

# First Nations art exhibit opens



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HALIFAX- Visitors to Halifax City Hall have been treated to a beautiful exhibit of First Nations Art, featuring the original paintings of the Friends United Artists Circle.

The exhibit will show-

case the talented work of Aboriginal artists profiled in the recently released published book *Friends United*.

The *Friends United* art exhibit and book are initiatives of First Nations art

enthusiast and businessman Rolf Bouman of the Canada Cultural Centre.

"I am extremely grateful to Mayor Peter Kelly and HRM Council for providing the *Friends United* artists with such a wonderful

venue to share their incredible talent with the public. I would also like to thank former Premier Rodney MacDonald and First Nation artist Raven Davis for their invaluable guidance with the exhibit and book, and for their enthusiastic support of some of Canada's most exciting emerging artists."

Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly said "HRM is honoured to provide a forum for this impressive exhibition of native art. These powerful creations provide a window through which we may all share the sweep of Aboriginal history and spirituality."

David Brooks, artist

**Approximately 80 guests attended the opening reception of the Friends United Art Exhibit at Halifax City Hall on January 26.**

from Indian Brook said "Rolf Bouman's insight into, and love for, Aboriginal art has helped open new doors for me and my *Friends United* colleagues both in Canada and abroad."

"His book is an empowering visual experience and the exhibit at City Hall, a rare opportunity for me and my fellow artists to share our life's experiences through our painted stories."

The other artists featured in the *Friends United* Exhibit include: David and

Chelsea Brooks from Indian Brook; Darren and Amanda Julian from Wagmatcook; Norman and Fancy Peterpaul from Big Cove; Sandra Simon from Afton; Lorne Julien from Millbrook; and Raven Davis from Manitoba.

The *Friends United* Art Exhibit will be open for viewing until April 16 and is located at 1841 Argyle Street in Halifax.

For more information on the featured artists and the *Friends United* Initiative, please visit: [www.friends-united.ca](http://www.friends-united.ca).







*Contributed photo*

**Rolf Bouman (far right) with the Canada Cultural Centre in Aulds Cove speaks to (from the left): former Premier Rodney MacDonald, Canadian Forces Commander Christopher Peschke and former Lieutenant Governor Myra Freeman the opening reception of the Friends United Art Exhibit at Halifax City Hall on January 26.**