Saint Mary's University

Student Affairs and Services
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, NS
B3H 3C3

Re: Letter of Support for Friends United

Dear Friends United,

We are so thrilled to issue a letter of support for Friends United. We became aware of this wonderful organization in Summer 2023 and the connectivity and relationship continues to develop and grow.

Saint Mary's University is on our continuing journey of truth and reconciliation and continues to work to make education an opportunity for Indigenous peoples of Nova Scotia and Turtle Island. As we continue this journey we recognize the need for on-going decolonization of our university. One way we intend to do this, is through creating more recognition of the Mi'kmaq culture and histories on our campus. This is in recognition of our being situated on the traditional and unceded territories of Mi'kma'ki. Another step in this journey is being realized as we now open a new space for Indigenous students to gather on our campus. We are very excited to provide a space that is safe, welcoming and embraces Mi'kmaq culture and traditions. We have been delighted to work with Friends United to create a new art design to feature the beautiful artwork of Mi'kmaq artist Ms. Loretta Gould. This will be a centrepiece of the new space and add warmth and brightness to the new space.

Friends United have been exceptional in working with us and in connecting with Ms. Gould and ensuring that her art was being promoted and protected and that we are proceeding in a manner that would be in-keeping with her vision in creating such beautiful pieces of art. We plan to continue to work with Friends

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United to promote Mi'kmaq art throughout the campus so that our Indigenous students continue to see more of themselves in the institution. We know that this will be a longer process and are eager to continue to work with Friends United and the amazing Indigenous artists that they are supporting. Thanks to Friends United for the tremendous support and advice to help us move forward on our journey of continued reconciliation.

Yours Respectfully,

Tom Brophy
Associate Vice-President
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