



Office of the President

March 6th, 2024

Friend United Foundation
13149 Highway 104 Aulds Cove
Nova Scotia, B0H 1P0

To Whom It May Concern:

Born and raised in Germany, Rolf Bouman immigrated to Cape Breton in 1986 after his apprenticeships as a welder, farmer, and automotive mechanic. Without any business experience and a small loan from a Credit Union, he incorporated his first Nova Scotian company in 1990 – Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd. – which remains a part of his Canadian corporate group. Through his corporate group, Rolf has been able to make significant contributions towards promoting Indigenous art and culture with a desire to promote reconciliation.

In 2009, Rolf founded the Friends United Initiative and constructed the Friends United International Convention Centre in Richmond County, Cape Breton. Works from Indigenous artists from across the country are on display in the centre. With the support of business education and funding to many Indigenous artists, Friends United is helping to support their success as entrepreneurs and cultural ambassadors. It is from these roots that Rolf is looking to grow the initiative through the new Friends United Foundation to continue to be able to assist with this work.

Rolf was awarded a Cultural Award of Merit from the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce in 2014 in recognition of his endeavors. His donation of numerous Indigenous paintings to NSCC's Strait Area Campus has helped create an inclusive and inviting space for all learners, employees and visitors.

Rolf's leadership, vision and commitment to providing education, promoting understanding and giving Indigenous artists a national platform to share their art, culture and heritage, speak to NSCC's values and commitment to reconciliation through cultural understanding and awareness.

In recognition of this connection and his work, the College presented an Honorary Diploma to Rolf in 2023. An honorary diploma recognizes outstanding leadership and service to our community. It's reserved for those who, through their own innovation and commitment, have contributed to the quality of life in Nova Scotia.

It is my pleasure to extend through this letter support for the establishment of the Friends United Foundation and its fundamental objective of promoting awareness of Indigenous art and fostering support for the success of Indigenous artists and the creative community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Bureaux', is written over a thin, light-colored line.

Don Bureaux
President

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