

## **Letter to Mr. Raymond Royer from Elder William Commanda**

231 Pitobig Mikan  
Maniwaki, Quebec  
J9E 3B1

February 22, 2008

Mr. Raymond Royer  
President and CEO, Domtar Corporation  
Head Office  
395 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3A 1L6

Dear Mr. Royer:

### **Re: The Chaudière Falls/Victoria Island Site**

Last winter, I wrote to you twice regarding the vision for a National Historic Site at the Chaudière Falls/Victoria Island. I write now to invite your support and involvement to create a unique heritage site of potentially great national and international significance in this very special area that has served so many over the centuries.

I write because I need to appeal to heart and head beyond bureaucracy, whether within industry or government, to help me advance the work at this time.

Because of my personal, intimate engagement with the lumber industry since its inception in North America, I am emboldened and obliged to approach you directly in this matter. I need corporate leaders such as yourself to join with me and countless others to support an indigenous vision for a microcosmic blueprint of hope for all the world's children, in an age of environmental crisis and strife.

In the summer, I was given to understand that Weyerhaeuser was the key partner in Domtar operations, and since I had worked for this company myself for many years, I wrote directly to Mr. Steven Rogel regarding our proposal for this special site within the National Capital Region, inviting his support.

I am attaching this correspondence and the text of his response for your information (Attachment 1). It elaborates on the historic elements of pertinence to me. Mr. Rogel suggested I approach you directly to invite your support for this historic venture.

I am also attaching my most recent correspondence to the Honourable Lawrence

Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, for your information ( Attachment 2), as well as the note that describes the project (Attachment 3).

You will note that I am still passionately committed to this very unique and special vision for the heart of the country, and consistent with my overall *Circle of All Nations* work, I continue to pray for all key partners to come together to advance it cooperatively. In a world of global turmoil, I believe that this a *crucial* legacy for us to entrust to all our children. As an Algonquin Elder, I also believe it is of very great importance for Aboriginal Peoples to rekindle our ancient ties with the area with sacred ceremony, as an expression of our spirituality and as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation with Mother Earth.

The specific request is this: For the vision to materialize we need **Domtar to relinquish the "lease in perpetuity" to Chaudière Island, and to oversee the return of stewardship of the area to the original caretakers, the Algonquin Peoples of the Ottawa River Watershed.**

Again, I request that you review this matter seriously and give it urgent attention. I am now ninety four, and would like to oversee the manifestation of a dream that has been envisioned for decades. Thank you for your attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

William Commanda (Dr.)  
Algonquin Elder  
circleofallnations@smpatico.ca  
613-599-8385  
819-449-2668

<http://www.circleofallnations.ca>  
<http://www.cercledetouteslesnations.org>  
<http://www.asinabka.com>