

ROTARY CLUB OF PORT HAWKESBURY



January 12, 2024

Mr. Rolf Bouman
Friends United Foundation
Cleveland, NS, B0E 1J0

Dear Rolf,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Port Hawkesbury, I wish to express our gratitude and support for the work of the Friends United Foundation. The Foundation's educational, promotional, and financial contributions to helping talented and emerging First Nations artists from across Canada to become independent, self-sufficient entrepreneurs are very commendable. We see your Foundation as a one-of-a-kind example to other Canadians of how to support First Nations artists and the causes of unity and reconciliation more generally. In fact, I believe that this is why so many people and governments from all across the world view the Friends United Foundation as an invaluable tool for peace. Our Rotary Club is happy to support your efforts.

Your corporate group and the Friends United Foundation have been a valuable support to our local Rotary Club, contributing significant resources to projects such as the construction of the Port Hawkesbury Community Playground and Park, as well as the recent benefit to welcome Ukrainian families to our area. You have also generously hosted our inaugural Rotary Speaker Series at your incredible Friends United International Convention Centre. Last but certainly not least, you and the Friends United Foundation have been key ambassadors for our Rotary Club to other Rotarians internationally. The most notable example of this was when you and Friends United funded and organized a delegation to the 2019 annual Rotary International Conference in Hamburg, Germany, to honor and introduce to the world Canada's First Nations. I was glad to see that you were joined by Indigenous artist Jay Bell Redbird and former Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald. I view you and the Friends United Foundation as true ambassadors for North America's Indigenous people.

In this regard, I was proud to participate in your recent Friends United reconciliation camera talks initiative, which brought together First Nations and non-Indigenous artists and leaders from academia, business, justice, and politics to discuss peace and reconciliation on our continent and the world. The resulting videos represent an invaluable educational resource for schools, universities, and the general public. Former Club President Patrick Lamey participated in similar videos in 2021.

The Rotary Club of Port Hawkesbury is proud to have you and Elena as members and are pleased to offer our support to the Friends United Foundation. We have no doubt that the Foundation will continue and expand upon your work to date and will assist many Indigenous artists from a variety of disciplines as they foster better understanding and relations among peoples of the world.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Rodgers".

Adam Rodgers
President - Port Hawkesbury Rotary Club