

**DIGITAL AND MENTAL MAPPING:
WILLIAM COMMANDA AND CIRCLE OF ALL
NATIONS IN CYBERNETICS, SOCIAL MEDIA,
PHOTOATLASES AND CYBERCARTOGRAPHY
2022 CCA (MAY 26, 2022)**

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TOURIST TO GUIDE: DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

GUIDE: NO

TOURIST: WELL, YOU ARE NO GOOD.

GUIDE: BUT I AM NOT LOST

THE DOT.COM ELDER

- William Commanda was our techno elder
- Gifted the earliest Wagner typewriter by the manufacturer
- First to have a television on the rez
- Had the earliest cameras, audio and video recorders, slide show machine, polaroid camera, walkie talkies and overhead presentations machine
- Had the first Iphone
- Hosted a video conference with Hopi Elder in Arizona before Skype
- Created word clouds before the digital technology presented
- Circle of All Nations web and blog site launched in 2000
- On Facebook from 2009

<https://circleofallnations.ca>

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL MAPPING

In the Age of Information, innovative engagement with online communications **technology** to develop

1. **Cybernetic** Motional **Mind Mapping and Navigation**
2. Temporal and Algorithmic Social Media **Innovations** to Animate the **Circle of All Nations Digital Global Village,**
3. Semiotics and Textual Infographics & **Photoatlases**
4. **Cybercartographic** Digital Atlas Live **Archiving**

During the Spring of 2017, the National Capital Region awakened to the power of the Chaudiere Falls, with the unprecedented flooding throughout the Ottawa River Watershed. On the day I delivered my written thesis, Carleton University students were challenging the National Capital Commission's coloured light show at the contested sacred site in the Leveiler publication - Chaudiere has remained place in public consciousness, thanks to Grandfather's tireless efforts.

William Commanda, Spiritual Leader, and Douglas Cardinal, world renowned Architect, worked together for over two decades to develop and advance the vision for the Asinabka Victoria Island/Sacred Chaudiere Site. Donald Marshall Junior, the voice for Indigenous Justice and Rights, was also actively engaged in the work. I call them our Indigenous Triumvirate - they are powerful voices on the critical global issues of our times: Indigenous rights, environment, peace, education, youth, culture, values, responsibilities, justice, art and creativity. They envisioned the fully inclusive global Asinabka eco-peace think tank conference centre at the ancient sacred meeting place.

CYBERCARTOGRAPHY

Ancient Knowledge Base and Contemporary Application

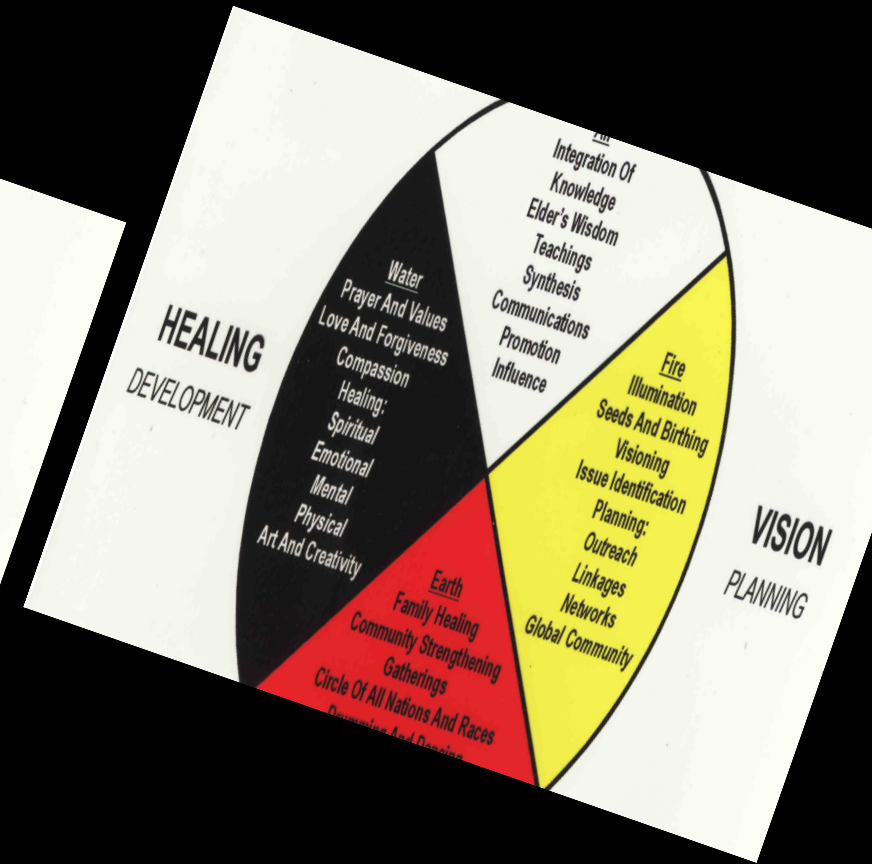
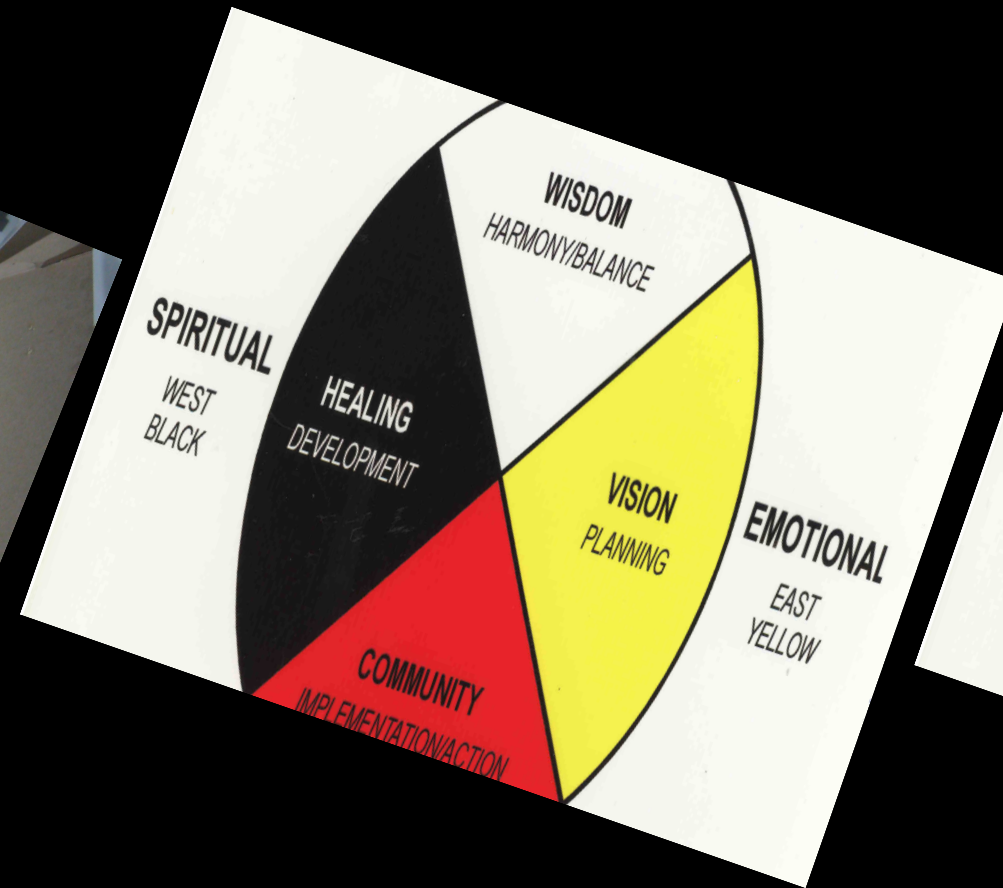
More than a decade ago, D. R. Fraser Taylor, Director of the Geomatics Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) at the Carleton University, the academic pioneer in the field of cybercartography, wrote that this technology would see cartography applied to a much wider range of topics than had traditionally 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 Pyne 2009).

REFRAMING CYBERNETICS TO ITS ETYMOLOGICAL ROOTEDNESS IN STEERING

- World renowned birch bark canoe builder – 75 canoes around the world - 1976 Festival of American Folklife, Smithsonian:
- <http://aifg.arizona.edu/film/1976-festival-american-folklife-5-algonkin>
- Navigational *Cybernetic* methodological teaching tool examined in 2018 Thumbadoo thesis
- 2019/20 reiterative canoe storytelling with Jan Skamby Marsden, then Director, Roskilde Museum re:1981 canoe making project via FB Live Video. At at 3.11.00 – 3.29.17, check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwMBJI7sBIc>
- 2007 *Good Enough for Two Canoe Making Documentary* excerpt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JARzmp9pQPI>
- Environmental immersion and stewardship and Paddle for Peace events at the Sacred Chaudiere Site
- Canoe as iconographic semiotic motional signifier
- **Movement, Knowledge Generation and the Journey of Life**

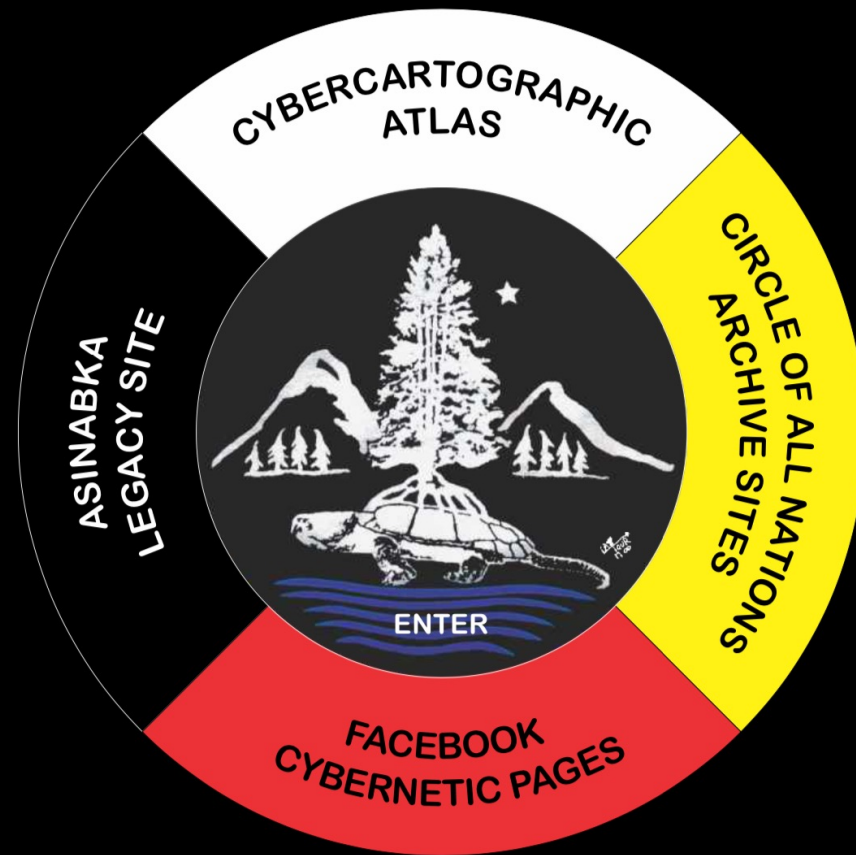


SPIRALING CONCEPTUAL MEDICINE WHEEL



Inspired by mnemonic wampum oral storytelling "words in motion" heritage

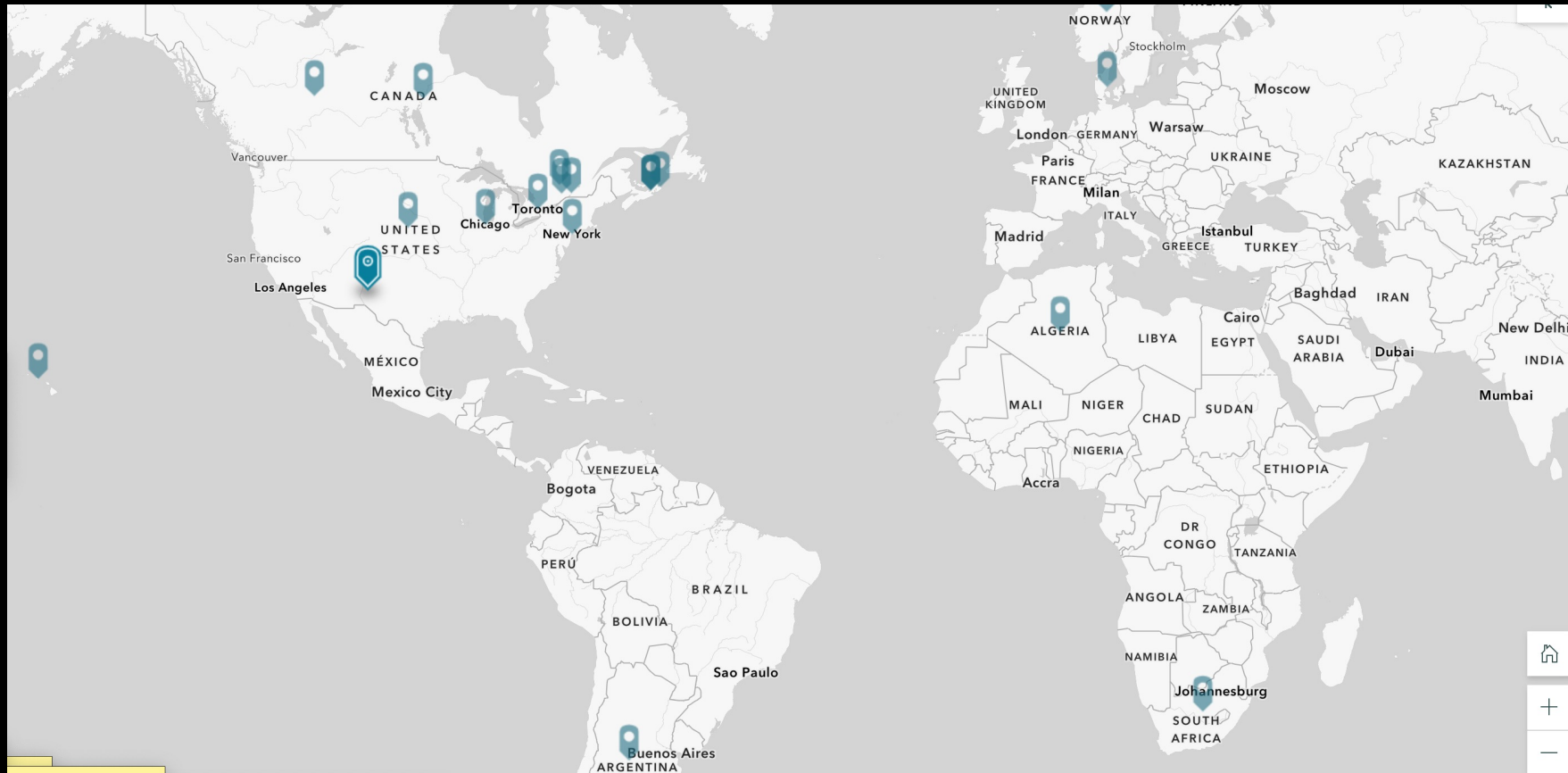
A
**Access All Our Work
Through the
Circle of All Nations
“Metaverse”
Landing Page
Developed in 2020!**



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

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**Digital Global Village Face Book Live Free, Accessible, Educational
Storytelling Public Gatherings with Global Reach – initiated in May 2020
with Onslaught of Covid Isolation and 2019 Ottawa Tornado and Floods**



<https://ieeetv.ieee.org/video/circle-of-nations-romola-vasantha-thumbadoo-ieee-ssit-21cw2021>

PHOTOATLAS SERIES

[HTTPS://CIRCLEOFALLNATIONS.CA/NEW/GALLERY/PHOTOATLAS-SERIES/](https://circleofallnations.ca/new/gallery/photoatlas-series/)

*Dr. Alexander
Wolodtschenko: photoatlas
reflects the development of
atlassing as a new
interdisciplinary semiotic-
epistemological direction in
the creation, analysis and
collection of diverse
thematic atlases or
photoatlases (with
cartographic and non-
cartographic traditions)*

Cartography in the Social Media Era: A New Balance and Synthesis

D. R. Fraser Taylor, Romola V. Thumbadoo (Ottawa, Canada), Ilya Zaslavsky (San Diego, USA)
and Alexander S. Wolodtschenko (Dresden, Germany)

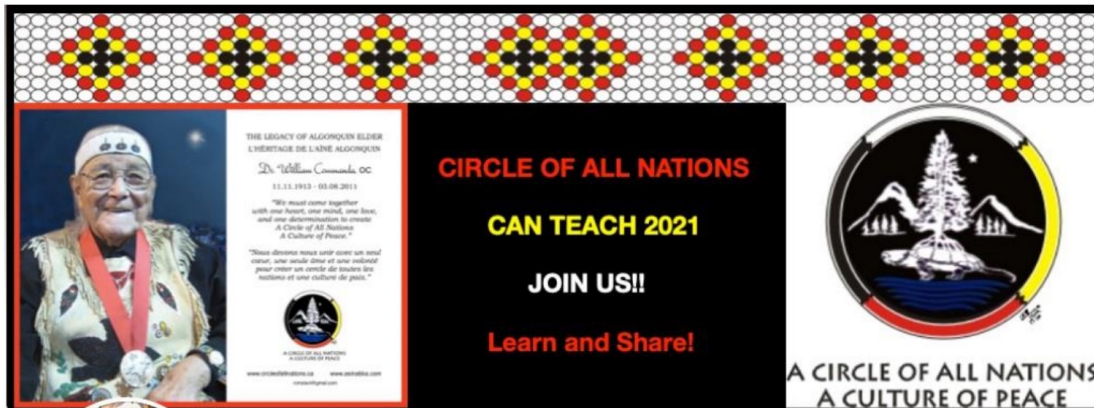


Screenshot of start page of our presentation at the ICA Conference 2021 in Florence, Italy.
Our derivative photoatlas is based on this presentation and includes some selected slides.

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS LANDING PAGE PHOTOATLAS

2.2. Facebook Cybernetic Pages

facebook



Five Facebook pages include following thematic modules:

Circle of All Nations
William Commanda
William Commanda Legacy - Asinabka
Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo
Romola's Nature CAN TEACH Photo/Art Page

2.2. Facebook Cybernetic Pages

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS Cross Cultural Bridge Building

- “Cybernetic” research is focussed on querying the ongoing relevance of William Commanda’s Indigenous thinking
- Cybernetics is viewed through the lens of its etymological roots in steering, navigating and guiding
- On-line and other digital platforms permit both time-paced and widescale sharing of Circle of All Nations work
- 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 in 2020/21; videos have reached easily over 12,000 people and can be viewed at https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations/videos/?ref=page_internal and
- Circle of All Nations – YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel>
- As well, several undergraduate students have learned about the work of this remarkable elder, and have developed technological skills and interests to support on-line communication of his work as part of their academic studies

ANIMATING THE CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS Digital Global Village

THE CORE ELEMENTS OF CYBERCARTOGRAPHY WERE DEFINED BY 2004

Multisensory: vision, sound, touch (and eventually smell and taste)

Multimedia formats and new telecommunications technologies

Highly interactive and user-centric

Part of an information/analytical package – not stand alone

Qualitative and quantitative information

Organizational approach for emerging products and processes

Moves cartography beyond location and the physical environment

Responds to societal demands including topics not usually "mapped"

Involves new research and development partnerships
(academia, government, civil society and the private sector)

CYBERCARTOGRAPHY

DIGITAL MAP BASED ARCHIVAL AND ANIMATIVE STORYTELLING

2.4. Cybercartographic Digital Atlas



Atlas cover image

2.4. Cybercartographic Digital Atlas

Structural model of atlas (work underway)

William Commanda



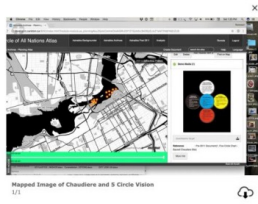
This module of the Circle of All Nations Atlas examines the life, work and legacy of Indigenous Elder William Commanda and holds archival photos and documents in interactive maps

Circle of All Nations



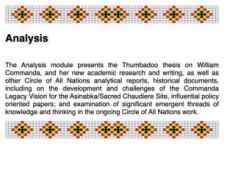
This module of the digital story mapping atlas includes interactive maps and links, a photo gallery, and links to facebook pages demonstrating animation of the work

Asinabka: Chaudière



This module presents the Commanda vision for the ancient Indigenous meeting place and the explores the land-based challenges in interactive maps

Analysis



This list module presents the thesis and academic research, and blogs, analytical reports, and policy oriented papers

POLITICAL LOCATIONAL MAPPING – 1945

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN NATIONS GOVERNMENT

The Government of the
North American Indian Nation




In Two Teachers—

The Directors of this provisional National Indian Government appeal to all the Indians who want to see their rights and privileges protected and their freedom recovered; you must give your full support immediately to the Directors of this National Indian Government without fear and hesitation.

Every Indian understand and knows that he has rights and privileges, and the reason why they are not respected it's because you are not united and not administrate by Indian Directors; but today we ask you to unite around the same National Indian Flag, and this National Indian Government will take the full responsibility to have your rights and privileges respected and to obtain the Freedom of the whole Indian Nation; but has long the Indian people unite together; the way to unite together around the same National Indian Flag its by obtaining your Indian Identification Card and to learn how to stand erect its to call for the New Indian Law Booklet issue by this National Indian Government.

The North American Indian Nation
GOVERNMENT 11 NOV 1945
 This identification card indicates that

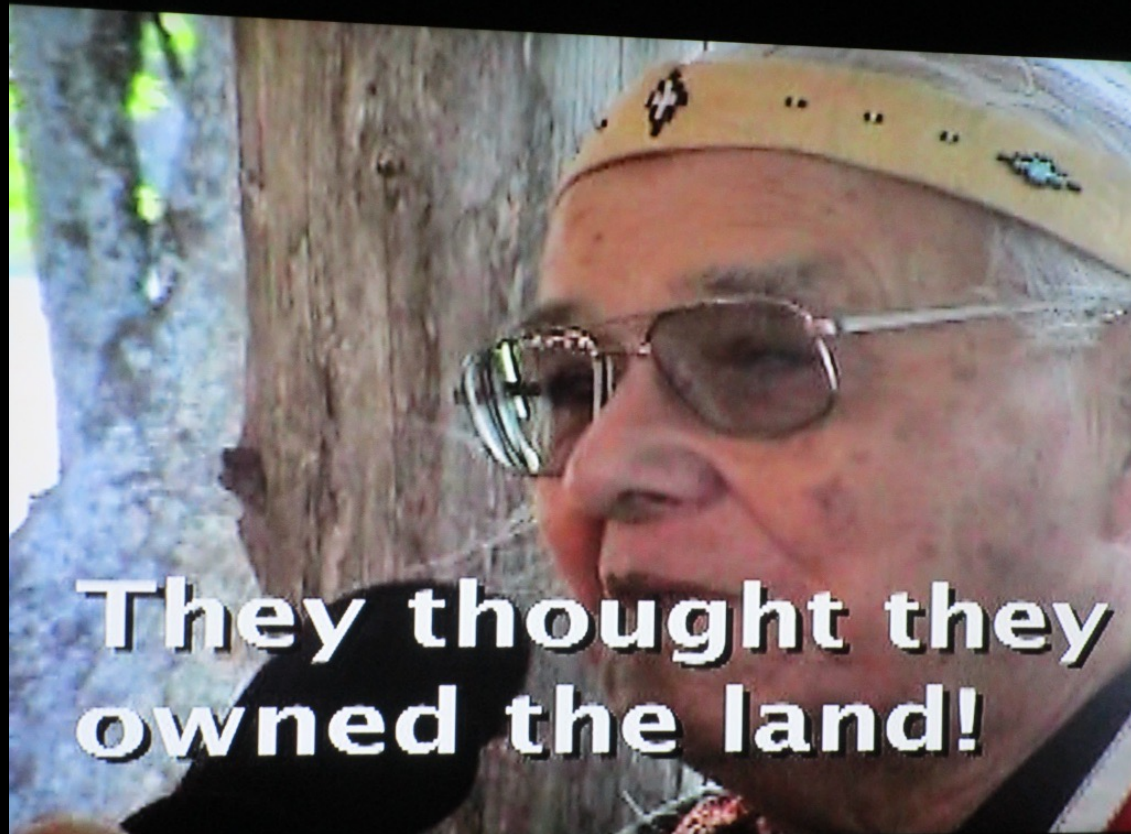


File No. 42.

Mrs. William Commins
 is a member of the Meniwaki band Tribe Algonquin
 Date and year of birth 11 November in 1916. 1918
 The County which he reside Gatineau district
 The Province of Quebec The County of Canada
 made by Jules Sioui, sec.
Box 4,
JULES SIOUI
SEC.
 Box 4 - Loretteville
 Quebec, P.Q., Canada



**1492 - COLUMBUS ARRIVES WITH POPE
ALEXANDER VI BULLS AND EDICTS**



ON THE ACADEMIC SCENE

Cosmic Laws of Nature

Learning
Sharing
Teaching for
Animative
Earth Affirmative
Knowledge
Generation in a
World on Fire
And Drowning

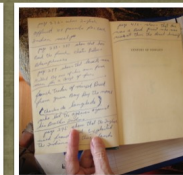
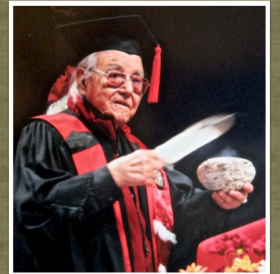
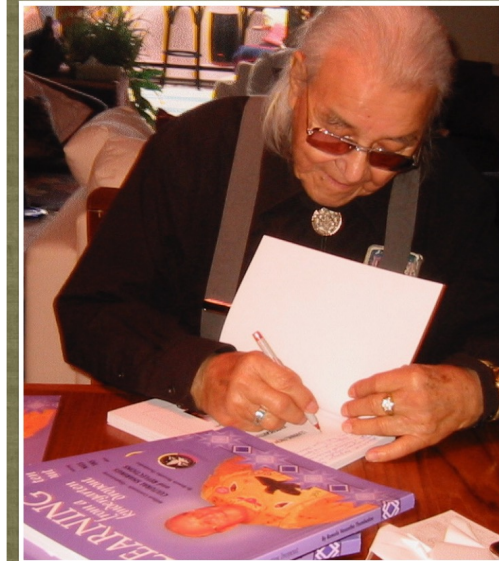


NATURE THE TEACHER

Cosmic, Rocks, Water, Plants, Animals - and Reflexivity

We have thousands of images of the multiple faces of Nature. I say that I take these photographs to acknowledge the lessons that emerge from engaging relationally with the Laws of Nature; it is my equivalent of the tobacco or copper William Commanda would offer nature in exchange for spruce roots or birch bark. It engenders reciprocity.

See Romola's NATURE CAN TEACH PAGE ON FACEBOOK!



PERPETUAL LEARNER

TIRELESS TEACHER

My central argument now is that a better understanding and integration of William Commanda's ideas and approach to teaching and knowledge generation are of critical importance today. He learned via multiple sources and taught in complex and extremely effective ways. References to him on social media from people across the globe right into 2018 affirms the extensiveness and persistence of his Circle of All Nations discourse

www.circleofallnations.ca; www.asinabka.com

TO TRANSITION FROM ONE REALITY, RETURN TO ANOTHER AND POSITION FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE



"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 Ojibwamung Cultural Sharings and Reflections (R. W. Thumabedog) during times of global climate change, pandemic, isolation, racism and social justice crisis

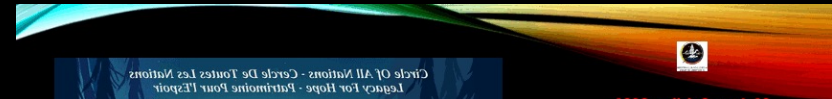


Grandfather William Commanda 2020

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;
Asiy and the *Sleeping Giant* commemorating Earth creation in rocks;
 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*

Romola@circleofallnations.ca



© Romola@circleofallnations.ca
 Created by Jenny Niyahu
 North America
 Indigenous Elder
 Grandfather William Commanda
 animated by
 Legacy For Hope
 Circle of All Nations
 Reconciliation
 Past the Rubrics
 The Journey Continues
 21 June Solstice 2021

Semiotic, technological animation infographics created by three undergraduate students, further to research into the work of the Indigenous Elder William Commanda and Circle of All Nations – 2020/21



POSTSCRIPTS

**Additional slides to complement information about William
Commanda and Cybercartography**

PS! WHO IS WILLIAM COMMANDA?

- Carrier of sacred **Wampum** heritage of the Algonquins
- 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 Carleton, Ojigkwanong Centre** in recognition of his relevance to **academic knowledge- 2014;**
- **Canadian History Hall : Commanda panel and message**

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



«Ginawaydaganuc – Nous sommes tous liés»
L'ainé William Commanda, un Algonquin Mawewitw, est un conservateur de l'histoire et de la culture des nations amérindiennes. Il est chef de la communauté de Wapikwan 200 (Anishinabek) de 1983 à 1992 et chef exécutif du gouvernement indien de Maniwagan du Nord, de 1992 à 1995, un poste qu'il occupe jusqu'en 2005.
En 1981, à l'instar de l'Ordre de toutes les Nations, une éco-communauté mondiale informelle préconise la sagesse autochtone. La parole amérindienne est une. Étoile du matin, honneur, sont deux doctorats honorifiques, la 48 de la 1983 d'Ontario et des arts, d'Université de Toronto. En 2006, est nommé officier de l'Ordre du Canada.



“Ginawaydaganuc – We Are All Connected”
William Commanda was a Mawewitw Algonquin elder, second generation birch bark and canoe maker. He served as chief of his home community of Wapikwan 200 Anishinabek from 1983 to 1992 and as Executive Chief of the South American Indian Nations Government from 1982 to 1995, serving the same position until 2005.
In 1981 he initiated the Circle of All Nations, an informal global eco-peace community dedicated to Indigenous wisdom, social justice and peace. He received two doctorates, the 48 by the City of Ottawa, and honorary awards, and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2006.

Respecter l'Étoile du Matin
«Le Nord, le Sud, l'Est et l'Ouest – une diversité et une unité qui nous unissent. Les traditions et les savoirs des Nations Amérindiennes sont au cœur de notre identité collective.»
William Commanda, 1947
L'ainé William Commanda, un Algonquin Mawewitw, est un conservateur de l'histoire et de la culture des nations amérindiennes. Il est chef de la communauté de Wapikwan 200 (Anishinabek) de 1983 à 1992 et chef exécutif du gouvernement indien de Maniwagan du Nord, de 1992 à 1995, un poste qu'il occupe jusqu'en 2005.
Respect for Morning Star
“The North, the South, the East and the West – a diversity and a unity that unite us. The traditions and the wisdom of the Nations Amérindiennes are at the heart of our collective identity.”
William Commanda, 1947
A former chief and political leader, Commanda dedicated his life to the preservation of traditional Algonquin knowledge, culture, and history. He served as chief of his home community of Wapikwan 200 (Anishinabek) from 1983 to 1992 and as Executive Chief of the South American Indian Nations Government from 1982 to 1995, serving the same position until 2005.



WILLIAM COMMANDA, CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS (CAN) AND SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS

CORE CAN 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
- CAN Sustainable Relations Goals for a Culture of Peace

• 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
- 2003 - Asinabka Vision for Sacred Chaudiere Site
- 2012 ... GWC and CAN in ACADEMIA – Bridge Building and Global Outreach

THE CYBERCARTOGRAPHIC ATLAS

A central product of Cybercartography is the cybercartographic atlas, which is quite different from a conventional atlas. It is a metaphor for all kinds of qualitative and quantitative information linked by location and displayed in innovative, interactive multimodal and multisensory formats.

The cybercartographic atlas is an interactive, multimedia and multisensory online product.

Over the years, cybercartographic atlases have become increasingly community generated and controlled, with telling stories from a community perspective being one of their central features.

Location is the central organizing principle of the cybercartographic atlas, which is also informed by new concepts of the map and the process of mapping.

While the map is considered central to Cybercartography, the notion of geographic narrative underpins the concept.

Maps and associated media can help to tell stories about people, places, space and society, in addition to empowering people, including Indigenous communities, to tell their own stories.

A FEW CHARACTERISTICS OF CYBERCARTOGRAPHIC ATLASES

Sensory representations and learning

Choice or combinations of learning styles with information presented in multiple formats

The multimedia and interactive approaches facilitate active involvement and engagement

A mechanism to facilitate the creation of individualized narratives through structure and organization of metadata

Open source technology

Presents the complexities different ontologies or narratives without privileging one over the other.

Gives voice to people and communities

A shift from "map user" to "map creator"

democratizes teaching and learning

THE NUNALIIT ATLAS FRAMEWORK

This innovative platform was born out of a multi-disciplinary research project in 2003, and it has evolved continuously since then.

It is an innovative open source technology that facilitates participatory atlas creation

It offers the means to tell stories and present research using maps as a central way to connect and interact with the data

It highlights relationships between many different forms of information from a variety of sources.

It uses a very flexible document-oriented database to store any text-based attributes or data objects.

Documents can have any number of attachments such as zip files, images, videos, office documents, mapping data, etc.

Many popular image, video, sound, and location formats can be accepted and converted to web-ready formats by the Nunaliit server-side automatically.

A modern HTML/CSS/JS web client with open layers mapping functionality is served to a user's browser and interacts with the database and media conversion servlets to permit rich interactivity with the data and editing/uploading of content and map geometries.

CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS CONTACT DETAILS

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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>