

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Italian Day and Filipino BC Stand United in Grief and Solidarity with a Moment of Silence for Lapu Lapu Day Victims***

**Vancouver, BC – June 2025** – The Italian Day Festival Society and Filipino BC express their deepest sorrow and solidarity following the tragic violence that occurred after the *Lapu Lapu Day Festival* on April 26, where an intentional act took the lives of 11 people and left many more injured.

These heartbreaking events unfolded after a day that was, at its heart, a vibrant celebration of Filipino heritage, courage, and community. Created to honour resistance and resilience, Lapu Lapu Day commemorates the bravery of a leader who stood to protect his people, culture, and land. The festival brought together diverse Filipino communities and the broader public in a spirit of love, joy, and cultural pride — a day that was beautiful, rich in heritage, and full of collective spirit.

As part of this year's *Italian Day on The Drive* on **Sunday, June 8**, the Italian Day Festival Society has welcomed Filipino BC and Lapu Lapu Day Festival participants to join in the festival's **Opening Ceremony**, which will include a **moment of silence** to honour the victims and the impacted community — and to stand together in shared sorrow and strength.

**“Italian Day has always been about community, culture, and connection,” says Melissa De Genova, Vice President of the Italian Day Festival Society.**

*“In the face of tragedy, we stand beside our Filipino neighbours to honour the lives lost and the resilience of those who continue. Our hearts are with the families and communities forever changed by this devastating act.”*

**“This moment reflects the strength of community — we are grateful to the Italian Day Festival for standing with us in unity and care,” says Kristina Corpin-Moser, Executive Director of Filipino BC.**

*“Lapu Lapu Day was a celebration of who we are — joyful, strong, and proud. In mourning, we remain all of these things. We are honoured to stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends at Italian Day and the wider Vancouver community.”*

This act of unity reaffirms the values that bind Vancouver's diverse cultural communities — **respect, resilience, and the belief that through solidarity, we find healing**. It also reminds us of *kapwa* — a shared spirit of togetherness — which is more vital than ever.



At Italian Day on The Drive, we believe in the power of community to support and uplift one another — especially in times of loss. We honour the lives lost, hold their families close in our thoughts, and extend our deepest gratitude to all who have shown up with compassion and care in these difficult weeks.

**May we continue to honour those we've lost not just in memory, but through action, justice, and the way we care for one another every day.**

### **DONATE: Support for Victims and Families**

In response to the tragedy, **Filipino BC and United Way BC** have launched a donation fund to support those directly impacted. **100% of donations** will go to individuals and families to cover emergency needs, mental health support, funeral costs, and long-term recovery.

#### **Donate at:**

 [FilipinoBC](#)

 [Red Cross](#)

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### **ITALIAN DAY ON THE DRIVE**

**Date:** Sunday, June 8, 2025

**Opening Ceremony:** 12:00pm

**Location:** The Drive Main Stage (East 2nd Avenue & Commercial Drive)

**Moment of Silence:** In memory of the victims of the Lapu Lapu Day tragedy

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### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

#### **Italian Day Festival Society**

*Jennifer Engele, Masterhouse Media*

 [jennifer@masterhouse.net](mailto:jennifer@masterhouse.net)

 [www.italianday.ca](http://www.italianday.ca)

#### **Filipino BC**

*Crystal Laderas, Media Relations Manager, Filipino BC*

 [media@fiiipinobc.com](mailto:media@fiiipinobc.com)

 [www.filipinobc.ca](http://www.filipinobc.ca)

