

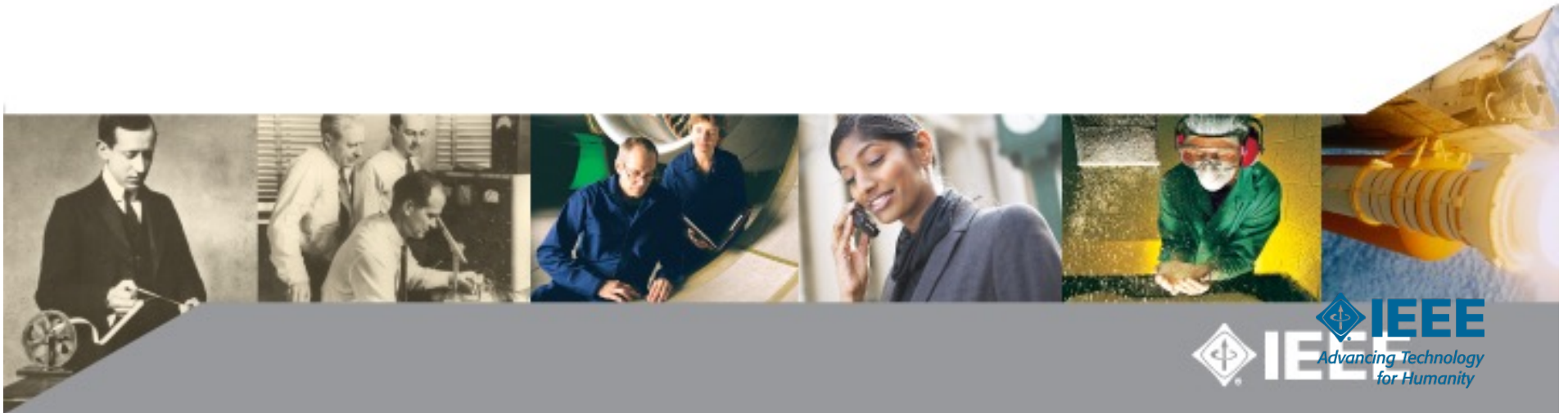
IEEE 3rd Conference 2021 Norbert Wiener in the 21st Century

Legacy Work of Indigenous Elder William Commanda: “Being Human in a Global Village”

Romola V. Thumbadoo, Carleton University, Canada



Event for Students
A Circle of All Nations Presentation
**William Commanda's Indigenous Cybernetic
Navigation into the Age of Information Technology**



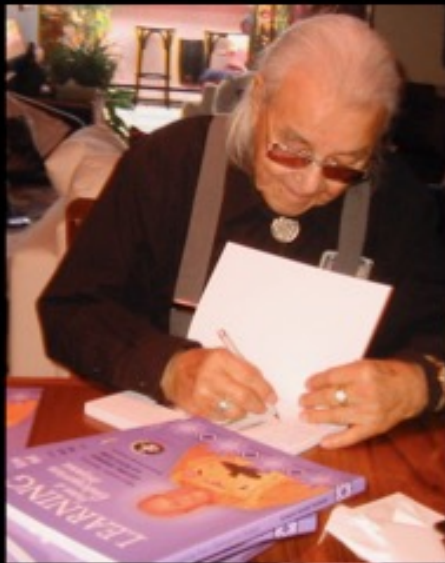
AGENDA

- **Brief introduction to William Commanda, 1913 – 2011, North American Indigenous spiritual leader and knowledge generator, founder of *Circle of All Nations* global eco-peace community**
- **Research is focussed on querying the ongoing relevance of his Indigenous thinking**
- **Cybernetics is viewed through the lens of its etymological roots in steering and navigating**
- **The presentation focuses on the contributions of students to animating his legacy online via contemporary telecommunications and digital technology**

INDIGENOUS ELDER

William Commanda 1913 - 2011

Indigenous Wisdom.



Peace.



Prayer for Land.



Knowledge.



Founder of the Circle of All Nations Global Eco Peace Community
A powerful voice for Mother Earth and Environment and Peace

ACTIVIST, CHIEF, SPIRITUAL LEADER and Teacher

- Throughout his lifetime, William Commanda engaged actively and enthusiastically with evolving telecommunication and digital technology
- From 2000, the work of his unfunded *Circle of All Nations* global eco peace community was animated on-line via three websites, blogs, e-newsletters and facebook presence. In 2005, we published the book, *Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout*
- In 2012, we commenced doctoral research on his work and legacy, and postdoctoral work in 2019

RECIPIENT OF TWO HONORARY Doctoral Degrees

- **Since the onslaught of the Corona Virus Pandemic, on-line work has accelerated via the use of emerging live video technology, 15 publicly accessible events with presenters from 12 countries were hosted, and videos have reached easily over 12,000 people**
- **As well, several undergraduate students have learned about the work of this remarkable elder, and have developed their technological skills and interests to support communication of his work as part of their academic studies**

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS

Cross Cultural Bridge Building

- **This presentation acknowledges their contributions to animating the bridge-building *Circle of All Nations Digital Global Village* via communications technology**
- **On July 6, 2021, almost a decade after his death, the Capital City in Canada, Ottawa, announced the naming of a pedestrian bridge after of the Chief Commanda, attesting to his ongoing cybernetic steering and influence**
- Note for some background under the *Circle of All Nations 2020 Commemorative Video* produced by Karen Bisson
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVLKwKa-oi4&feature=youtu.be>.
- Note also the use of social media
- https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations/videos/?ref=page_internal
- <https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations>

ANIMATING THE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS

Digital Global Village

- Saad Khan prepared documents in two archive websites for the presentation in the digital atlas under development at the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University. Here, Dr. D. R. Fraser Taylor has introduced and developed the innovative concept of Cybercartography, integrating theory, research, technology and publication <http://gcrc.carleton.ca>



* 21st Anniversary of the Circle of All Nations (CAN) Millennium Peace

* One Year since the Initiation of the Facebook CAN Live Video Gatherings!

* And the Work Goes on - Organizing our videos Mapping our global reach Sharing and Learning

Youtube Video Playlists	
Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAN 2020 Part 18: Criminal Justice and Indigenous Justice Themes- Donald Marshall Junior - October 2020- CAN 2020 Part 17: Child and Youth Care and Social Justice Themes- Donald Marshall II - September 2020
Child & Youth Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAN 2020 Part 16: Racial Harmony and Peace Building Themes- 2015 Equitable Education CA Media Sites: Sustainable School/Classroom Sites and Algorithms History- EquiPeace Fund 2020- For the Asinika Indigenous Eco Peace Centre: At the Sacred Classroom Site- CAN 2020 16 December 2020 Presale- CAN 2020 16 December 2020: South Africa Day of Reconciliation Discussion- CAN 2020 Presale: Pre event live video
Racial Harmony /Peace Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAN 2020 Part 15: Opening Prayer and Introduction Mother Earth and Environment Theme- CAN 2020 Part 14: Canva, Arts, Creativity and the Journey On- CAN 2020: Circle of All Nations Solstice 2020 Online Bookend Gathering- CAN 2020 21 December 2020: Nine Year End Discussion- CAN 2020 21 December 2020: Special Solstice Session and Indigenous Knowledge- A Mile Circle of All Nations: Medicine Wheel Discussion
Indigenous Wisdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAN Presentation on Indigenous Elder William Comaneda Perspectives on Climate Change and Environment- Climate Coasting Alliance and Circle of All Nations: A collaborative working
Environmental Stewardship	



- Annika Ang mapped the reach of the Facebook live video events.

SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL STEERING

1995 Epic Journey Across North America



The poster features a decorative border at the top with a repeating geometric pattern. On the left is a circular logo with a tree and mountains, labeled "A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS A CULTURE OF PEACE". The central text reads "Sunbow Five Walk" and "25th Anniversary Commemorative Poster of the Journey". On the right is an illustration of a person holding hands with a child under a rainbow. Below the title is a quote: "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 Commannda PhD, DC, Wampum Belt Carrier, Canoe Maker, and Founder of Circle of All Nations. The main body of the poster contains three paragraphs of text describing the walk, followed by a quote: "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 Commannda PhD, DC, Wampum Belt Carrier, Canoe Maker, and Founder of Circle of All Nations. At the bottom, a small reference is given: Reference: [Odyssey of the 8th Fire](#) (Steven McFadden) and William Commannda's Archives (R.V. Thumbadoo).

Sunbow Five Walk
25th 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 Commannda 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 8th Fire, consistent with the Seven Fires Prophecy presented in the 1400s Wampum Belt that Grandfather Commannda 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 7th 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 8th Fire that precludes an era evolving around forgiveness and caring. In the early 1990s during the 7th Fire, Grandfather Commannda saw this as an opportunity to kindle the 8th Fire. The 225 days that spanned the Walk in 1995 and 1996 saw a multiracial and multispiritual 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 in the Sky.

There were a few events that led up to the walk that were seen as signals. On the international stage, Grandfather Commannda 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 (1st 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 Commannda 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 Commannda PhD, DC, Wampum Belt Carrier, Canoe Maker, and Founder of Circle of All Nations

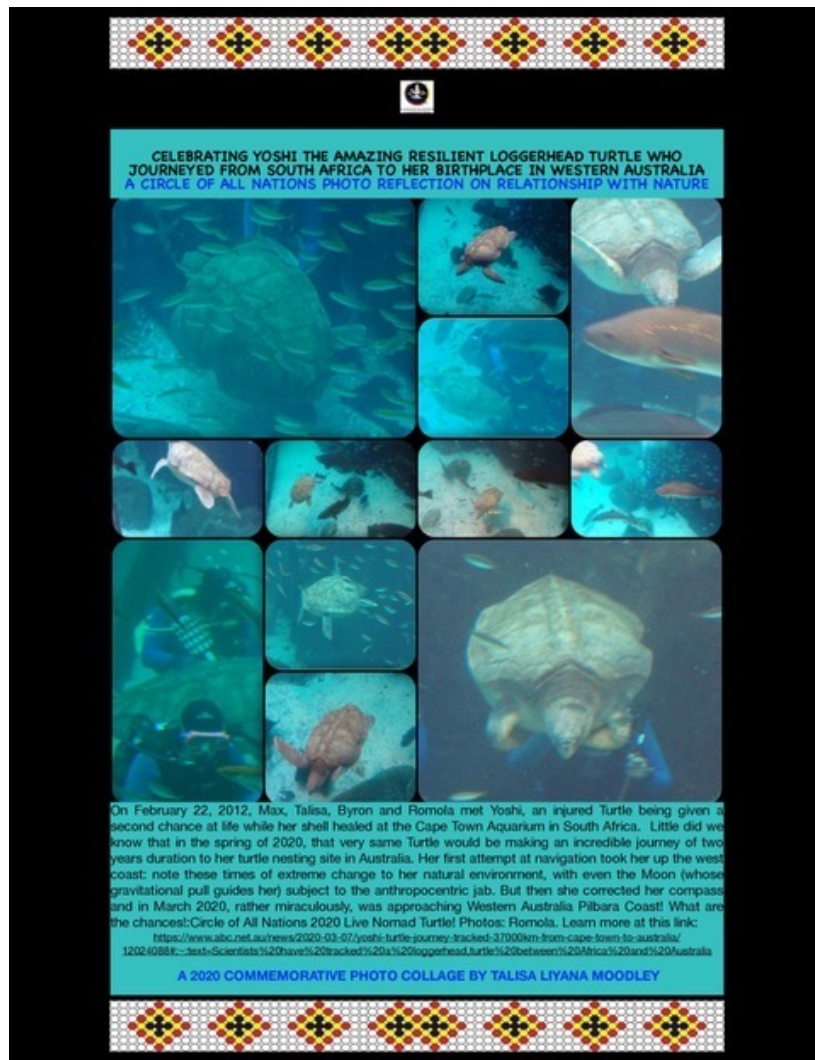
Reference: [Odyssey of the 8th Fire](#) (Steven McFadden) and William Commannda's Archives (R.V. Thumbadoo)

SUNBOW FIVE WALK 25TH Anniversary

Himani Deshande's INFOPOSTER for 1st FB Live Video Event

Reference Digital Book: [Odyssey of the 8th Fire](#) (Steven McFadden)

MOVEMENT: Body-in-Motion and Relationality in Encounter with Nature



This Photo-Infographic by young teacher Talisa Liyana Moodley tracks photos of a wounded Turtle we met in the Cape Town Aquarium in 2012. In 2020, we learned that Yoshi, after a false navigational start up the west coast of Africa, reoriented herself despite shifting environmental changes to reach the nesting grounds in Australia after 2 years

LAWS OF NATURE

Re-presented In Digital Art

Miduran Murugathason's digital art interpretation of the core elements of Elder Commanda's thinking:

- **The Laws of Nature**
- **The Intelligence of Nature**
- **Integration with a Cosmic Spiritual Dimension**



CHALLENGING INJUSTICE Through Art and Research



1. Dilara Erver participated in an informal course on William Commanda (Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout). In 2020 that she painted this image of voiceless agony when she read about the Indigenous Murdered and Missing Women and Residential School Children

2. Emaline Saylor did a Power point Zoom Presentation embedded in our Equinox 2021 Facebook Live event entitled Reproductive Justice (re: marginalized people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofqz9cQB3SE&list=PL2MfFD9VMJOurFOjLJrP0pSRk1XjZ3m0e&index=7> minute 49

Ironically, like the proverbial Canary in Coalmine, Erin Brockovich's article was published about the time we went live Plummeting sperm counts, shrinking penises: toxic chemicals ...

GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

Water Wells in Tharparkar Desert

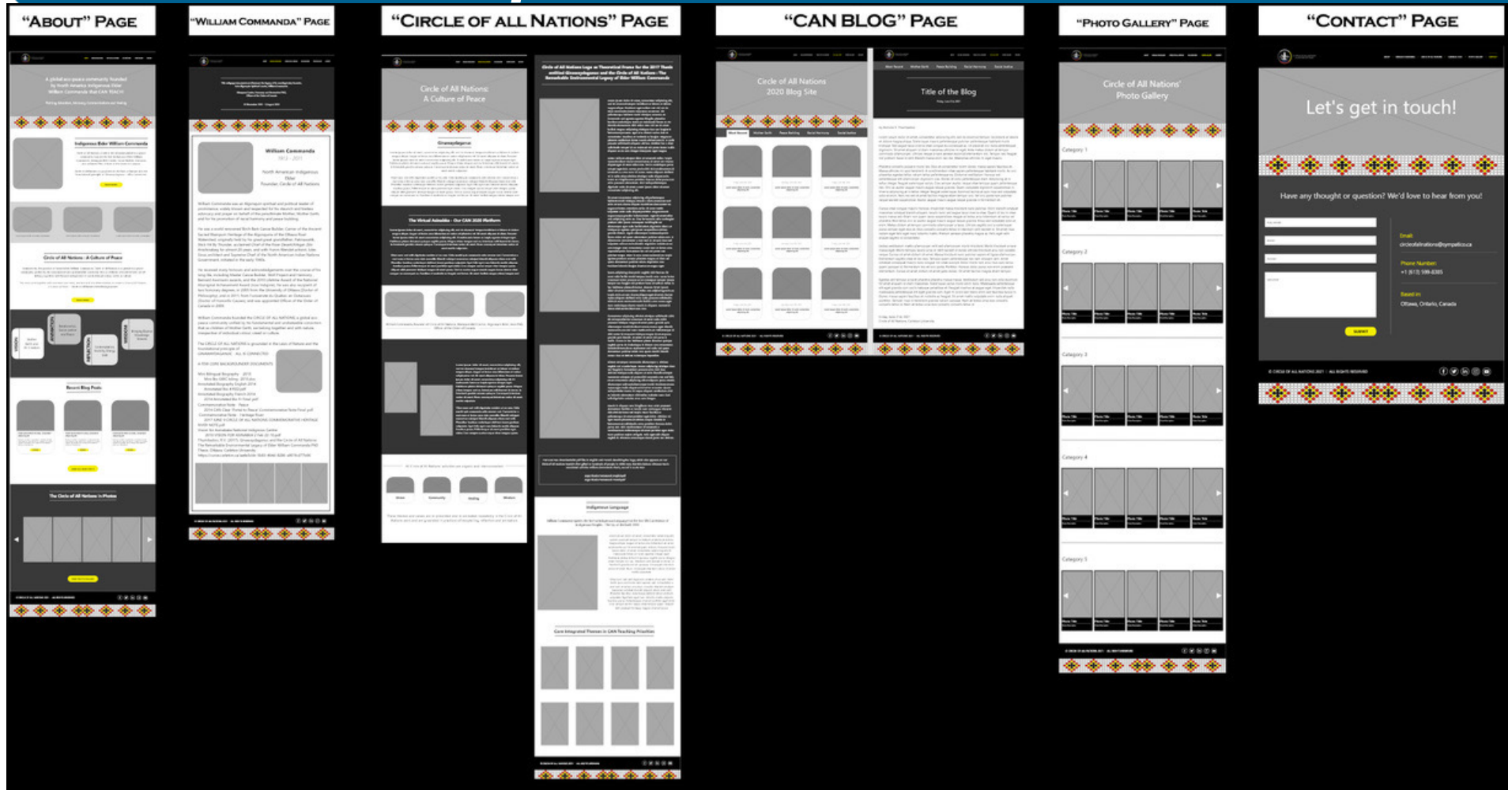
**Jonathan-Wandrille
Bwirukiro created a Circle of
All Nations video on the
work of Pakistani
philanthropist Farhan
Wilayat Butt, drawing on a
zoom interview, facebook
posts and technology.**

**Find the video on our
YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJxFBzx1U60&t=21s>



NEW WEBSITE WIREFRAME Under Development



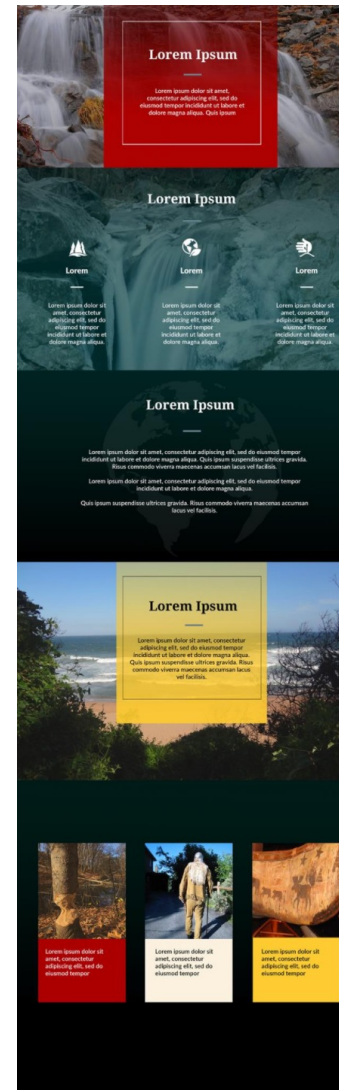
Jonathan-Wandrille Bwirukiro is developing the wireframe for the new Circle of All Nations Website

14

5/6/22

WILLIAM COMMANDA'S Legacy For Hope

Jenny Nguyen created this digital animation drawing from William Commanda's canoe motional heritage, aligned with the cosmic, to inspire a syntropic spin from the despair of our times to his Legacy For Hope



She is now developing the Mood Board for our new website

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS

Landing Page

April Yu, who helped us with FB live videos, created the Landing Page integrating access to the on-line work. It takes people to two archival teaching and one record keeping website, to the new website, to the cybernetic facebook pages and the innovative Cybercartographic digital storytelling living atlas under development



**THANK YOU to IEEE for
this opportunity to share**



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. (2018). Ginawaydaaganuc 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](https://curve.carleton.ca/aa4e3cbb-5b83-464d-8286-a901fcd77b06)

