

Hello everyone and thank you for your time. My name is Lionel Migrino and I am proud to be a part of the Filipino and Cerebral Palsy communities here in Calgary. Firstly, I want to acknowledge that we are on Indigenous (IN-DIDGE-IN-US) lands of treaty 7. As you can probably already tell, my cerebral palsy impacts my speech and requires me to speak slower than many of the other speakers you have heard over these past 2 days.

Under the Canadian Human Rights Act, within Discriminatory Practices: it is a discriminatory practice in the provision of accommodation available to the general public to deny access to any such accommodation to any individual on a prohibited ground of discrimination. [BREATHE] Therefore, to accommodate for my disability, I ask the council to provide me with extra time to finish my piece. Also, I emphasize that I do not want to be seen as an inspiration for doing this. Everyone that spoke before me is showing great leadership in their communities in Calgary, and I am inspired by them.

I want to talk about a photo project I did with Migrante Alberta's "kwento't litrato" which means "stories and pictures" in Tagalog. This was an amazing experience for me because it allowed me to explore racism in Canada and how it affects different individuals. In my photo series I focused on a microaggression that I get asked frequently, "*Where are you from?*" The purpose of this series was to challenge this question and spread awareness about the forms of subtle racism that non-white people in Canada experience. To me and many others "Where are you from?" questions if the individual is 'really' Canadian and insinuates that being born elsewhere or being a person of colour makes you less Canadian. I was born and raised in Canada, but I continue to get asked this question frequently. When I have been asked "*Where are you from?*", I have felt labelled and ostracized from Canadian society. Why does the color of

my skin make me any less Canadian than Councilor Jeromy Farkas or Shane Keating or Diane Colley-Urquhart? I strongly identify with my Filipino roots and I do not think I am “less Canadian” than anyone else because of that.

This associates Canadian society with whiteness and we must end this. According to Statistics Canada in 2016, approximately 95 percent of Canadians did not originate from Canada. The ONLY people who can say they are ‘really’ from Canada are our Indigenous [IN-DIDGE-IN-OUS] brothers and sisters in this land. So why aren't White people getting asked this question based on appearance? And, NO. Going on vacation does not count. This is an example of White privilege. And guess what else is White privilege? When White people say, “I don’t see colour,” or “I’m tired of being angry.”

It has always been SO DAMN “HARD” for most White people to acknowledge racism and White privilege in Canada, but we need you all to understand. WE NEED TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO BE WOKE (as Mayor Nenshi stated yesterday) AND MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN. It is bad enough to constantly be judged based on my disability (which is a whole other issue for another day) and to also be discriminated against for the colour of my skin. It’s time to let oppressed and marginalized voices BE HEARD. I’M TIRED AS HELL OF LETTING THIS SUBTLE RACISM SLIDE, AND I’M TIRED OF HAVING MY VOICE BE IGNORED AS A FILIPINO CANADIAN LIVING WITH CEREBRAL PALSY.