



October 15, 2012

Akwesasne, Ontario K6H 5R7

Friends United Partners

Mr. Rolf Bouman

The Honourable Rodney MacDonald

Ms. Raven Davis

Dear Rolf, Rodney and Raven:

It was a pleasure to meet with you in Halifax and to learn more about your **Friends United** Aboriginal art project. I was very impressed and I would like to thank you for the beautiful book, describing the project and showcasing the outstanding imagery made by the Native artists belonging to the initiative.

It is hard to find projects, which are so solidly based and well thought-out at the same time. That is one of the many reasons why your initiative has, in my opinion, a very good chance for long-term sustainability and success. The international interest in the **Friends United** project speaks volumes.

As former National Chief of Canada, I am very glad that you have introduced me to this project and I am honoured to endorse it. All three of you have the genuine interest, well-being and benefit of First Nations people in mind. Seeing how well the artists are doing, not only have you assisted them in establishing a livelihood, but as well, you have made them cultural Ambassadors and role models for other Aboriginal artists and their communities across Canada.

I look forward to meeting you again and would like to ask that you congratulate the Aboriginal artists, on my behalf for their accomplishments. Please share this letter with artists David J. Brooks, Chelsea Brooks, Amanda Julian, Darren Julian, Lorne Julien, Fancy PeterPaul, Norman PeterPaul, Sandra Simon and Jay Bell Redbird. I think that it is very beneficial that Raven is not only a coordinator for the **Friends United** project, but also a very gifted Aboriginal artist herself.

I would like to commend Rolf for being the founder of Friends United initiative, bringing his unique vision to this project and funding it completely himself without any government assistance.

Collectively, you have all given the artists well-deserved exposure and have lent them valuable business insight in becoming promising entrepreneurs. It is also beneficial that the project has Rodney's support and experience, as he was not only Nova Scotia's Premier, but also a teacher in a First Nation school. Jointly, you have made this project something we all can be proud of.

I would like to send you my heartfelt gratitude for your contribution to Native people in Canada and would like to wish you continued success in the future.

In Friendship,

Phil Fontaine



**“Friends United”
Founder
Rolf Bouman**

**Former National Chief
Phil Fontaine**

**“Friends United”
Artist & Associate
Raven Davis**

**The Honourable
Rodney J. MacDonald
“Friends United” Consultant**