing community. Filipino women are often the hardest hit by the changing economic and social conditions we face in Canada. Despite this marginalization, Filipino women have continued through the years to educate and organize themselves. Yet, our stories and voices often go unheard in the larger context of Canadian society.

## The National Forum

The Forum is an effort towards strongly bringing out our stories and our cries for justice and equality. This gathering will be a historic opportunity for Filipino women in Canada. It will mark the first time we have gathered on a national level to address a broad range of issues from our perspective as grassroots Filipino women.

### THE FORUM'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To gather together Filipino women from across Canada to exchange information and to deepen our analysis about our history, experiences, current situation and needs;
- To develop an action-plan, recommendations and strategies at the local, national and international levels to build towards Filipino women's equality in Canada; and
- To explore how we can further advance our educating and organizing work at the local, national and international levels as grassroots Filipino women.

graphic from Kalagin ang Ating Tanikala, CWR, 1994

## Tentative Program

- **Thurs. March 11:** 10th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Women Centre with Keynote address, speakers and cultural presentations; Welcoming of Forum participants (open to public)
- **Fri. March 12:** Opening address and Panel speakers from across Canada and the Philippines (open to public)
- **Sat. March 13:** Participatory workshops and discussions (for Forum participants)
- **Sun. March 14:** Action-planning (for Forum participants) and solidarity night (open to public)

## Major Themes

- **Labour and Migration:** Economic globalization and its accompanying crisis is causing massive unemployment and migration of Filipino women. The Forum will explore the phenomenon of the commodification and feminization of labour migration by looking at our experiences as Filipino women.
- **Human Rights:** Women's rights are human rights. We will examine the broad range of human rights issues we face, including the failure of the Canadian government to ratify international conventions protecting the rights and welfare of migrant workers.
- **Systemic Racism and Immigration:** Systemic racism has had a profound impact upon Filipino women. The Forum will examine the connections between systemic racism and Canada's historical and current immigration policies.
- **Violence Against Women:** We continue to experience myriad forms of violence, including socio-economic forms like de-skilling and the mass trafficking of Filipino women. The analysis and prevention of violence against women will be explored at the Forum.
- **Challenges for Women Migrant Workers:** Their marginalized position provides a clear illumination of the nature of Canadian and global society. We will deepen our understanding of their issues and identify opportunities for collective action.
- **Young Women and Their Issues:** We will discuss issues of identity and heritage as we seek ways to develop links amongst young women.





The Philippine Women Centre of BC invites you to...

*The Filipino-Canadian  
Women's National Consultative Forum:*  
**"Towards Filipino Women's Equality"**

***March 11 to 14, 1999, Vancouver, British Columbia  
With speakers, workshops, cultural presentations & art exhibits.***

- **Labour and Migration** -- The forum will explore the phenomenon of the commodification and feminization of labour migration by looking at our experiences as Filipino women.
- **Violence Against Women** -- The analysis and prevention of violence against women (including socio-economic forms) will be a topic of exploration at the forum.
- **Human Rights** -- We will examine the broad range of human rights issues we face, including the failure of the Canadian government to ratify international conventions protecting the rights & welfare of migrant workers.
- **Challenges for Migrant Workers** -- Their marginalized position provides a clear illumination of the nature of Canadian and global society. We will deepen our understanding of their issues and identify opportunities for collective response.
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**For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ning or Jane  
at (604) 215 - 1103 or <pwcc@netcom.ca>.**