

February 2017

This last year was outwardly quiet...

But somehow I feel that something is maturing. In February last year we had an inauguration of the America zone of the International Zone, and I had a good feeling about it. Without having any expectations in terms of time or result, it seemed promising.

Here in Canada, our view of what Canada really is seems to be slowly but surely taking shape. Our collaboration with Grand-father William Commanda's Circle of All Nations is growing, and his view and guidance towards realizing our individual, cultural as well as national identity is helping us in preparing what will be AVI Canada's contribution in Auroville's International Zone during the 50th anniversary celebrations, and a multimedia event here in Canada. We hope to be able to present to the public the main characteristics that each of the founding nations have contributed to what is now Canada and give an insight into what we see for the future. Indeed, Sri Aurobindo and The Mother made it clear for us that each nation has its own identity and genius. Canada is a place of ethnic diversity, but underneath this diversity, within it, is a common thread that makes of us a nation, and in order to make it manifest, we must come together and make peace with our history in a way that heals the wounds, and go forward.

Grand-father Commanda's vision of Canada is universal in that it includes all cultures, everyone, and gives us a framework to walk on the path of cooperation and harmony, unity, by asking each of us to find our self and cultural identity in order to unite with others. His vision and project of an Indigenous Center on Victoria Island, centered around healing and harmony between all cultures and environmental stewardship and respect for Mother Earth, in front of the Ottawa Parliament in our country's National Capital, although in my opinion not yet as complete as Auroville is in terms of its projected physical complexity, is of the same nature.

All are invited to participate in its development so that we, as Canadians, can "come together with one heart, one mind, one love and one determination" as Grand-father would say, and progressively bring this new-found identity to Auroville's International Zone and Auroville in general.

Our effort has thus been focused on this research as well as the usual financial and otherwise helpful contributions to Auroville.

Stéphane Lefebvre
AVI Canada Chairman