

## News Release

## For Immediate Release

January 8, 2015

### Artisans and Crafters Wanted

January 8, 2015—Corner Brook, NL—The Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nations Band Cultural Foundation is seeking the participation of artists and crafts people for a new project, *The Qalipu Artisans and Crafters Residency Program*.

This unique project aims to support the development of Mi'kmaq art by providing a professional art studio space—a 70 sq. ft. art studio housed within the newly constructed Rotary Arts Centre. The program also creates an opportunity to work alongside and collaborate with other emerging artists, and provides the chance to be recognized as a Mi'kmaq artist in the community.

“It is, in part, through the work of artisans and crafts people that our culture is both carried on and at the same time, created.” Says Brendan Sheppard, Chief of the Qalipu First Nation Band. “Through their art, we see elements of our history being blended with who we are today. It is a testament to a Mi'kmaq culture that is alive and evolving.”

The residency program is open to applicants from a variety of disciplines including visual arts, film and video, writing, hand-crafts, and other creative expression. Ideal candidates will be emerging artists such as art students or recent graduates, or those at the beginning of their career, although professional and established artists will also be considered.

Mitch Blanchard, Resource Coordinator of Qalipu First Nations and project lead notes “We are pleased to promote Aboriginal artisans in our communities. This new facility has a theatre, an art gallery, artists' studios and exhibition space—it is a fresh, new setting in which artists may work and find inspiration.”

Chief Sheppard invites interested artists and crafts people to explore the details and application process of the program by visiting the Qalipu.ca website's main page or by contacting Mitch Blanchard by email at [mblanchard@qalipu.ca](mailto:mblanchard@qalipu.ca)

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