

**A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS PRESENTATION ON
INDIGENOUS ELDER WILLIAM COMMANDA**

SPECIAL DECEMBER 21 SOLSTICE EVENT PART 1

CAN Facebook Live Video Event

Winter Solstice December 21, 2020

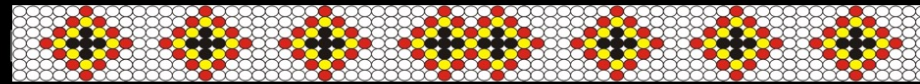
Romola V. Thumbadoo, PhD

Coordinator, Circle of All Nations,

SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Research Associate Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre

Carleton University Romolavt@gmail.com



Grandfather William Commanda 2020

A GeoCosmic Reflection created by Miduran Murugathasan for *Circle of All Nations* ©

Iconic symbols of importance to the William Commanda worldview are incorporated in this image:
Grandmother Moon and Morning Star, invoking the spirit of fire and the cosmic dimension;
Asin and the *Sleeping Giant* commemorating Earth creation in rock;
Air, wind, movement animating water of life emergent from the oxygen rocks of the *Kichissippi* Ottawa River;
Nomadic migratory water creatures honouring ancient *Manaskodosh* Eel, and Turtle Island; and
Canoe symbolizing the enigmatic *Journey of Life*

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."*



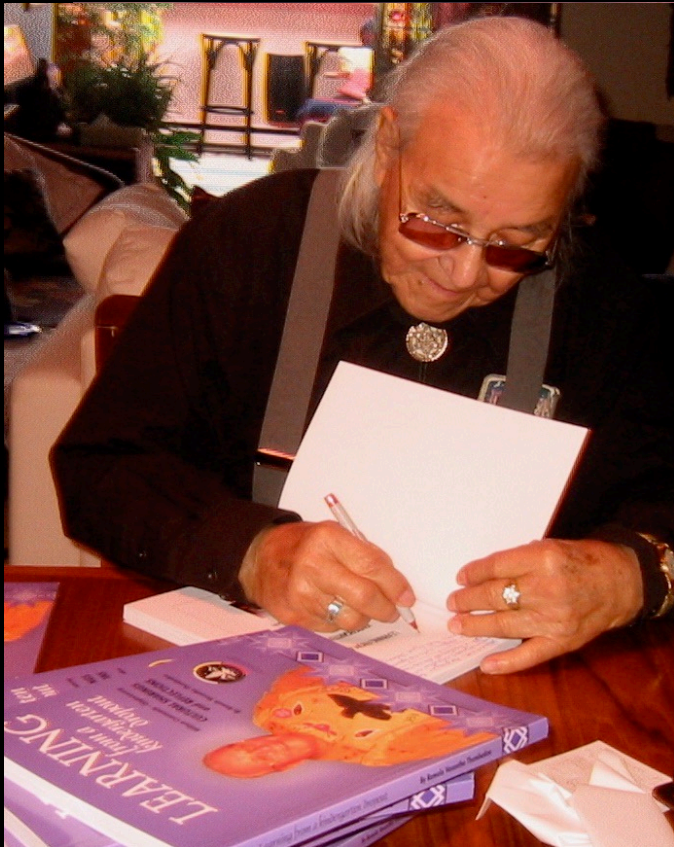
A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
A CULTURE OF PEACE

www.circleofallnations.ca

www.asinabka.com



KINDERGARTEN DROPOUT, PEACE (LMT), MOTHER EARTH (VI), HON PHD



WILLIAM COMMANDA, CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS

- **THEMES**

- **IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS**

- Canoe/Kayak **Journeys**
- Sustainable **Relations**
- **Laws of Nature** and Human Animals
- Nature/Tectonic Abrasion/**Evolution**/Peace
- Circle of All Nations **Bridge Building**
- **Kindergarten Dropout PhD** and OC
- **Spiritual Trajectory** to Knowledge
- 2020 Digital **Mapping** Retrospective and **Reflection**
- **GINAWAYDAGANUC** UBUNTU – All is Related

- **ANIMATIVE ACTIONS**

- 1945 **Activism** and Politics – as in Civil Rights!
- 1967 Canada 100; Eganville Gathering
- 1969 **Gathering**: Kitigan Zibi/Bitobi Lake
- National to Global – 1987, 1991, 1993 – **ME and CC**
- **Agenda 21**: Sustainable Development *1
- Sunbow Five **Walk** 1995 /96
- 1996 RCAP Report – Who will Drink the Water?*
- 1996 CAN **Gatherings** and Non-stop Outreach
- 2000 GlobalEcoPeace Posters and Gathering
- 2006 Waterlife Workshop; **Sustainable Relations***2
- **Asinabka Legacy Vision** for Sacred Chaudiere Site

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

William Commanda
Keeper Of The Seven Fires Prophecy Wampum Belt

These Difficult Times We Live In Were Foreseen By Spiritual Visionaries Across The World. My Ancestors Warned Us About This Time And The Choices We Would Have To Make, In The Seven Fires Prophecy, Which Was Inscribed In Sacred Wampum Shell In The Late 1400s

The Prophecy Holds A Vision For A Future Where We:

- Honour Our Relationship And Responsibility To Mother Earth And All Creation
- Celebrate Our Individual Gifts And Diversity, And Still
- Recognize And Respect Our Place Within A *Circle Of All Nations*

The Steps To This Future Are Few:

- First We Look Within, So We Know Ourselves First And Best. We Recognize, Acknowledge And Forgive Ourselves Our Shortcomings And Any Failure To Achieve Our Best Potential
- We Forgive Others For Any Hardship And Pain They May Have Caused Us And Our Communities. We Trust That This Energy Will Transform Them Spiritually
- We Recognize That Our Thoughts, Words And Actions Affect Ourselves, Mother Earth And All Creation, And We Embrace Peace Mindfully
- We Listen To Our Minds But We Trust Our Hearts Above All

It Is Of Crucial Importance That The People Of The World:

- Respond Immediately To The Plight Of The Many Oppressed By Exploitation, Social Injustice, Racism And
- Animate The Human Capacity For Forgiveness, Compassion, Love And Reconciliation; And
- Create A Global Synergy To Ensure The Improvement Of The Lives Of All

This Path Will Lead Us To Love, Sharing, Respect, Responsibility, Compassion

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 **Michaëlle 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)



«Ginawaydaganuc – Nous sommes tous liés»
L'ancien chef de la bande d'Algonquins de Kikapou, 2004, a été nommé officier de l'Ordre du Canada en 2006. Il est un homme d'origine autochtone et un homme d'origine canadienne.

"Ginawaydaganuc – We Are All Connected"
William Commanda was a Menominee Algonquin elder, second language speaker and renowned canoe builder. He served as chief of his home community of Kikapou 2004. Awarded from 1982 to 1992 and as Chairman of the South American Indian Nations Government from 1982 to 1992, founding the Circle of All Nations in 1982.

Respect for Mother Earth
"The Mother Earth, Water and Fire – our elements and our life" is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life.

Directrice Mère Terre
"La Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air – nos éléments et notre vie" est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie.



«Ginawaydaganuc – Nous sommes tous liés»
L'ancien chef de la bande d'Algonquins de Kikapou, 2004, a été nommé officier de l'Ordre du Canada en 2006. Il est un homme d'origine autochtone et un homme d'origine canadienne.

"Ginawaydaganuc – We Are All Connected"
William Commanda was a Menominee Algonquin elder, second language speaker and renowned canoe builder. He served as chief of his home community of Kikapou 2004. Awarded from 1982 to 1992 and as Chairman of the South American Indian Nations Government from 1982 to 1992, founding the Circle of All Nations in 1982.

Respect for Mother Earth
"The Mother Earth, Water and Fire – our elements and our life" is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life.

Directrice Mère Terre
"La Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air – nos éléments et notre vie" est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie.



«Ginawaydaganuc – Nous sommes tous liés»
L'ancien chef de la bande d'Algonquins de Kikapou, 2004, a été nommé officier de l'Ordre du Canada en 2006. Il est un homme d'origine autochtone et un homme d'origine canadienne.

"Ginawaydaganuc – We Are All Connected"
William Commanda was a Menominee Algonquin elder, second language speaker and renowned canoe builder. He served as chief of his home community of Kikapou 2004. Awarded from 1982 to 1992 and as Chairman of the South American Indian Nations Government from 1982 to 1992, founding the Circle of All Nations in 1982.

Respect for Mother Earth
"The Mother Earth, Water and Fire – our elements and our life" is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life. It is a message of respect for Mother Earth, Water and Fire, our elements and our life.

Directrice Mère Terre
"La Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air – nos éléments et notre vie" est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie. C'est un message de respect pour la Terre, l'Eau, le Feu et l'Air, nos éléments et notre vie.



CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS DISCOURSE



IDEALOGICAL

ANIMATION/ACTION

MANIFESTATION

WHY STUDY WILLIAM COMMANDA

- William Commanda has been influential on environmental issues at a **global** level in some microcosmic fashion since the 1990 UN Pre-Rio Earth Summit deliberations
- He also positioned his approach in many **contemporary debates** – e.g. uranium, water contamination and megadumps, eels, damming, habitat protection, species at risk, in the process influencing diverse players
- William Commanda is well known for his voice of peace building and reconciliation, grounded in his **Indigenous rootedness on the land**, yet **connected with diverse others**
- These *others* animate his **environmental stewardship and peace** building legacy via the CAN Discourse

- With respect to environment, my research has led me to conclude that there are **limitations to popular contemporary approaches** to the environment – e.g. environmental ethics , deep ecology, feminist geography
- **Acceleration in climate change**, and environmental crises of global impact attest to the urgent need for new, innovative approaches – NOW WE HAVE COVID
- 3 decades after Rio Earth Summit, three things predominate in environmental issues
 - the voice and place of the **Indigenous** and
 - **western domination** of thinking in a “world on fire”
 - **global connections**, and interrelatedness of problems and solutions

OUR RESEARCH – BRIDGE BUILDING!

The central research query focuses on

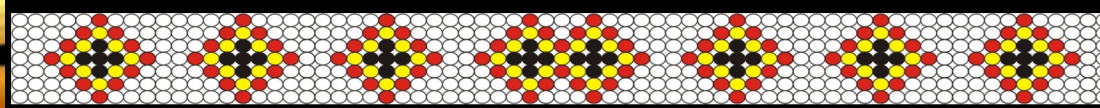
- William Commanda's thoughts on Mother Earth, **environmental and relational issues**,
- how they have informed **contemporary debates** on Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations and thinking and action, and
- whether they can contribute to a greater contemporary **integration** of his Anicinabe (Indigenous) approach to **GRASSROOTS knowledge generation** in academic discourse

TODAY – A FOCUS ON COSMO- GEOGRAPHICAL GROUNDEDNESS...

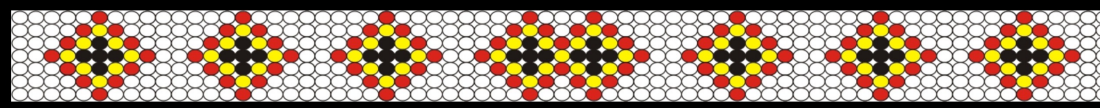
.....IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ANCESTORS

Acknowledging the Special December 21 WINTER SOLSTICE

- William Commanda's thoughts on Cosmos, Mother Earth, Prophecy - spatial and temporal issues, **environmental and relational issues**,
- how they have informed **contemporary debates** on Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations and thinking and action, and
- whether they can contribute to a greater contemporary **integration** of his Anicinabe (Indigenous) approach to **knowledge generation** in academic discourse



“We are not all equal” by Dilara Erver, Carleton University
© Circle of All Nations
July 2020 contribution to the Circle of All Nations commitment to a Culture of Peace, inspired by Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout William Commanda Ojigkwanong Cultural Sharings and Reflections (R. V. Thumbadoo) during times of global climate change, pandemic, isolation, racism and social justice crisis





Donald Marshall Junior
 September 13, 1953 - August 6, 2009

Circle of Life: Donald Marshall Junior

Donald Marshall Junior was born on September 13th, 1953 and passed away on August 6th, 2009. Even though he is no longer with us, his life lessons are truly relevant today.

Here, we have a visual representation of Junior's life journey. The artwork captures the four cornerstones of Junior's life and we used William Commanda's medicine wheel to visually showcase them.

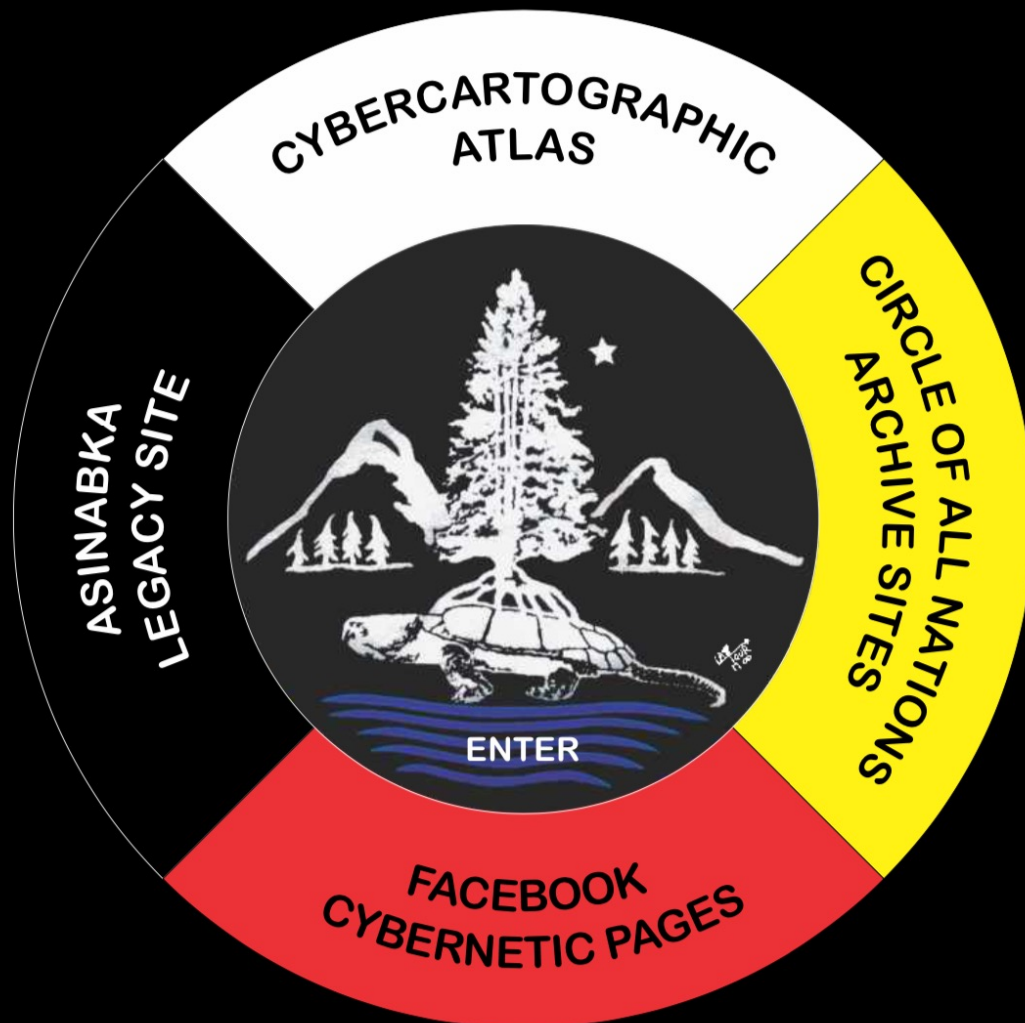
The yellow sector represents vision. Junior found his drive for justice when he was wrongly convicted of murder at the age of 16. The red sector represents community. Junior fought for eel fishing rights by helping to create a treaty for the Mi'kmaq Nation. This is important for the Mi'kmaq community because eel is their main food source.

The black sector represents healing. Junior created summer camps for the youth because he didn't want them to go through the adolescent trauma of being sent to jail for 11 years for something they didn't do.

The white sector represents wisdom. Junior didn't let the wrongful conviction stop him from living his life. He chose to make a difference in his community and shape the next generation.

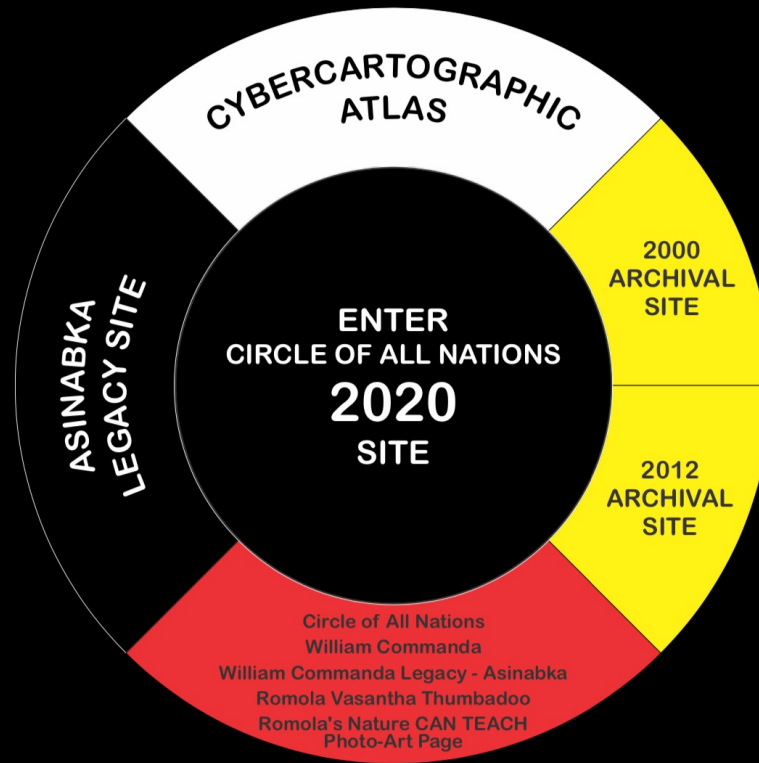
As a result, he was presented with the Wolf Project Award.

Finally, we present Junior in portraiture because it evokes a sense of timeless and the lessons of Junior are something we should hold onto and pass along to the next generation.



WILLIAM COMMANDA LEGACY
A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
GLOBAL ECO PEACE COMMUNITY

All the original material on this website is © 2020
Asinabka and Circle of All Nations
romola@circleofallnations.ca
All rights reserved



WILLIAM COMMANDA LEGACY
A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
GLOBAL ECO PEACE COMMUNITY

All the original material on this website is © 2020
Asinabka and Circle of All Nations
romola@circleofallnations.ca
All rights reserved



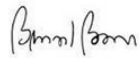
Dear Colleagues,

As we come to the end of one of the most challenging fall terms of our history, I want to thank each and every member of our community for the creativity, flexibility and compassion you have shown throughout these highly disrupted months. We are staying true to our values and finding ways forward through a global pandemic and that is nothing short of incredible. Thank you so much everyone!

Best wishes for the holiday season and new year!

Benoit-Antoine Bacon

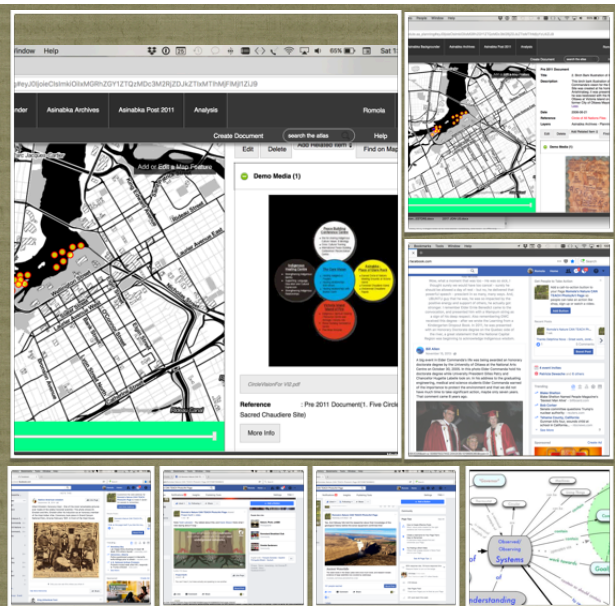
President and Vice-Chancellor



As a tribute to the late Anishinabe Elder Grandfather William Commanda, the Light Keeper is a ceiling installation located in Carleton's Ojigkwanong Indigenous Student Centre. Ojigkwanong is an Algonquin word that means "morning star." The Centre supports First Nations, Inuit and Métis students through their academic journeys at Carleton University.

Designed and built by Manuel Báez, professor at the Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism, along with architecture students and in consultation with the Centre's architect Douglas Cardinal, the installation is based on the theme of light and the fact that Carleton's campus is on traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation.

CYBERCARTOGRAPHY, CYBERNETICS AND ENCORE VIVANT WILLIAM COMMANDA!



CYBERCARTOGRAPHY
Ancient Knowledge Base and Contemporary Application

More than a decade ago, D. R. Fraser Taylor, Director of the Geomatics Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) at the Carleton University, the academic pioneer in the field of cybercartography, wrote that this technology would see cartography applied to a much wider range of topics than had traditionally been the case: "It will also utilize an increasing range of emerging media, forms and telecommunication networks such as the Internet and the World Wide Web. It will be a multidimensional cartography using multimedia formats and is more likely to be an integral part of an information package than a stand-alone product. Cybercartography will also be highly interactive and engage the user in new ways. In organizational terms, it will see new partnerships being created between national mapping organizations, the private sector and educational institutions and the products of cybercartography are likely to be compiled by teams of individuals from very different disciplines and professional perspectives working together" (Taylor and Paine 2009).



William Commanda
August 3 at 5:40 AM · 🌐

Special Day - It was 8 years ago around this moment that Grandfather William Commanda began his next journey - remembering him and his special life and outreach and the family and friends and Circle of All Nations who animated his work - ever grateful for his example and inspiration and his energy which still embraces all of us. I wondered what photo would present this morning - well, here it is! More later!



12 People Reached 1,760 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS CONTACT DETAILS

© Romola V. Thumbadoo PhD Geography
SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Coordinator, Circle of All Nations, 613-599-8385
Legacy Work of Elder William Commanda, OC, PhD
www.circleofallnations.ca; www.asinabka.com
circleofallnations@sympatico.ca

Personal Assistant to The Director D. R. Fraser Taylor
Research and Administration, 613-520-3979
Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Carleton University
www.gcrc.carleton.ca
rvthumbadoo@gcrc.carleton.ca

Find us on Facebook: Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo,
Circle of All Nations, William Commanda, William
Commanda Legacy Asinabka, Romola's Nature CAN TEACH

Thumbadoo, R.V. (2018). *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>