

Rolf Bouman
Friends United
13149 Hwy. 104
Auld's Cove, Nova Scotia
B0H 1P0

September 3, 2020

Dear Rolf,

RE: Board of Directors of Friends United

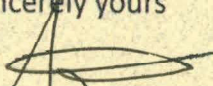
It is with honour and respect that I accept your organization's invitation, from Friends United, to join the board of Directors. For the last twenty years I have followed your work in helping my Mi'kmaw people dealing with drug and alcohol dependency by encouraging them to express themselves through art from deep down within their hearts. This is something they could not say in words but instead resorted to alcohol, drug and sometimes violence. I commend you for your spiritual, entrepreneurial, and financial contribution in helping my people. Artistic expression for my people is one of the best ways for getting rid of anger and frustration from the effects of years of colonialism. As a Hereditary Chief and a Keptin on the Mi'kmaw Grand Council I am proud to call you a friend and brother.

Friends United has also extended assistance to other First Nations people across Canada by purchasing and promoting their artistic expressions through painting, carving, drum making, totem pole carving, sculpting, music, etc. Many Indigenous "artists-in-residence" have found their way to your organization and you have accommodated them. I am also impressed with the art exhibition of Dozay Christmas, wife of Senator Dan Christmas of Membertou, who was an artist-in-residence at Friends United. I was fond of another artist-in-residence Jay Redbird from Ontario.

The Friends United, international conference centre at Cleveland, Nova Scotia houses a magnificent exhibition of cultural artifacts of First Nations peoples and also houses a gallery of First Nations peoples art from North and South America. It is indeed a place of seeing, taking in beauty and learning.

I am happy to join the Board of Directors.

Sincerely yours


Stephen J. Augustine
Hereditary Chief and Keptin,
Sikniktuk Mawiomi Mi'kmaw Grand Council