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To Whom it may concern,

I have been asked to write a letter of support for the Friends United initiative, and this may be the easiest task I've ever been assigned!

By way of introduction, I have had a long career in the field of communication - as a television broadcaster, podcaster, actor, and presentation coach. I can also officially add author to that list, as my first book was published in 2022, and (happily) became a *Globe & Mail* Bestseller.

I have been acquainted with Friends United since 2018, when Rolf Bouman reached out to enlist me to conduct a series of interviews with Indigenous artists and stakeholders to promote the centre. The message of reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (North America) was foremost as colonialism has taken a heavy toll on the Indigenous population of our continent over many centuries.

Rolf suggested that I should visit the centre prior to my interviews. I will never forget the moment I walked through the front door for the first time. Driving onto the property, what I saw was a nondescript building that looked like what it had been in its previous incarnation - an old fish hatchery plant. I was not prepared for the sight that was revealed when that door swung open.

It was reminiscent of one of my favourite books from childhood…as it felt like I had stepped into a type of Narnia. Not only was I gobsmacked by the beauty of art everywhere I looked - from the paintings lining the walls, to sculptures and textiles…to enormous wood carvings. But apart from the visual feast, I was also struck by a remarkable energy - one that I now understand is fostered by the spirit of generosity, collaboration, and love that permeates this place.

Having interviewed many people over the past 6 years who are involved with Friends United - from artists, to the founder, to board members, to community stakeholders - I can say unequivocally that this initiative is making a tangible and profound contribution toward the aim of reconciliation in Canada. It's a shining example that our country should be proud of.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can be of further help and support in securing Non-Profit designation for Friends United.

Yours very truly,

Nancy Regan