

November 19, 2015

**Circle of All Nations Nov 19, 2015 Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Romola V. Thumbadoo,
Coordinator, Circle of All Nations
Legacy Work of Dr. William Commanda, OC**

Greetings, Right Hon. Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere Site

**URGENT: IN VIEW OF COP 21 and the escalating PARIS and GLOBAL CRISIS,
PLEASE ADDRESS THE Dr. William Commanda, OC, Legacy Indigenous Vision
for the Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere Site**

**PLEASE consider this urgently: “For the general advantage of Canada” – a viable
avenue to elevate decisions on the Dr. William Commanda, OC Legacy Vision for
the Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere Site.**

1. **PLEASE refer to Circle of All Nations Nov 1, 2015 Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – Synopsis and Amplified Versions and attachments; and email message of November 14, 2015 (November 14, 2015 Message submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister by Email: AN URGENT ISSUE - from the *Circle of All Nations*, founded by Indigenous Elder, Dr. William Commanda, OC - IN VIEW OF THE UNFOLDING TRAGEDY IN PARIS, PLEASE bring the 2014 Circle of All Nations ‘Portal to Peace’ Commemorative Note Honouring the 100th year of the Birth of William Commanda to the urgent attention of Prime Minister Trudeau/key staff and Ministers/MPs involved with this file. It is available on the Documents Page of the www.asinabka.com website. It complements the 2015-11-01 CAN Letter already submitted to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which focused on our environmental preoccupations for COP 21; this document is also available on the website. Both prongs of the Grandfather Commanda/Circle of All Nations work and vision for an ECO-PEACE CENTRE AT THE SACRED CHAUDIERE SITE converge in our global focus on PARIS this month.)**

2. A year after appeals against the rezoning of the Sacred Chaudiere Site to permit privatization and condo development at this historically significant National Capital Region site were launched, **the Ontario Municipal Board has ruled against hearing appeals.**

3. **We write again urgently to:**

To request elevation of decision making at the contested Sacred Chaudiere Site within the National Capital Region, utilizing the rationale of first Prime Minister John A. Macdonald’s discussion of Section 92.10(c) for its intended purpose: “For the general advantage of Canada”. We bring his remarks directly to your attention now, suggesting the use 92.10(c) for its intended purpose: i.e. for “the general advantage of Canada”.

John A. Macdonald spoke clearly about its purpose in the House of Commons debates of 20 March 1882:

"If we declared as a legislative body, if the Legislature of the Dominion declared that any work, no matter how local, or small, or insignificant, be for "the general advantage of Canada" it must be held that the Parliament of Canada will act with conscience, and will not declare any work to be for "the general advantage of Canada or two or more of the Provinces" if they do not think so. That declaration, once made -- any work, however local its character, so being declared legislatively by the Parliament of Canada to be "for the general advantage of Canada," it becomes a Dominion work ...The language cannot be clearer, and the object of this clause, the object of the Imperial Parliament in passing the Act was to prevent the absurdity and expense and obstruction to material progress by compelling every person introducing a great undertaking in each other Province for the general advantage -- to go to the several Provincial Legislature. They might get power in one, they might be refused in another; they might get restricted powers in one and large powers in another; they might be compelled to submit to conditions varying and inconsistent in their nature. All these obstructions were present in the legislative mind at the time this clause was adopted and it would really introduce some of the worst and most inconvenient features of the Federal system if we were driven to this necessity. It was for the very purpose of avoiding such obstructions that this law was so framed. I say again that we have acted upon principle." (p. 434)

Background Information

a. In view of the tragic and frightening developments in France on November 13, 2015, we have already referred you to a report William Commanda's peace building mission in our November 14 correspondence – we need interventions beyond the style of warfare that took global form at the time of his birth on the eve of the First World War, and that has only escalated disastrously throughout the past century, and apparently almost irrevocably since 9/11.

b. William Commanda envisioned a healing and *eco-peace* building think tank at the Sacred Chaudiere Site; we had already written to you in some detail in our November 1st 2015, letter about the essence of his environmental message for COP 21 in Paris; and have suggested that his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site is the gift Canada could offer the world; now, the need for the second prong of his vision, peace work, is dramatically demonstrated in the tragic events in France, and elevates the global significance of this work. Consistent with William Commanda's approach and thinking, thousands of people have worked over the past decade to see an *eco-peace* think tank manifest in the heart of the capital city. Paris and the world need to generate new thinking to address the incredibly overwhelming challenges of our times; many also realize we need urgently to integrate the thinking of the Indigenous mind, to generate new approaches to the critical challenges of our times; and William Commanda's *Circle of All Nations* animated the potential for its integration and co-creation with the diverse face of Canada and the world in a unique, microcosmic fashion. There is extensive evidence and documentation of the vitality of this grass roots

effort. Some have initiated a petition to you to assert the deep importance of Elder Commanda's work. It is the amplification of this work that is envisioned for the Sacred Chaudiere Site.

c. In 2003, then Prime Minister Jean Chretien saw the potential national interest in the Commanda project; and the federal government, through the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and the National Capital Commission invested \$50,000 to advance the project. (An aside: This was under the leadership of the Hon. Sheila Copps, and your skills and passion with the *bangara* reminded us of when she brought that word and dance to the Nation's attention in her inspirational inclusive heritage conferences of the early 2000s – perhaps she could be invited to renew her engagement with this work).

d. The Capital City of Ottawa's November 2010 formal endorsement of the proposal, inclusive of "Wild Space", attests to its relevance to "the general advantage of Canada". The recent addition of over 3,500 voices to the Free the Falls petition, and the approximately 500 citizen voices urging the same as the most desired City of Ottawa action for Canada's birthday of 2017, attest to the contemporary passion for this initiative.

e. In this context, please note that William Commanda's presence and wisdom was acknowledged by both the Universities of Ottawa and l'université du Québec-Outaouais, provincial leadership in Val d'Or, and two former governor generals, Ms. Clarkson and Ms. Jean – in fact, as Chancellor of the University of Ottawa, Ms. Jean ensured a permanent recognition of William Commanda's relevance to academic knowledge in the installation of the Commanda pavilion. Many academic engagement with his ideas attest to the growing contemporary interest his thinking and discourse, within the academy and beyond.

f. From climate change to the sewage dump into the St. Lawrence, from the plight of the American Eels and polar bears to the refugee crisis, to Paris, to mounting mental and physical health challenges nation-wide, to the contestations at the Chaudiere Site, to grossly visible neocolonial and neoliberal and misrepresentative conflict of interest practices, including the further desecration at the sacred falls and the absence of formal public consultation, multiple issues need urgent attention from the national centre.

g. Several Liberal MPs, as well as colleagues from all the other parties, are already familiar with William Commanda's work. A decade ago, he called for a multi-department task force to advance this bold and inclusive vision. We pray that the time for this has arrived. *Circle of All Nations* urgently requests an opportunity for discussions with your officials.

4. Mr. Prime Minister, please help us advance William Commanda's Legacy Vision for the Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere Site, the site of incomparable geological, cultural, sacred, historical and contemporary importance.

We can have condos anywhere in this capital city – and we do. We cannot have the comprehensive global vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site anywhere else.

THE VISION FOR THE SACRED CHAUDIERE FALLS EMBRACES THE CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES OF THE DAY: ENVIRONMENT AND PEACE.

PLEASE LET US NOT REPEAT THE PATTERNS AND MISTAKES OF THE PAST AT THIS CRITICAL TIME IN GLOBAL and INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS.

PLEASE LET US NOT LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GENERATE REAL AND INCLUSIVE CULTURE AND ENERGY SHIFT OF LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELEVANCE FROM WITHIN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY – The Sacred Chaudiere is the Source of the Golden Goose.

Business as usual points a finger to a bleak future. You have ushered in an era of new hope into this country –William Commanda’s Legacy Vision can be the wind beneath the sails.

The sacred fire has already been lit at Asinakba, the sacred place of ancient glare rock. Please help us regenerate from the grassroots up, from the humility and strength of earth-based values and knowledge of the Indigenous; we will find, as William Commanda showed us, that water falls to the lowest levels and sustains all.

SUCH AN APPROACH IS CRITICAL IN THIS TIME OF FOCUS ON SECURITY. Let us not forget that sometimes we focus all our attention on the Urgents to the PERIL of the truly Important – PLEASE give this William Commanda approach place on the global stage. Countless people of tremendous global diversity have witnessed it potential to create peace.

Ginawaydaganuc – We are all connected.

Submitted on behalf of William Commanda’s Circle of All Nations

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