



A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS  
A CULTURE OF PEACE

# **C**IRCLE OF **A**LL **I**NATIONS

**CAN TEACH!**

**T**raining

**E**ducation

**A**dvocacy

**C**ommunications

**H**ealing





***DONALD MARSHALL JUNIOR***

***A PASSION FOR YOUTH***



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)

# KEEPER OF THE SACRED WAMPUM BELTS

Seven Fires Prophecy Belt

*choice*

1700s Peace Belt

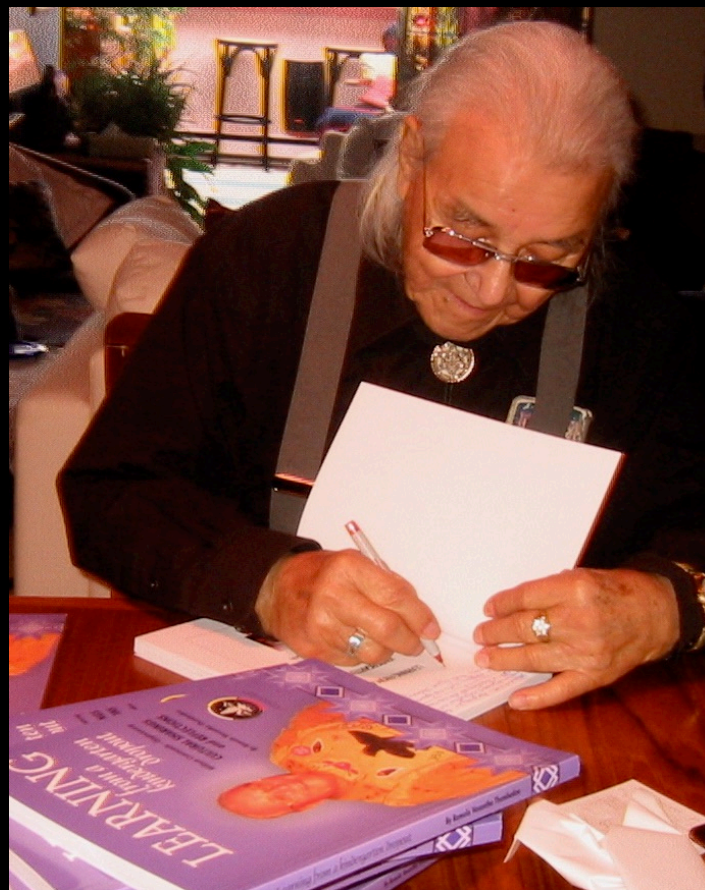
*sharing*

Jay Treaty Border Crossing Belt

*borderlessness*



# FROM KINDERGARTEN DROPOUT ...



# .. TO HON AND RESEARCHED PHD

CAN TEACH!

*Training*

*Education*

*Advocacy*

*Communications*

*Healing*



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=Z9SQVTF  
A3KM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9SQvtFA3kM)

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. The browser address bar displays the URL [youtube.com/watch?v=Z9SQvtFA3kM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9SQvtFA3kM). The YouTube logo and a search bar are visible at the top of the player. The video content is a music video with a red background and black horizontal stripes. The text "FLYING DOWN THUNDER AND RISE ASHEN" is written in large, yellow, stylized letters at the top. At the bottom of the video frame, the text "ONE NATION" is written in blue, stylized letters. The video player controls at the bottom show a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 4:58, and a volume icon. The video title "Miskoionia - Red Gold feat. William Commanda" is displayed below the video player.



# A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS

- The vision and work of Elder Commanda over the past fifty years
- Not an organization or a network with any formal infrastructure; rather, *A Global Eco-Community*
- Priorities – Respect for Mother Earth and Peace Building

## **DIVERSITY AND UNITY**

- A vision for harmony based on values of respect, responsibility, forgiveness, love and compassion
- Focused on honouring and developing one's individual strengths and gifts
- And contributing to the strengths of the community

2020  
The  
Journey  
Continues





**DONALD MARSHALL JUNIOR**  
**OUR CLOSE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS FRIEND**

- 1. Justice**
- 2. Indigenous Rights**
- 3. Reconciliation**
- 4. Youth**



# THE JUSTICE THEME

- Donald Marshall Junior triggered SHIFT in the Justice System
- The 1989 Marshall Inquiry ushered in the new age of INDIGENOUS JUSTICE and he went after TRUTH and JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY himself - the Institutions resisted, and it took 2 inquiries to exonerate him
- He is the Indigenous forefather of the Wrongfully Convicted Initiative (a group inspired by Ruben Hurricane Carter - whose Black name was cleared after years of imprisonment)
- "Indigenous" paved the way for this new breath of accountability that has been of benefit to many Canadians, and thus influential in the emerging culture shift in Canada, with the Indigenous seed thinking being foundational



# AT MY 1997 PRESENTATION FOR CSC IN NOVA SCOTIA





# RACIAL HARMONY AND THE WOLF PROJECT

In 2000, Donald Marshall Junior received the Wolf Award for his courageous efforts in creating awareness about issues of systemic and overt racism, particularly with respect to Aboriginal peoples and the justice system and for his efforts to promote mutual respect between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples through outreach to youth, communities and to justice system representatives.

This Wolf Award was presented to him on May 24, 2000 in Ottawa during a the conference "A Circle of All Nations - A Culture of Peace": the millennium international peace gathering hosted by Elder William Commanda.

Here he joins a few other special recipients you might know - Grandfather William Commanda, President Mandela, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, and Ray Sunstrum who worked with student in the Western Quebec School Board.

*A Circle of All Nations  
A Culture of Peace*



*The Wolf Project*  
dignifying each other as one race:  
"A Human Race"

**THE CAN MILLENNIUM PEACE  
GATHERING AND THE  
WOLF PROJECT AWARD**



# RECONCILIATION AND BRIDGE BUILDING

- Of course, this gesture of reconciliation and peace building was a BIG statement about the leadership character of Donald Marshall Junior - he had been the recipient of much abuse and systemic and over oppression, in particular from police, the court and the correctional system.
- It takes a mighty strong person to do the kind of bridge-building he did with the ABORIGINAL JUSTICE LEARNING NETWORK - unfortunately work not understood or valued enough twenty years ago.

•

STILL we do not forget his commitment to peace building, and the role he played in the development of the vision for the Asinabka Peace Building Centre, and we know he and his family, who suffered much anguish too, will continue to inspire us!

- Further, we like he did daily, live with the memory of his black friend Sandy, murder victim of the original wrongful conviction that took his youth

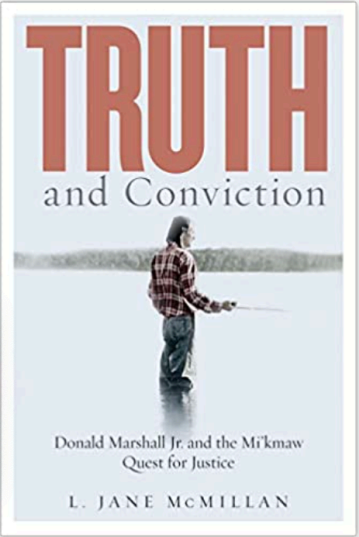
# TREATY RIGHTS

- Here I am quoting a para from TREATY RIGHTS in the CANADIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA about Donald Marshall Junior: Treaty Rights
- In August 1993, after catching and selling eels near Antigonish, NS, Marshall was convicted on charges of fishing out of season and without a licence. That began a six-year legal battle over First Nations treaty rights that went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- In a landmark ruling reached in 1999, the court upheld fishing and hunting rights that the Crown had granted the Mi'kmaq Nation in a treaty signed in 1760. The Marshall case remains an important Indigenous rights ruling affirming the right of First Nations people to earn a "moderate" commercial livelihood from fishing and hunting, subject only to conservation requirements. Marshall, who never considered himself a political activist, said, "I wasn't there for myself. I was there for my people."



# TRUTH AND CONVICTION

[Look inside](#) ↴



**Truth and Conviction: Donald Marshall Jr. and the Mi'kmaq Quest for Justice Hardcover** –  
Nov. 1 2018  
by [L. Jane McMillan](#) (Author)  
★★★★★ [3 ratings](#)

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Kindle Edition CDN\$ 32.87	<b>Hardcover</b> <b>CDN\$ 34.60</b>
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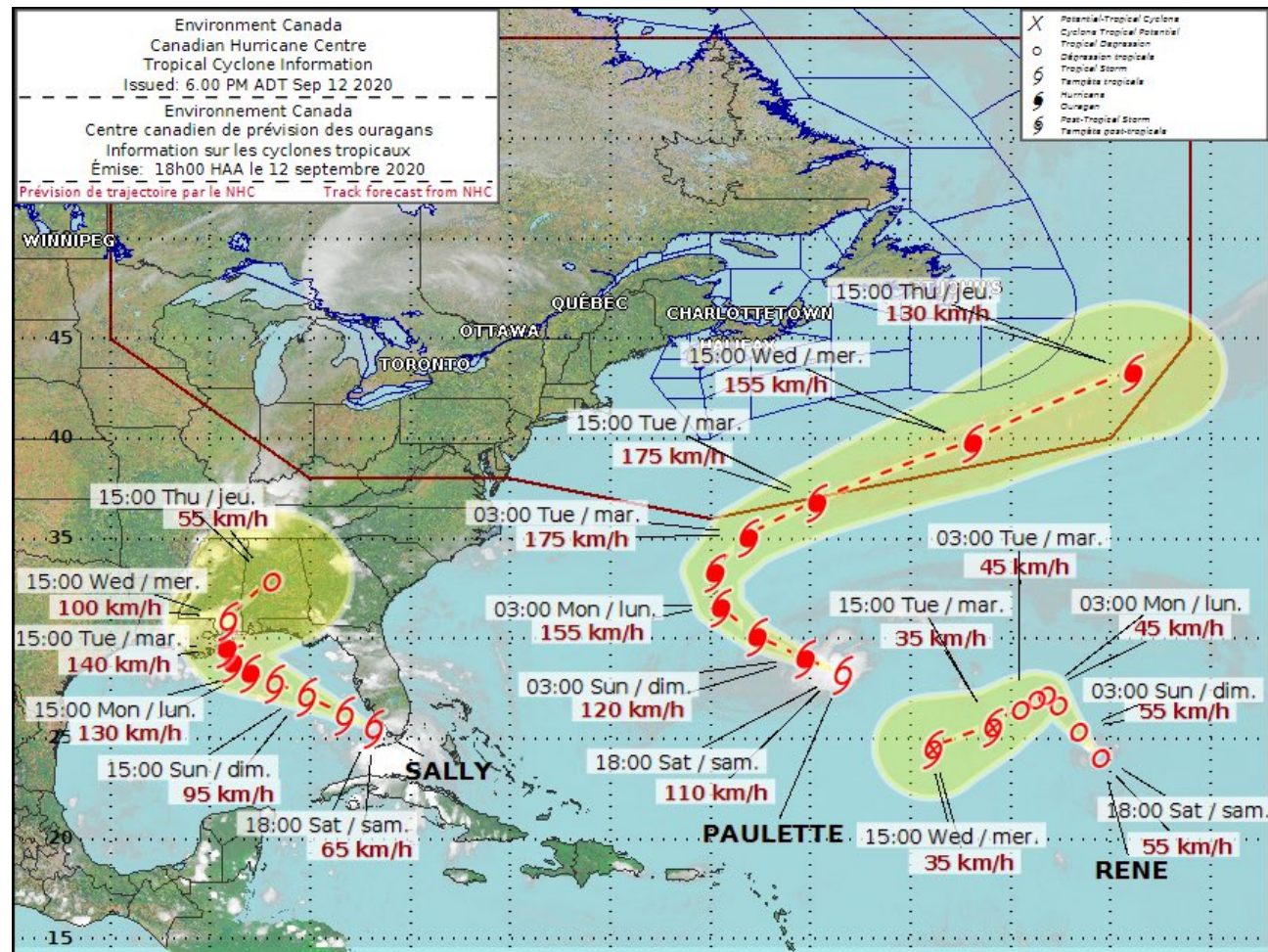
The name “Donald Marshall Jr.” is synonymous with “wrongful conviction” and the fight for Indigenous rights in Canada. In *Truth and Conviction*, Jane McMillan – Marshall’s former partner, an acclaimed anthropologist, and an original defendant in the Supreme Court’s *Marshall* decision – tells the story of how Marshall’s life-long battle against injustice permeated Canadian legal consciousness and revitalized Indigenous law. Marshall died in 2009, but his legacy lives on. Mi’kmaq continue to assert their rights and build justice programs grounded in customary laws and practices, key steps in the path to self-determination and reconciliation.

# INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND UNDRIP

- In a landmark ruling reached in 1999, the court upheld fishing and hunting rights that the Crown had granted the Mi'kmaq Nation in a treaty signed in 1760.
- The Marshall case remains an important Indigenous rights ruling affirming the right of First Nations people to earn a "moderate" commercial livelihood from fishing and hunting, subject only to conservation requirements.
- Marshall, who never considered himself a political activist, said, "I wasn't there for myself. I was there for my people."



# FROM AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS TO TROPICAL CYCLONE SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2020





# IN TORONTO - JR JOINED US FOR THE 2004 BOREAL RENDEZVOUS LAUNCH





# GWC, JUNIOR AND RANDY B. IN HAMILTON WITH MY RELATIVES





# AT THE 2007 CAN AWAKENING GATHERING





# 2009 SUSTAINABLE RELATIONS WORKSHOP ON VICTORIA ISLAND



# A PASSION FOR YOUTH

- Donald Marshall and all his younger siblings lost their youth by the time he was 16, and this weighed heavily on him
- He held a passionate concern for youth, including 'youth at risk'
- He was a key player in the efforts of the Aboriginal Justice Learning Network of the late 1990s to advance an agenda of restorative justice and crime prevention
- We produced a documentary on his Donald Marshall Senior Youth Cultural Camp; now converted to a digital version, we are able to screen this documentary to conclude our workshop



# LAURA CALMWIND AND WORK WITH YOUTH IN NORTHERN ONTARIO



# DONALD MARSHALL SENIOR YOUTH CULTURAL CAMP – SAFE PARK!

- It drew our themes of the Laws of Nature, Indigenous Wisdom, Child and Youth Care Issues, Justice and Peace Building together powerfully.
- Twenty years later, it remains the original *safe park* and a most critically needed activity for Indigenous communities and all others to address the mounting crisis in child and youth care.
- He himself delivered workshops for youth, was a staunch player in the *Circle of All Nations* work to develop Grandfather William Commanda's vision for the Asinabka Indigenous Centre at the Sacred Chaudiere Site, and he continues to inspire our ongoing work



# DONALD MARSHALL JUNIOR AND LANGUAGE RECLAMATION

THIS BABY STARTED  
LEARNING EARLY!





# AUGUST 6, 2009

- Junior's brother Terry called close to midnight to tell us that life was drawing to a close for our friend and we smoked the sacred pipe.
- We were in the midst of our annual spiritual gathering and we were missing Junior – year after year, he had brought so many youth from his community to participate in the Grandfather William Commanda's Annual Spiritual Gatherings
- It was the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my arrival in Canada



# MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

- Circle of All Nations hosted a memorial for Donald Marshall Junior at Victoria Island on September 13, 2009. Gaston Lavoie video taped it for us. Many special folk joined us – I mention only the ones who have departed too – Hon. Paul Dewar, Elder VernHarper, and Elder Bill Brant.
- We know Junior's spirit was with us – as we sat in the strong after noon sun, Elder Bill Brant brought out an umbrella to protect Grandfather – Ray Sunstrum held it – I almost started laughing – the pattern in the umbrella was the same as the motif in the mugs and bag that Junior, his wife and son had give us after their last visit to my home ! That's how Spirit works.
- Junior's mother and family joined us for our 2010 Circle of All Nations Gathering; surely one of the strongest woman of our times, Mrs Caroline Marshall finally found some ease with the deep pain she had been carrying for decades – so she said to me, and the Old Man.











**THE CAN DOOR IS ROUND AND OPEN**





# LEGACY WORK OF WILLIAM COMMANDA

- [www.circleofallnations.ca](http://www.circleofallnations.ca) – 2 archival sites
- [www.asinabka.com](http://www.asinabka.com) – Asinabka/Chaudiere
- [circleofallnations@sympatico.ca](mailto:circleofallnations@sympatico.ca)
- Circle of All Nations Digital Atlas in the making!
- © Romola V. Thumbadoo
  
- September 13, 2020