Scotiabank

The Bank of Nova Scotia
Northeast NS & PEI District
1709 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1W1

September 4, 2024

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

Dear Rolf;

I am writing you this letter to thank you for the generosity you have shown to myself and numerous colleagues over the past number of years.

Since 2021, I have made multiple visits to Friends United, each time eagerly encouraged by you. On each visit, whether I was with one or two colleagues or a dozen or more, you greeted us with a smile, a sense of pride in what Friends United represents, and a willingness to show us the beautiful artwork contained within.

Your generosity has also included multiple opportunities for my colleagues and I to meet with various Indigenous artists - some local, some from across the country - to hear their personal stories and to learn about the inspiration for their various works of art. In speaking to a number of artists personally, I have learned that the support they have received from yourself and Friends United has helped them enormously in their efforts to showcase their art and to create a means through which their art sustains them financially.

Additionally, we have had the opportunity to take part in sharing circles, where we have heard not only from artists, but Indigenous leaders such as Hereditary Chief Stephen Augustine. I can tell you that these conversations have been very powerful and helped me, as a non-Indigenous person, to not only better understand some of the struggles faced by Indigenous people, but to see up close the courage and pride they carry with them every day.

Rolf, I would also like to express appreciation for the Indigenous art you have donated to us over the past few years, which is displayed proudly in our local branch in Port Hawkesbury, NS. The team there tells me that customers regularly comment very positively on the pieces and that they are great conversation starters.

Lastly, I know in talking to you that Friend United has now officially been registered as a non-profit under the Canada Not-for-profit corporations act and that you are in the process of adding several Indigenous members to the board, which is great to hear.

Rolf, I want to close by thanking you for the generosity you have shown myself and colleagues and for all that you are doing to, not only promote, but bring to life reconciliation.

I am already looking forward to my next visit.

Peter S. Fitzner

Peter Fitzner
District Vice President, Northeast Nova Scotia and PEI
Scotiabank