

NEWSBITES

# Nurses brave Canadian winter

New arrivals look forward to fresh challenges after initial shock

Donald Postigo Vancouver

It was not the best time to arrive in Saskatchewan and Karen Pachao could feel it in her bones.

"My first thought was 'Oh my God, I'm going home'," said the 27-year-old Filipino nurse, as she stepped into a biting winter.

"It's like walking into a big, big freezer. Back home it's like walking into an oven. It was quite a shock when we got here."

Pachao was among 12 nurses – the first batch of 80 – the province recruited from the Philippines in November. The next group of nurses is expected to arrive this month.

Beverly Redula echoed Pachao's first impressions of one of Canada's coldest locations, but said the "warm welcome that we've received from the people has really made up for the cold weather".

Leaving her husband and four children behind until she's established was hard, but the 42-year-old hopes



The new nurses will undergo further training in government hospitals. They will have to pass an exam before being given long-term contracts.

they will eventually join her. Until then, the family will benefit financially.

In Manila, despite five years' experience as a dialysis nurse, Redula made \$10 per eight-hour shift. Working as a graduate nurse in Saskatchewan, her starting wage will be \$23 (about P1,000) an hour.

The new nurses will receive an extensive seven-week orientation before

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**BEVERLY REDULA**  
Nurse

they start working. They will be initiated to the units they will be working on, learn about Canadian nursing practices and be prepared to write a national exam they must pass in the first year. Once they pass the exam, the health region will offer them a longer contract and they will become landed immigrants.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime for me and my family," Redula said.

**QUEEN OF SWAN**

Elishia Stevenson wanted an apology when she was bitten by a swan. So she wrote to Queen Elizabeth II.

The 6-year-old girl from Cornwall, south west England, wrote to Buckingham Palace because her mother told her the queen owns all the swans in Britain, media reports said.

She decorated her letter with flowers and a picture of a swan with a sad face.

A lady-in-waiting responded, saying the queen was "sorry to hear about the swan."

Though the queen doesn't own every swan in Britain, she does own certain mute swans in the Thames.

David Pogson, a Buckingham Palace spokesman, said the idea the queen owns all the swans is a myth.

**RECORD MIX-UP**

The medical records of 28 Central Florida Regional Hospital patients were sold last month at a Salt Lake City surplus store for about US\$20, a newspaper reported.

The records were sold to a local school teacher looking for scrap paper for her fourth-grade class, *The Deseret Morning News* of Salt Lake City reported Monday.

The mix-up is being blamed on a shipping problem.

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