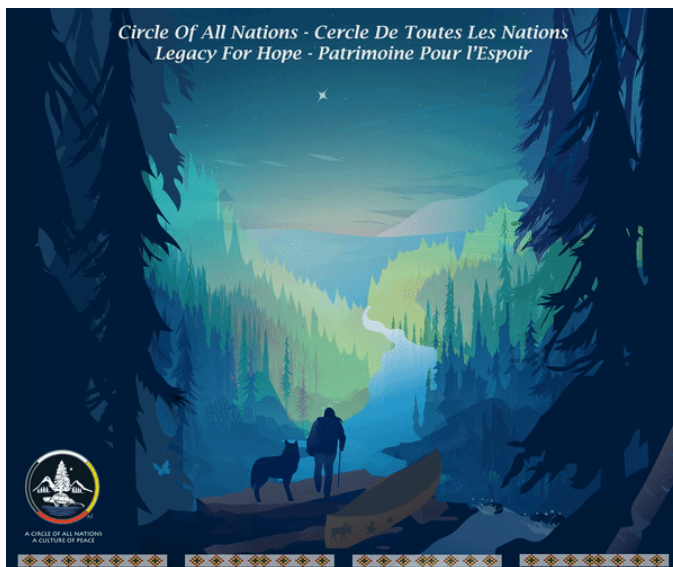


**CAN December 29, 2021 Blog: Professor D. R. Fraser Taylor is appointed Officer of the Order of Canada! He supervised the Romola Thumbadoo/William Commanda doctoral and postdoctoral research of the past decade!**



What a special way to end our formal academic studies and this year of unprecedented challenge. Indeed, we celebrate a Legacy for Hope!



The following blog is excerpted from our Circle of All Nations Facebook page.

SO now, here is some new news re: BRIDGE BUILDING IN ACADEMIA - our thesis and postdoctoral research supervisor Fraser Taylor has just been appointed Officer of the Order of Canada!



I have told you that Grandfather [William Commanda](#) met Professor D. R. Fraser Taylor in the nineties, they met again at a launch of a digital atlas of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University in 2007/8, and at that time we thought it would be great to tell the William Commanda story in this format. Professor Taylor supported us with our initial 2009 joint applications to graduate studies, and then later in 2012 supported my application. Over the past decade he has been the key academic to support our non-traditional research on the work of an Indigenous “Kindergarten Dropout” - and now we have completed doctoral and postdoctoral research on the knowledge, thinking and legacy of Elder William Commanda in his own name!!

Professor Taylor even braved and supported our cybernetic work in the Facebook world of social media and evolving telecommunications/digital technology and we were thrilled to present our bridge building and knowledge generating work (engaging Indigenous, grassroots, ngos, government and academia) at the 2021 IEEE Conference on Norbert Wiener in the 21st Century (21CW) Being Human in a Global Village!

Professor Fraser Taylor, we are deeply grateful for your support and guidance.

NOW Professor Fraser Taylor is of a similar ilk to Grandfather - he just does not stop working! Born and initially educated in Scotland, he began his academic research in Kenya - yes AFRICA! - in the sixties, and then commenced work in the Department of Geography at Carleton University! Today, he serves as the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Professor of International Affairs, Geography and Environmental Studies and the Director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University. He is a recipient of many awards, notably the Killam Prize for the Social Sciences—Canada’s highest academic honour (2014), the Carl Mannerfelt Gold Award—the International Cartographic Association’s most prestigious acknowledgement and first presentation to a Canadian (2013), and the 3M/Royal Canadian Geographic Society Award for Environmental Innovation (2012). He began working with

Indigenous communities well in advance of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada.

In 1997, he defined and thereafter developed the concept and domain of Cybercartography - and just this December, 2021, we made three presentations related to his work at the 30th Anniversary of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) Conference hosted in Italy - he had served twice as President of the ICA. And, thanks to his support and interest, we were able to present Elder William Commaneda's "cybernetic cognitive/mind mapping" thinking to this group of cartography experts.

Yes, 70 years of academic research and innovation and still going!

The Governor General's office released this press release this morning:

<https://www.gg.ca/en/activities/2021/governor-general-announces-135-new-appointments-order-canada>

Here's the article on Carleton's Research website: <https://research.carleton.ca/story/carletons-fraser-taylor-named-to-the-order-of-canada/>

Carleton Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and other colleagues will be interested!

CONGRATULATIONS Professor Fraser Taylor - we are indeed proud of this honour, grateful for your interest and support of Grandfather William Commanda's work and we look forward to further advances with our work together.