

**A SPECIAL CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS  
SOLSTICE 2020 ONLINE FACEBOOK  
GATHERING HONOURING GRANDFATHER**

**WILLIAM COMMANDA**

*A CAN Educational Event to Build Bridges Between Grassroots, Institutions and Academia*

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**CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS FACE BOOK PAGE LIVE  
ONLINE GATHERING!!**

**[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CIRCLEOFALLNATIONS/](https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations/)**

- **JOIN US!! FOR A SPECIAL CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS STORYTELLING SESSION**
- **ADD TO THE CHAT AND SHARE YOUR MEMORIES AND PASSIONS**
- 
- **Honouring Summer Solstice, Solar Eclipse, Legacy of Grandfather William Commanda, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Fathers' Day and Grandfather's Day!!**
- 
- **SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2020**
  - **1.00 - 3.30 pm EST**

**AND WHILE FACEBOOK GETS A BAD RAP FOR MANY THINGS, WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS GLOBAL ONLINE GATHERING AND LEARN AND SHARE ON OUR SEVERAL FACE BOOK PAGES SINCE 2009**

- **WE CONSIDER THIS OUR CYBER WORK AND STUDIES!**



# OPENING PRAYER AND GREETINGS

- Grandfather sent this one! I found amongst his papers yesterday. Author Unknown
  - O, Great Spirit
    - Whose voice I hear in the winds,
      - And whose breath gives life to the universe, hear me
        - I am your child of light
        - I need to know your love
    - Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold
      - The red and purple sunset
    - Make my hands respect the things you have made
      - And my ears sharp to hear your voice



# PRAYER

- Make me Wise so that I may understand the
  - things you are teaching me
- Let me learn the lessons you are hiding under
  - every leaf and rock
- I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
  - But to overcome my greatest enemy, myself
- Make me always ready to come to you with clean
  - Hands and straight eyes
  - So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
  - My Spirit may come to you without shame

# WILLIAM COMMANDA, INDIGENOUS ELDER, WAMPUM CARRIER, HON PHD, OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA



THE LEGACY OF ALGONQUIN ELDER  
L'HÉRITAGE DE L'AÎNÉ ALGONQUIN

*Dr. William Commanda, OC*

11.11.1913 - 03.08.2011

*"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."*

*"Nous devons nous unir avec un seul  
cœur, une seule âme et une volonté  
pour créer un cercle de toutes les  
nations et une culture de paix."*

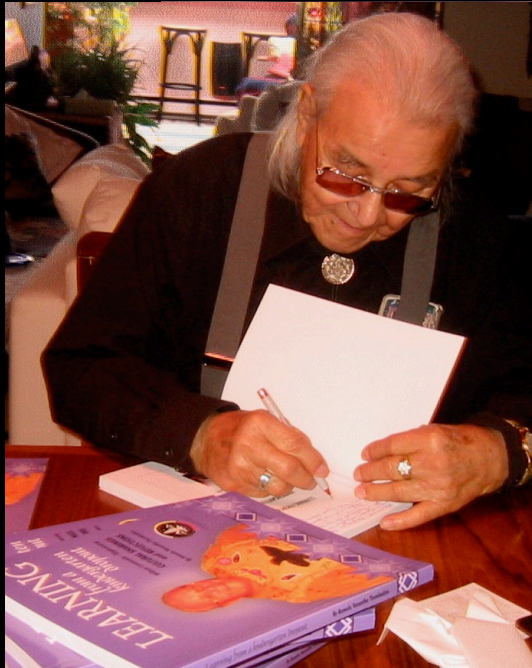


A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS  
A CULTURE OF PEACE

[www.circleofallnations.ca](http://www.circleofallnations.ca) [www.asinabka.com](http://www.asinabka.com)



# KINDERGARTEN DROPOUT, LAND MINES TREATY, V I PRAYER, HON PHD



# INDIGENOUS SPIRIT AND KNOWLEDGE



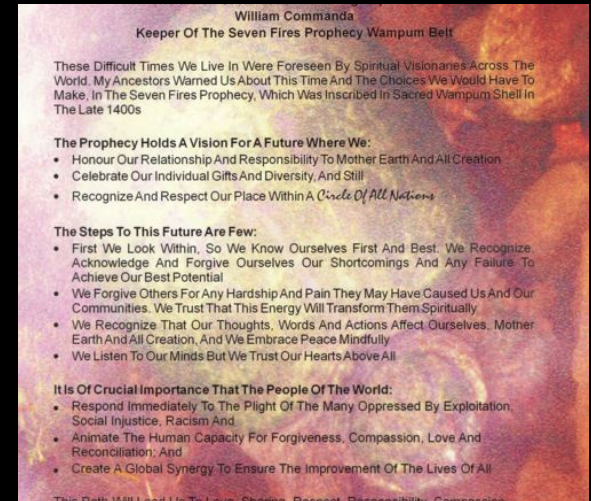
## 1967 CAN GATHERING

- On ancient limestone rocks of the Ordovician period (5m)
- First international multicultural gathering in Eganville, Ontario
- Canada's 100 birthday Message



## SUNBOW FIVE WALK

- Spiritual Elder For Walk for Mother Earth and Indigenous based healing and outreach
- From First Encounter Bay Mass to Santa Barbara California
- E-Journal Storytelling



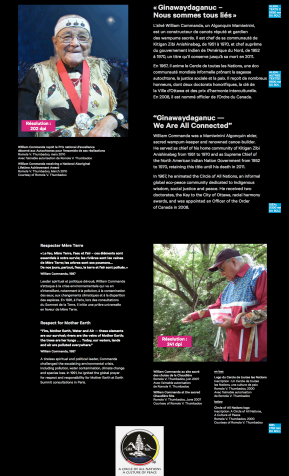
## PEACE TURTLE POSTER

- Created for CAN International Millennium Peace Gathering
- UN Decade for Culture of Peace
- Integration of Earth and Peace
- Reaffirmed for UN ECOSAC project

# WHO IS WILLIAM COMMANDA?

- Carrier of sacred **Wampum** heritage
- Renowned birch bark **canoe maker** and craftsman
- **Political Algonquin leader**, elder, chief, chief the North American Indigenous Nations Government
- Founder of the **Circle of All Nations**, a **global eco-peace-community** dedicated to advancing environmental stewardship and racial harmony
- **Officer of the Order of Canada** and recipient of two **honorary doctorate degrees**
- University of Ottawa Chancellor Michaele Jean (GG) created **Commanda Hall** in recognition of his relevance to **academic knowledge in 2014**
- **Canadian History Hall : Commanda panel and message**

William Commanda, Ojigkwanong  
(Étoile du matin - Morning Star)







[PinkQ](#) was live.

# COSMO-GEOGRAPHY

- June 21 Cosmo-Geography
- Time and Space Centredness:
- Solstice, Eclipse and Cosmic Law of Nature
- Grandpa Alonzo and June 21 – Dr. William Sullivan and Jim Farnham
- Grandpa Alonzo Predicts 1974 floods in the fall of 1973; he dies in March, 1974; the floods came in June 1974 and Grandfather was in a canoe at our campsite on Bitobi Lake; in 2017, both Tommy Dewache and Daisy Jacko reflected on Grandpa Alonzo's way of knowing
- Abuela Margarita reminded us that we are **"COSMIC BEINGS"**

# JUNE 21 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

- In 1945, North American Indian Nations Government architect, Jules Sioui, declared June 21 to be Indian Day
- May Aboriginal Awareness week is associated with Victoria Day and Relationship with Crown as Sovereign Peoples
- National Aboriginal Day June 21, 1996 launched with Governor General Romeo LeBlanc
- Evelyn Commanda Dewache and Circle Prayer at Rideau Hall
- She made people gather in a circle on the grounds and pray as equals
- Aboriginal Justice Learning Network (Donald Marshall Junior, Freda Ens, Grandmother Myrtle Thomas, Susan Swan, Rod Carleton and I) was in attendance



## **SUNBOW FIVE WALK FOR MOTHER EARTH**

- 1994 Miracle, White Buffalo Calf Messenger of contemporary times; eve of the Sunbow Five Walk
- 25th Anniversary of the Sunbow Five Walk for Mother Earth - born of discussion with Tom Dostau at Evelyn Commanda Dewache's kitchen table! June 23, 1995 – February 3, 1996; First Encounter Beach, Cape Cod to Santa Barbara California
- Expecting Steven McFadden and perhaps some walked to join us!
- Ongoing Manifestation of the Prayer of the Walk in annual CAN Spiritual Gatherings 1996 - 2011

# AMONGST THE FIRST WALKERS





# Sunbow Five Walk

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Poster of the Journey



***"I told them that it was time. I told them to look around the world at the floods, the earthquakes, the unexplained diseases, the hatred, and all of that. I told them it was time to walk."***

- Grandfather William Commanda PhD, DC, Wampum Belt Carrier, Canoe Maker, and Founder of Circle of All Nations

The Sunbow Five Walk for the Earth was a spiritual pilgrimage from east to west on Turtle Island (North America) to reenergize the land that had witnessed bloodshed and to awaken the 8<sup>th</sup> Fire, consistent with the Seven Fires Prophecy presented in the 1400s Wampum Belt that Grandfather Commanda carried. The Walk commenced at First Encounter Beach on the Atlantic Coast. Amongst the Anishinabe, there were seven prophets who each shared messages about the future. The 7<sup>th</sup> prophet spoke of people facing the choice of two paths, interpreted as that of materialism and spirituality, which we currently face globally. Should the road of spirituality and respect be chosen, this would ignite an 8<sup>th</sup> Fire that preludes an era evolving around forgiveness and caring. In the early 1990s during the 7<sup>th</sup> Fire, Grandfather Commanda saw this as an opportunity to kindle the 8<sup>th</sup> Fire. The 225 days that spanned the Walk in 1995 and 1996 saw a multiracial and multi-spiritual group of 7 to over 200 walkers journey from First Encounter Beach, Cape Code, MA to the Western Gate at Point Conception, near Santa Barbara, CA. Tom Dostau plotted the route. The word 'Sunbow' refers to a natural phenomenon of full rainbow circle appearing around the Sun and a symbol of hope, while the number 5 refers to the five colours of human beings (Yellow, Red, Black, White and Brown). Naoko Hitomi photographed a cloud feather of hope floating in the sky.

There were a few events that led up to the walk that were seen as signals. On the international stage, Grandfather Commanda led a small Algonquin delegation alongside six other Native American groups to the first UN Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 1993, which they called the Cry of the Earth. However, when Grandfather saw the lack of understanding of the united message presented, he saw it as a sign to organize a prayer walk to reach out to the people directly. Furthermore, in August 1994, another sign of the chaotic and confused nature of the era requiring a walk to raise awareness and unite people, appeared in the form of a white buffalo calf. These two events amongst other symbols and visions that appeared to individuals, increased the urgency for the Sunbow Five Walk.

The 3,700-mile pilgrimage welcomed people of various walks of life for different lengths of time. The group passed through several places of conflict including the Pequot Massacre (1<sup>st</sup> Indigenous war in North America), the Trail of Tears, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassination; as well as sites of intense environmental damage such as Acushnet River with toxic substances like PCBs and Mount Taylor's uranium mine. At these locations, ceremonies and prayers were held to bless the land, water bodies, and living beings, while also praying for forgiveness. There were also individuals, First Nations tribes, and environmental, religious, and social justice groups who meet with the walkers to share their stories, history, and teachings. As foreseen by Grandfather in a vision he sketched at the beginning of the Walk, tensions arose in the form of leadership, gender inequality, and high physical and emotional stress. This led to three factions that struggled to both dominate and unite. For many the Walk remains an evolving journey. The spiritual pilgrimage concluded in Santa Barbara, the site of the most notorious of missions. Grandfather's daughter, Evelyn Dewache, and Chumash leader Liz Dominguez, immersed the Seven Fires Prophecy Wampum Belt in the Pacific Ocean. The walk resulted in increased communication, awareness, and respect for Mother Earth and all living beings while spawning many other walks globally for years to come and the next Commanda influential activity, the Annual Spiritual Gatherings, at his home on Bitobi Lake, from 1996 to 2011.

***"You must walk together and you must forgive and love each other. It is the only way that this walk can work. You must make a sacrifice. Even if someone has done something wrong, love them. You cannot cast them out of the circle. That is not the way."***

- Grandfather William Commanda PhD, DC, Wampum Belt Carrier, Canoe Maker, and Founder of Circle of All Nations

Reference: [Odyssey of the 8th Fire](#) (Steven McFadden) and William Commanda's Archives (R.V. Thumbadoo)



# LIVING IN TIMES OF PROPHECY

- North American Indigenous Prophecy Carriers: Wolf Project/Circle of All Nations Gatherings 1998, 2000
- Grandfather Commanda initiates annual June 21 Pipe Ceremonies at Victoria Island
- Hopi Elder Martin Gashwaseoma shares messages of the Hopi Tablets
- Chief Arvol Looking Horse: White Buffalo Calf Woman Pipe Carrier initiates Global June 21 Peace and Prayer Days

# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN NATION

- Dedicated to the Memory of Jules Sioui and William Commanda
- Friend, Mentor, Colleague of William Commanda, Supreme Chief of the North American Indian Nation Government, a title he held till his death
- 1945 and the INDIGENOUS roots of civil rights activism in North America which inspired the later anti-oppression movement that are sadly still a part of our reality
- This was the precursor to the Native Indian Brotherhood, now Assembly of First Nations

The Government of the  
North American Indian Nation



# JUSTICE – WORLD ON FIRE

- 1945 and the Indigenous Roots of Civil Rights Activism in North America – Jules Sioui, John Chabot, William Commanda and NAING
- To understand William Commanda's own thinking about Indigenous activism and rights, check out his own words on pages 144 – 149 of our thesis (see last page for ref)
- 2002 University of Ottawa Presents Grandfather Commanda with its inaugural Justice Award
- I was asked to talk about William Commanda's Impact on my life – Believe it or not, I just found these papers from 2002 yesterday! I shall read my speech now \*\*
- And now... from mass extinction of Countless Species, Climate Change, Extreme weather, contagion, Coronavirus 19 ... to racism, unrestrained killing, and desperate need for global shift on multiple front
- These are the challenges of our times, predicted by Evelyn Dewache's Grandpa Charlie Smith, William Commanda's father-in-law: the consequence of global injustice



# RACISM AND POLICING

Racism, Policing and Justice: Special Interview with CAN colleague Clayton Sandy, Dakota, Winnipeg

KEY memories:

- 1994 RCMP Policing Conference – First Meeting
- 1996 Aboriginal Policing Forum
- 1996- 98 - Aboriginal Justice Learning Network
- Donald Marshall Junior Collaboration
- Salvation Army Conference in Orillia
- Men's Wellness Conference in Manitoba and William Commanda and Romola and Wampum Belts
- Skype Justice Conference - with William and Romola
- 2016 Ontario CYC conference in Thunder Bay CAN Pres
- Misc - policing, justice, anti racism, bridge building



# THE SEARCH FOR BALANCE IN JUSTICE CONTINUES



# ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA AWARD PRESENTATION FALL 2002

I FELT TRULY PRIVILEGED WHEN CELESTE AND THE ORGANIZING TEAM ASKED ME TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON THE IMPACT ELDER WILLIAM COMMANDA HAS HAD ON MY LIFE.

IN ONE WORD, HE HAS IMPACTED PROFOUNDLY

I LEFT THE OLD SOUTH AFRICAN WORLD OF RACISM AND INJUSTICE AND CAME TO CANADA IN 1970 - AND FOR OVER TWENTY FIVE YEARS WORKED IN THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND IN MANY AREAS - HALF WAY HOUSES, MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM SECURITY PRISONS, PAROLE, SECURITY, PROGRAMS AND POLICY AND WORK FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS IN ABORIGINAL CORRECTIONS, POLICING AND JUSTICE.

BUT AFTER I MET ELDER WILLIAM COMMANDA I BEGAN TO REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT JUSTICE WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT - AND SO I QUIT MY SECURE JOB WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND NOW I WORK FOR HIM. THE HOURS ARE PRETTY TOUGH, SINCE HE NEVER CEASES TO WORK, BUT THE BENEFITS INCREDIBLE!

I FEEL NOW THAT MY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM YEARS WERE MY APPRENTICESHIP FOR MY REAL JOB AS THE ELDER'S SECRETARY AND RECEPTIONIST AND POLICY ADVISOR AND WRITOR AND DRIVER AND BODYGUARD AND SOMETIMES HIT MAN! ALSO, HE LIKES TAKING ME TO HIS MEETINGS AS HIS POLITICAL MESSAGE - I AM THE REAL INDIAN, NOT HIM.

THREE KEY THOUGHTS COME TO MY MIND WHEN I THINK OF ELDER COMMANDA'S WORK IN JUSTICE. OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO, HE ONCE SAID TO PIERRE TRUDEAU, AS THEY PARLED AU FRANCAISE - YOU KNOW YOU SPELL THAT WORD JUSTICE WRONG. NO, NO, MR. TRUDEAU REPLIED - THAT IS HOW WE SPELL IT IN ENGLISH - J U S T I C E . OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS J U S T U S, REPLIED WILLIAM.

NOW COUNTLESS LAWYERS AND ABORIGINAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES HAVE USED THAT PHRASE SINCE, BUT FEW HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRANSFORM IT INTO A VISION OF INCLUSION. WILLIAM COMMANDA HAS, IN HIS CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS. EACH YEAR HE

HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AT HIS HOME, AT HIS OWN EXPENSE AND ASSISTED BY HIS INCREDIBLE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM'S OFFENDERS AND PAROLEES.

HE TAKES HIS HEALING WORK INTO THE PRISONS AND THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD DOCUMENTARY OJIKWANONG FOCUSES ON THE IMPACT OF HIS WORK ON THE INMATES. ONE OF THESE MEN WAS INUIT, AND COULD BARELY UNDERSTAND ENGLISH. THE NEXT YEAR AFTER THE DOCUMENTARY WAS FILMED, HE CAME TO THE ELDER'S GATHERING AS A PART OF A CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM AND HELPED TO BUILD A LODGE. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE CAME ALONE, STILL SOMEWHAT ISOLATED BY LANGUAGE BARRIERS - BUT I NOTICED HE VOLUNTEERED TO CLEAN THE TOILETS - AND I THEN REALIZED HOW PROFOUNDLY HE HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE ELDER - AND HOW MUCH HE FELT A PART OF THE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS, AND HOW MUCH HE WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT.

ELDER COMMANDA JUST TURNED 89 - HE WAS BORN ON 11 NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE DAY - ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR - HIS MOTHER NAMED HIM MORNING STAR - TO MANY OF US A SYMBOL OF LIGHT EMERGING OUT OF DARKNESS. HE WAS BORN TO REMEMBER THE PAST OF HIS ANCESTORS, IN WITH A SINGULARLY UNIQUE POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL STANCE, AS WELL AS TO FORGE A PATH INTO THE FUTURE.

HE CONTINUES TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO BRING HIS VISION FOR A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS - A CULTURE OF PEACE FORWARD TO A NEW LEVEL - IN HIS VISION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEALING AND PEACE BUILDING CENTRE ON VICTORIA ISLAND - A CENTER WHERE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CAN RECLAIM THEIR HERITAGE AND HEAL AND UNIFY AND THEN SHARE THEIR WISDOM AND IDEOLOGY OF INCLUSION AND JUSTICE AND HARMONY WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. AND AS WE STAND ON THE BRINK OF POSSIBLY THE THIRD WORLD WAR, HIS VISION IS SORELY NEEDED BY US ALL.

IT IS NO SMALL HONOUR TO BE SUPPORTING ELDER COMMANDA IN HIS WORK.

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Vision for the Asinabka Indigenous Centre at the Sacred Chaudiere Site and Victoria Island
- 
- Paddle for Peace and the Integration of Peace and Environment Priorities – Daniel Beuchamps paddled in prayer for the Asinabka Vision
- 
- 2012 - 2020 Suppression, Entropy, Syntropy and Pandora's Box at the Chaudiere



# AVA – ASINABKA VIRTUAL ACADEMY!

What was left in Pandora's Box after all the other  
Magic Disappeared?

HOPE

It Springs Eternal!

Bridging Indigenous, Grassroots, Institutions and  
Academy

Special interview with Circle of All Nations  
Colleague Dr. Si Belkacem TAIEB – Thesis: Auto  
ethnography in a Kabyle landscape





# CORE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS PRINCIPALS FROM LEARNING FROM A KINDERGARTEN DROPOUT (2005)

- A spiritual (not to be confused with religious) foundation is integral to the way of life
- 
- The medicine wheel serves as a conceptual tool to access complexity
- 
- *Ginawaydaganuc* relationship operates at multiple levels
- 
- The distinction between *individuality* (the individual is a unique part of the biodiverse eco-community) and *individualism* (the rights of one supersede the rights of the community as free will) is understood
- 
- The individual and community are inextricably interconnected
- 
- Conflict is negotiated with responsibility, respect and generosity to access harmony and balance

# THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

In 2007, William Commanda began advocating on behalf of the American Eel as Species at Grave Risk

[Manashkadosh: American Eel Nomad Fish](#)

Special Storytelling Video of Manashkdosh, the Nomad American Eel

"The Miraculous Life of Pimisi" - Luc-Anne Salm Benjamin Ramirez



# EEL STORYTELLING





# CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS CONTACT DETAILS

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Circle of All Nations, William Commanda, William  
Commanda Legacy Asinabka, Romola's Nature CAN TEACH

Thumbadoo, R.V. (2017). *Ginawaydaganuc and the Circle of All Nations: The Remarkable Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda* PhD Thesis. Ottawa. Carleton University. <https://curve.carleton.ca/aa4e3cbb-5b83-464d-8286-a901fcd77b06>