

**Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI)**

**Oral History Interview**

Interviewee: Felix de los Santos

Interviewer: Don Bouzek

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Location: Edmonton

I'm Felix De la Santos. I'm treasurer of CUPE local 474.

That's in the southern part of the Philippines, Maniluki. ?? southern part of the Philippines. The Philippines is composed of 7,000 islands, everybody knows about it. It's one of the small towns of Marinluki. Marinluki is composed of 6 towns. The one, Santa Cruz, where I born, is the biggest town of Marinluki. That's a good question. I'm not sure. It's probably size of Edmonton population, although Sanda Cruz Marinluki is a small town. But there is dense population like a city area. It's agricultural and fishing industry. My parents, he's a farmer. We have a coconut plantation, a rice plantation and banana, pineapple. We have livestock. That's the main resources of income that we have. My parents have water buffalo, horses. Horses is the one that is useful for our daily living, because we use them for traveling and stuff. And coconuts. Coconuts is the main product. I still remember when I'm young we harvest about 50,000 coconuts. That's good enough to support 9 kids of my parents to go to school. So far we're not buying anything as far as basic food is concerned. Rice, meat. The only thing we buy is beef, but mostly we didn't buy any food because it's very abundant in our farm land, we call it barrio. It's good, we're doing okay. But when 9 kids are going to school at the same time, it's very hard for the parents to accommodate. Maybe 2 will stay and the other 2 will go and proceed to elementary up to university. I finished my high school from elementary to Santa Cruz Institute, which is the small community elementary. Then I go from high school, they call it Maninda Institute. We have high school from first to 4<sup>th</sup> year, then you go to university. Then I go to, not university but college. I went to college after I finished my high school. I take accounting. Fortunately I majored in accounting in the Philippines.

When I graduated, ya. But I still remember in 1968, that's the start of the tension started by the students of the Philippines. So what happened is that mostly students are aware about the situation of the country, the suffering of poor people, and what's the abuse of the government in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country, which is a reality as up to now. There is less of government corruption, grabbing lands which didn't belong to them. They take opportunity with these people. They cannot fight, because they cannot hire lawyers. So the people that have money can get it. Not all of them, but the politician, some of them take opportunity while they are in position. I don't know if they say government corruption, but some of them might do that. But usually they are in one purpose. But the economic time, the country didn't have much income.

We are under the United States. First of all we are under the Chinese, then the Japanese, then the American. The American get an influence to us, because during the Japanese war the Philippine government has been helped by the American. The American people educate us with a standard of living, a very high standard of living for those people that maybe they are the son of the rich people. The poor people, they wanna up to date with the styles, but it's hardly can do that. If you are poor, you'll be poorer. If you are rich, you'll be richer. I go back to the knowledge about the student. The student realized that there is no opportunity if you don't have a big family or a well known family or the biggest income family, you cannot go to university. If you go to university if you are average family, you have to sell your livestock, you have to sell your property in order to go to university. The reason why they do with university, that's the only inheritance that the parents can give to their son and daughter so they can participate to work and have a global economy. But mainly the education is that it comes from the peoples pocket. It's not like the government in Canada that they support, that you can borrow money to the government or be funded by the government from elementary to grade 12, which is good. In our country, no. If you don't have money, you will be stuck, you will not learn.

They changed the way the system works. The point is that there's no equality and justice for workers, as well as the newly graduates. Mostly the graduate student, some of them because they have money, they don't have knowledge. It's just because of the diploma mills. What's happening is that if you have money, you have diploma. But nothing here.

You pay for diploma, you don't learn for diploma. So that's what's happening. The poor people don't have any opportunity to go to university. The highest they can get is up to grade 6. So that's it. They might work, but there's no factory. Maybe work in land construction or railroad. Other than that, there's no income coming. You cannot find a job. It's more factory, but before you get that you must get an influence with a politician. In order to get a better job you must have a connection, influence.

During the Marcos regime, if you commit a crime, let's say, and you are one of the government officials, you can get away with it because you have money. Then with regards to the education, there is no funding for education. There are 2 categories of education. University of the Philippines, even if you have a brain, if you don't have any money or connection, you can get it. Well sometimes ya, when you are so bright you go with that. But mostly it's been manipulated by the politician to go there. So they have an opportunity to go to university. Some other stuff is there is no granted money in order to stimulate the kids to go to university. They can't borrow money so they can go to university. There's no such kind of chances that they will give you an opportunity to better yourself to go for education.

At the time when I was there, Cabata Macabayan. Cata Macabayan are composed of university student. The way they organize that one is the demand has not been responded. There's no response to their common demands. Like farmers that are working, they don't have opportunity to work on the land. Mostly there are owners and then workers at the same time, and they paid only 1/3 of the income they made on the land. So it's not enough for the family to support them. I think that's the main demand they're asking. There's an equal distribution of land. At the time, if you are one of the family that you want to go to university, comparing to the middle class family, you have to sell your livestock. That's the thing so you can go for education. Then one more problem is the medicare is demand. When you got sick, most people are working while they are strong. Once they got sick, let's say you save \$1 million, that will be spent in not even a month when you get sick, and all the money will be spent. That's the cause of suffering. Most people cannot go for doctor fee or hospital fee. So what happened is that, as a result, those people that are waiting for a free consultation with the government, they are getting a line up. Let's say General Hospital. General Hospital, in acute or emergency, the line up

is maybe 2 or 3 blocks. Some people that's in emergency before they reach the counter, they die first. That's the most difficult one that most student are demanding about the health care system. Education, health care, and the funding.

I was in college, I'm taking my accounting. When I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> year, there is lots of interruption. Cabata Macabayan is starting to organize. They say, ok, in order to ask our demand, like lets say we want to increase the minimum wage. So what happened is that the Cabata Macabayan will lead that one, because they know what is the issue. Then the post office will go. What happened is if they have like that, they interrupt the entire city. All the school and universities closed. So all the student participate. But that participation that they have is just for the common cause. It's not for themselves, ya I'm a member of CUPE 474 that I go there and have \$200. No, it's just because you're there, you know what's the reality that's going on in the country with the poor people. And what the government can do. It's a difficult time. There's no opportunity.

Before it goes to martial law there's lots of battles. The first time they have the Battle of Mangola. The Battle of Mangola is the same demand. Government corruption will be stopped, student grants, health care, and wages. And then opportunity for the poor people. So what happened is that during the Marcos regime they have a rally. Farmers, all outfit across the country have a rally. It was interrupted. Most people in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world country, they're not like we here. Oh no we don't have to do this. But because of the feeling that they have in suffering and starvation, they go. Like I'm saying, no matter how sharp is the knife, he will hold it and grab it to you. That's the way the feeling of the people there fighting for their rights to do that. Even a sharp knife, they will hold it and cut your finger, they'll do it. So that's what happened. People are getting violent. They want to go inside the Malakanyan palace, which is like the Whitehouse. They want to attack that one. Of course they have defend by the Philippine government. I think lots of people died at that time, mostly student. That's the start of getting worse and worse. Every time they have rally. I think second to that is when they had that one, all university student go there on that rally. It's just like war. I still remember. Because it's university area, I can see what was going on. Or they are free car, they probably go to the Philippines, they turn upside down and put fire on it. All the guards coming from the Macanyan fire live bullet at these people. I forgot the number of people that died. I still remember the battle of

Abanena, 45 people died. The same thing. The demand is improvements for the livelihoods of people.

I believe Marcos. Because at the time when Marcos had been? he control everybody. But now when he go to Akino, if you are a son of the official, you can carry guns. But during the time of Marcos, only the military can do it. So you're safe at the time, you can go.

Because the military is the one who handle it. But this time you don't know. When I come back in 1999, the ones with uniforms is not the real policeman or real military. It's the new people army. I've been here more than 30 years now. They start with the Macabayan, with that new peoples army. They now got 600,000 members. That's what I heard. I'm not sure about this. They start only with 15 and now we got 600. They're all against the government, 600,000 that are active. As a matter of fact, I hope they will spread all over the province of all the entire Philippines. In the parts of Marinduki they almost conquer the new peoples army. If they don't like you, they go like this. That's too difficult.

The point is that I cannot say I'm a leader. I'm a follower. The point is that when you're a student, you know the present issue. If we participate for the common cause, I'll do that. That's the way I believe. I'm so active about that. The reason why I'm so concerned about it is that the young generation of today, there's no future for them. If you belong to a rich family, that's the only chance for you. But in order that the government have a high standard of living or everybody have an opportunity to live in equality of life that's presentable to everybody around the world, is that everybody have equal justice as far as whatever education, your rights being a good citizens. But what happen is that there is no opportunity. The young generation don't have any opportunity that everybody are equally educated. So that's the most difficult part. That's what my concern is. Like I say, even you graduate university or colleges, they got lots of people. When I leave it's about 65 million people. Some of them graduated, they finished lawyer, all degree. But there's no job available. There's no guarantee that you can find a job. So the only thing that you can find a job maybe your business. But it's enough to survive, to live by yourself. The only thing you can live is because of the piece of plant that you inherit. But as far as the income, unless you work for the government. But still if you are a teacher or policeman, they cannot survive for the salary they have, just for the expenses.

When martial was being declared March '91, I leave October. When martial law was being declared. That's too difficult when you leave your country. But if it's to get a better opportunity for yourself and the family. I think you have to do it. It's not because I don't like my country. I'll die for it if necessary. But we want for a change a peaceful life. You go out in the middle of the night, I'm like will I be able to come back tonight if I go out? Here when you come back here you're free. It's a gift that we come to this rich country, and we have to promote and preserve the rights we have. It's a freedom. You don't have to worry anything.

My sister is here. She's been a nurse in Canada. She knows that even when I finish my course there, there's no great opportunity that I can support my own life to buy a house or to buy your own car. The average family that you have there, even a degree and a job, you can't even buy a car. You're lucky if you have a bicycle, which is very unfortunate. But that's the reality. If you have 2 or 3 kids, you cannot afford. Just to support your kids. I love my country. I born there, I am a Filipino. But the point is that when I come here, it's the opportunity that it's the richest country. When you come to a country like this, there is great opportunity for you. As long as you work hard, you can get it.

When I got my degree, probably when I stay in the Philippines I might be in the armed forces. But the point is that the armed forces, I don't believe that if I'm an authority and I say I will arrest you and then somebody come to me and say, I know these people. I can't do that. That's why I don't want to be there. As a matter of fact, my ambition is to be a detective there. But the point is that when the Marcos regime is doing like this, if you belong to Marcos you'll be great. But I a guy who things about the livelihood of people, that they have an opportunity for them like anybody else. Simple as that. So if I'm a justice man and he come and beg to me, if you're wrong you're wrong. That's the way I am. When you are there already and people comes to you crying and begging, bring the family, it touch your heart. You want to exercise your power as an authority to arrest or to give justice or punishment, I don't like that. If you're wrong, you're wrong, simple as that. That's the policy. Canada is like that. There's no excuse. If you've got a mistake, you have to pay for it.

When I graduate in the Philippines, that's the difficulties they have for all people graduating in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. There are too much expectation that because they

finished their degree in the Philippines or other parts of the world, when they go to abroad they think it's glory. Oh ya, I'll be an accountant, or I'll be a doctor. But that's a dream. When you're there and you see the wealth of the country, the freedom, the wisdom, and the opportunity is there, I got too much disappointment. Of course I got too much disappointment. But I'm the guy that never give up, I always fight. Even as a student, I said ok we gonna go attend this rally because this is important for us. I always speak out with the issue. I always speaking for the poor. I am not envy or get jealous with the people that's rich. Because I always think when I was in the Philippines, someday I'll be there. I always think about it. If you are poor, you'll be treated as poor. That's the very same thing. I always look for poor people that's being abused, and taking opportunity for these people. That's the way I am. But anyway, when I come here my dream is to work in a bank. I went to many banks, I apply like this like that. They say, you got interview. All these question is at the end. Always, do you have any Canadian experience? Oh well, you don't have, but we'll let you know if we gonna hire because we're not sure yet. So you keep waiting and waiting. Ok fine, no problem. So I keep going and going. Finally I cannot find. So what I do, I started first in lumber yard because I cannot find a job. I was in out of town in High Prairie. Shopping Mall, everything I apply, nothing. I work in lumber yard. The reason for that is that I think I have only \$5 in my pocket. My sister give me a plane ticket. My sister is single at the time. When you have a sister who send money to the Philippines to help her brother. We are many in the family so they send some money over there, those family that we have in the Philippines. When I come here I said, well my sister helped me already to come down here, I don't want to ask anything more. So I said, ok, I work in a lumber yard for 4 months. October and 40 below. I don't know if they discriminate us, but the point is they are all in ?? We work from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock in the morning. During our break time, we don't have any shed like this. There is a barn and it's hot, so you go like this on your break time. My shoes is ? we pile lumberyard. The reason for that I want to earn money so I go to the city and take that opportunity. So when I come down here after that 6 months, I met a Filipino guy from St. Albert. . . .

I never know how to hold hammer. The only thing I do is have a good time, go to school, and eat. I don't know how to cook, because we have maid, that's the life that they have.

But that's not the life that I'm waiting. It's just ordinary there. I come here and I don't know how to hold the tape measure. The guy says, well this is only opportunity for you to get that job as roofer. I worked there for 3 years. Seven guys were working on the roof. They put furnace, they put flooring, they put electrical wiring on that stuff, and roofing and shingling. When they trained me only one guy. The production before is 4, I make 7. I'm young, very strong. Then after 3 years I demanded that I will go downstairs, because I work on the roof all the time. You know what he said to me? If you don't wanna work upstairs, you get out. So I said, ok. I didn't say ok, I said fine. But I have the savings already, I've been 3 years. I had my car. I said, I can go find another job. And went up there I talked to the boss. I said I'm leaving now. He said why? I said he put me down and didn't give me an opportunity. After a week he kept phoning me and said, if you want a raise I'll give you a raise. I said, fuck you. Sorry for my words. I said, ok fine, I will find a job. Eddy Eison is working for the school board at that time. I said, Eddy I need your help. One day I apply here in our warehouse. He said to me, tomorrow you start to work. Now I'm still working. And I don't have any absent for 27 years. Now with Eddy and Doug, they know I have a background in accounting. They always encourage me to attend the meeting. Then he knows I'm interested in, not politics, but the common cause for most working people. I keep attending but I cannot do because I have a kids. When my kids reach the age of 10, that's the time for me to be an activist. I still come every meeting and attend it. That's the time I said ya, this is my opportunity. Now I am lucky. I've been treasurer here for almost 12 years now. We did job that we have done as CUPE, we are one of the strongest CUPE. Then I was been nominated the National Rainbow Committee for 5 years, represent the Canadian Union of Public Employee in Alberta, Ottawa. I've been ? over there. Then the school board, I've been on the PR campaign. The first time that the school board are not interested about harassment, because that's their policy. But our local put that one in a letter of understanding that there's representation about harassment and discrimination. The harassment and discrimination was successful in the school board, because they realize when we have a committee representation, we had the lawyer, we have the research, that it works. Now the school board are so successful that they participate. They are so active this time, even teachers and principal represent the harassment and discrimination. Now they have a committee that 18 people

from teachers, administration and custodial. I'm the only one custodian. Discrimination contact.

That's right. But like me, I never give up. I always fight for it. In Canada, if you are persistent, if you are so interested about the thing that you have to do, you will get it. Like you say, you meet people, they will teach you. They are honest. Well no, it's easy, I can help you. I can do like this to you. This is good for you, this is what you have to do. By talking to people you learn more and you get more stronger for your belief in what you are fighting for.

I'm the district contact of the entire 7,000 members. We have unionized members of CUPE, 28,000 at that that time across the province. I was the first Filipino guy in the workers of colour that represented the national, that we have a meeting every 3 months for 5 years. We monitor across the province what's regards with the fight equality and justice for all workers, especially the gay and lesbian people with workers of colours with handicaps. That's the one that we're fighting for. I think I make a resolution in the convention with regards to harassment and discrimination. The first time we have in the collective agreement that we have here, I convinced by myself and the rest of the group. But mostly the effect I learned from CUPE, I used that one to the administration. Because they don't believe in harassment and discrimination, because that's a policy. But now when I make that collective agreement that we have, they don't approve the harassment and discrimination, but they put a letter of understanding. In order to learn, to educate the entire 7 districts what's regards to harassment and discrimination. Now you see last September, everybody lawyers from the school board and everything, they participate in that. That's a big accomplishment that we done with this local. Very strong, and people are scared to get a bad comment. There's lots of charges they can do with harassment. Realize that by saying that I don't like your religion, they have damages of I think \$45,000 if you go to human rights. In the training that we have, it's all stated down there. That's why people are scared now. We started that one as a local, and now the school board are getting more promotion. Look at what we are now. If you see all the materials that we have, out of 7,000 district workers, first 21 that's been accepted with qualification and everything, they were the first one to get that training. I was the one. I'm so proud about it. This is the things that the great job we have done as a local. On top of that, Doug

when we accomplished this one, because Doug is strong, I'm strong, and the rest of the group is strong. With regards to privatization, that's a big success. It's just like what success we have for privatization is the same we have for harassment and discrimination. The point is that they bring across the country and across the district that we prove to our employer in the materials that have been used to research from the professor from the university that we hired has been very successful. All the materials, all the knowledge that's been applied after the 17 months campaign that we made. All the research that they have done from universities and different parts of the province, they had the recognition after we had the final submission about the privatization that it won't work in this country. You know what? That's why I get more stronger. Every time I get more stronger. I think I feel like when I'm young in the Philippines and I'm young, whatever happened I'll be there. But you know what? With the activities we've done for membership, not only for local 474, but this is across the province and across the country, of educational sector workers, had tremendous impact. That they utilize abroad. The president, because of that submission, in appreciation that in this province is the first province that they don't agree about privatization and it won't work. Ontario is the second one. But whether they get the materials, they buy from us. Even BC, even Newfoundland. The things we have to be proud about is that the president of our local, because of the hard work, he's the leader so he will be the one to go. He got an invitation to the United Nations in Washington. He went there and tell about what's happening in private sectors, that privatization won't work. Our unionized worker is the most effective way for the school board with regards to the words we're implying to them. We're so successful about the materials we have, even in England and Australia, they order that one. By ordering that one, we are not the only local earning that one. The school board is earning at the same time, because they are the co-owners. Up to now, there's lots of CUPE unionized worker around the world that are ordering about the materials we have.

The reason why I'm so important is because I come from the poor country. I come from the poor family. My parents, when they start to build our family, they can eat with just salt and rice. Salt and rice to eat that. It means there's no meat, there's no anything. But they don't give up. That's what I'm implying to them. No matter how hard is life, they always work and work. But you know what, we are 9 in the family. We have doctor in

the family, we have accountant in the family, we have mining in the family, we have a nurse in the family. They're all successful when we are there. Imagine that just only farmers, own a piece of land just to send their education. I still remember they don't hire any workers. All the 9 family will work together and send the kids. I see the difficulties of my parents. In order to make extra money, they cook ? just to buy and sell for the kids to have pocket money. Or 5 cents, which is 1 cent that you have here. My mom work hard everything. But the good at the end is that we are so successful, everybody is educated, because of their difficulties. But I always see how hard life they encountered when they were doing that one. In the Philippines you don't live because you are rich here. You live in the exclusive area that is for the rich. I see people our neighbourhood, people around us you can see are not eating. That's the one that bust your heart. You feel that. I was so fortunate. My parents is poor, they still continue to struggle in order to get out from poverty. I really admire that. People are starving, they are begging. How lucky we are in Canada, we don't see that kind of people. They have opportunity. Everybody have equal education. That's the one that, when I speak out anywhere, like last weak I speak out with the funding of education. I'm very strong. They don't know me in my school. But when the people are speaking about, ya we need funding, we buy books, and like this computer. It's almost ? that they have already, they cut and said no more speaker. So I come and they say like that. I told them, is it long or short. The global commentator say no, you're close already. . . .



This is a big question. I said, is it long or short? Because we don't have any time. The global commentator said no, you're close already. I said, you know what? I love this country. This is the benefits that we have in this country. If we don't get to exercise the benefits we have in this country, the two systems of education will exist. One for the rich and one for the poor. I said, I come from a poor country. But you don't realize that people that come from the poor country, we are lucky here. The government get a funding. Those people there in the third world country, there is no funding. So we may see the difference between the third country and this one here. This is benefits that we have. We treasure this one. It's like diamond that we have to keep it, and we have to be proud about it. If we don't do this one, there is a... From the year 2002 to 2003, the anticipated deficit

is \$13.5 million. In order to balance the budget to 2003 to 2004, they have to cut workers. We are affected in that. We as a worker are affected. Teachers and staff. But the point here is that workers are affected. But the most that's been suffering is the young generation. Let's say the population we have for the students is 82,000 students. But don't expect me, because of the suffering for 5 years, from 2004 to 2008 we said cut. Then don't give any, just the amount of money. But you don't know the result of that, the people that's been the victim of that 5 years suffering of funding will suffer at the end. When they graduate, they don't have opportunity for them, and it will end in unemployment. It's the same problem that the government will encounter at the beginning and at the end, after the end of the legislation. Why should I go to work? I don't have enthusiastic to get more knowledge so that when I get more knowledge I can participate in the global economy and bring more money to the country, it can get more income tax. But because I was the victim of under-funding, most people don't have any ? to be ahead. Now where did they go? Unemployment. Who will be the ones to suffer? Taxpayers. That's my concern when I said we have been complaining for the past 5 years already. As a politician, it's not because you belong to ? Let's live together as working together across the country, that we have to make more funding for the young generation for their future. If we don't do that, what will happen? I still remember in this country it's the only thing that the funding will raise is to increase taxes. We don't have knowledge, ya we have to concentrate on industry like making cars like we promote the cars, we don't go to buy some other part of the world. That's a big contribution to the economy. The only contribution that they make for the funding is to increase taxes. It won't progress that way. We have to stimulate the economy by the young generation to learn more in industry, computer. If we are progressive that way, because of the funding that you give sufficient for learning, and the kids will be educated properly. Then they might go to trades. There's a suffering of trades. I went to Alberta Congress board, 450,000 independent workers are lacking of trades. They cannot find the trades. The private corporations and private industries are shortage of workers. What is the recommendation of the Alberta Congress Board? The recommendation of this Alberta Congress Board is to educate the aboriginal workers, the workers of colours, and the people with disabilities, so we can fill up the 400,000 deficit of workers across the province only. Imagine that. I

said, look at the benefits that if we as workers worked together and give that idea. That's congress board have a combination of doctors working from the field, lawyers, policemen, RCMP, mayors, everything. They're there. But there is a shortage. Now in the school board they have to cut 350 teachers. Look at what will be the effect on that. Last year the school board is asking those who have been retired to come back to work for teaching, because there is no workers. Now they cut again 350 workers. What will happen? So there's no progress with this. I hope the politician will not tell me like this. I said, the politician have a tremendous work that they have to do. But the point is that who will do that? You guys have been elected to do the job. But the point is one more thing, if they don't do, are we going to wait for the election to release the money? That's what's happening. The money was being released only when there's election. The ? of election was been established to do that. It's just like a scapegoat that they say, ya you examine that there will be a deficit. Then let's say examine the board funding, the financial statement of the school board, and say there will be a difficulty that there's something wrong. It's just only a delaying tactic that they cannot give ok this is the money that we'll do. Why is it we have to victimize the young generation to have under-funding. We are not at war. The only thing we have to suffer in education is if we are at war. Canada is a progressive country. If we said that we have a deficit because of education, let's do it. Because you know why? We are implanting in their brain of the young generation that they will be the successor of the future. If they don't do that, what will happen to us? We'll go back like what we did in third world country. That's why I come in this country. The benefits that we have. Benefits of education, that's my main goal when I went here. If I have my kids, I wanted better education than anybody. Not just if you're rich you have an education. Health care is the same thing. My brother passed away with cancer. He had \$1 million that he saved, and he spent it in one month. How about those people that are unemployed? People that's been welfare. They think they can pay that one? If they are sick, it's nice that we have the same system of health care that we have, and education that we have. Because there will be a quality of the poor, unemployed people. All the people have an opportunity to learn. That's the goal that I want when I come to this country. Because this is paradise, this is the things that I have and can be happy about it. And proud about it. If they go to war I'll go and fight for Canada.

When I come in '97 that's the society that I went to. In a society like we have in Canada, you have a job, you buy whatever you want, you go for holiday, you got a house. Why is it you gonna commit crime? Put the people that's been in the third world country and bring it here and say, I give you a job. You can buy whatever you want, you have your family, your own house. You're sitting in your house with a nice TV. You got your nice car, nice food, you can get the food easy. What more do you need? I think people that stay with that kind of life, they have no intention of making crimes. Because everything is there. When I speak in the Philippines, when I come back one time, I said it's just like a country of Canada that, ok, I bring you here. All your food is there, all your job is there, all your Medicare is there. They think you will make a crime. I bet you won't make any crime comparing here. That's the good opportunity that I'm always telling to these teachers, principals, student. Because I work in the school board, this is the way that we want to this country. If we lost this benefits, the education and health care system, we'll go back to the third world country. That's the thing. The country will stay and remain progressive by these people that they care. We as a people that become as immigrant here, we are so loyal about it. We always so dedicated about it that we don't have the abuse. Example that I give you right now, if I don't have an education. I've been 27 years and never get absent. Because I have to pay something to Canada that this is the only thing I can pay to them for what they have done to me to stay in a better life. It's only compensation that I will not abuse that opportunity. I can go absent, I get 200 days off. What for? I'm happy, I'm working, I got the job. Why take advantage? So that's why it's my example that everybody will do the same. Especially the workers in our local. They're all dedicated people. They all think about the future, because they come from the third world country. They are different ethnic backgrounds that they don't have that kind of life, they don't have that kind of freedom. They don't have the kind of wealth that you have here. We have to preserve that, so that your son, your great grandson, and any people that have kids, that's their future. It's just like we preserve it, and this will be remain as a great country. Peaceful, and people is better place to work with. People work together. That's all I can say.

I care. The reason why ? the life that I have is because I see. When I was studying I see people begging. I see people that are starving. What can I help? You will be so depressed about it, when you see like that's it's as if I don't want to enjoy, because you see it. I said, how about if I'm the one like that? If I'm a victim of suffering because the government are not caring for these people who are poor. If they die for starvation, they die for starvation.

People that commit trouble, you want them to get justice. You cannot give justice because, oh I'm the son of the mayor, I'm the son of the chief of police. You cannot do it, and it's wrong. You're not curing the attitude of the individual who do that. Not like in Canada, you make a mistake, sorry you're gone. And that's good, it's fair. Like I say, put you in a country that is rich, they got food, health care, education, you can buy what you want, you got a good family that in the future they have good education. What you have, what more do you need? You will not make crime. That's the good example. These people that come there and say, oh those people that don't care is the one who born here. Because they don't come to the poor country. But we have to educate these people. It's just like harassment. People say, I don't like you, you're from Philippines. ? to educate them, and that's the way we are successful as a country. We learn by each other, by educating each other. What more can I say? It's good.