

# PRESS RELEASE

## Department of Foreign Affairs

2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, Philippines

Tel. No. 834-4000

www.dfa.gov.ph

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### AMBASSADOR BRILLANTES MEETS FILCOM LEADERS IN MONTREAL AS EMBASSY TEAM CONDUCTS CONSULAR OUTREACH PROGRAM



Ambassador Brillantes (at table), assisted by Minister and Consul General Angeles and Second Secretary and Consul Rodriguez, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from left, respectively, meets the leaders of the various community organizations in Montreal Quebec at the Philippine Community Centre.

06 September 2007 – Philippine Ambassador to Canada Jose S. Brillantes met leaders of the Filipino community in Montreal, Quebec, home of the largest Filipino community within the consular jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, on 05 August 2007 and assured the community of the embassy's continuous services pending the appointment of a new honorary consul for the area.

Ambassador Brillantes' meeting with Montreal Filcom leaders at the Philippine Community Centre on Van Horne Ave. coincided with the regular consular clinic Montreal of the embassy designed to serve the consular needs of Filipinos in the area, most of whom are caregivers who can only attend to their consular affairs on weekends. Led by Minister and Consul General Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Consul Eloy Luis B. Bello and



The embassy team assists hundreds of Filipinos at the consular clinic.

Consul Rhenita B. Rodriguez, embassy personnel came in full force for the consular outreach program, also held at the Philippine Community Centre, which included services such as passport renewal, notarization of documents, fingerprinting services for NBI clearance, *balikbayan* stamps, dual citizenship and other consular services.

During the meeting, Ambassador Brillantes expressed appreciation to those present at the gathering for affording him the opportunity to meet the heads of the various community organizations in Montreal, as he emphasized that the embassy is determined to carry out its objective of serving and safeguarding the best interests and general welfare of Filipinos in Canada.

Ambassador Brillantes said, "The fact that the Philippine Embassy came in full force today indicates our great desire to provide consular services to our *kababayans* in Montreal and environs." The ambassador added that the Embassy's outreach program aims to bring consular services to the doorsteps of Filipinos in Quebec, realizing the inconvenience of having to travel for almost three hours from Montreal to the Embassy in Ottawa to avail themselves of the Embassy's services. END