



**NOVA SCOTIA AND  
NEWFOUNDLAND**

**Office of the Regional Chief**

March 24, 2019

Friends United  
13149 Highway 104  
Aulds Cove, Nova Scotia  
BOH 1P0

Dear Rolf,

This letter is to congratulate and acknowledge the *Friends United Project* for its outstanding contributions in working with First Nation artists to showcase their art and their talent.

We are very appreciative to have seen first-hand your commitment and dedication, not only in supporting our artists, but in promoting peace, unity, and friendship amongst differing cultures here in Canada, and around the world. Indigenous artists in Canada have gained a friend in Rolf Bouman, who not only enables our artists to showcase their art and their talent, but also empowers them with a sense of identity as Indigenous people.

The *Friends United Project* creates a one-of-a-kind example for other Canadians to view First Nations art and its people in a positive light. Our elders, leaders, and educators have for many years emphasized to our fellow Canadians the importance of having a deeper understanding of our First Nations people, our culture, and our traditions. *Friends United* has given our artists a chance to showcase their work, while creating a business opportunity for them to become self-sustainable. We find that this method of communicating through art provides a unique means for First Nations people to share the beauty of their individual culture, traditions and values.

We wish to thank and salute specifically the *Friends United* artists: the family of the late David Brooks, Chelsea Brooks, Amanda Julian, Darren Julian, Duke Redbird, Mindy Eva Ouellet, Brent Hardisty, Jonathon Simon, Jason Adair, Jay Bell Redbird, Loretta Gould, and Shianne Gould.

We wish you the best of luck for great success for your current work and your future endeavours. We look forward to contributing in whatever way we can.

Kinanâskomitin

Perry Bellegarde, National Chief  
Assembly of First Nations

Wela'lin – Yours in peace and friendship

Morley Googoo, Regional Chief  
AFN, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland