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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **First Prince Edward Island Indigenous Artisan Market**

The diverse creative talents of many Indigenous artisans from across P.E.I. will be on display in Charlottetown Sunday.

Beadwork, paintings, dreamcatchers, necklaces, quillwork, photography, leather medicine wheels and Christmas décor, are among the items being sold at the first Prince Edward Island Indigenous Artisan Market.

The market will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Founders Hall showcasing the work of more than 30 Indigenous artisans.

Cultural programming will add to the unique market environment. Five drumming groups will perform. Elders will take part in opening and closing prayers, as well as conducting a smudging ceremony and a traditional song.

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI has joined forces with Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit Mi'kmaw Nation to coordinate this pop-up market to create some retail opportunities for Island Indigenous artisans.

“This event is a celebration of Indigenous artworks and entrepreneurship,” said Sean Casey, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). “The Government of Canada understands the long-term, positive role that a diverse and inclusive economy has on our tourism landscape and our local business community. I applaud the organizers for this inspired idea, and I look forward to growing opportunities for Indigenous artisans and entrepreneurs.”

“This is an excellent opportunity not only for Indigenous artists to share their creations with visitors to the Market, but also for those visitors to learn more about Mi'kmaq culture and its importance to Prince Edward Island,” said Chris Palmer, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. “It also gives Indigenous artists a venue to do business and to demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit. We are proud to support this event”

“This public market will provide Indigenous artisans with a wonderful opportunity to display their impressive talent and will provide the public with the opportunity to purchase their unique artworks”, said Don MacKenzie, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI. “In addition to showcasing Indigenous art, a display of traditional music and customs will make the event a true celebration of Indigenous culture and entrepreneurship.”

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