

## **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo to Fund Youth Bagpiping and Pipe Band Drumming Music Education in Nova Scotia**

### **Embargoed UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 12:00 AM**

Dartmouth, NS, Monday, December 16, 2019 – The Nova Scotia International Tattoo Foundation, a charitable division of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, is launching a funding program to assist in the development of youth Highland bagpiping and pipe band drumming arts in Nova Scotia.

The Tattoo will provide cash grants and instrument donations to youth orientated non-profit organizations and individuals starting in April 2020. The program will support youth at risk through the acquisition, gifting and loaning of instruments, and cash grants to assist with costs associated with learning Highland bagpiping or pipe band drumming.

The new program will also provide non-profit pipe band organizations with grants to assist with costs associated with workshops, travel to major competitions and events, uniforms and equipment and professional development for instructors. Solo bagpiping and pipe band drumming competitors, both amateur and professional, will also be eligible to receive potential investment from the program for competition related travel expenses.

Scott Long, managing director and executive producer of the Tattoo, announced the program at the organization's annual Holiday reception on Friday, December 13. The event also doubled as a fundraiser for the new initiative. According to Long, “the objectives of the program include engaging youth, growing the piping and drumming community in Nova Scotia, artistic excellence and an increase in the participation of local musicians in our annual production of the show.”

On hand for the announcement was McCallum Bagpipes representative and internationally renowned piper Bruce Gandy, to present the Tattoo foundation with a new set of McCallum bagpipes with all the accessories including a Gandy blackwood bagpipe chanter, as a contribution to the instrument donation and loan component of the new program.

“It is an honour to be representing a company known not only for great instruments but one that is also known for its deep generosity in supporting our artform.” says Gandy. “Supporting our youth and working to grow our artistic community is important work and McCallum is happy to do so. We look forward to seeing where this gift will take the next young piper from Nova Scotia.”

Guidelines and policies for the new funding program will be finalized during the winter months after consultations with relevant local organizations and their representatives. Detailed

program information, including funding amounts, will be announced in March with applications opening on April 1, 2020.

If you would like to donate to the Nova Scotia International Tattoo Foundation in support of the Youth Pipes & Drums Program please contact Kathryn Levandier, Director of Development, Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. Contact information can be found by visiting [www.nstattoo.ca](http://www.nstattoo.ca).

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo takes place June 27 – July 4, 2020 in Halifax, Nova Scotia at Scotiabank Centre. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting [www.nstattoo.ca](http://www.nstattoo.ca).

For media inquiries please contact:

Jess Isle

Communications Coordinator

[Jiles@nsstattoo.ca](mailto:Jiles@nsstattoo.ca)

902-420-4625