

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS SEGIMAY/MOSQUITO PAPERS AN ASINABKA OPINION PAPER

SYNOPSIS: As All Heads Turn to the Capital, What Might Late Elder William Commanda Envision for the Chaudière/Lebreton Lands in the Heart of the Country?

A Pivotal Moment and a Central Location

Today, the eyes of the nation bore into the capital city as a complex federation of geographically, economically and politically distinct provinces and territories awoken to the challenges of minority federal governance, in times of climate change, environmental catastrophes, cultural diversity and intolerance, health crises and economic insecurity, these counterbalanced with that ever optimistic affirmation of the Canadian mosaic.

What Lies Here at the Centre of the Country?

The singular Chaudière Falls and Lebreton Flats: for 10 thousand years, the circular rapids of the Ottawa River were a spiritual meeting place of the original inhabitants of the continent; the area remains the most important historical site of Canada. The Chaudière overlooks the entire post-colonial development of this country, from fur trading, logging, hydro generation, Indigenous oppression, French/English/American battles, railways and political rootedness as Dominion of Canada. It also lies at the heart of William Commanda's vision for global eco-peace meeting space.

Who is William Commanda?

Canada's much beloved and respected Indigenous leader of the Ottawa River Watershed, Officer of the Order of Canada, recipient of two honorary degrees and subject of a third ([Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The ...](#)), William Commanda was also an astute Indigenous rights activist and political leader and chief; he was a world renowned canoe maker, visionary spiritual leader and carrier of ancient Algonquin *Wampum Belts* (mnemonic knowledge keeping spiritual devices). He founded the global eco peace community, the *Circle of All Nations*. And he remains a vibrant presence in the cyberworld and on Facebook, with a mere photograph posted eight years after his death drawing 10,000 hits in a day.

What is Prophetic Vision?

William Commanda was interviewed for the CBC series, *Eighth Fire: Canada, Aboriginal Peoples and the Way Forward* and he discussed the *Seven Fires Prophecy* and the changes people needed to make to live in sustainable relationship with the Earth. Zulu shaman Credo Mutwa describes prophecy very simply as early warning signals. William Commanda saw them and worked tirelessly to awaken the country to the urgency of the need to prepare for climate change and peace. He developed a critical vision for the Chaudière Site on his ancestral Lebreton Flats to respond to the global challenges he saw looming.

What was his Vision for the Chaudière Falls Site, Environment and Peace?

William Commanda, Indigenous leaders, Donald Marshall Junior and Indigenous Architect Douglas Cardinal, late local MP Paul Dewar, literally every Algonquin community on either side of the Ottawa River and thousands of people from across the world jointly developed a vision for a global eco-peace healing think tank. While it was presented to Prime Minister Chretien in 2003,

he had already pointed to the looming environmental crisis at the historical Aboriginal Constitutional Conference hosted by Prime Minister Mulroney in 1987 ([Dancing Around the Table, Part One by Maurice Bulbulian - NFB](#)). Noting the pollution of the earth, air and water throughout his homeland, he told the political leadership, “we depend on you to remedy this *before the end of time*”. With the unprecedented flooding of the Ottawa River in 2017, the *Seven Fires* tornado of September 21 2018, and the 2019 Ottawa River floods which literally shook the foundation of concrete at the Chaudière Falls and brought traffic on the Quebec-Ontario border to a sharp halt, some might think that *end of time* is arriving fast. Today, youth are obliged to take to the global stage to force attention to a climate crisis of unfathomable proportions – their very lives are at stake. The need for the global peace-building component is also critical. Global violence, migration, refugee crises and the challenges of integrating an extremely diverse and growing newcomer Canadian population now exacerbate the human strife that marked William Commanda’s life from his birth on the eve of the First World War. In these times of global connection, the demand for dialogue and cooperation grows increasingly urgent, or we all grow more vicious.

In November 2010, the City of Ottawa endorsed his vision. Then William Commanda died. But he planted seeds for a *Noble Legacy of Hope* everywhere. Could a revitalized vision along the lines of a UNESCO Heritage Site at Chaudière/Lebreton embrace the scope of his vision?

**“Symbolic reconciliation
with Mother Earth
and the waters”**

SACRED CHAUDIERE FALLS
AKIKPAUTIK

UNDAMMED
FALLS

CITY PARK
ON THE
CHAUDIÈRE

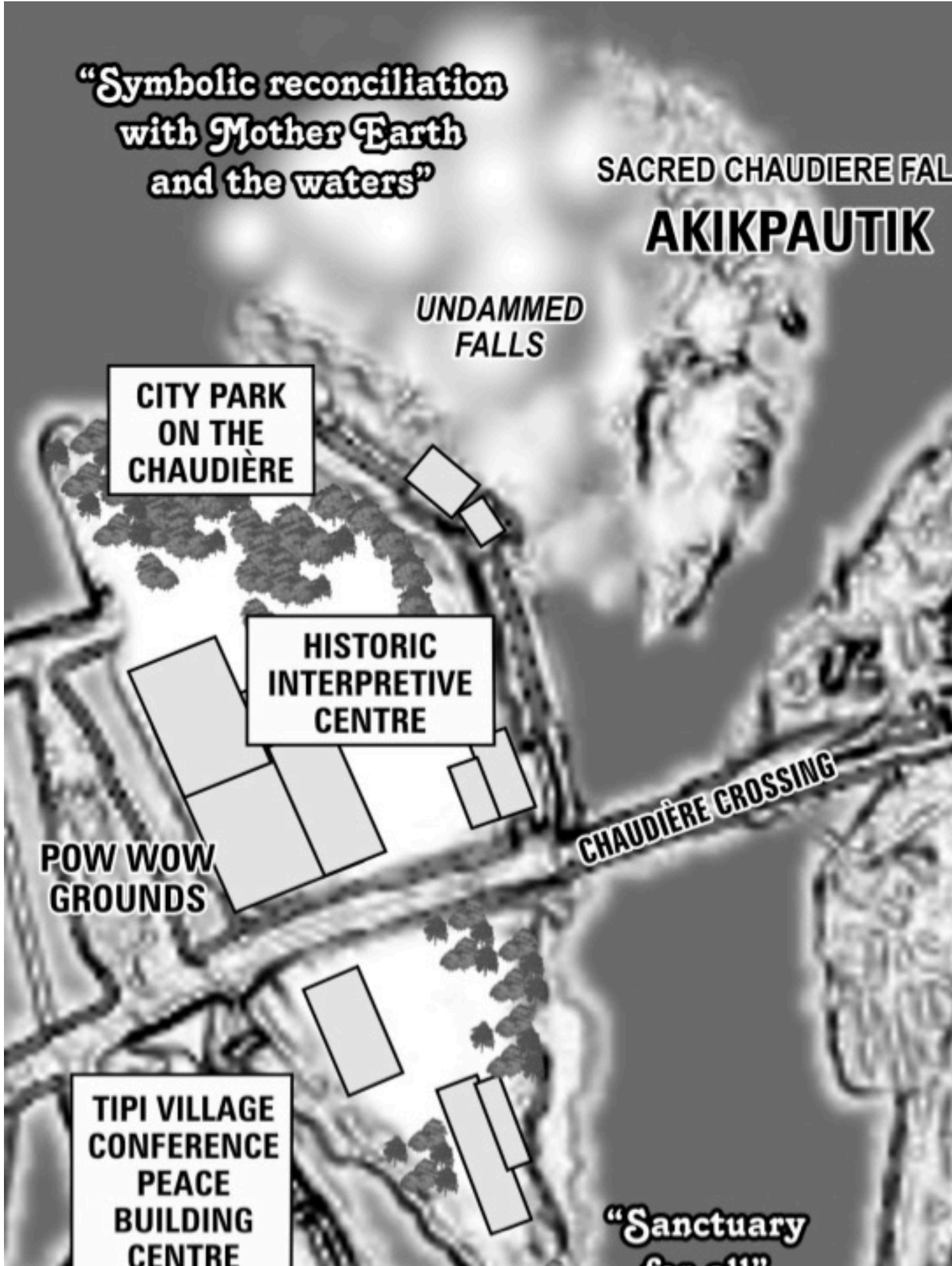
HISTORIC
INTERPRETIVE
CENTRE

POW WOW
GROUNDS

CHAUDIÈRE CROSSING

TIPI VILLAGE
CONFERENCE
PEACE
BUILDING
CENTRE

“Sanctuary
for all”



A Few References

www.asinabka.com

www.circleofallnations.ca

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[Dancing Around the Table, Part One by Maurice Bulbulian - NFB](#)