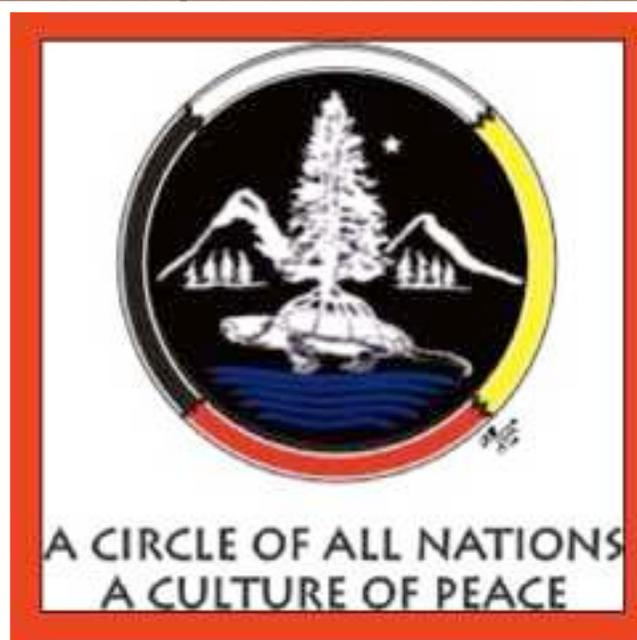


CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS



2017 CAN YEAR END REPORT

2017 was a most special year the William Commanda story. As you may know, he is the legendary Indigenous leader of the Ottawa River Watershed, fully embedded in the history of the National Capital Region and Canada's Capital City. He was born on November 11, 1913, on the eve of the first world war, and consistent with the symbolic message of his Algonquin name, Ojigkwanong, like the Morning Star that guided his ancestors of the Eastern Atlantic Seaboard, he was destined to shine a ray of light and inspiration into an increasingly darkening world of environmental destruction and warfare. Deeply entrenched in his rootedness in his land, language, culture and spiritual heritage, politically astute beyond most others, and genuinely committed to implanting the values of respect and responsibility to Mother Earth and all her creation to all who occupied his homeland and beyond, he hosted his first international gathering in Eganville, Ontario on hundred years after the creation of the Dominion Canada. Carrier of Sacred Wampum Belts, 1913 also marked the end of a very special series of thirteen cycles in his life's work, with the presentation of my doctoral thesis entitled "Ginawaydaganuc and the *Circle of All Nations*: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda." The cornerstone foundation of his vision for healing includes forgiveness, love, respect and understanding. The *Circle of All Nations* is his Medicine Wheel Vision. He leaves us with the question: "How are we going to get there?"



OJIGIWAY - SQUIRREL: SEEDING



WABOOSE - RABBIT: FERTILIZING



MIKINAK - TURTLE: JOURNEYING ON

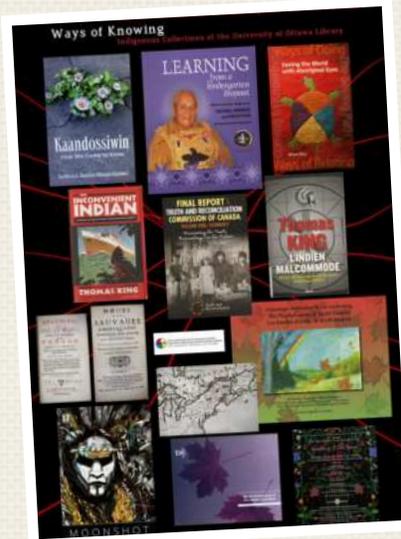
Change Markers of 2017

1. We found place for the inclusion of the wisdom and knowledge of a most inspirational grassroots Indigenous activist, environmentalist, peace builder and healer and his epistemological tools within the western academy - and our *Kindergarten Dropout* is not only an honorary PhD twice over, but our doctoral thesis has opened the door for a deeper exploration of his thinking on multiple academic platforms.
2. His special acknowledgement and embeddedness in the International CASCA-IAEUS Conference hosted at the University of Ottawa has taken him GLOBAL! Conference convenor Dr. Scott Simon, and 50 international delegates visited his Teaching Lodge in Kitigan Zibi - a few are here in the home of Tommy and Evelyn Dewache.



Grassroots and academic representatives participated in the special *Circle of All Nations* workshop at the conference - now three academics will make presentations on Indigenous Justice at the upcoming Law and Society Conference in Toronto; and our other colleagues are entrenching Indigenous voice in UNESCO Biosphere work (Larry McDermott), and India - Stephane Lefebvre, President of Auroville Canada, conducted a workshop on Grandfather William Commanda at the Auroville 50th Anniversary celebrations.

3. His words, "We must come together with one heart, one mind, one love and one determination, to create a Circle of All Nations, a Culture of Peace" greet visitors to the new Canadian History Hall within the Museum of History where William Commanda himself animated the tradition of welcome to Algonquin Land.



KINDERGARTEN DROPOUT

"ABORIGINAL INDIGENOUS BOOK COVERS" - UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA LIBRARY POSTER IN COMMEMORATION CANADA'S 150 BIRTHDAY. IT INCLUDES THE WILLIAM COMMANDA BOOK THAT WAS PUBLISHED A YEAR BEFORE HE RECEIVED HIS FIRST HONORARY DEGREE - FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA! CAN WAS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR ITS EARLY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ABORIGINAL STUDIES PROGRAM



WILLIAM COMMANDA PANEL AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

EVELYN COMMANDA DEWACHE, KAREN BISSON AND I CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PANEL, PART OF THE NEW CANADIAN HISTORY HALL. NOT ONLY DOES IT ENTRENCH WILLIAM COMMANDA IN THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE COUNTRY, BUT VISITORS ALSO LEARN ABOUT HIS TWO CORE MESSAGES OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE: RESPECT FOR MOTHER EARTH AND PEACE BUILDING



ASINABKA

KAREN BISSON CREATED THIS JAM PACKED POSTER ILLUSTRATIVE OF SOME OF THE KEY THEMES THAT HAVE GUIDED WILLIAM COMMANDA'S WORK OVER MUCH OF THE PAST CENTURY. IT ALSO REFLECTS HIS ASINABKA SACRED CHAUDIERE SITE LEGACY VISION., AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE MULTIPLE VOICES COMMITTED TO THIS ONGOING WORK, INCLUDING WORLD RENOWNED INDIGENOUS ARCHITECT, DOUGLAS CARDINAL

Summary of the Key CAN Activities of 2017

A Glimpse into Some *Circle of All Nations* Events and Activities over the course of 2017.

Check out our *Circle of All Nations* Facebook page for over a hundred photos that celebrate these activities with a diversity of people and creatures linked with the work of Grandfather William Commanda – in academic language, evidentiary data!

Several are described in greater detail in earlier newsletters in the Documentaries page of our www.asinabka.com site at [Circle of All Nations E-Newsletters](#)

You will find our key letters, including the letter to the Queen, in our Circle of All Nations June 16 Note.

January 2017 Luma hosted a “Grandpere William Commanda” Peace Event with Association Sacred Circle France (www.chamaneluma.com)

January 2017 *Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout* Book Discussion at Singing Pebble, initiated by Greg McDougall

February 2017 *Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout* is featured in Canada’s 150 birthday Commemorative Poster of the Library of the University of Ottawa

February 2017 *The Awakening* (Jeremy Wright) Documentary Screening and Discussion (Outaouais Wellness Learning Centre, Heart + Soul Light Centre)

February 2017 Indigenize/Decolonize Symposium at University of Ottawa – Presentation of Romola’s involvement in Indigenous justice, Circle of All Nations and research on William Commanda’s discourse and environmental legacy

March 2017 Evelyn Commanda Dewache offers the official welcome at Arc en Ciel The Living International Fashion Show, with Daniel Eji

March 2017 Evelyn Commanda Dewache offers the official welcome at opening of the Global Centre for Pluralism. *Madame Huguette Labelle, a Board Member, who was Chancellor at the University of Ottawa at the time William Commanda was presented his honorary degree, was present.*

March 2017 *Circle of All Nations* Spring Equinox Event *Formal Acknowledgement of 50 years since Grandfather William Commanda’s first International Gathering for Reconciliation and Healing in Eganville Ontario (on the occasion of Canada’s 100th birthday)*

April 2017 American Association of Geographers (AAG) International Conference Boston – Presentation of William Commanda Discourse and Pedagogical Approach – *Going global! AND a special reconnection with Circle of All Nations youth colleague, Mark Lipman!*

2017 Circle of All Nations Year End Report Contd.

Abstract for the presentation on William Commanda discourse at the AAG conference in Boston

- Title:** *Circle of All Nations Discourse of Late Indigenous Elder and Activist, Dr. William Commanda, OC*
- Keywords:** Indigenous, Discourse, Cybercartography, Reflexivity, Critical Geography
- Type:** Paper
- Abstract:** Presentation of a pedagogic framework for the case study analysis of the Circle of All Nations discourse of late Indigenous Elder, Dr. William Commanda, OC, on environment, relationships, critical social justice and peace issues.
The focus of the study is both abstract (whether and how his discourse impacts approaches to environment and related issues); and action oriented (regarding the continued relevance, animation and emergence of the discourse, including via praxis); and it employs a medicine wheel conceptual framework, and four logics of inquiry in the study:
- Performance Mapping: to explore the ideological framework, Indigenous epistemology and Anicinabe underpinnings;
 - Historical/Dialectical: to ground the analysis in the post structural idiom and examine its inseparability from contemporary colonial history, injustice and inequality;
 - Phenomenological: to substantiate an interpretative approach to analysis, inclusive of critical reflexivity and reciprocity;
 - Cybercartographic: to examine multi-dimensional reporting, archival, graphic and emergent elements.
- I explore whether narrative, geo-narrative, critical reflexivity; and cybercartographical digital atlas research methodological tools can be justified and employed to support knowledge generation on environment, relationships and related matters in contemporary times, and explore how such research and scholarship might impact social change.
- Authors:** Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo, PHD Student, Circle of All Nations circleofallnations@sympatico.ca*
- Topics:** Indigenous Peoples
Cartography
Human-Environment Geography

April 2017 Biographie et Documentaire sur Grand-Pere William Commanda, Cercle des toutes les nations – Depanneur Sylvestre avec Sebastien Lemay et Patrick Gravel. We screened Partick's documentary, *Le Portage de Sagesse, et moi, j'ai essayez de parler au francaise!*

May 2017 2017-05-29 Circle of All Nations Letter to Queen
2017-05-29 Letter the Governor General of Canada
2017-05-29 Letter PM and former GGs re Letter to Queen

We asked the office of the Governor General to submit our letter to the Queen. (You can find the correspondence in June E-Newsletter in www.asinabka.com). We have not heard back yet from any of these officials. We find it intriguing to note that on the 6th June, 2018, it was announced that the former US Embassy in Ottawa was to be dedicated to First Nations, Inuit and Metis, and according to the media, there had been no consultation with either First Peoples or other government departments. You will recall that a place to draw the First Peoples together was a part of the William Commanda vision for decades.

May 2017 *Circle of All Nations in CASCA/ IAEUS International Anthropology Conference at the University of Ottawa, including CAN Workshop and Excursion to Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg and Presentation at William Commanda's Lodge on Bitobi Lake with Evelyn Commanda Dewache. Romola representing Circle of All Nations participate in workshop planning from its inception; and as research student with SSHRC project; Karen Bisson Turtle Lodge Trading Post coordinated excursion to Kitigan Zibi and William Commanda's Teaching Lodge and Info Table at the conference. CAN presented Good Enough for Two documentaries to the international delegates.*

2017 Circle of All Nations Year End Report Contd.

May 2017 Viewing of Birch Bark Canoe created by Todd Labrador at Museum of History – *Todd's apprenticeship with William Commanda is documented in Valerie Pouyanne's documentary, Good Enough for Two. Have you seen the display yet? In addition to Todd, Chuck Commanda, Marcel Labelle, and Pinook Smith have been taking Canoe Teachings to educational institutions, the Museum of the American Indian and the Canadian Canoe Museum. As Chuck puts it, it is not only about teaching art and craft, but also teaching about nature and the tremendous stress plant life are under, and about relationship building, healing and reconciliation.*

June 2017 2017-06-09 Circle of All Nations Heritage River Note - and Reflection on the Urgent Call of the Ottawa River in view of unprecedented flooding through the watershed, (which continued even into the fall). You will recall that William Commanda was Honorary Elder of the Ottawa River Heritage River Designation Committee, and an active participant with the late Senator Len Hopkins from its inception.

June 2017 Opening of the Museum of History Canadian History Hall, an incredible dancing structure created by Douglas Cardinal, Architect, and inclusive of a William Commanda panel. While it was ironic that William Commanda was invisible in the formal greetings, George McDonald, (first CEO at the Museum of Civilization) himself informed me that it was William Commanda himself who brought public awareness of Algonquin to the Museum and the National Capital Region in the seventies; he took on welcoming folk to his land like a mission. Most of us have heard him say that his ancestors affirmed this welcome with the Three Figure Wampum Belt, and he was committed to honouring this, here, often under the Morning Star painting created by Cree Artist Alex Janvier in the Douglas Cardinal building. And the present CEO Mark O'Neill, (who knew Grandfather from the time of the Aboriginal Justice Learning Network Conference of May 1997 that I had coordinated), and who came to deliver remarks at his funeral, ensured his constant reminder that "We must come together with one heart, one mind, one love and one determination, to create a Circle of All Nations, A Culture of Peace" greets all visitors to the new Hall, and that a panel honours his work to affirm Algonquin presence, respect for Mother Earth, reconciliation and peace building.

August 2017 A Renewing our Friendship Workshop in Mississippi Mills, hosted by Almonte United Presbyterian and St. Paul's Anglican Church – Circle of All Nations Info Table and Presentation with Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada, and Chuck Commanda, Birch Bark Craftsman.

August 2017 Circle of All Nations presentation at Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity. Yes, Grandfather Commanda was the first recipient of a Diversity Award from this group.

August 2017 Silver Lake Pow Wow – Circle of All Nations won the beautiful Lilac Tree Dream Catcher Staff, created by Trudi Knapp from a tree from his parents garden! – Big work ahead – you know how Tree directs our work (for example, our Circle of All Nations Logo Tree, Grandfather Martin Martinez's Sacred Cane, and Birch) Chuck Commanda canoe on display.

September 2017 Circle of All Nations Table at the Wakefield Harvest Moon First Nations Inuit and Metis Art and Culture Day – organized by Peoples of the Longhouse, Christina Moore and Brad Henry (Tlingit artist and GWC younger friend and telephone buddy).

September 2017 Circle of All Nations Annual Peace event. Here, our special focus was on Indigenous Justice, and in particular the justice legacy of Donald Marshall Junior. We think the event stimulated a new energetic attention to a range of justice issues we have been working on for decades - witness the high profile issues of the past months. As Junior used to say, A Legend Never Dies! And now folk are reviving RJ Work!

2017 Circle of All Nations Year End Report Contd.

Agenda September 30

So this is Grandfather's CAN TEACH Class of 103!

50 Years Since Grandfather's First International Gathering!

19 Years of CAN Peace events in Ottawa!

11th Ottawa Peace Festival!

1. Focus on JUSTICE on the Trail to Peace

2. Honouring Donald Marshall Junior

10.30 - 12.00

Welcome

Wandering Brush/Derek James - Art, Justice and Social Activism - 20 years of CAN art panels; Plus animating

Beothuk history, commemoration and projection

Lucie Ouimet's NFB Doc Ojigkwanong - on Grandfather William Commanda's prison outreach at Lamacaza

12.00 - Lunch

1.00 - 4.00

Indigenous Justice Historical Context - 30 September 1967 and the awakening of the Sleeping Giant - Cliff Summers

"Nature is my style"; Resource Stewardship and the Marshall Ruling - Andrew Costa

First Nations Policing and a Researcher's Overview - Savvas Lithopoulos

Indigenous Corrections - Bob Bourdon

Indigenous and Restorative Justice Overview - Romola

Discussions and Socialization

Documentaries as per our poster!!

November 2017 Submission of my examinable thesis on the Discourse of William Commanda. *Would you believe that on the day that I delivered it, the Carleton Students' Newspaper, The Leveler, featured an article protesting appropriation and colonial lights at the Sacred Chaudiere Falls, Pinook Smith's canoe was on display at the Carleton Library, demonstrating the canoe epistemology theme embedded in the thesis, and Canadian Geography featured an article on the Chaudiere Falls, confirming that the heart of Algonquin territory is no longer invisible, even if it is not yet honoured as William Commanda envisioned.*

November 2017 Grandfather's Birthday Celebration - A special party, and video and art night!

December 2017 I raced off to South Africa to celebrate a most family season there - *and to prepare for the January 15 defence of our thesis entitled:*

Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda. My inspirational thesis Supervisor: Dr. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Founder and Director Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, and globally renowned cartographer who introduced the concept of cybercartography - he met GWC in 2007 and supported this research plan from its inception. My Committee members included Douglas Cardinal, Indigenous Architect, and Simon Brascoupe, Algonquin Artist and Academic.

P.S. A few South Africans helped me with our power point presentation - and things were critiqued in an intriguing way by Kessie Moodley, formerly with the Workers College in SA. He and his colleagues recently produced a book entitled RPL AS SPECIALIZED PEDAGOGY Crossing the Lines (Ed L. Cooper and A. Ralphs). And guess what, many years ago, William Commanda did the opening prayer for a conference on this topic - Recognition of Prior Learning - in Brockville, Ontario - Kessie Moodley was there - and the First Nations Institute of Technology and many Union Representatives.

Thumbadoo/Commanda Thesis Abstract:

Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations:

The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda. Thesis

Supervisor: Dr. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Director Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre

This thesis is a case study analysis of the environmental work of the late 97 year old North American Indigenous elder William Commanda (11 November 1913 – 3 August 2011), a widely acknowledged public figure, guardian of three Algonquin *wampum* belts (sacred mnemonic record-keeping and governance devices including the *Seven Fires Prophecy Belt*, the *Welcoming Belt*, and *Border Crossing Belt*), Officer of the Order of Canada, and recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees.

William Commanda's work was grounded in the fully inclusive concept of *Ginawaydagannuc* that *All is Related* in the cosmic world. When the idea of *We Are All Connected* as people is extrapolated from this *Ginawaydaganuc* representation or metaphor, the word *Anicinabe* (Anishinabe in contemporary usage) assumes primacy as the good or real human being, and as such then includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Those who align with his energetic web contribute to animate William Commanda's informal global eco-peace *Circle of All Nations* community.

I argue that the *Circle of All Nations* was conceptualized by William Commanda as

a bridge-building mechanism and interface to speak to the incommensurability between Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems on environment, relationships and critical social justice and peace issues. The thesis incorporates and examines the pedagogical framework of this discourse.

The focus of the study is both *abstract* (whether and how his *discourse* impacts approaches to environment and related socio-ecological issues); and *action oriented* (regarding the continued relevance, animation and emergence of the *discourse*); and it employs a *medicine wheel* conceptual framework, and four logics of inquiry: performance mapping, historical dialectical, phenomenological and cybercartographic.

It explores how narrative, geo-narrative, critical reflexivity and graphic, cybercartographic geo-narrative, digital atlas and social media methodological tools can be justified and employed to support knowledge generation on environment, relationships and related matters in contemporary times. It also explores how such research and scholarship might impact social change and environmental studies.



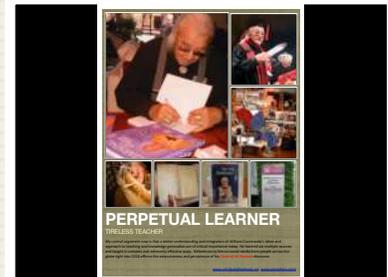
THESIS
Carleton University
Ottawa Canada



THESIS PRESENTATION

Ginawaydaganuc :
The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of
Elder William Commanda and the *Circle of
All Nations*

CONSTRUCTED AROUND THE
CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS LOGO



CONSOLIDATING TWO
HONORARY DOCTORATES

The Central Argument

- Integration of Indigenous relational interface with a living Mother Earth is of critical importance in this Age of the *Anthropocene*
- William Commanda created his *Circle of All Nations* as a BRIDGE to centre and facilitate co-creation of *Law of Nature* knowledge
- The research experience affirms his infiltration infusion and influence to ignite passion

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE

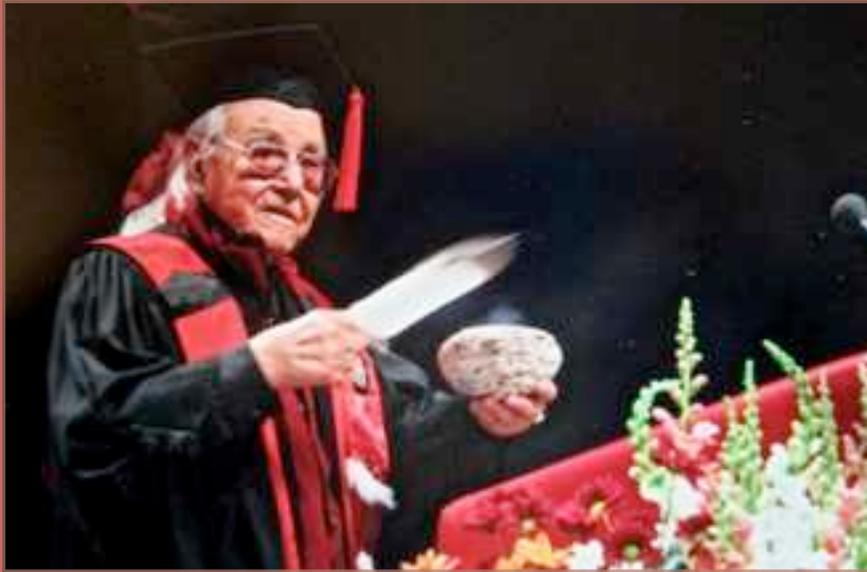
THE THEORY BEHIND MY ARGUMENT?

- William Commanda created his Circle of All Nations, Culture of Peace global eco-community, as a *deliberate bridge* to facilitate the centering Indigenous in the consciousness of people, quite literally, relationally – that is by making them his relations.
- He did this so that he could introduce them to a relational intimacy with his Mother Earth and to facilitate co-creation of knowledge emergent from Indigenous earth-based rootedness.

• World View Sketch: Evelyn C. Dewache

URGENT CALL TO THE
LAWS OF NATURE

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES



2018 & ONWARDS

1. ANIMATING A **WILLIAM COMMANDA PEDAGOGY** - ON MULTIPLE PLATFORMS
2. **CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS TEE SHIRTS** ARE BACK - THEY WERE FIRST PRESENTED IN 1998: AND NOW THEY ARE PART OF THE ACADEMY. WE STRUCTURED OUR THESIS AROUND OUR LOGO!!
4. **JOIN US** ON MARCH 24 - YOU KNOW HOW GWC LIKES A CELEBRATORY BANQUET. WELL HE HAS SENT VENISON!! VIA BRENDA, WHO KEEPS US SPRUCED UP!

20th Circle of All Nations Peace Event in the NCR - Really!!

Remember the Darcy McGee High School Event ??

**JOIN US FOR
THE CIRCLE OF ALL
NATIONS
SPRING
EQUINOX EVENT
SATURDAY MARCH
24, 2018**

506 Stratas Court, Kanata,
ON K2L 3K7

2 pm

**Circle of All Nations
Conversation - Theme
Education**

Please arrive by 2 pm if you
want to participate in the
talking circle

4.30 pm or later

**Circle of All Nations
Socialization and Supper -
Just show up for a come and
go or come and stay!**

circleofallnations@sympatico.ca