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**Contact**

Roxanne Toronto *communications officer, university advancement*  
tel 604 742 9007 | roxanne@ecuad.ca

## **\$20,000 IN FUNDING TO BENEFIT ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AT EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART + DESIGN**

**Vancouver, BC** | Emily Carr University of Art + Design is excited to announce the establishment of the RBC Aboriginal Awards and RBC Emerging Aboriginal Artist Award.

RBC has committed \$20,000 (\$10,000 per year over the next two years) to support Aboriginal students at Emily Carr. A portion of this funding will be used to establish the RBC Aboriginal Awards to provide urgently needed funding to relieve financial burden, cited as the most prevalent contributing factor in the success or failure of Aboriginal students reaching their career and educational goals.

Brenda Crabtree, Emily Carr's Aboriginal Program Manager says, "With our increasing Aboriginal student enrolment, the need for support has never been more critical. RBC's generous donation will help us achieve our goal of reducing the financial barriers that prevent Aboriginal students from attending and succeeding at Emily Carr."

The balance of the donation is earmarked to create the RBC Emerging Aboriginal Artist Award, which will provide a cash prize and recognition of an Aboriginal student for his or her artistic excellence.

"We believe that supporting arts and culture is crucial to building stronger communities," said Russ Cook, Vice-President and Managing Director, RBC PH&N. "Through this new partnership and the RBC Emerging Aboriginal Artist award, we are proud to help empower and inspire the next generation of professional artists. Brenda Draney, an Emily Carr graduate (MAA 09) and winner of the 2009 RBC Canadian Painting Competition, is a clear demonstration that young Aboriginal artists can be leaders in Canada's artistic community."

The inaugural RBC Emerging Aboriginal Artist Award and RBC Aboriginal Awards will be granted later this year.

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**For Additional Information:**

Eva Bouchard, *Annual Fund + Alumni Relations Officer*  
tel 604 742 9916 | ebouchard@ecuad.ca