City of Ottawa Meeting re: Rezoning at the Sacred Chaudiere Site

RE: CITY OF OTTAWA PLANS TO REZONE CHAUDIERE AND ALBERT ISLANDS

We are Posting a few letters to City Hall that have been shared with us for your information.

Please share this ASAP with people you think may be interested - Thanks.

If you wish to listen to this meeting (the meeting of the City of Ottawa Planning Committee at Ottawa City Hall regarding allowing zoning changes to develop Chaudiere Island intensively according to Windmill's plans) via audiocast on Ottawa.ca, you may do so by accessing the URL below when the meeting is underway (after 9:30 am on Thursday Oct 2):
http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/agendaminutes/index_en.aspx

If you wish to speak to the Committee or hear this item, please call Christopher Zwierczkowski at 613-580-2424, extension 21359 by 4:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting (i.e. by 4:00 pm Wednesday - tomorrow). (I and several others will be there, but the more attending or writing, the better.)

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted or the zoning by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Ottawa to the Ontario Municipal Board. Even a short letter is enough to keep you able to speak later.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, or of the refusal of the request to amend the official plan, you must make a written request to the City of Ottawa to the attention of Hieu Nguyen, Planning and Growth Management Department, 110 Laurier Avenue West, 4th floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1 by facsimile at 613-580-2576, or e-mail at hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca.

Here is the message associated with my formal submission

Attention: Mr. Hieu Nguyen, Planner

Planning and Growth Management Department

City of Ottawa

September 29, 2014

Re: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands
As per Note 1, please accept this submission in writing with respect to the Public Meeting of October 2, 2014, from me as a citizen and tax payer in the City of Ottawa, and as coordinator of the Circle of All Nations founded by Late Algonquin Elder, Dr. William Commanda, OC, Holder of a Key to the City of Ottawa, with specific reference to his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site. I also wish to be notified of the outcomes of the public meeting and to be added as party to the hearing of any appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board.

1. I NOTE the following message extracted from the City of Ottawa Documentation

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted or the zoning by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Ottawa to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The City of Ottawa Planning Committee Meets this Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:30 am in the Champlain Room, City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa. Please inform Christopher Zwierzchowski at 613-580-2424, extension 21359 of your interest to speak by 4.30 pm October 1; submit written responses by October 1 to Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca or hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca

2. I NOTE the Report Recommendations

From City of Ottawa Documentation: That Planning Committee recommend Council approve:

An amendment to the Lebreton Flats Central Area Secondary Plan to allow for a mixed-use community at 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Islands), as shown on Document 1 and detailed in Document 5; and

An amendment to Zoning By-law 2008-250 to change the zoning at 3 and 4 Booth Street from Parks and Open Space to a Downtown Mixed-Use zone to allow for a mixed-use development and Major Leisure Facility zone on new park lands, as shown in Document 1, detailed in Document 6, and set out in Documents 7 and 8.

3. I NOTE – the lack of clarity in the phrase below “under private ownership or use” – Domtar Official (F. Jette) stated in 2007 that Domtar (and previous corporate interests)
held a lease in perpetuity, renewable every 20 years, at the leasing cost of $100 a year, since the 1800s at the Chaudiere Island (for additional information on lack of clarity on the land ownership, see the attached Circle of All Nations report of June 21, 2014); note further in the unceded, unsurrendered, unconquered Algonquin territory, crown lands/public lands were leased for projects of public good in the development of the country; with the shutting down of the Domtar Pulp Mill, that use of the old leasing parameters ceased and the lands are now being recommended for privatization.

From City of Ottawa Documentation: However, Chaudiere and Albert Islands have remained under private ownership or use and now have been acquired by a private sector development interest.

4. I NOTE Re: Public Consultation/Input, that it is widely known and acknowledged that Elder William Commanda awakened the National Capital Region and public consciousness to the fact that this is Algonquin territory; his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site was developed formally with thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, endorsed by Algonquin leadership from both the Ontario and Quebec Communities, presented publically when he was presented the Key to The City of Ottawa on June 21, 2006 at Victoria Island); his vision for the site is noted in full by the City of Ottawa in its November 2010 support and endorsement of the Indigenous vision – and, amongst the 900 people noted in the December 2013 Windmill consultations were a vast majority of people, including Indigenous, expecting to see some development of the Commanda proposal. The substantial drop in interest in the June 2014 Windmill consultation meeting is noted. Further, at Windmill’s request, I discussed the Circle of All Nations June 21 Open Letter regarding their proposals, and provided additional information in William Commanda’s own words (included also in our September 23, 2014 note) – has the City considered this amongst the 37 written comments noted below? I note further William Commanda’s Legacy Facebook Page reached 6,913 people this past week, affirming the ongoing global relevance of his legacy.

From City of Ottawa Report: Public Consultation/Input

Notification and public consultation was undertaken in accordance with the City’s Public Notification and Public Consultation Policy. A public open house was held on June 24, 2014 at the Canadian War Museum. Approximately 200 residents were in attendance as well as the Ward Councillor and City staff. As part of the developer’s pre-consultation, an earlier public open house event was held in December 2013 with more than 900 residents in attendance.

Thirty-seven comments were received on the proposal. The comments were generally positive and many residents expressed excitement for the transformation plan. There were some suggestions and concerns submitted on urban design, transportation, land use, housing, consultation, and the environment.

5. NOTE
that I attach for your consideration two documents: - June 21, 2014 Circle of All Nations Message regarding William Commanda Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site; and Asinabka Heritage Site Note Sept 2014.

Please note also the websites, www.circleofallnations.ca and www.asinabka.com associated with this work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or clarification.

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In addition, Karen Bisson is delivering this message in person from me:

“Romola (Thumbadoo) Trebilcock, Coordinator of the Circle of All Nations since 1997, and William Commanda’s personal assistant, submitted two papers in objection to the proposed rezoning. The first paper outlines work of Holder of a Key to the City of Ottawa, Dr. William Commanda, Late Algonquin Elder, and Officer of the Order of Canada, and his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site, already part of materials endorsed by the City of Ottawa in November 2010; and, in view of the ancient, historical and spiritual significance of the site, a second paper outlines its global heritage significance of outstanding universal value in the context of United Nations guidelines.

Further, she questions the adequacy of the Windmill public consultations. She also understands that the Windmill plan has not been endorsed by the Algonquins of Ontario or elsewhere, and in view of the recent Supreme Court ruling on Tsilhqot’in, questions the integrity of proceeding with this momentous recommendation in unceded, unsurrendered and unconquered Algonquin Territory.

Her strong recommendation is for Chaudiere Island to remain zoned as a park and open public, and not privatized, space.”

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski,

It is imperative that the islands in the Ottawa River, from Chaudière Island to Victoria , Island retain their zone designation as a park. These islands are the sacred sites for religious ceremonies for the Anishnawbe Peoples from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains and to many areas south into the United States of America . The Anishnawbe Peoples are some 65 Nations across Canada , who speak various dialects of the Algonquin language. These Islands were the Islands of Fire where people came together in peace and gave offerings to the “Great Kettle” a whirlpool at the foot of Chaudière Falls . The Algonquin Nation was the Host Nation which brought people together in peace with each other and in peace with their Mother, the Earth, for thousands of years.

It is a sacrilege to all First Nations People that the site was defaced by industry, which has almost
destroyed the abundant resources of fish and eels of the Ottawa River, and polluted the water, which is the source of all life throughout the Ottawa basin. Now that our economy has moved from the industrial age to the information age, industry is not the primary source of the Canadian economy, and these islands must be returned to the religious ceremonies of which the Anishnawbe people as well as their neighbors have carried out for thousands of years. The Anishnawbe Peoples opened their hearts to the new comers and shared their land and resources with them.

It is shameful that the First Nations have been denied access to the Falls and the Great Kettle for the last 100 years, especially given the fact that this site is unceded Algonquin land, and their rights to this sacred territory have been denied. Since the use of heavy industry is over, on these historical sites, the First Nations People wish to continue to have guardianship of these sites.

William Commanda, who held the sacred wampum belts of the Anishnawbe Peoples, has the support of the Elders of the Algonquin Nation, the Elders of the Anishnawbe Nations, the Assembly of First Nations and most of the First Nations leaders across Canada as well as the United States. His vision of a Circle of All Nations, of a cultural of peace, placed in a park-like setting on the islands, all have access to the falls, properly planned for First Nations religious ceremonies, is a vision not only support by all First Nations, but many Canadian citizens who want to create a new relationship, a new partnership, with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

I have worked with William Commanda and the National Capital Commission since 1984, and have made a commitment to bring this National vision of our Indigenous People, which is a symbol of peace and Reconciliation, to the heart of our Capital on Confederation Boulevard, which I contributed to as the architect of the Canadian Museum of History. Changing the zoning on this site to allow for a housing development is another historical act that shows no respect for the Indigenous People have been guardians of this land for thousands of years. This is the time for all Canadians and the First Nations People, to come together with peace and reconciliation. On behalf of the people of Canada we request that you make the right decision to keep this site zoned as a park for all Canadians and their international guests to enjoy forever.

Warmest regards,

Douglas Cardinal O.C., Ph.D. (h.c.)
DOUGLAS CARDINAL ARCHITECT, Inc.
14 lodge road, Ottawa ON K2C 3H1
T: 613.440.2262 F: 613.440.2187
d.cardinal@djcarchitect.com

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski;

I am writing to you as a member and a long time supporter of the Kanata based Circle of All Nations. I want to start out by thanking you for inviting submissions on this very important official plan and by-law amendments, ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Pan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street - Chaudière and Albert Islands. That being said, I want to go on record as objecting to the aforementioned proposed amendments.
I was present when Michael Wiggins of Windmill Development Group stated that their vision would “change the way people look at Ottawa” (Ottawa Citizen, Dec. 12, 2013). As I saw it then and still do today, Ottawa now has two divergent visions for the Chaudière/Asinabka region that will indeed change the way people look at Ottawa. Only this time, thankfully, you are reaching out for comment whereas the Windmill Development Group did not at their presentation session.

A vision that predates Windmill’s housing development vision was a national peace and reconciliation vision, put forward by the late Grandfather William Commanda, as “a sanctuary for all, a meeting place for all the world, a sacred space in the nation’s heartland,” in other words, a Vancouver Stanley Park or a New York City Central Park for Ottawa, our Nations capital.

Windmill’s vision is a development vision and from where I was standing in the River View salon I did not hear the sustained applause as reported. Instead I heard a lot of whispers about how their development is ripping the heart out of Commanda’s vision. Windmill’s vision metaphorically quarters the Chaudière/Asinabka region’s apple, with Windmill ending up with three slices and Canada’s First Peoples ending up with one, which is shameful. It also begs the question, is the sacred really for sale?

Windmill representatives went on to say that the Chaudière/Asinabka region is “one of the most important development sites in the country.” While that may be true from their perspective, unfortunately it is a country still coming to grips with its past, a past rife with the negative outcomes of colonization and is in dire need of healing and reconciliation. Commanda’s vision for the Chaudière/Asinabka region addresses those needs while Windmill’s vision does not.

The Chaudière/Asinabka park islands are ideally situated between Canada’s two founding colonial powers, French and English, thus it is Canada’s quintessential diamond in the rough. One can only dream of Canada’s First Peoples being allowed to develop their own sacred space in the nation’s heartland, which would ultimately be representative of what Canada truly is, a tripartite nation.

The Chaudière/Asinabka region represents so much more than a development opportunity in the heart of Ottawa. It is after all the heart of our entire nation and in so being, is deserving of the input from all Canadians. I exhort you to put the two divergent visions forward for all to see and let Canadians decide what they want at the heart of their nation.

Thank you for allowing me to formally object to the proposed ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Pan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street - Chaudière and Albert Islands.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bowers

2654 Unity Rd.

Kingston, Ontario

K0H 1M0
Mr Nguyen/Mr Zwierzchowski, City of Ottawa,
hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca, Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca

Ref: ACS2014-PA I-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands

As per email recd from City of Ottawa re-zoning amendments should stay zoned as a park and open as public space, not privatized so as to honour the Sacred Chaudiere Falls Site!

Many 1st Nations Algonquin Ceremonies were done at this site including Victoria Island and must be respected as per outlined emails already sent to you by Romola Trebilcock of Circle for All Nations which my belated Elder, William Commanda and Romola were able to put a 53 page document sent to Domtar as to WHY this site is needed to be revisited with the plans already fully approved by the Algonquin Nation that Mr Douglas Cardinal has plans for.

I am a tax payer and living here in the City of Ottawa which I was born in, also am Algonquin by descent and related to many including our belated Elder. My own personal ceremonies with many Elders have been and still are being done at these locations. I hope my word counts in this letter and is read out to the Council of the City of Ottawa.

I am attaching files of letters at the time of 1995 when Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation, Chief Albert Tenasco had written about how our peoples rights were affected and allowed to do such Ceremonies and to treat Victoria Island as a place for the people gathering there in accordance to the Natural Laws of our Peoples, without drugs or alcohol.

To this day this letter still applies and am in hope it will be respected, as the present Chief, Mr Gilbert Whiteduck is now chief of Maniwaki!

Attached are the files sent from Circle of All Nations already sent to your Council as well as the letter from belated Chief Albert Tenasco of Maniwaki!

In closing, your round table discussion from what I received will be happening on Thurs 02 Oct 14 starting at 9:30am, pls advise if this is not so, as I would like open microphone to talk about this with your Council!

Best regards,

Ron KitchiMak8a Goddard-Fournier, aka Bigbear,
Niiwi'in Noodi'in/4 Wind's Intertribal Medicine Council member, serving the Ottawa Community since 2000!
http://web.295.ca/~bigbear/bigbear/

Hello,

Unfortunately I am at Kingston and not able to attend in person at the upcoming meeting. Please record my comments and include me on notices for announcements and any appeals.
A promise is a promise…[Marcel Beaudry, Jean Chretien Government]

The unceded territory of the Falls and Victoria Island deserve an aboriginal presence in the form of a long promised Indigenous Ecology Centre/National Healing Centre/A Circle of All Nations to bring healing to European-Aboriginal relations and share the world’s traditional aboriginal and western natural medicines.

My understanding is that there has not been prior and informed consent by local aboriginal groups and therefore the sale and development of the land in question would be in contravention of British and United Nations laws, charters, and resolutions re: aboriginal rights…

All levels of government including the City of Ottawa and City of Gatineau must uphold the law including the 1763 proclamation. Announcements in this regard would be fitting prior to Ottawa’s 150th birthday in 2017.

THomas Martin Tegtmeier, Hons. B.A., TAC

Director of Holistic Healing Arts, Ultimate Wellbeing EDUCATiON

204 4 Cataraqui Street, Woolen Mill, Kingston ON, K7K 1Z7 by appt only

Snail Mail: Box 128, Sydenham ON K0H 2T0

613-769-5575

jawb128@icloud.com

Dear friends,

This is to advise anyone who wishes to stand in solidarity with the Algonquin to protect the Chaudière heritage site, in keeping with the vision of Elder William Commanda.

The City of Ottawa's Planning Committee will vote on the re-zoning of Chaudière and Albert Islands from "park" designation to "downtown mixed use".

When: Thursday, October 2 at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Champlain Room, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa

The public can make presentations at Planning Committee, but not at the City Council meeting of Wednesday Oct. 8th which will vote on the decision taken by Planning Committee this Thursday.

Please see attached:

1. Chaudière Islands heritage site – Elise Mennie
   My 3-page adaptation of the overview by Romola Thumbadoo, Coordinator of the Circle of All Nations Legacy of William Commanda. Please feel free to use or adapt any part of this for your own oral or written submission.

2. Official Plan and Zoning 3 and 4 Booth St
   Report by Hieu Nguyen, the city planner recommending the by-law change
A. PLEASE COME AND BE A WITNESS of your concern!

B. IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO THE COMMITTEE or WRITE A SUBMISSION, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CALL:
Committee Coordinator, Christopher Zwierzchowski at 613- 580-2424 extension 21359, in advance of the meeting, by at least 4:00 pm on Wednesday.
You can email him a written submission: christopher.zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca

He will post it to a shared drive and advise all committee members and council members of its receipt.

C. CALL OR EMAIL YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR, especially if they are on the Planning Committee, to express your concern. Members of the Planning Committee are:
Peter Hume, chair
Jan Harder, vice-chair
Stephen Blais
Rainer Bloess
Rick Chiarelli
Catherine Hobbs
Allan Hubley
Bob Monette
Shad Qadri
Tim Tierney
Contact information for councillors is at: http://ottawa.ca/en/city-council

D. SIGN THE PETITION to free the Chaudière Falls:

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
See the 3rd document attached: 2014 Sept 23 Asinabka Heritage, Romola’s Thumbado’s extensive background on the heritage of the Chaudière site and the legacy vision of the late William Commanda.
www.circleofallnations.ca
www.asinabka.com
romola@circleofallnations.ca

Hi All

This information was passed on from Romola@circleofallnations.ca I am calling and alerting people to this inf. Please do the same.

Please see Official Plan and Zoning attachment that notes on the third page a REQUEST TO SPEAK FORM to Fax at 613-580-9609. Please fill in and send or for questions directed to Manager Council and Committee call 613-580-2424 ext. 26836

1. This is to advise you that the above noted matter will be considered by the City of Ottawa Planning Committee on:
THURSDAY, OCT. 2 beginning at 9:30 am
Champlain Room, City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. West

A. PLEASE COME EARLY AND BE A WITNESS of your concern!

B. PLEASE IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO THE COMMITTEE or WRITE A SUBMISSION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO DO THIS BY CALLING:
Committee Coordinator, Christopher Zwierzchowski at 613- 580-2424 extension 21359, in advance of the meeting + preferably, by at last 4:00 pm the “day before” the meeting. For information on the item itself, and where to send your written submission to the City of Ottawa, please contact Hieu Nguyen, Planner Planning + Growth management Dept. 613-580-2424 Ext. 26936 or e-mail hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca

C. PLEASE BE AWARE If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make a written submission to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted of the zoning bylaw is passed, the person or public body is “not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Ottawa to the Municipal Board.”

If a person or public body does not make “oral submissions at the public meeting, or make written submissions” at the public meeting, or make written submissions to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted of the zoning by-law passed, the person or public body “may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless in the opinion of the board there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

I HOPE AS MANY OF US AS GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN SOLIDARITY AND TO BE VOICES ADDING TO THE VOICE OF THE LATE GRANDFATHER WILLIAM COMMANDA. PLEASE LISTEN TO HIS MESSAGE ATTACHED, AND LOOK AT THE DEEP HISTORY THAT BOTH HE AND DOUGLAS CARDINAL SPEAK TO AND ELDER ALBERT DUMONT OF HOW SACRED AND HOLY AND RELIGIOUS ALL THESE ISLANDS AND CHAUDIÈRE FALLS ARE TO ALL THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE’S OF NORTH AMERICA THE ASINABKA PEOPLE.

These were healing places and could continue to be A sacred gatherings place for all of humanity. To experience in natural ways our deep roots to nature and the natural world of healing. By which we too can once again reclaim our own ancestors original indigenous roots and remember who ALL are as One human family. One humanity awakening in each other what is really important. To care for the water and to care for the Earth. To DO this for our eternal souls and our future grandchildren. We must work together in partnership to give voice to help others such as governments, corporations and Windmill developers to see that in these times the affects of what we are doing in overdevelopment of our Earth is killing the planet and our One home.

Please action your deep concern in ways that make a huge difference to have our collective voices heard. Be present Thursday, Oct. 2, give an oral or written presentation an an individual or as a collective organisation.

Deep thanks Meegwetch in advance
Judith Matheson
Heart + Soul Light Centre
Gatineau/Ottawa
819-684-3099
Dear Mr. Zwierzechowski,

Although not a Canadian citizen, I have traveled several times to the banks of the Ottawa River at Gatineau/Hull. I have traveled as an assistant to beloved elders from the United States whose own teachings supported the significance of this land and water system as a sacred gathering place of the People. In this way as well as in my own deep commitment to all that Grandfather William Commanda stood for, I am a witness to the powerful impact of his sacred vision of peace, as this has had been shared not only in Canada but also in the United States and in other nations around the world—peace not only for humans but also for our fellow beings on this Earth with whom we share the benefits of life—peace for animals, plants, birds, and all living beings that are part of this Earth, which has sustained our ancestors and their ancestors for millennium.

In his simple vision of the good life lived with room for all and his strong heart that offered only kindness, Grandfather Commanda laid down a foundation for powerful peaceful change that could help humans remember again their common bonds of relationship with each other and their responsibilities to uphold those ties.

The sacred Chaudière site is a critical part of that vision. A decision to move forward to sustain the vision laid down by Grandfather Commanda would be a reaffirmation of the sacred instructions inherent in our human commitment to responsibly care for the Earth for the benefit of future generations whose faces we will never see. To not make such a decision is to reaffirm the destructive path humans have followed all too easily in the past five hundred years. It would be to continue along the path of obstruction, greed, and self-aggrandizement that has made our recent footsteps on this Earth so painful to the other beings that occupy this landscape with us and depend on it to sustain their existences.

We have arrived at an interesting time in human history when the authority, will, and sheer numbers of humans seem to be whittling away at the good life that is the right of all beings. As many scientists have observed, we live in a time of unprecedented extinctions, when predictions among some of them are that only rats, cockroaches, and ants will be the victors in this race toward annihilation. But even though the clock is ticking, time for positive, impactful actions still remains. Each of us has an opportunity to give a gift to the future life and health of this Earth. By what we affirm and the actions that we take, we reveal whether we stand with the peaceful positive vision of Grandfather Commanda or with the vision of business-as-usual, which wounds the land and gobbles up its fruitfulness until money dries up and financial interests move on. The heart and soul of the People of Earth, all the People, need more land and less development.

I urge you to contribute to a vision that retains the Chaudière site as a park, memorializing the peace and wisdom of the First Nations people whose desire it is that such ways of responding to each other become the new business-as-usual, a gift to the future that has the power to change our relationships with each other and with this sacred Earth.

Thank you,
Mary Maruca
Arlington, VA, USA
On Tuesday, September 30, 2014 10:08 PM, IPSMO <ipsmo@riseup.net> wrote:

**Deadline of Wed 4pm to register your input**

See below for full info - also please forward this email / share these links:

Web post (same content as follows below)
http://ipsmo.wordpress.com/2014/09/30/urgent-chaudiere-falls-islands-rezoning/

Video (Architect Douglas Cardinal, 10min, all info included in description)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeFqbRBU5mk

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**URGENT: 4pm Wed Oct 1st deadline to register to speak or submit to the City of Ottawa Planning Committee, that is meeting Thurs Oct 2nd 9:30am at City Hall to consider a rezoning proposal for two of the islands in order to allow the Windmill condominium development**

Continue reading / scrolling for registration instructions & background information, along with compelling new 10-min video of renowned Aboriginal architect Douglas Cardinal.

The Planning Committee will decide upon a recommendation to put forward for voting on by the full City council on Oct 8th, but there will be no opportunity for public input at the Oct 8th meeting.

Giving the go-ahead to building condominiums on these islands would detrimentally impact the ability to achieve the full vision of the late Algonquin spiritual leader Grandfather William Commanda for this religious / sacred site.

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**TO REGISTER:** Contact Committee Coordinator, Christopher Zwierzchowski at 613-580-2424 extension 21359, in advance of the meeting, by at least 4:00 pm on Wednesday, to register to speak to the committee (presentations of 5 minutes maximum).

Or, you can email him a written submission, by the same deadline (or possibly anytime before midnight on Wed Oct 1st), at: christopher.zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca – also cc: hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca

OF NOTE: If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official
plan amendment is adopted or the zoning by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Ottawa to the Ontario Municipal Board.

ALSO: Call or email your local councillor, especially if they are on the Planning Committee, to express your concern. Members of the Planning Committee are: Peter Hume, chair; Jan Harder, vice-chair; Stephen Blais; Rainer Bloess; Rick Chiarelli; Catherine Hobbs; Allan Hubley; Bob Monette; Shad Qadri; Tim Tierney. Contact information for councillors is at: http://ottawa.ca/en/city-council

BACKGROUND INFORMATION on Grandfather William Commanda’s vision for the Sacred Chaudière Site, and on the City’s rezoning proposal:
• Asinabka website: http://asinabka.com
• June 2014 update on the vision: http://ipsmo.wordpress.com/2014/06/22/william-commandas-vision-chaudiere/
• Sample submission (2 1/2 pages) to the Committee, from Elise Mennie: https://ipsmo.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/2014-sept23-asinabka-heritage-rom.docx
• Letter to Domtar Corporation, current lease holders for the lands in questions, which includes extensive background information, from Romola V. Thumbadoo, Coordinator, Circle of All Nations: https://ipsmo.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/2014-sept23-asinabka-heritage-rom.docx

VIDEO – Architect Douglas Cardinal explaining things (10min) Link to watch on youtube

If you have an item you'd like sent out over our list, or if you would like to be removed from this email list, please reply to ipsmo@riseup.net

(you can also unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this email)

~ ~ ~ ~
Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa
http://ipsmo.org
https://facebook.com/ipsmo
Dear Nguyen, Hieu:

Please note that I wish to speak to register my strongest objections to the City of Ottawa's plans concerning the rezoning to permit profit-based plans for an Island that does not belong to either the private developers involved or the City of Ottawa for that matter. Neither does it belong to the province. As it has been said before this land is part of the Algonquin Anishinabeg territory, unceded land. Claimed repeatedly on behalf of the Algonquin Anishinabeg by the late Algonquin Anishinabeg Elder William Commanda.

It has, in fact, been recognized as a sacred site (Asinabka) by the Anishinabeg, for thousands of years. I was there when we met with Domtar representative several years ago. This fact, which they ignored then just as the City of Ottawa appears ready to officially ignore once again, was made to quite clear on this occasion.

And, this fact has been stated by Elder William Commanda in sacred ceremony and on many other public occasions. The Anishinabeg claim needs to be dealt with before any developer or City official goes ahead with development plans, in colonial fashion once again ignoring indigenous claims to unceded ancestral territory.

Perhaps the City of Ottawa could seriously re-think their unjustified & unethical conduct or back-room plans for supporting private interests over Canada's obligations to respect Indigenous Rights and Land Claims to this sacred site, Asinabka, at the present time or any other time. Excluding Aboriginal Peoples from the process is colonial-racist behaviour. And, the City should know that very well.

Please think again before you act.

Sincerely,

Raymond Sunstrum
216, Av. Du Grand-Calumet,
Gatineau, QC    J9J 1L3
(819) 685-1352

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Nguyen, Hieu
To: raysun@videotron.ca
Cc: Zwierczewski, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 10:12 AM
Subject: RE: Asinabka/Victoria/Chaudière Islands/zoning plans
Hello Raymond,

Thank you for your comments. Your correspondence will be added as a written submission on the Chaudiere and Albert Islands Planning Report and will be reviewed by the Planning Committee.

I have added you to my notification list and you will be advised of Council’s decision.

Sincerely,

Hieu

Hieu Nguyen, MCIP, RPP
Planner II | Urbaniste II
Development Review, Urban Services | Examen des projets d'aménagement
City of Ottawa | Ville d'Ottawa

hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca
613.580.2424 ext./poste 26936
ottawa.ca/planning | ottawa.ca/urbanisme

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From: raysun@videotron.ca [mailto:raysun@videotron.ca]  Sent: September 29, 2014 11:35 PM  To: Nguyen, Hieu  Cc: Zwierzchowski, Christopher  Subject: Asinabka/Victoria/Chaudière Islands/zoning plans

Attention: Mr. Hieu Nguyen, Planner
Planning and Growth Management Department
City of Ottawa

September 30, 2014

Re: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands

As a member of The Circle of All Nations, I am writing to register my support for the Vision of the Late Algonquin Elder, Dr. William Commanda, OC, for Asinabka as a sacred site of the Anishinabeg.
I am, therefore, informing you of my opposition to the proposed zoning changes and development plans by Domtar and/or other private interests for these islands. It is my understanding that a lease is not a deed to the property. Besides this is unceded
Algonquin territory, as I understand it.
Consequently, I also wish to be notified of the outcomes of the public meeting and to be added as party to the hearing of any appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board. Please consider this to be my written submission to the City of Ottawa, as extracted from the City of Ottawa Documentation (see below).

1. **I NOTE the following message extracted from the City of Ottawa Documentation**

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Ottawa before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted or the zoning by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Ottawa to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The City of Ottawa Planning Committee Meets this Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:30 am in the Champlain Room, City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa. Please inform Christopher Zwierzchowski at 613-580-2424, extension 21359 of your interest to speak by 4.30 pm October 1; submit written responses by October 1 to Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca or hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca

*I plan to be there.*

From City of Ottawa Documentation: That Planning Committee recommend Council approve:

An amendment to the LeBreton Flats Central Area Secondary Plan to allow for a mixed-use community at 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Islands), as shown on Document 1 and detailed in Document 5; and

An amendment to Zoning By-law 2008-250 to change the zoning at 3 and 4 Booth Street from Parks and Open Space to a Downtown Mixed-Use zone to allow for a mixed-use development and Major Leisure Facility zone on new park lands, as shown in Document 1, detailed in Document 6, and set out in Documents 7 and 8.

**NOTE** – the lack of clarity in the phrase below “under private ownership or use” – Domtar Official (F. Jette) stated in 2007 that Domtar (and previous corporate interests) held a lease in perpetuity, renewable every 20 years, at the leasing cost of $100 a year, since the 1800s at the Chaudiere Island (for additional information on lack of clarity on the land ownership, see the attached Circle of All Nations report of June 21, 2014); note further in the unceded, unsurrendered, unconquered Algonquin territory, crown lands/public lands were leased for projects of public good in the development of the country; with the shutting down of the Domtar Pulp Mill, that use of the old leasing parameters ceased and the lands are now being recommended for privatization.

*It is widely known and acknowledged that Elder William Commanda awaken the
National Capital Region and public consciousness to the fact that this is Algonquin
territory; his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site was developed formally with
thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, endorsed by Algonquin
leadership from both the Ontario and Quebec Communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or
clarification.

Sincerely,

Raymond Sunstrum
216, Av. du Grand-Calumet,
Gatineau, Qc           J9J 1L3
(819) 685-1352

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Dear Sirs,

To be more specific further to my earlier email, my concerns also relate specifically to
Chaudière Island, Albert Islands and environs. I quote from the attached letter and
endorse the views of William Commanda:

"Consistent with his Wampum Belt Indigenous heritage, William Commanda envisioned
a place of reconciliation of First Peoples, the founding nations, (English and French), and
all others in the heart of the national capital region and he worked hard to enlist people of
diverse backgrounds in this plan. In addition to the public space of a “central park” at
Chaudiere Island, and a restored Chaudiere Falls, (once considered second in
magnificence only to the Niagara Falls), he projected a complementary Indigenous
Centre/Hotel and Conference Centre for the Sacred Site of time immemorial: public and
not privatized space. His vision is one of global importance and potential; further, it is
not one without the financial potential of the Golden Goose, with benefits to flow to all."

I ask the committee to do a good job to seek prior, informed and written consent from the
holders of the unceded Algonquin territory…and to address each and every concern
contained in the appended documents before making a final decision. Please confirm
receipt of these emails with reply to all. Thank you.

Do a good job…
Urgent Re: Repatriation of Chaudiere Island

I write on behalf of the Legacy Vision of Late Indigenous Elder William Commanda, regarding the return of Chaudiere Island for the creation of the Asinabka EcoPark at the site of the Sacred Chaudiere Falls. I commence with his words:

William Commanda’s ancestors from Lac Commandant/Lac Papineau, Quebec met the first occupier of this site, Philomenon Wright, at the very beginning of the 1800s, and they asserted the special significance of the place, as documented in Wright’s own papers; the fact that it was considered a sacred site to the Algonquins of this watershed was already affirmed in Champlain’s records in 1613. During the last twenty-five years of his life, commencing with the 1987 Constitutional Debates, William Commanda repeatedly asserted attachment and responsibility in this area.

Consistent with his Wampum Belt Indigenous heritage, William Commanda envisioned a place of reconciliation of First Peoples, the founding nations, (English and French), and
all others in the heart of the national capital region and he worked hard to enlist people of
diverse backgrounds in this plan. In addition to the public space of a “central park” at
Chaudiere Island, and a restored Chaudiere Falls, (once considered second in
magnificence only to the Niagara Falls), he projected a complementary Indigenous
Centre/Hotel and Conference Centre for the Sacred Site of time immemorial: public and
not privatized space. His vision is one of global importance and potential; further, it is
not one without the financial potential of the *Golden Goose*, with benefits to flow to all.
ETC ETC

Re: October 2, 2014 Meeting to address Zoning
Changes on Chaudiere Falls, Victoria Island

A: Re: PROPOSAL IN
IDENTIFYING VICTORIA ISLAND AND CHAUDIERE FALLS AS
'SACRED SPACE’ TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

B: Re: Halt any plans to
allow zoning changes to develop on Chaudiere island,
including Windmill's plan to bring further development
to Victoria island and Chaudiere Falls.

I am
reaching out to you in regards to Victoria Island and
Chaudiere Falls, the land dear to my heart and the heart of
late Algonquin Elder, Grandfather William Commanda.

The
importance of Chaudiere Falls and Victoria Island hold great
spiritual significance both to the Algonquin and to
Indigenous Peoples.

It is a place of our
ancestors and carries many prayers, not only for the
Algonquin and Indigenous Peoples but for the well being of
Canada itself. Victoria Island has memory and prayer deep in
the land, which not only holds the land in balance for the
eco-system and the animals, but for the people that live in
the area. It has a great historical past and recent
archaeology finds document this this in length.
The cultural significance and related stories about Grandfather William Commanda's relationship with the land is well documented.

I would like to bring up a situation that came up this summer:

A group of tourists were in the area of Chaudiere Falls and when the relationship at the site was explained by an elder and visiting Native students, the tourists were rude and made snide remarks. The tourists shrugged them off and said there is nothing here on this property to say this is true and continued eating.

Having spoken with diplomacy and not wanting to make a further issue of it, due to children being present, the elder and Native American students who had traveled from the West Coast for see their heritage left the area dismayed.

In Grandfather William Commanda's long work to bring harmony and peace, he was an Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill. A proud Algonquin and Canadian, he traveled world-wide and touched many people not only in Canada and United States but throughout the world, thus being recognized by Canada with the 'Governor General Order of Canada'. He was loved not only by his people, but by many friends including heads-of-states, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Personally, I have deep love and respect for Grandfather William Commanda and the legacy he left behind. He continues to be a mentor for many people in the world.

As a world traveler and Canadian author, many people ask me about him and wonder why we have no place to come to in Canada to honor him. I am also asked why Ottawa is lagging behind in recognizing this great man and the land upon which is in question is recognized and honored as Algonquin unceded land.

In my travels, I also encounter places of deep spiritual significance for Indigenous people in other lands. For example, in Hawaii, there is a plaque and a Visitor's Center to acknowledge and honor the Hawaiian culture place,
known as 'City of Refuge'. There are plaques placed in sensitive areas to tell people that it is Sacred Area and it is respected.

In searching the 'Vision Chaudiere website' - I was dismayed yet hopeful when coming onto the visioncaudiere.ca information on Canada's Capital Region:

'The Victoria and Chaudière Islands precinct is of extremely significant local and national historical importance. This archipelago at the ancient Chaudière Falls, Ottawa River, Canada’s Capital Region, has served: as a sacred meeting place for Aboriginal Peoples; as the incubator of the resource-based industries which brought about the very development of the Region and of Canada; as a key node on the major transportation route into the interior of this vast land. Today, it is a very special cultural landscape: a natural wonder; a post-industrial brownfield; a collection of intimate, concealed spaces to be explored; a gallery of romantic ruins; a venue for a broad range of watery experiences; a spiritual oasis; a National Treasure.

Ironically, the vast majority of local residents and Canadians in general, know little or nothing about the heritage significance and shrouded beauty of this place. It has no “presence”. Today, the district is derelict and largely cut-off from the public. Important heritage buildings, sites and artifacts are unprotected and disintegrating. Its remarkable natural environment is choked. It is a sad reality for such a hauntingly beautiful, nationally significant site that exemplifies the “Cradle of Canadian Civilization”, sitting on Confederation Boulevard in our Capital.

There is however, a blossoming of interest and opportunity for this natural and built heritage place in the shadow of Parliament’s Peace Tower. This opportunity speaks to the next evolution of the site, in tune with the future as well as the past. It speaks to how the site, symbolically located at the “crossroads” of English, French and Aboriginal Canada, is filled with potential for cultural interpretation, and indeed for the next chapter in its
captivating story.

I am asking the City of Ottawa planning committee to halt any plans to allow zoning changes to develop on Chaudiere island, including Windmill's plan to bring further development.

What is so needed at this time is an acknowledgement that Victoria Island and Chaudiere Island is of National and International interest and be placed on the National Heritage and United Nations International Heritage Site for the protection for future generations.

In addition to my request in asking that this zoning be halted for any further development, I am asking on behalf of all Canadians to please help us in identifying Victoria Island as 'Sacred Space' to the Indigenous People', to help Canadians and visitors alike, know they are walking on Sacred Ground. Perhaps a Plaque from the 'National Canadian Commission stating 'Significance of Spiritual Culture Area for the Algonquin' - 'Please Respect the Area' could be commissioned. This plaque could be designed with a sculptured birch bark canoe and with Grandfather William Commanda's name on it. It would leave a clear mark to the great significance of the legacy this great and humble man of peace and goodwill left behind, not only for all indigenous people but to Canada and the international community and instill pride in Canadians that we are indeed acknowledging a vibrant past and present in First Nations relations.

It was Grandfather William Commanda's dream to see a 'Circle of Nations' come together for peace and re-conciliation in Canada and for this circle for Canada to be a beacon for the world.

Since the National Capitol Commission manages this land which lies on the ancestors of the Algonquin Nation and that Grandfather William Commanda himself stated 'it has always been unceded land', it would be an equally great legacy to honor the
land for all Canadians as a place of peace and pride in the capitol.

Thank you for your deepest consideration,

Sincerely,

Delphine Nova
Algonquin Author
Recipient of Governor General Award for Music

Dear Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Zwierzchowski,

During my 70 years on this planet, I have met a lot of people. One stands clearly above all others for his presence, Grandfather Commanda clearly experienced the worst the Furies could deliver during his early life and yet emerged with a wisdom light years beyond most mortals. I met him only briefly, yet was completely encompassed by his presence, awed by his books, and captured by his vision. With full disclosure, I will state that I have no known indigenous blood in my ancestry.

When I couple my recognition of the Truth that Grandfather Commanda exemplified with my being a lifelong learner who reads copiously all sides of a contentious argument, it has taken me some time to understand the futuristic significance of a decision regarding Victoria Island. To help me understand, I revisited the history as presented in the June 21 article by Romola V. (Thumbadoo) Trebilcock.

As a citizen of Ottawa, I endorse William Commanda's vision. If he is not qualified to speak on the continued significance of Victoria Island, who is? It would be like denying the Father of a movement his due.

It is therefore important that we recognize both the Chaudière and Albert Islands as historical and ongoing sacred places of our indigenous people and imperative that we respect the vision of Algonquin Elder Dr. William Commanda for the surrounding lands.

I acknowledge Windmill Developments to be an environmentally responsible partner. However, applying their wisdom in planning a modern, Western style development on this particular site actually denigrates both their capabilities and the indigenous wisdom because it misapplies their greatest potential. Perhaps citizens who look with blinders at the forward-thinking proposal are rightly excited unless or until they understand the big fatal flaw in this entire process. And most people will not make this connection because they do not truly know - they do not understand the ancient history.
and accompanying visions. Could this plan therefore be considered deceptive because it does not, and probably cannot, truly present the whole historic picture to the decision makers and to a public schooled in small doses of information?

The greater Ottawa area has many alternate sites that could benefit from Windmill's expertise and we could all get behind a plan to modernize an inner city area, for example or to responsibly develop some of the outlying areas where "slash and burn" technics still seem to be applied. William Commanda and Douglas Cardinal should be the visionaries chosen to drive development of the most ancient sacred site known to our indigenous peoples. Instead of either/or, the city would significantly benefit from applying the wisdom of both approaches - only in different areas. That would leave a legacy we could all embrace and showcase true futuristic thinking and planning.

I hope all those concerned in the planning process will give these thoughts fair and just consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Abell

Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace UR Canada)

TO: The City of Ottawa Planning Committee
FROM: June Girvan, Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)

BACKGROUND TO REQUEST (Please refer to accompanying Letter of Request)

SUBJECT: I oppose - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Islands)

WHEREAS, Elder William Commanda, legacy holder of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, carried the spirit and history of his ancestors; and was respectfully embraced as Grandfather, in his Circle, which includes persons of the diverse ancestries who now sing together of Canada as "our home and native land"; and

WHEREAS, Grandfather had a dream; a dream for Canada, centred on the Chaudière and Albert Islands, unceded territory, and ancestral meeting ground of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples who, from near and far, made the water journey ("pilgrimage"), to gather; and

WHEREAS, the cultural and spiritual ("religious") significance of the Chaudière and Albert Islands was known and acknowledge by Samuel de Champlain in 1613 and Papineau in the 1800s, and asserted by Grandfather during Canada's Constitution talks in 1985; and
WHEREAS, Grandfather's dream for Canada is that one day, the Chaudière and Albert Islands would be fully returned to their ancestral identity, as a cultural and spiritual ("religious") gathering place, and in the 21st century be dedicated to peace, unity and reconciliation between and among all Canadians. This includes, First Peoples, Founding Nations, (English and French), and peoples from the four direction on Mother Earth, who now sing of Canada as "our home and native land"; and.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the City of Ottawa gave Grandfather Elder William Commanda the key to city, paying tribute to his dream and acknowledged his plan; and in 2010, the City endorsed his proposal; and.

WHEREAS, unfortunately, Grandfather, was not afforded the sustained support from the city of Ottawa and other necessary political patronage to see his plan realized during his life-time; but dream did not die with him. **We can make it happen;** and

WHEREAS, an idea, recently developed, for other usage of the Chaudière and Albert Islands has precipitate thoughts of rezoning Chaudière and Albert Islands; and

WHEREAS, your Committee has been given a historic and cultural opportunity to do something noble, in the spirit of the 21st century sensibilities and ideals such as the virtue of restorative justice, being pursued through initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; .

**THEREFORE,** we entreat you to seize the opportunity given to you to protect the dream of Grandfather and enable the positive possibilities envisioned for us and our collective future, our collective generation.

We do count on you, members of the Committee, to do the right thing by William Commanda, of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, a man who is Canada's own Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

June Girvan, for Peace, Unity and Reconciliation (Peace U R Canada)

333 Besserer Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. K1N 6B4

(613) 241-0743

junegirvan@rogers.com

October 1, 2014

Gandalf to Frodo, in J.R.R Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings: "All you have to do is to decide what to do with the time given".

**Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada** (Peace UR Canada)

**The purpose of UR Canada** is to pay tribute to the dream of Kindred Spirits, Martin Luther King, Jr, Victorious Child of the Middle Passage, Nelson Mandela of the Xhosa People, the motto of Jamaica, my heritage country: "Out of Many, One People", William Commanda of the Algonquin People of Canada, and all who are in their circle.

**Reconciliation Day in Ottawa,** during Black History Month, acknowledges the pain of past and present conflict and calls upon us to engage in a circle of others, in common cause, to find ways to move forward together to shape a better today and future for our generations. (Children of all ancestries and heritages who now sing together of Canada as "Our home and native land").

**REQUEST TO:** The City of Ottawa Planning Committee,

**FROM:** June Girvan, Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)

**SUBJECT:** I oppose
Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street  Chaudière and Albert Islands).

I hereby request that the City of Ottawa Planning Committee,

- protect the dream of Elder William Commanda legacy holder of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, for the Chaudière and Albert Islands, by not favouring rezoning of this ancestral, sacred (“religious”) space

- take into consideration that,
  - the City of Ottawa paid public tribute to the dream of Elder William Commanda; acknowledged his plan the Chaudière and Albert Islands, and endorsed his proposal;
  - Elder William Commanda was not able to realize his vision during his lifetime, because he could not access the unambiguous good will, economic resources and sustained political patronage from the City or the Federal government for this ancient heritage site;
  - in keeping with the 21st century spirit and ideals (e.g. restorative justice) being pursued in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada, keep the space free and clear of development until such time as,
    - those who are committed to his legacy are in a financial and political position to realise his dream, it on his behalf, as a civic and national memorial to him; and/or
    - those who seek to be developers, are willing to unambiguously commit to Elder William Commanda’s legacy plan for legacy plan for the ancient heritage region.

We, Canadians, you and I and others, are given this opportunity to do something noble, in the spirit of the 21st century sensibilities and ideals such as the virtue of restorative justice, being pursued through initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. I ask you to enable us to seize the opportunity given, to protect the legacy of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples and enable the positive possibilities envisioned for our collective future of generations that is our inheritance from Elder William Commanda.

We do count on you, members of the Committee, to do the right thing by William Commanda, of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, a man who is Canada’s own Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Thank you,
Respectfully submitted by
June Girvan,
Volunteer-in-Chief, Peace, Unity and Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)
333 Besserer Street, Ottawa, K1N 6B4
(613) 241-0743 junegirvan@rogers.com

Please see attached- Backgrounder

Gandalf to Frodo, in R.RR Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings: "All you have to do is to decide what to do with the time given”.

Dear committee, supporters, survivors and immigrants,

My name is Mehrangiz Zaynab Monsef, born in Heart, Afghanistan and currently
residing on the Missisauga Anishnaabe Territory called Nogojiwanong or Peterborough, ON. I am writing to you to ask that you not adopt the proposed plans to develop Chaudiere falls and you not allow for the zoning changes to develop Chaudiere Island, or any other plans that are outside the plans of the Asinabke Indigenous Peace-Building Centre.

There are many fundamental reasons why this sacred/traditional/religious place located on the unceded Algonquin territory should remain as a sacred, traditional religious site and while there are not enough words or the right words to express this in its entirety, I will make the attempt. The next paragraphs outline just a handful of many reasons why this sacred/religious site and any decisions about this sacred site needs to be guided and decided on by the Algonquin Peoples themselves.

**Previous plans and vision for this site**
The visioning and planning for this sacred site has been in place by Algonquin Elder William Commanda and his work with The Circle Of All Nations, A Culture of Peace to reserve this site for The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre, the initial visioning hopes and planning of which dating many many years and eons back. I would like to direct your attention here to the writings that explain this visioning more fully. This excerpt was taken out of a book called ‘Learning from a Kindergarten drop out: William Commanda – Okigkwanong Cultural Sharings and Reflections’ by Ramola Vasantha Thumbadoo (a highly recommended read);

"This is a vision for the healing of the indigenous peoples, the healing of the relationships with all others and the healing of our relationship with mother earth. It is a vision for a place where all the world can find its home. This vision incorporates a hope for Mother Earth and all her children from all over the world in one tiny spot on the globe. It foresees a future where the sacred Chaudiere Rapids can run freely again and can symbolize the reconciliation with the waters; where the concrete clad Chaudiere Island can become a forested wild space in the heart of the country and can serve as a messenger to the rest of the world that we can look for ways to offset the urban concrete & unbalanced heating of earth; where the indigenous peoples can regain their strength and heritage in an indigenous centre dedicated to their development; where they can then share their world, their culture, their food and dance with all others in the spirit of peace building in a conference and banquet centre, and where feet can once again pound their prayers and reverence on the sacred island of fire and the spirit of the pow wows of old ignite and inspire." (pg. 158)

**Religious/Sacred/Spiritual Site**
Just last month I heard the following at the 15th Annual Circle of All Nations Peace Gathering held in Ottawa at the Public Services Alliances Canada on September 21, 2014. I heard Architect and activist Douglas Cardinal say these words that I think are important reminders for us immigrants on this land (I am paraphrasing here): “The Anishnaabe people have allowed people from other countries, cultures, religions to live on the land, share its beauty and what it offers, and allow others to [without discrimination] practice their spiritual beliefs”. So then I ask you why is it that we cannot
protect this right and offer the same thing for the Original peoples and hosts of this nation??

**Human Rights Violation/violation of international laws**

Here are two out of many articles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that you would be violating if you were to allow for this religious site to be developed by Windmill or any other developer, organization/group other than what the Anishnaabe Peoples themselves choose to place or do with this traditional Algonquin land:

*Article 11 (1):* Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing art and literature.

*Article 12 (1):* Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect and have access to privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

**Prior Informed Consent**

Canada has made its share of mistakes, some of which they have apologized for and claim they have learned from. If this is true, then I ask you, why is it that we continue to make decisions for the Indigenous Peoples and make decisions about their lands rather than allowing them to make such decisions. And I ask you why do some of us stand on the sidelines as bystanders and allow such violations to occur?

The visioning that is in place for Asinabke (Place of Glare Rock) is one that is beneficial to us all, including all other living beings like the trees, like the plants, like the animals, like birds, like the insects, like the water and more…

This place is not only a place for the healing of Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island (North America), but it’s also for the healing of all nations. It’s a place or site for sharing all indigenous cultures, values and ideologies, it’s a place to heal relationships with all others, and heal relationships with the earth. And from where I stand, the state in which our world is in right now, we could really use a place like this that promotes racial harmony, peace building and restoring the respect for the earth.

**Personal Reasons**

I have many personal reasons why for the sake of your time I will limit it and share with you only my personal connection and experience standing on this sacred site being first invited to attend and participate in the Paddle for Peace Gathering and what it’s vision stands for.

Over the last two years I have been reading the works of Elder William Commanda, and
more specifically The Circle of All Nations, A Culture of Peace. I find great refuge under his visioning, a vision and place that not only keeps Anishnaabe people in mind, but also all other human beings from all different races, and a vision that also protects and shelters and protects the other beings that give us life who do not have a voice like the water, like the animals, like the land.

There are many challenges and dysfunctions in our world today, we are really at a cross road and the only way we will move forward and ensure that life continues for us and our kids is if we come together in a good way, in a respectful way. We must come together and work together, where each person and each race brings their gifts, their knowledge, and their energies to restore and heal this world. It is then that we can move forward. It is then that our children can move forward in a good way and they will see and learn to do the same for the generations to come.

This place Asinabke and the visioning of This Indigenous Peace Building Centre is something that has been put into place by those that came before us, with the support of the people in the present, but also for my children, and your children, our grandchildren and the future generations. So I ask you why wouldn’t we want a place, a vision, a safe-haven for our future? Why wouldn’t we want a place where our children can feel welcomed and loved, a place where they would be invited to come as they are, and know that there is a place in the circle for them to grow, learn and flourish?!

As mentioned earlier, these are only the things I can see from my limited view/perspective as a non-Indigenous immigrant who has settled on this land and what I have experienced. As you can see there are many reasons that we must protect this place and reserve this place for its rightful purpose while encouraging, supporting and nurturing the development of its plans for the Indigenous Peace-Building Centre to continue as the traditional spiritual meeting grounds that it has been for centuries.

More information on the visioning for Asinabke, Elder William Commanda and The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre can be found at www.asinabka.com

I sincerely thank you for your time, support and respect for this sacred land and it’s beautiful people.

With kind regards.

Mehrangiz

________________________________________

From: Chuck and Janet Commanda

Date: October 1, 2014

Attention: Mrs. Hieu Nguyen, Planner and Mr. Christopher Zwierzchowski, Committee
Coordinator
Planning and Growth Management Department
City of Ottawa

Re: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudière and Albert Islands

We submit this letter in writing as notice of our interest and concerns and objections to the proposals to be discussed at a public meeting tomorrow October 2, 2014. We will do our best to attend the meeting tomorrow but either way we wish to be kept informed of any decisions or other information associated with tomorrows meeting and to be added as a party to the hearing of any appeal including the Ontario Municipal Board.

We are an Algonquin couple. I, Chuck Commanda am an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi First Nation and I, Janet Commanda is a metis with Anishnabe ancestors.

Chuck Commanda: My grandfather is Doctor William Commanda, Algonquin Elder, Officer of the Order of Canada, recipient of the Key to the City of Ottawa and many other awards during his lifetime. He was the founder of a Circle of All Nations an organization based in Ottawa with which I have been active with for many years. I am a master birch bark canoe builder and basket maker thanks in large part to my grandfather.

The need for reconciliation has been underscored by our people for centuries and now it is additionally represented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission who have identified in their interim report the priority for education of Canadians about our shared history and the rich cultures of the Indigenous peoples.

Both Janet and I have spent the last few years working with youth in schools and other settings sharing our rich culture through birch bark canoe building and basket making. The experience has been very rewarding but we see first hand that there is a long way to go to achieve a reconciliation our future generations deserve to live in a world where as my grandfather’s vision directed; A Circle of All Nations a Culture of Peace.

Janet Commanda: I’m concerned that despite a deep oral history and extensive documentation of the sacred nature of these islands to Algonquin and other Indigenous peoples it is proposed to amend the City of Ottawa Official plan and change the zoning by-law from uses that are compatible with that history and conflict with commitments by previous Canadian governments and the City of Ottawa to share and implement Dr. William Commanda’s vision for a National Indigenous Centre and a naturalized park that respects the sacred islands.

These islands have been the source of Indigenous celebrations, prayer and healing activities involving Algonquins, other Indigenous peoples and in recent times people from all parts of Canada and guests from throughout the world. Besides the rich oral history of Indigenous peoples about the sacred nature of this special area in the heart of
Canada’s capital Samuel de Champlain and Philemon Wrights sister among many others witnessed their sacred Indigenous use.

We hope you will respect Chaudière, Albert and Victoria Islands as they should be respected.

Chi Miigwetch,
Chuck and Janet Commanda

October 2, 2014
Re: proposed official plan and zoning by-law amendments for 3 and 4 Booth Street

Dear ladies & gentlemen,

My name is Karen Bisson. I am Métis. I have lived in Ottawa my whole life. I'm am a member of the Circle of All Nations organization and have been working with Algonquin elder William Commanda and his partner Romola for nearly 15 years. I have been involved with many of their projects, including the design of their book, Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout. I also maintain their Asinabka.com website. Grandfather William gifted me with this Eagle feather about ten years ago.

I'm here today in opposition to the proposed official plan and zoning by-law amendments for 3 and 4 Booth Street. Many people are puzzled by this opposition, and some are even outraged at what appears to be more Aboriginal people asking for more land, more than Victoria Island, the land upon which the National indigenous centre is earmarked to be built. What I don't think they fully understand is that the Chaudiere falls has been a sacred place for Aboriginal people for many thousands of years. Chaudiere Island, dry ground upon which to view this magnificent site, was where the people held their ceremonies. It too is sacred land.

The core of the issue at stake here is that the Chaudiere falls and the island have been inaccessible to Native people during its occupation by industry over the past two centuries. The now badly polluted Chaudiere island has recently been discarded by this industry, and the land is set to be sold off to the highest bidder. This is the first opportunity that Aboriginal people have had to gain access to this site in over 200 years, and they are ready to reclaim what is rightfully theirs. This is unceded Algonquin territory, and
moreover, it is a sacred place. The Aboriginal people want to see it restored to its natural order, in keeping with elder William Commanda's vision - a vision he began vocalizing decades ago. A vision that clearly included the Chaudiere Island and falls.

I was here at city hall in 2006 with those who supported William Commanda's case against replacing a 99 year-old hydro turbine at Chaudiere Falls. I believe that one of the reasons we were unsuccessful was because many people simply did not understand the importance of William's vision and, moreover, were unaware of the ancient history of the Chaudiere Falls. This deficiency is still an issue and is one of the critical reasons why this rezoning should not take place. Canadians have the right to know and fully understand the beating pulse that exists in the heart of their nation's capital. They have the right to know that this is an ancient sacred place of power, that it is also the very reason why the nation's capital is here, and that this place of power has a global impact that needs to be understood and protected. The falls may currently be decrepit, and covered over by manmade concrete, and the land may have been poisoned with the industry of nearly 200 years, but don't judge a book by its cover.

For many years, I watched William try to explain the critical importance of this location and of restoring the falls and island to their natural order. Phrases such as "a reconciliation with Mother Earth" and "purifying the lifeblood of our Mother" and "as above, so below" seemed to make many people's eye glaze over with skepticism. But modern men and women of science are coming to understand that indigenous people have a deep, deep understanding of the science and mechanics of nature. While William's people may speak a language that is difficult to understand, it is imperative that we try. We cannot rush into handing this land over for development. Just what is it that we are blindly trying to give away? We must try to understand what the Aboriginal people are asking for, and why.

William never said the falls and the island were JUST for the native people. He said it belonged to ALL the people, and as such, he believed the entire island should be turned into protected park land and restored as much as possible to its original nature. The blueprint for William's vision has been described at length in his book (hold up), in hundreds of articles and at countless gatherings over the years. William put his people's proverbial flag in the ground of this sacred place many, many years ago. This vision was endorsed by the University of Ottawa when William was given an honorary doctorate, by the Aboriginal achievement committee when he was given a
lifetime achievement award, by the Queen when he was given the Order of Canada, by the City when he was given the key to the City of Ottawa, and by countless other organizations who have stepped forward to acknowledge the national treasure that was Algonquin elder William Commanda. I ask of you what William asked of you. Think big. Think much bigger than a few condos and stores. Think of what restoring this land would mean to the Aboriginal people of Turtle Island, and to all Canadians. Think of the growth, the education, the environmental impact of such a gesture. Think of the healing that would occur on so many levels, spiritual, physical, and environmental. And think of the global impact. If you must think dollars, then think of tourist dollars and the high level of attraction of a restored sacred falls, ceremonial grounds and city park. Can the current developers promise this much? I think not. But I will tell you what I was told by Romola yesterday. She asked me to remember Grandfather's way when I came here today. His way of peace, forgiveness and harmonization. She prayed that we would all remember this. And so I ask for your help. Help us to restore balance to this sacred place. Help us give it back to the people... - ALL the people.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak with you.
Sincerely,

Karen Bisson