

**Excerpts from statements of Members of German Federal Parliament regarding the "Friends United" Initiative:**

**Karl Schiewerling, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

I was very pleased to receive your books and photo editions featuring Eastern Canada / Nova Scotia. I would like to convey to you my heartfelt "Thank you". The books constitute for me a beautiful memory of our information gathering trip of the "Committee for Labour and Social Affairs" last October. I will always gladly remember this trip with its diverse and interesting discussions and encounters. The books are a welcome inspiration to do so. It remains for me to wish you continued joy and success with regards to your commitments, especially in regards to your many cultural projects and the there from arising assistance for (native) families. I sincerely hope that you will have continued success in the future in building bridges between European and North American cultures."

"Friends United" presentation at Goethe Institute Montreal



Left to right.: Member of German Federal Parliament **Karl Schiewerling**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Reiner Deutschmann**, German Consul general **Klaus Geyer**, former Nova Scotia Premier **Rodney MacDonald**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Cornelia Moehring**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Gabriele Loesekrug-Moeller**, German Government Official **Martin Frey**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Sabine Zimmermann**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Gabriele Hiller-Ohm**, Director Goethe Institute Montreal **Mechtild Manus**, "Friends United" Founder **Rolf Bouman**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Dr. Matthias Zimmer**

**Jan Mücke, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

Thank you for the books "Friends United" and "Canadian Wildlife Series Vol. 2". I was very happy to receive same. Your commitment to the region and the decade long collection of nature photos are being mirrored in this high quality publication. The paintings of the Aboriginal artists are rightly Ambassadors for Canada's culture. I will happily recommend both books to friends and acquaintances to share my enthusiasm for Nova Scotia and Canada."

**Office of Dagmar Freitag, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

Mrs. Freitag has requested for me to convey to you her heartfelt gratitude for the books. She is very impressed and enthused. Once more many, many thanks and best regards also from Dagmar Freitag."

**Aydan Özgüz, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

I would like to send you my heartfelt thanks for the books featuring Eastern Canada. The books were a welcome addition to the many letters which are being sent to me in Parliament. The books certainly kindle interest to visit the beautiful province of Nova Scotia. As integration commissioner for the government I am following Canadian integration policies with great interest and I am often in contact with the Canadian Embassy in Berlin."

**Klaus-Peter Flosbach, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

many thanks for your letter, the impressive books and the therewith associated ideas. With best regards from Germany."

**Dr. Matthias Zimmer, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

please allow me to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gift of the book. I was very glad to see and I am certain that you are doing many good deeds for the First Nations. Our meeting in Montreal has already passed a few months. I was very impressed with what you are doing in Canada and to see how much Rodney MacDonald is assisting."

"Friends United" presentation at Goethe Institute Montreal



Left to right.: Member of German Federal Parliament **Karl Schiewerling**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Reiner Deutschmann**, German Consul general **Klaus Geyer**, former Nova Scotia Premier **Rodney MacDonald**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Cornelia Moehring**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Gabriele Loesekrug-Moeller**, German Government Official **Martin Frey**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Sabine Zimmermann**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Gabriele Hiller-Ohm**, Director Goethe Institute Montreal **Mechtild Manus**, "Friends United" Founder **Rolf Bouman**, Member of German Federal Parliament **Dr. Matthias Zimmer**

**Rolf Hempelmann, Member of German Federal Parliament**

"Dear Mr. Bouman,

the paintings of the Native Artists allow with their symbolism and their compelling esthetics to view the world with different eyes. The fundamental questions of art which deal with people, their anxieties, worries, dreams and hopes are being reflected here. Even though cultural testimonies are strongly influenced by their place and time of origin they still speak a language which is universal and therefore commonly understood. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart and the impressive (Friends United) book and your engagement to save Native art, to nurture it and to make it known worldwide."

**Sabine Zimmermann, Member of Federal German Parliament, Chairwoman of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, Member of German-Canadian Parliamentary Group**

Dear Mr. Bouman:

In my capacity as chairwoman of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs, I would like to thank you on behalf of our committee for your Native culture presentation in Montreal before our group of parliamentarians during our work visit. All members of our group were very happy to see that you and Rodney MacDonald work so closely together on your Aboriginal culture projects, and that you are jointly able to give many Native families such support. In this context I would also like to thank you and (former) Premier MacDonald for your visit in Berlin, during which you jointly acquainted me with your "Friends United" project.

I am happy to see that you followed my suggestion to send your "Friends United" culture books to each of the 54 members of the German-Canadian Parliamentary group. I received many positive responses, and I can assure you that your First Nations cultural projects are valued very highly at all German government levels.

Since I was able to observe your "Friends United" project and its development from the very beginning, I would like to congratulate you and especially the Native artists and their families on this initiative. You and Mr. MacDonald have made indigenous people cultural ambassadors for Canada who will construct, through Aboriginal art and culture, bridges of friendship and mutual admiration between Germany and Canada.

With all my heart, I wish you the best for your project, and would be very pleased to stay in contact with you in the future. I would be glad to assist you as much as I can as a parliamentarian, since your project has always had my fullest support. Your philanthropic work is remarkable.

I remain, with heartfelt greetings from Berlin,

Sabine Zimmermann