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## For Immediate Release

### SMS Equipment Wine Auction in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo launches juried open call to local artists for 5<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser

(Fort McMurray, AB) The much anticipated 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SMS Equipment Wine Auction – The Art of Wine - in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo taking place on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre is set to launch a juried open call to the local arts community, through Arts Council Wood Buffalo, to offer commissionable work to be included in the annual events' silent auction.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo Board President, Rita Dizak, explains “For our 5<sup>th</sup> annual celebration, we will be enjoying the Art of Wine and are thrilled to offer the arts community the opportunity to submit their original artwork for consideration for this year’s SMS Equipment Wine Auction”.

“The local arts community in Wood Buffalo is growing and in celebration of the diverse children and youth we have been serving for over 35 years, we wanted to celebrate in a way that was meaningful not only for our organization but Wood Buffalo as a whole. We look forward to showcasing the amazing pool of talent in our arts community, all for a great cause” says Dizak.

The open call will be launched and overseen by Arts Council Wood Buffalo mid-June, and is set to close mid-August, giving local artists a chance to enter new original art pieces as well as existing works that fit the desired theme and parameters.

Arts Council Wood Buffalo Executive Director, Constance Scarlett, says “Arts Council Wood Buffalo is pleased to collaborate on The ART of WINE in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo. This event will use art to explore the themes of mentorship, inspiration, and potential while also investing in the creative arts economy. The Arts Council looks forward to working with BBBSWB to create a remarkable quality of life in Wood Buffalo.”

With over 150 children and youth being served each year and growing, executive director Danielle Murgatroyd hopes the community will continue to support the fundraiser as it approaches its 5<sup>th</sup> year. “Demand for our programs continues to climb as our population increase and we are committed to making successful mentor relationships for the children and youth that want and need one. That’s what the SMS Equipment wine auction has been helping us to do for the last four years.”

The annual SMS Equipment Wine Auction welcomes more than 450 guests each year to custom designed event spaces that have seen the event grow in attendance and popularity each year since its inception in 2010 and raises needed funding to allow Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo to continue their programming for local children and youth.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available and tickets for this event are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 780-791-2447 or email [info@fortmcmurraywineauction.ca](mailto:info@fortmcmurraywineauction.ca).

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