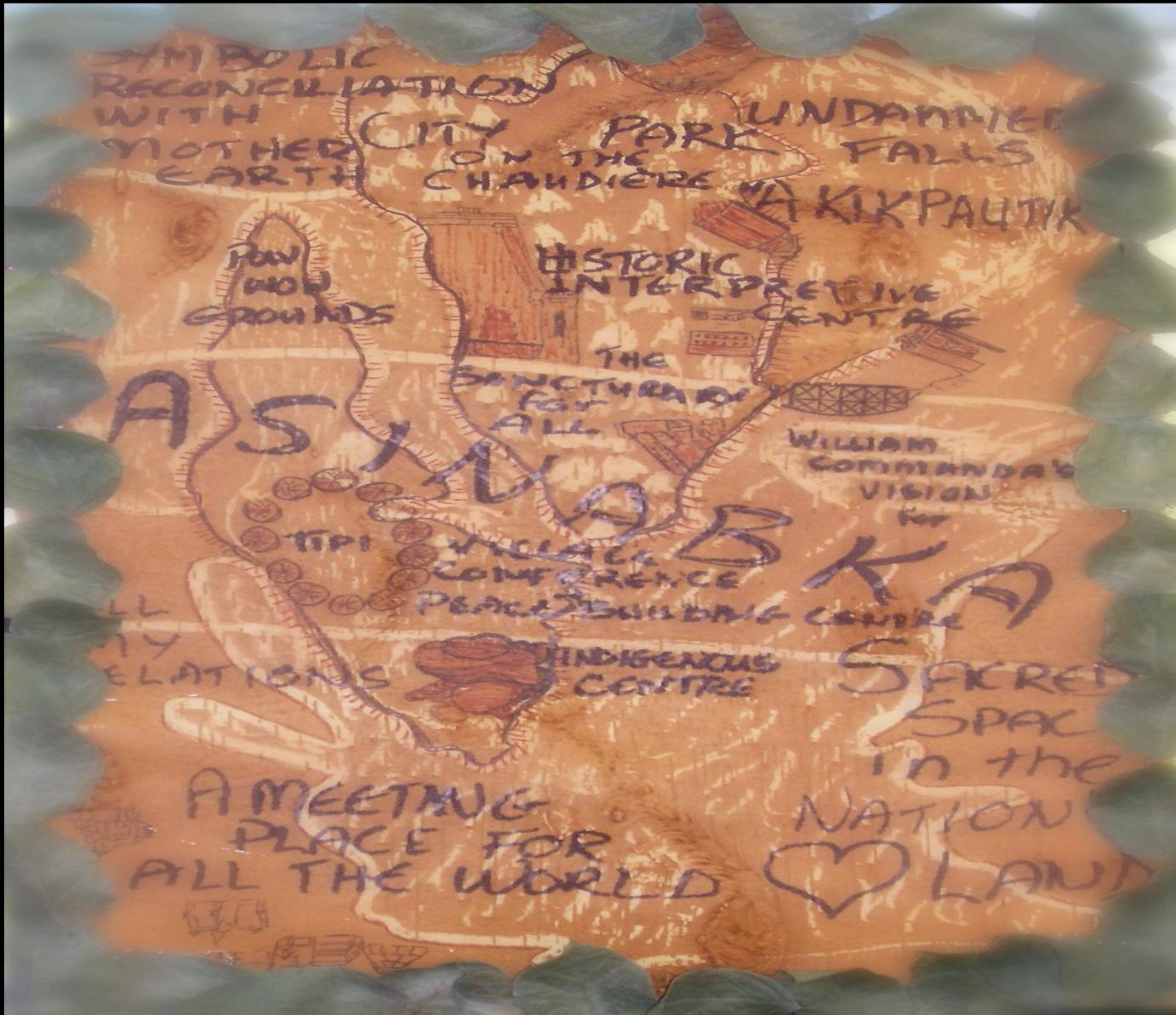


Asinabka
National Aboriginal Centre

the vision for the
Sacred Chaudière Site

<http://web.mac.com/circleofallnations>

www.circleofallnations.ca



SYMBOLIC
RECONCILIATION
WITH
MOTHER
EARTH

CITY PARK
ON THE
CHAUDIERE

UNDAMMED
FALLS

KIKPAUTIK

POW
WOW
GROUNDS

HISTORIC
INTERPRETIVE
CENTRE

THE
SANCTUARY
FOR
ALL

WILLIAM
COMMANDER'S
VISION
FOR

ASINWA

TIPIS
CONFERENCE
PEACEBUILDING CENTRE

LL
MY
RELATIONS

INDIGENOUS
CENTRE

SECRET
SPACE

IN THE
NATION
LAND

A MEETING
PLACE FOR
ALL THE WORLD



Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- Billions of years ago, the most ancient rocks on the earth emerged in this area
- 5,000 years ago, and likely earlier, this was a place of meeting and cultural exchange for Indigenous Peoples across North America, evidenced in copper and turquoise artifacts
- 400 years ago, Samuel de Champlain witnessed the ancestors of the Algonquin Nation conducting tobacco ceremonies here, identifying the area as a special sacred site

Asinabka National Aboriginal Centre



Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- In the 1800s, Philomen Wright moved into the area, and over the next two centuries, it became a Pandora's Box for industrial development: logging, pulp and paper, hydro dams, invention, etc.; i.e. progress and peril
- The capital city was established, bridging the worlds of Upper and Lower Canada, Quebec and Ontario, and the French and the English
- The Indigenous presence diminished, the area lost its pristine character, and today it is a heavily contaminated industrial wasteland

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- Over time, people from all over the world gravitated towards this heartland, and their presence is felt in its cultural and heritage buildings, activities and commemorations
- Many believe Aboriginal Peoples must also take their place in what remains a sacred site within the unsurrendered, unceded and unconquered Algonquin territory that the capital city sits upon; and they must reignite their ceremonies and traditions respectful of *Mother Earth and All Our Relations*

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- 40 years ago, Aboriginal Peoples from across the country resumed gathering and holding spiritual ceremonies in the area
- As the country becomes aware of their history and present day struggles, few will deny that Aboriginal Peoples are the least privileged and most oppressed in the lands of their ancestors, where all the world is now finding opportunity and hope

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- In the past year alone, we have witnessed the national *End First Nations Poverty* campaign, and seen the *Truth and Reconciliation* Project initiated to address the devastating aftermath of the Residential School abuses
- Young Canadians of conscience are exposing painful injustices and historic legacies in documentaries like *Unrepentant* (K. Annett) and *Les Peoples Invisibles* (R. Desjardins)

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- Since 1998, Elder William Commanda has consulted with the NCC, world renowned Indigenous Architect Douglas Cardinal, Algonquin communities in Ontario and Quebec, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples to develop a comprehensive vision for the sacred site, and support is extensive
- Who is Elder William Commanda? And why is the heritage he represents important to us?

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre



- He is the 94 year old Elder of this territory
- He is Keeper of Sacred Wampum Belts of historic importance
- He is seen here sharing the message of the 1700s Three Figure Sharing Belt with the Queen's representative

Asinabka

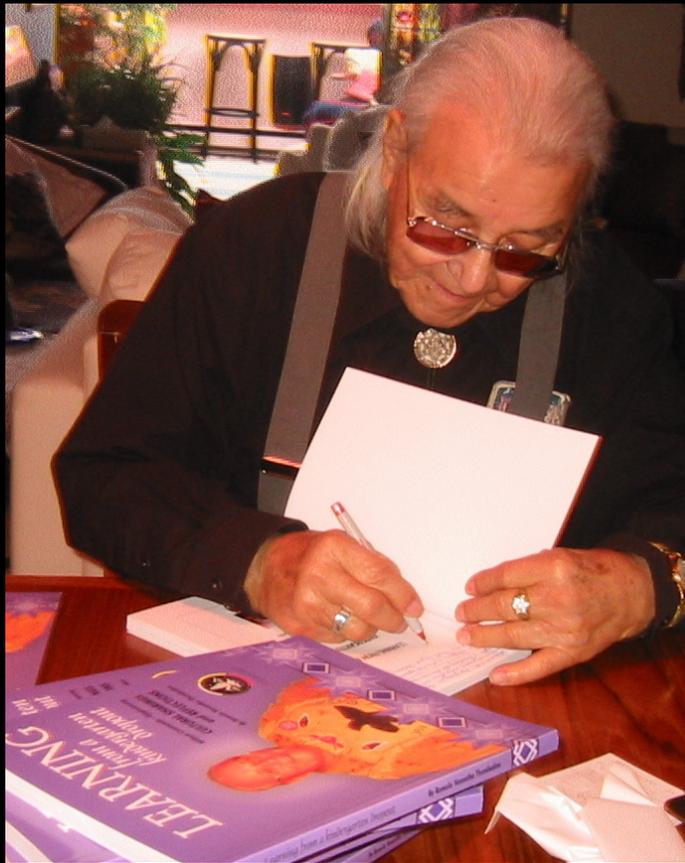
National Aboriginal Centre



- He is the Founder of the *Circle of All Nations*, and much honoured for promoting Indigenous wisdom, environmental stewardship, and racial harmony and peace-building internationally
- In 2005, the University of Ottawa presented him with an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre



- In 2006 he received the Key to the City of Ottawa, significant for someone from Quebec
- He is widely travelled, internationally known as a canoe builder and craftsman, an influential Elder, a statesman emeritus: a wise, holy man beloved to many across the world

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- Over the past decade, Elder Commanda has developed and promoted the Indigenous vision for *Asinabka* tirelessly, entirely at his own expense
- It is a fully inclusive vision to revitalize and honour the true jewel in the heart of the Nation's crown, consistent with dreams of many others over the years
- It celebrates the ancient and recent history of the area, promotes peace, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous heritage

Asinabka

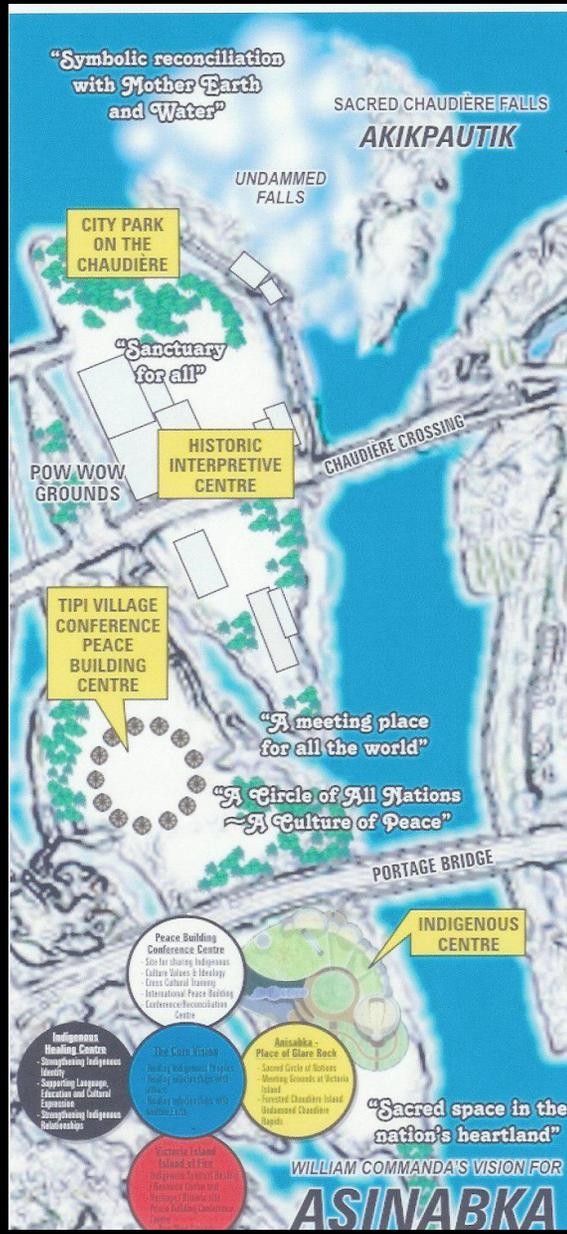
National Aboriginal Centre

- The vision for *Asinabka* offers a unique, positive way to heal the pains of the past and shine a torch into the future
- It is a vision for healing relationships amongst and with Aboriginal Peoples, and with *Mother Earth*
- It is a vision for reclaiming, honouring and profiling the unique culture, heritage and values of Aboriginal Peoples, recognizing their crucial importance to Canada's future

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- The National Capital Commission (NCC) as protector of our national heritage can play a positive leadership role to create the manifestation of a relationship of hope and reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples
- This will benefit the entire nation, as Aboriginal Peoples remain the glue to bind a fragile democracy and culture together
- Such a gesture will also only strengthen and enhance Canada's reputation internationally



Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre



Asinabka

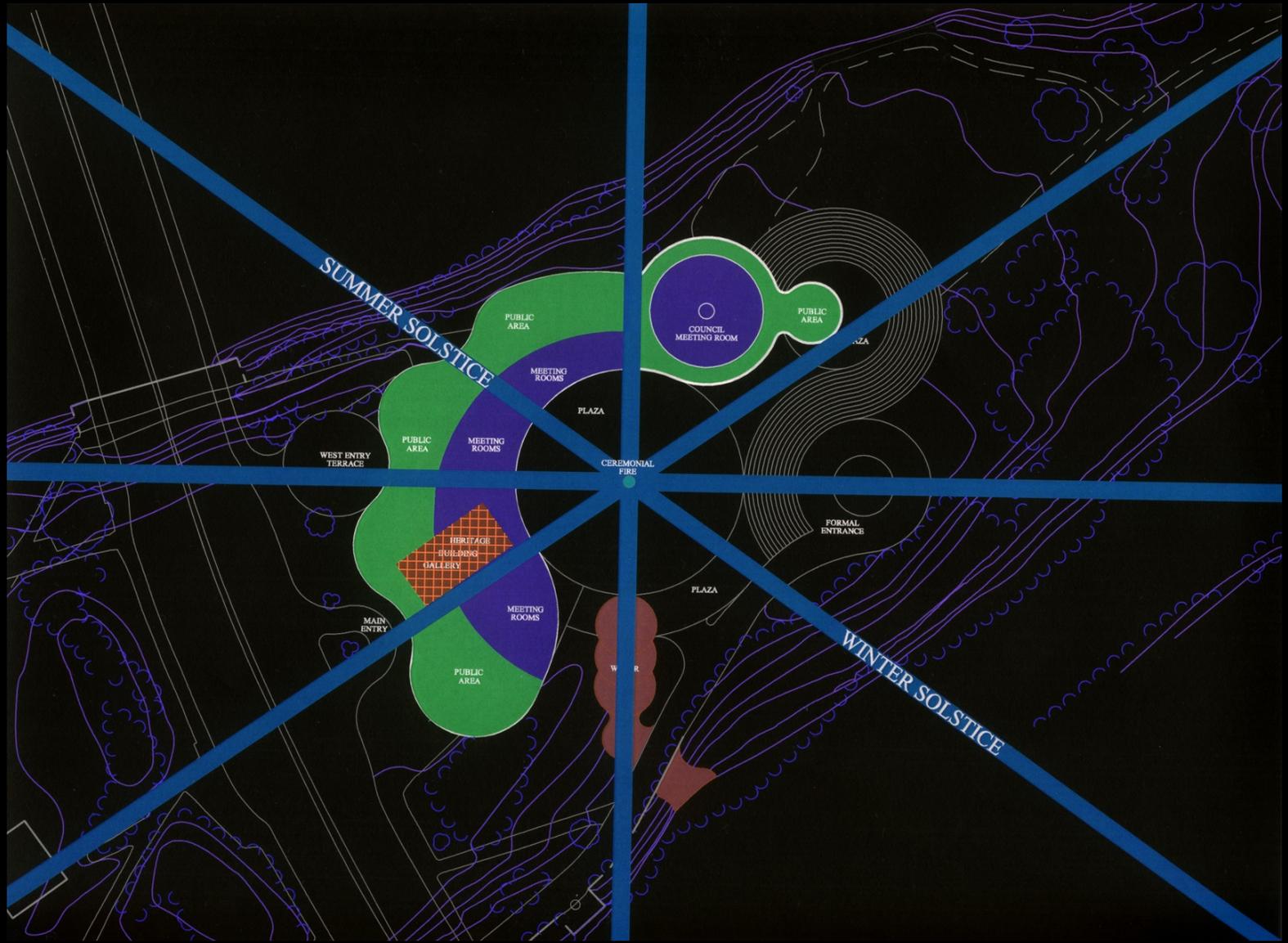
National Aboriginal Centre

- In the 1970s, then NCC Chairman Jean Pigott acknowledged Victoria Island as the site for a National Aboriginal Centre
- In the 1990s, Indigenous Architect Douglas Cardinal developed conceptual plans for the centre for the NCC
- In 2004, further to the Elder's direct request, Canadian Heritage advanced funds to develop the proposal and architectural plans for the Aboriginal Centre on Victoria Island



VICTORIA ISLAND
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

DOUGLAS J. CARDINAL ARCHITECT LTD.



Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- In August 2006, at the annual *Circle of All Nations* International Gathering, NCC Chairman Marcel Beaudry affirmed that:
 - NCC had been working a long time, perhaps 15 years, but intensely over the last 7, for Aboriginals to be recognized once and for all in the National Capital Region
 - In Ontario, English culture predominates, and in Quebec, French, but NCC felt the Aboriginals did not have a place, and noted its role to facilitate this
 - NCC wanted to recognize Aboriginals by building a centre of national stature

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- NCC noted the area is sacred to Aboriginals
- Aboriginals themselves should decide what should take place there: healing, spirituality, education etc
- The Federal Government would invest \$100 million dollars on the building (our note: includes remedial environmental work), and \$11 million a year on programs and services
- Two Foundations would be established to implement the project: one to oversee construction and maintenance with 50% Federal and 50% Aboriginal control; the other under Aboriginal management for programs and services

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- NCC noted that Aboriginals were here much earlier than the French and English, and moving forward on this project would finally see all three founding nations represented in the capital city
- NCC also acknowledged Elder Commanda's respected status across the country amongst Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples; and Douglas Cardinal's unique architectural vision, and long term commitment to the project
- (The sentiments expressed are consistent with the Three Figure Sharing Wampum Belt, with Aboriginals Peoples assuming their rightful position and share within the capital - *our note*)

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- This national centre will celebrate all Aboriginal Peoples: First Nations, Inuit and Metis from across the country, and its eco-tourism value is great
- It will serve as the think tank to reclaim, revitalize and protect Indigenous languages, culture and heritage, contribute to healing the scars of the past, and transforming the future
- It will showcase and celebrate the values, artistic and cultural heritage, music, pow wow dance, spirit and food of Aboriginal Peoples

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- A revitalized and strong Aboriginal Peoples will share their culture and heritage with others in the spirit of peace-building
- The ancient values of *Respect for Mother Earth and All Our Relations* will be reinstated, and serve and support all Canadians
- This legacy of forgiveness and reconciliation will strengthen the nation's self-respect and honour and heal differences

VICTORIA ISLAND

ELDER WILLIAM COMMANDA'S VISION FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALING AND PEACE
BUILDING CENTRE ON THE TRADITIONAL
SPIRITUAL MEETING GROUNDS OF THE
ANICINABE PEOPLE, WITH THE LANDS TO BE
HELD IN TRUST BY ALGONQUIN ELDERS

THE CENTRAL TWO-FOLD VISION

CIRCLE OF NATIONS SPIRITUAL HEALING CENTRE TO UNIFY AND STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	PEACE BUILDING CENTRE FOR ALL NATIONS, TO SHARE THE VALUES AND IDEOLOGY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Spiritual/Ceremonial Centre	Peacebuilding 'Think Tank'
Cultural Revival - Arts, Crafts	Cultural Sharing
Language Centre	Racial Harmony
Elders' Gathering Place	Meeting Rooms
Healing Centre/Meeting Centre	Conference Centre
Archives/Library/Historic Research	Auditorium/Concert Hall
Medicines/Gardens/Greenhouse	Accommodations
Traditional Knowledge/Ideology	United Nations Meeting Space
Youth Developmental Centre	Restaurant/Gift Store
Children's Developmental Centre	Museum/Gallery
Research/Planning/Education	Children's/Youth Museum

info@circleofnations.com

Asinabka
National Aboriginal Centre

We will celebrate together a

A Circle of All Nations

A Culture of Peace

Canada's Gift to the World

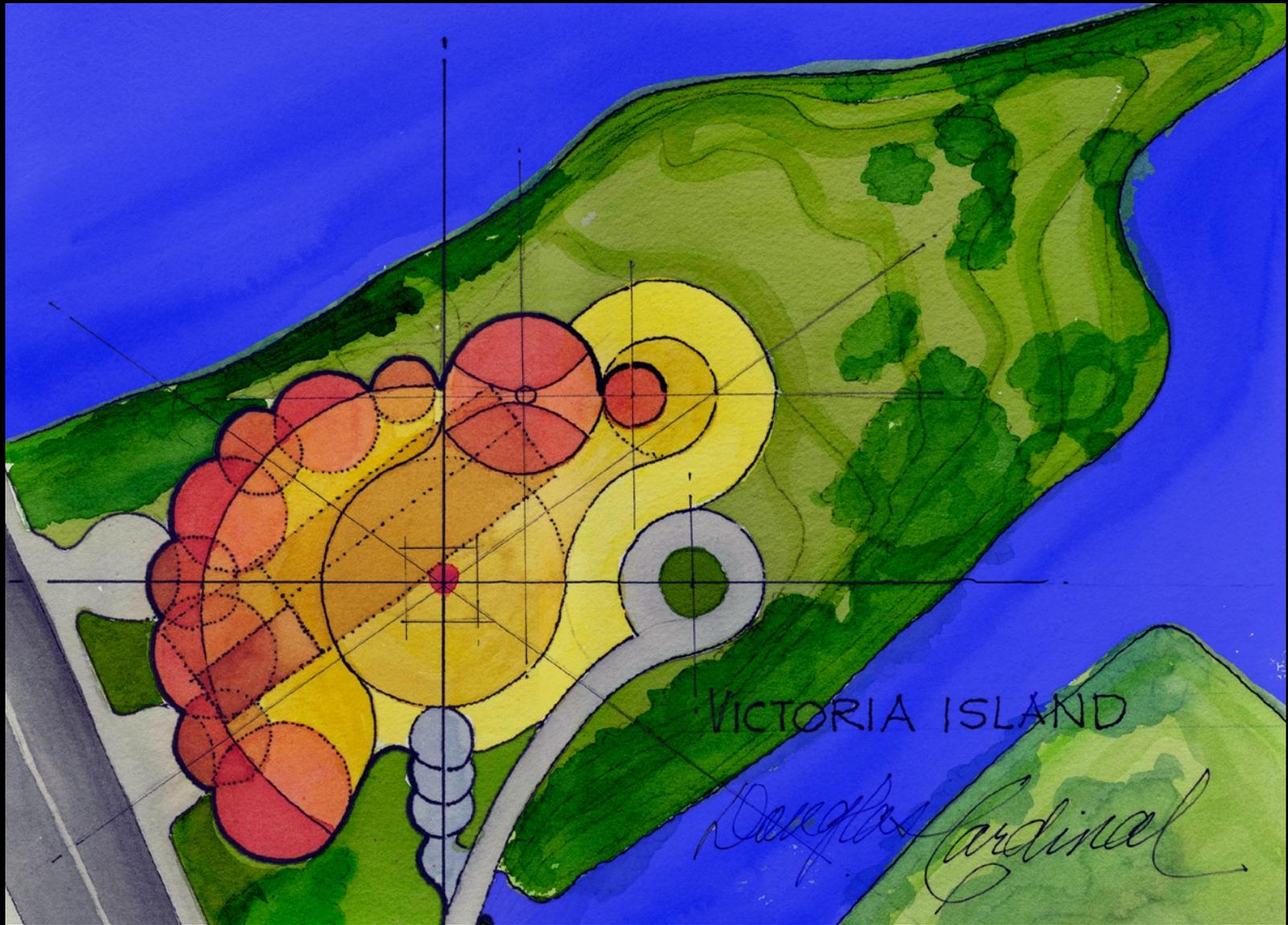


A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
A CULTURE OF PEACE

Asinabka

National Aboriginal Centre

- On 4 June 1613, Aboriginal Peoples prayed as Samuel de Champlain passed the Sacred Site
- Today, we urge the NCC Board to
 - Review its 2006 commitment to the materialization of the National Aboriginal Centre
 - Make an announcement on June 21, 2008, National Aboriginal Day, to commence with implementation plans for a grand opening of the centre on the 2013 four hundred year anniversary of the birthing of the country



VICTORIA ISLAND

Douglas Cardinal

**Peace Building
Conference Centre**

- Site for sharing Indigenous Culture Values & Ideology
- Cross Cultural Training
- International Peace Building Conference/ Reconciliation Centre

**Indigenous
Healing Centre**

- Strengthening Indigenous Identity
- Supporting Language, Education and Cultural Expression
- Strengthening Indigenous Relationships

The Core Vision

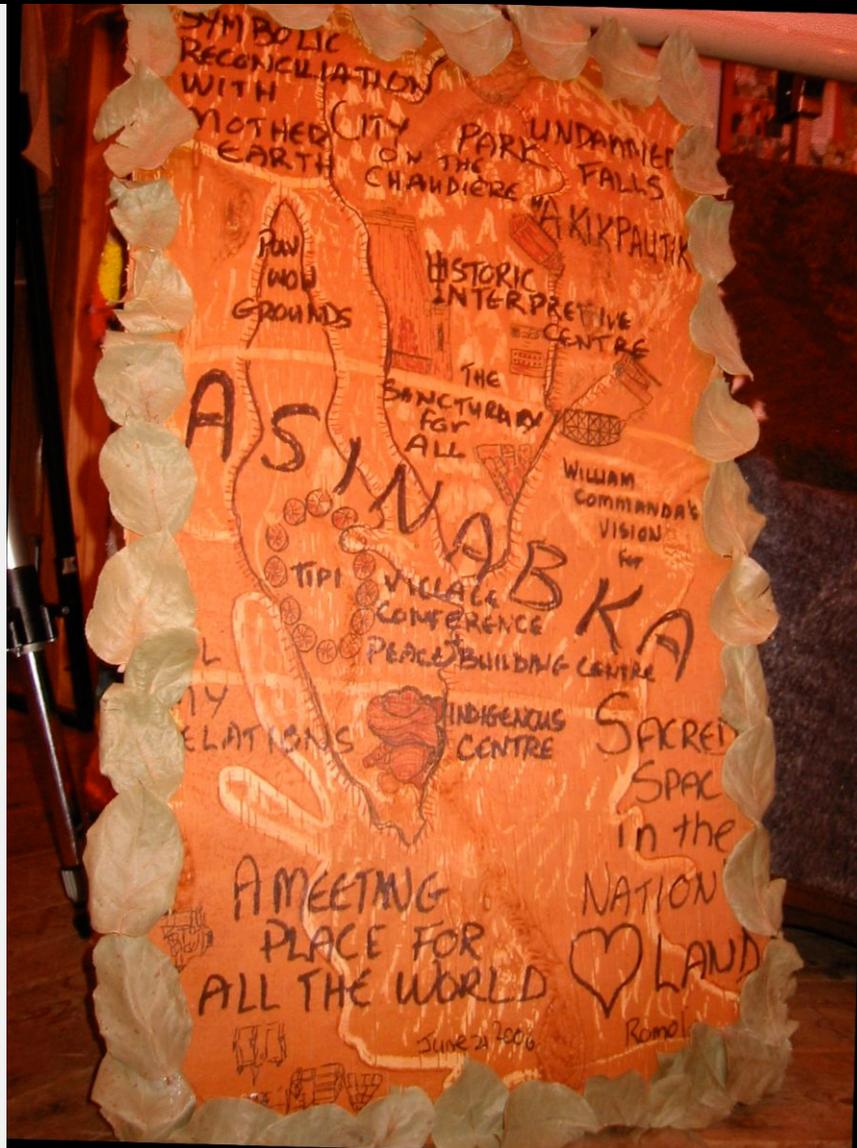
- Healing Indigenous Peoples
- Healing relationships With others
- Healing relationships with Mother Earth

**Asinabka -
Place of Glare Rock**

- Sacred Circle of Nations Meeting Grounds at Victoria Island
- Forested Chaudiere Island
- Undammed Chaudiere Rapids

**Victoria Island
Island of Fire**

- Indigenous Spiritual Healing / Resource Centre and Heritage / Historic site
- Peace Building Conference Centre
- Pow Wow Grounds



**"Symbolic reconciliation
with Mother Earth
and Water"**

SACRED CHAUDIÈRE FALLS
AKIKPAUTIK

UNDAMMED
FALLS

CITY PARK
ON THE
CHAUDIÈRE

"Sanctuary
for all"

POW WOW
GROUNDS

HISTORIC
INTERPRETIVE
CENTRE

CHAUDIÈRE CROSSING

TIPI VILLAGE
CONFERENCE
PEACE
BUILDING
CENTRE

"A meeting place
for all the world"

"A Circle of All Nations
~ A Culture of Peace"

PORTAGE BRIDGE

INDIGENOUS
CENTRE

Peace Building
Conference Centre
Site for sharing Indigenous
Culture Values & Knowledge
Cross Cultural Training
International Peace Building
Conferences/Reconciliation
Centre

Indigenous
Healing Centre
- Strengthening Indigenous
Identity
- Supporting Language,
Education and Cultural
Competence
- Strengthening Indigenous
Relationships

The Cois Yaani
Building Indigenous Spirit
Healing Initiatives with
women
- 2014-2015-2016-2017
- 2018-2019

Asinabka
Place of Stone Rock
- Sacred Circle of Nations
- Meeting Grounds of Victoria
Island
- Sacred Chaudière Island
Undammed Chaudière
Rapids

Asinabka Island
Island of All
Indigenous Peoples
- Reconciliation Centre and
Healing Centre
- Peace Building Conference
Centre

**"Sacred space in the
nation's heartland"**

WILLIAM COMMANDA'S VISION FOR

ASINABKA

