

Literacy This Week



Yukon Literacy Coalition

We are a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an everchanging world.

Immigrating from the Philippines



I still remember the night we got to Whitehorse in February 2014 wearing the warmest sweater known to us (myself, my sister, and my mom). My dad walks in with bags and bags of “stuff” which revealed itself soon enough to be jackets, gloves, hats, boots, and snow pants, which we only knew from movies. Coming from +30°C, we were opposed to wearing anything more until the winter breeze of -24 °C greeted us through the airport doors. And I tell you, I have never gotten ready as quick as I did.

As we slowly settled, learning a new way to live kept us on our toes. Commuting in below zero temperatures, walking unfamiliar roads, not having a proper communication tool or unsure about how the monetary system works are some of the things made the first few months challenging. Despite that, having family and friends for support during ginormous changes is unmatched.

Culture shock is true story. Though my excitement to see snow was my comfort, for others, it is the opportunity for a better life. Most of the times, moving to another country is need for a lot of people from the Philippines, as a search for a better opportunity or to be able to provide graciously for families back home. I consider myself blessed with how my dad has prepared us for the change and that he was there to support us as we navigate our new world.

Even with our life here in the Yukon (in Canada or anywhere else in the world), we keep our culture in our hearts and in our lifestyle. Jose Rizal, the Philippine National Hero once said, “Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinangalingan ay hindi makakarating sa paroroonan.” (“He who does not know how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination.”)

And remember: if there are Filipinos, there will be lots of food!



Yukon Literacy Coalition

Suite 207, 100 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8

Ph: 867-668-6535 **Web:** www.yukonliteracy.com

Email: yukonliteracy@yukonliteracy.com