



**From:** Evelyn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 5:29 PM  
**To:** Christopher.Zwierzchowski@  
**Subject:** ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181Official Plan and Zoning By-law  
 Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert  
 Islands

Mr Zwierzchowski,

Please accept my apologies that when I first sent this email, I somehow missed attaching your email. I have already sent to Mr Nguyen with cc to Mr Maillet.

EA

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Dear Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Zwierzchowski,

During my 70 years on this planet, I have met a lot of people. One stands clearly above all others for his presence, Grandfather Commanda clearly experienced the worst the Furies could deliver during his early life and yet emerged with a wisdom light years beyond most mortals. I met him only briefly, yet was completely encompassed by his presence, awed by his books, and captured by his vision. With full disclosure, I will state that I have no known indigenous blood in my ancestry.

When I couple my recognition of the Truth that Grandfather Commanda exemplified with my being a lifelong learner who reads copiously all sides of a contentions argument, it has taken me some time to understand the futuristic significance of a decision regarding Victoria Island. To help me understand, I revisited the history as presented in the June 21 article by Romola V. (Thumbadoo) Trebilcock.

As a citizen of Ottawa, I endorse William Commanda's vision. If he is not qualified to speak on the continued significance of Victoria Island, who is? It would be like denying the Father of a movement his due.

It is therefore important that we recognize both the Chaudière and Albert Islands as historical and ongoing sacred places of our indigenous people and imperative that we respect the vision of Algonquin Elder Dr. William Commanda for the surrounding lands.

I acknowledge Windmill Developments to be an environmentally responsible partner. However, applying their wisdom in planning a modern, Western style development on this particular site actually denigrates both their capabilities and the indigenous wisdom because it misapplies their greatest potential. Perhaps citizens who look with blinders at the forward-thinking proposal are rightly excited *unless or until* they understand the big fatal flaw in this entire process. And most people will not make this connection because they do not truly know - they do not understand the ancient history and accompanying visions. Could this plan therefore be considered deceptive because it does not, and probably cannot, truly present the whole historic picture to the decision makers and to a public schooled in small doses of information?

The greater Ottawa area has many alternate sites that could benefit from Windmill's expertise and we could all get behind a plan to modernize an inner city area, for example or to responsibly develop some of the outlying areas where "slash and burn" technics still seem to be applied. William Commanda and Douglas Cardinal should be the visionaries chosen to drive development of the most ancient sacred site known to our indigenous peoples. Instead of either/or, the city would significantly benefit from applying the wisdom of both approaches - only in different areas. That would leave a legacy we could all embrace and showcase true futuristic thinking and planning.

I hope all those concerned in the planning process will give these thoughts fair and just consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Abell

**From:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 3:55 PM  
**To:** 'Manuel Baez'  
**Cc:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** RE: Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street

Hi Manuel,

I have CC'd Chris Zwierzchowski, the Planning Committee clerk, so that your comments are provided as a written submission to the Planning Committee in opposition of the Booth St. Planning Report.

I have also added you to my notification list and you will be notified of Council's decision.

Sincerely,  
Hieu

Development Review, Urban Area  
613-580-2424 ext.26936  
Mail Code: 01-14

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Manuel Baez [<mailto:>]  
**Sent:** October 01, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Subject:** Re: Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street

Dear Hieu Nguyen,

I'm sending this e-mail as a way of indicating my opposition to the recommendations listed in the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street Report.

The site comprised of Chaudiere and Albert Islands along Booth Street is historically and culturally very significant to both the local and broader community. This offers great potential for appropriate development as a symbolic site within Canada's capital. Much greater public awareness of its history, significance and potential is required in order for broader informed public consultation and debate to occur regarding any future development. On a site of such significance and importance, the specifics of any proposed development, which must include complete visual presentations of the project scope, needs to be made accessible to the public in order for such informed consultation to occur. Only then can any amendments to the by-laws be proposed and voted upon.

A more thorough and informed process is required in order for the public to become fully aware of the potential that this site offers to the local, national and even broader community.

Yours truly,  
Manuel A. Baez  
Associate Professor  
Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism Carleton University

**From:** chantal batt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 1:20 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Planning Committee meeting Oct 2 re Chaudiere Falls and surrounding area

Good afternoon Christopher,

Re:

4. **OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS –  
3 AND 4 BOOTH STREET (CHAUDIÈRE AND ALBERT ISLAND)**

**ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181**

**SOMERSET (14)**

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**That Planning Committee recommend Council approve:**

1. **An amendment to the Lebreton Flats Central Area Secondary Plan to allow for a mixed-use community at 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Islands), as shown on Document 1 and detailed in Document 5; and**
  
2. **An amendment to Zoning By-law 2008-250 to change the zoning at 3 and 4 Booth Street from Parks and Open Space to a Downtown Mixed-Use zone to allow for a mixed-use development and Major Leisure Facility zone on new park lands, as shown in Document 1, detailed in Document 6, and set out in Documents 7 and 8.**

I'd like to submit the following for tomorrow's Ottawa Planning Committee meeting that will address the above re-zoning issue.

Private companies intending to develop and governments of all levels in Canada have a moral and constitutional obligation to consult Aboriginal groups before making any legislative or regulatory changes to land that has associated aboriginal interests, as is the case with the Chaudiere Falls area on the Ottawa River.

At an October 8 public event last year (2013), Windmill said that they were in discussions with Aboriginal representatives regarding their views about the Chaudiere and Albert Islands. Where can the public view the consultations that were undertaken between the developer, the municipalities, and Aboriginal groups regarding the Chaudiere and Albert Islands?

Thank you,  
Chantal Batt  
Ottawa

**From:** Michael Bay  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:20 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Chaudière Falls & Islands Sacred Site

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski:

Kindly convey this email to the planning committee. I would request that it be considered to be my formal submission to the committee.

Dear Mr. Hume and Committee Members:

Those of us who do not belong to one of Canada's first peoples are blessed with the benefits that their heritage and teachings bring to this great country and are charged with the responsibility to respect their nations and all that is sacred to them. This is part of the reason that I beseech you not to commercialize the sacred territory that is the Chaudière Falls & Islands Sacred Site. But that is only part of the reason. The site has great significant for our nation as well as for the first peoples. It is not just a meeting point and sacred site for first peoples but a place of spiritual significance for all Canadians. One need only to set foot on that tiny piece of land to realize how special it is.

You have a choice: allow the building of condominiums to desecrate the site and prove, once again, that we have no respect for those that were here before us or rise above petty commercial interests and preserve a unique site that is holy to many and important to all. You can choose to trample the rights of our aboriginal peoples and hollow out a little bit of our collective soul or let the islands stand as a symbol of reconciliation, respect and humility.

I know that you will do the right thing,

Michael Bay

**From:** Odelia Bay  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:01 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher; Nguyen, Hieu  
**Subject:** City of Ottawa Planning Committee, Proposal to Rezone Chaudière Falls & Islands Sacred Site

To Whom It May Concern:

I was absolutely dumbfounded when I learned that the City of Ottawa's Planning Committee is considering a proposal for condominium development at Chaudière Falls & Islands.

These locations are sacred to the Anishinaabe people. These sites, like the city of Ottawa, are on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory. Additionally, the impact of the development will be irreversible.

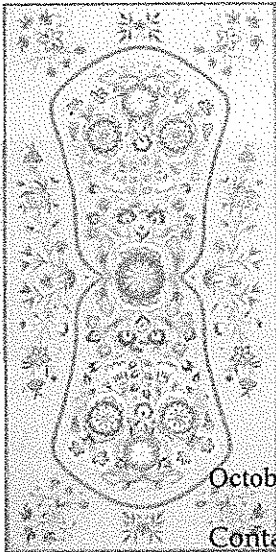
I write to you as a concerned citizen, an academic and scholar, and someone who values the opportunities I had to live and learn in Ottawa for several years.

I heard of these developments at the eleventh hour, almost literally. If I had more time, I would expand on the values I learned from the Commanda family, the appreciation I have for Victoria island, and the shame I would feel if the Windmill condominium development were allowed to proceed.

I would be pleased to speak further, if you wish to contact me.

Yours truly,

Odelia Bay



CHRISTI BELCOURT

October 1, 2014

Contact Committee Coordinator,  
Christopher Zwierzchowski

**Re: Proposed Re-zoning of Victoria Island & Other Islands for Condo development.**

Please accept this letter as my written submission to register my opposition to the proposed rezoning and development of the Islands for condominiums.

This land being discussed is unceded Algonquin land. Not only do I believe the City of Ottawa has no legal right to do this because the islands continue to belong to the Algonquin people, there have been recent legal cases supporting title to unceded territories. I also understand that the islands are also currently listed as "crown land". I question the legality of the City or developers to pursue this without the permission of the Algonquin title holders.

There have been promises made by the City of Ottawa to the people, including to Elder William Commanda, that these islands would be preserved as a continued gathering site for Indigenous Peoples, as they have been since before Europeans entered the continent. The City may not believe they are bound by those promises, but legally they have already set a precedent by making these promises.

In short, the people continue to own these lands. And the City should realize that it will most likely be facing a lengthy legal battle should the City choose to pursue this.

This site is considered a sacred site to Algonquin and Anishinaabe people. Not just to the Indigenous people living within the city.

I may just be one person, but I know many agree with me. So I request that my voice be noted among others who speak against this proposal and hope you vote wisely and justly to reject it.

Thank you,  
Sincerely

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

Christi Belcourt

**From:** Bill Bhaneja  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Cc:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher; Romoła Trebilcock  
**Subject:** Fw: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands  
**Attachments:** Asinabka Heritage Note 23 Sept 2014 pdf.pdf; OPEN LETTER AVI June 2014 final.pdf

Dear Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Zwierzchowski,

I have just finished reading excellent submission below by Romola V. (Thumbadoo) Trebilcock. I fully endorse it as a citizen of Ottawa. It is important that we recognize the due ownership of the Chaudière and Albert Islands as sacred places of our indigenous people and the vision of Algonquin Elder Dr. William Commanda for Chaudiere explained by Ms. Trebilcock in her submission, in particular her comment:

*Public Consultation/Input, that it is widely known and acknowledged that Elder William Commanda awakened the National Capital Region and public consciousness to the fact that this is Algonquin territory; his Legacy Vision for the Sacred Chaudiere Site was developed formally with thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, endorsed by Algonquin leadership from both the Ontario and Quebec Communities, presented publically when he was presented the Key to The City of Ottawa on June 21, 2006 at Victoria Island); his vision for the site is noted in full by the City of Ottawa in its November 2010 support and endorsement of the Indigenous vision – and, amongst the 900 people noted in the December 2013 Windmill consultations were a vast majority of people, including Indigenous, expecting to see some development of the Commanda proposal. The substantial drop in interest in the June 2014 Windmill consultation meeting is noted. Further, at Windmill’s request, I discussed the Circle of All Nations June 21 Open Letter regarding their proposals, and provided additional information in William Commanda’s own words (included also in our September 23, 2014 note) – has the City considered this amongst the 37 written comments noted below? I note further William Commanda’s Legacy Facebook Page reached 6,913 people this past week, affirming the ongoing global relevance of his legacy.*

I hope all those concerned in the planning process will give it a fair and just consideration.

Respectrfully submitted,

Bill Bhaneja, Ph.D.





**From:** joyce bouthiette  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:53 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Chaudiere Island Rezoning

I oppose the rezoning of Chaudiere and Albert islands for mixed use development.

The islands (Albert, Chaudiere, Wright and Victoria) should be declared a historic site, or preferably an aboriginal historic site, or both. All the islands are of historical and cultural/spiritual significance and should be returned as closely as possible to their natural state for all people to enjoy. The area could be a major tourist site if the falls were freed, as a natural pipe bowl would emerge with the mist rising up like the smoke from a sacred pipe. It doesn't make sense to have a dam in the middle of a city and many cities across North America are moving away from this. Also, the portage routes of the early voyagers and settlers could be developed as historic walking trails for everyone to enjoy. Hence the dual designation as an aboriginal or national heritage site and the draw as a major tourist area for both aboriginal people and all people to enjoy.

This is sacred lands. As per Elder William Commanda:

## **BACKGROUND**

Since the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in this area in 1613, the area around the Chaudière Falls has been acknowledged as a sacred meeting place of great importance to indigenous peoples, having been used as such for easily five thousand years. Indeed, it is one of the earliest sites of human occupation in this country. Later, it served as a significant meeting place with the earliest settlers, the French and the English. Today the world finds a home on its shores. This special area holds singular sacred, archaeological and historic value, and has been the site of cultural convergence, political evolution, and internationally influential industrial development and innovation over the past centuries.

The Ottawa River Heritage Designation History celebrates this remarkable heritage of the watershed, and the heart of the story lies here in Ottawa/Hull, at the meeting place of three rivers, with the mighty Ottawa, the heritage river of the Algonquins, connecting with the Gatineau from the Province of Quebec and the Rideau from the Province of Ontario.

Elder William Commanda, a trilingual 93 year old Algonquin from Quebec, honoured by the University of Ottawa with the presentation of an Honorary Doctorate Degree, and in June 2006, presented with the Key to the City of Ottawa, a remarkable, internationally recognized man with a passionate interest in the environment, this country and all its citizens, and founder of the Circle of All Nations, holds a broad vision for the entire area focused on two themes that predominate in his work: Respect for the Mother Earth and Racial Harmony and Peace-building. Today, the environmental crisis and war are our greatest national preoccupations and challenges.

These are my reasons, meegwetch.

September 30, 2014

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski;

I am writing to you as a member and a long time supporter of the Kanata based Circle of All Nations. I want to start out by thanking you for inviting submissions on this very important official plan and by-law amendments, ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street - Chaudière and Albert Islands. That being said, I want to go on record as objecting to the aforementioned proposed amendments.

I was present when Michael Wiggins of Windmill Development Group stated that their vision would "change the way people look at Ottawa" (Ottawa Citizen, Dec. 12, 2013). As I saw it then and still do today, Ottawa now has two divergent visions for the Chaudière/Asinabka region that will indeed change the way people look at Ottawa. Only this time, thankfully, you are reaching out for comment whereas the Windmill Development Group did not at their presentation session.

A vision that predates Windmill's housing development vision was a national peace and reconciliation vision, put forward by the late Grandfather William Commanda, as "a sanctuary for all, a meeting place for all the world, a sacred space in the nation's heartland," in other words, a Vancouver Stanley Park or a New York City Central Park for Ottawa, our Nations capital.

Windmill's vision is a development vision and from where I was standing in the River View salon I did not hear the sustained applause as reported. Instead I heard a lot of whispers about how their development is ripping the heart out of Commanda's vision. Windmill's vision metaphorically quarters the Chaudière/Asinabka region's apple, with Windmill ending up with three slices and Canada's First Peoples ending up with one, which is shameful. It also begs the question, is the sacred really for sale?

Windmill representatives went on to say that the Chaudière/Asinabka region is "one of the most important development sites in the country." While that may be true from their perspective, unfortunately it is a country still coming to grips with its past, a past rife with the negative outcomes of colonization and is in dire need of healing and reconciliation. Commanda's vision for the Chaudière/Asinabka region addresses those needs while Windmill's vision does not.

The Chaudière/Asinabka park islands are ideally situated between Canada's two founding colonial powers, French and English, thus it is Canada's quintessential diamond in the rough. One can only dream of Canada's First Peoples being allowed to develop their own sacred space in the nation's heartland, which would ultimately be representative of what Canada truly is, a tripartite nation.

The Chaudière/Asinabka region represents so much more than a development opportunity in the heart of Ottawa. It is after all the heart of our entire nation and in so being, is deserving of the input from all Canadians. I exhort you to put the two divergent visions forward for all to see and let Canadians decide what they want at the heart of their nation.

Thank you for allowing me to formally object to the proposed ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street - Chaudière and Albert Islands.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

Bryan Bowers

**From:** Elizabeth Stein  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 1:43 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Re- Re-zoning of Sacred Site (Chaudiere/Albert Islands)

Dear Christopher,

Below is my letter to the planning committee regarding their meeting tomorrow for re-zoning of Chaudier Island. Please forward it to them, and keep me informed of their decision and further actions on this issue.

Regards,

Liz Brown-Commanda (Stein)

To the City of Ottawa Planning Committee  
Re: Development of Chaudière and Albert Islands

I am an Algonquin descendant of Pikwakanagan, of the Lemure, Commanda, and Jocko lines. I am writing in order for it to be on record that I am not in favour of the re-zoning of Chaudiere Island, and believe that you should take an alternate approach.

The following should be sufficient rationale for you to immediately cease and desist in efforts to (once again) develop that land.

1. This entire city is on unceded Algonquin territory, upon which all government bodies (yours included) are illegal occupiers. Asinabka (Chaudiere Falls) is a sacred place of spiritual significance for all First Nations people: our equivalent to a church mosque or temple. The equivalent is to allow a developer to illegally buy a church, mosque, or temple, build on it, sell it, then claim respect for the religion in question by later erecting a sign espousing respect for said religion. Windmill Developers has not consulted extensively, they have consulted a handful of people who give them the answer they want to hear. In addition to consulting all Algonquins, the needs and desires of the urban indigenous population and other residents of the city should also be considered.

2. Considering the damage already done by colonization to First People and the land, the time for a new relationship is now. As Grandfather Commanda said for years, the path to true reconciliation begins with restoration of the land to a state of natural health and beauty. Un-damming the falls and realizing Grandfather Commanda's vision (a vision which had the support of all Algonquins, support which would be revealed as still existant by full and proper consultation) would be a good first step to realizing the vision of the two row wampum, a vision in which we walk in full partnership with each other. Eels and other species would thrive, and the river would be restored to good health.

3. We live in a time when humans are being asked to make a choice: continue to develop and exploit resources and face grave consequences as a species, or repair the damage we have done and restore the water, land, air, animals, and people to a state of health. We must start living in harmony with our environment if we want to have any hope for our future.

Be on the right side of history. Start making choices which honour the land and the people from whom it was stolen, and start consulting and working in partnership with First Nations people. It's the ethical thing to do. Failure to do so will have grave consequences for all, and that includes your children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brown-Commanda (Stein)

Written submission to City of Ottawa Planning Committee

Request for submission registered with Christopher Zwierzchowski, delivered by hand.

I am writing to register my position on the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law modifications.

Date: 2014 10 01 File: ASC2014-PAJ-PGM-0181

I respectfully disagree with the current planning and the processes guiding it, as it pertains to the area along the Ottawa River known traditionally as the Sacred Chaudière Falls and Island site.

Specifically, the City's Planning Committee has received recommendations by the City Planner, Hieu Nguyen to amend the Official Plan and approve modifying the zoning by-law for the Chaudière and Albert Island- 3 and 4 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario. I do not agree.

I stand in **opposition** to these changes on numerous grounds, many of which have been cited in the extensive package submitted by Romola V. Thumbadoo, Coordinator, Circle of All Nations.

I humbly support the vision of the much beloved late elder, William Commanda, Order of Canada recipient and holder of the Key to the City of Ottawa for an indigenous healing centre to be created and the falls to be freed, and the space to be remediated, nurtured, and available to all Canadians and visitors. I support the vision that brings all people of all beliefs and colours together in nature to heal any broken bonds amongst us, to be able to feel peace and love and feel the earth in ways that will allow us to remember our role as Canadians on the world stage- the peace makers.

Many people have indicated they had no knowledge of the weighty subject being addressed here today, or the decisions that may be endorsed and then addressed by City Council October 8. My question here is, what processes are being followed to ensure there is public consultation and consultation with First Nations on these very important changes, especially considering, it is noted that this is all unceded territory?

Who represents the interests of all Canadians, of all First Nations from the Rockies to the East Coast and across Turtle Island, for this sacred space, Askinabka, that holds so much significant history? After all the attempts at reconciliation within and all the challenges of war looking out, it seems a national place of healing is even more relevant than ever for Canada and our First People in this time. Imagine a large urban park, a place of life and loving community, of green space and restorative waterways; of peace, learning, sharing and healing.

It is common knowledge for most people involved with these waters and lands that this small park area and flow and falls of the Ottawa River, including the areas used and damaged by Domtar and Scott Paper, in the heart of the National Capital core, bordering the cities of Gatineau and Ottawa, is a sacred peaceful place, who's history pre-dates contact with the early French and English settlers.

It was Queen Victoria who put her name to Victoria Island and it was meant for the original 'owners' or caretakers of the land to remain in control and possession of it.

A large majority of the global community agree that the atrocities against the First People of Canada were inhumane. In fact, many generations still live today with the effects of intergenerational trauma due to the residential school systems that forced children to leave their families and often times endure horrible treatment by so-called well-meaning people of the day. Not to mention the outlawing of ceremonies and traditional religious practices that haunted the people for generations.

Many Canadians agree, we have done too much damage to our natural treasures, our water and forests and lands. Every day, Ottawa hears the weather report on CBC radio from the Maniwaki, Quebec reading, yet many still have no knowledge of the hardships people face in this area. Who here knows that the water on Kitigan Zibi is not fit to drink and the years of washing with it has taken its toll on many?

I believe if people are allowed to conduct ceremonies and meetings on this sacred land and alongside the Ottawa River, with the proposed structures, and healing centre, it will be assisted with its recovery of its spirit and in turn Ottawa and Canada will be in a position to host the world in our urban park of peace and healing which in the end will result in a multitude of long term benefits for a larger group of people than condo development could ever bring.

Imagine the power of the Sacred Chaudière Falls as described by the people who heard her roar before the damaging dam. It is such a source of power beyond our understanding. The technology exists to still generate hydro power and leave the falls free. Freeing the falls will not only provide a top world tourist attraction, but it will aid the cause of the endangered species, the American Eel, who will be able to travel freely in this part of the river.

Ottawa is the capital city of one of the most popular peace loving and promoting nations in the world, which is highly sought after by visitors and those seeking safe places to live. Mother Earth is calling all individuals to action, to care. Ottawa is this meeting place for people and creating the space for all nations to come together for peace and reconciliation in a natural environment will put us on the map again for top 10 bucket list destinations.

Thank you.

Patti Butler

# DOUGLAS CARDINAL ARCHITECT

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Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski,

It is imperative that the islands in the Ottawa River, from Chaudière Island to Victoria , Island retain their zone designation as a park. These islands are the sacred sites for religious ceremonies for the Anishnawbe Peoples from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains and to many areas south into the United States of America . The Anishnawbe Peoples are some 65 Nations across Canada , who speak various dialects of the Algonquin language. These Islands were the Islands of Fire where people came together in peace and gave offerings to the “Great Kettle” a whirlpool at the foot of Chaudière Falls . The Algonquin Nation was the Host Nation which brought people together in peace with each other and in peace with their Mother, the Earth, for thousands of years.

It is a sacrilege to all First Nations People that the site was defaced by industry, which has almost destroyed the abundant resources of fish and eels of the Ottawa River, and polluted the water, which is the source of all life throughout the Ottawa basin. Now that our economy has moved from the industrial age to the information age, industry is not the primary source of the Canadian economy, and these islands must be returned to the religious ceremonies of which the Anishnawbe people as well as their neighbors have carried out for thousands of years. The Anishnawbe Peoples opened their hearts to the new comers and shared their land and resources with them.

It is shameful that the First Nations have been denied access to the Falls and the Great Kettle for the last 100 years, especially given the fact that this site is unceded Algonquin land, and their rights to this sacred territory have been denied. Since the use of heavy industry is over, on these historical sites, the First Nations People wish to continue to have guardianship of these sites.

William Commanda, who held the sacred wampum belts of the Anishnawbe Peoples, has the support of the Elders of the Algonquin Nation, the Elders of the Anishnawbe Nations, the Assembly of First Nations and most of the First Nations leaders across Canada as well as the United States . His vision of a Circle of All Nations, of a cultural of peace, placed in a park-like setting on the islands, all have access to the falls, properly planned for First Nations religious ceremonies, is a vision not only support by all First Nations, but many Canadian citizens who want to create a new relationship, a new partnership, with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

I have worked with William Commanda and the National Capital Commission since 1984, and have made a commitment to bring this National vision of our Indigenous People, which is a symbol of peace and Reconciliation, to the heart of our Capital on Confederation Boulevard , which I contributed to as the architect of the Canadian Museum of History. Changing the zoning on this site to allow for a housing development is another historical act that shows no respect for the Indigenous People have been guardians of this land for thousands of years. This is the time for all Canadians

and the First Nations People, to come together with peace and reconciliation. On behalf of the people of Canada we request that you make the right decision to keep this site zoned as a park for all Canadians and their international guests to enjoy forever.

Yours respectfully,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

DOUGLAS CARDINAL, O. C., PH.D. (H.C.), B.ARCH.  
O.A.A., S.A.A., A.A.A., A.L.B.C., I.A.A., NCARB, R.C.A.A., F.R.A.I.C., F.R.A.I.S., F.R.S.C.  
PRINCIPAL  
DOUGLAS CARDINAL ARCHITECT, INC



Ottawa, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

In Response to the Official Plan and Zoning – 3 and 4 Booth Street / Chaudière & Albert Islands

To Whom It May Concern,

At the City of Ottawa

I lived in Ottawa since a cold January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1984. I have lived more than half my life here and never felt the desire to live anywhere else; Ottawa is beautiful! The rivers carved by nature, the green that surrounds us, the amazing engineering and architecture like the canal and parliament hill, the thriving cultural life of the national museums and the embassies... Ottawa is amazing!

And yet... we cringe witnessing the insipid soulless urban sprawl, we wonder what happened at LeBreton Flats and Lansdowne Park. Horrific developments. And now we are facing the most daring, most aggressive, most exploitive urban development of them all: the development suggested by Windmill in the Sacred Chaudière Island and beyond.

Do you understand why I called it SACRED Chaudière Island? Do you know of Grandfather William Commanda's Vision for the Sacred Islands, the very heart of the Nation's Capital? He received the Key of City of Ottawa in 2006. Do you know of the Prophecy of the Wampum Belts he carried? Do you know Douglas Cardinal (architect of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, now of History) has been commissioned to work on the site since 1980's as a Vision for Canada's Capital? It is to create an international focus for the practice of sustainability, peace and reconciliation with the Earth and all cultures. Can you comprehend the historical and cultural legacy and responsibility the City of Ottawa entitles?

It seems there is a lot the City of Ottawa doesn't know, or doesn't want to understand. Even the national museum of Canada is rewriting Canadian History starting not from contact, but the arrival of the First Nations to the land in the last Ice Age. It's time to recognize that Canada is founded as a Colony between the French, the English and the welcome generosity of the First Peoples' of Canada. While other colonies have gained independence through war, Canada managed to negotiate a Nation State. Why? What makes us so different? Digging a bit in Canadian History we realize that it has to do with the nature of our relationship with the **Anishinaabe**, the largest indigenous group in Canada. Chaudière Falls, and all the Islands in the vicinity (Chaudière, Albert, and Victoria Islands) are sacred to the Anishinaabe of all Canada and the USA. This is their Religious Site, a pilgrimage site, and great offence was done to them by desecrating it with Industry. Now they want to desecrate it further by urbanizing it.

What does this mean? Why is this site so important? What is the issue that is so vital to the Indigenous Peoples and many settlers? As a European Indigenous living in Canada I have learned so much from the Anishinaabe! Why should the City of Ottawa wish to preserve the integrity of the Islands? What is the message of Grandfather William Commanda that is so vital if we are to survive the 21<sup>st</sup> century's climatological and human devastation?

I urge the Counselors and Officials of the City of Ottawa to inform yourselves and understand the deep and controversial issues at hand; the cultural and historical moment we are living at the moment. I urge you to rethink the zoning of the Islands. Property taxes withstanding, it will be far more lucrative to the City Of Ottawa to put the city in the map as a truly world-class destination as the true Green City Capital of the world. Learn of Grandfather William Commanda's proposal to the site. Listen to his message. I urge you to arrange a special presentation by Douglas Cardinal and his associates to present William Commanda's Vision of the site. You have the opportunity to continue the exploitation and colonizing agendas of the few, or be part of the solution as humanity works hard to create a safe world for our children and grandchildren. We are all making History here.

In Hope and Reconciliation,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

Idoia Arana-Beobide de Cardinal

Resident of Ottawa, Emigrant, Property Owner, Basque (Indigenous Peoples of the World)

**From:** Harder, Jan  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:51 AM  
**To:** 'Calvin Clime'; Hume, Peter E; Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** RE: Development of Chaudière and Albert Islands

Thank you for taking the time to write. I will make sure that Planning Committee receives a copy and your letter will be included  
 Jan

**From:** Calvin Clime  
**Sent:** October 02, 2014 6:28 AM  
**To:** Hume, Peter E; Harder, Jan  
**Subject:** Development of Chaudière and Albert Islands

**Dear Peter Hume and Jan Harder;**

I am writing out of concern and opposition to the development plans for Chaudiere and Albert Island.

**This will impact the sacred land of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples.**

I know about how the land has been purchased by Windmill Developers who plan to build approximately 1200 residential units, 4,800 square meters for retail, 17,000 metres for office, and a hotel are proposed to be located on Chaudière and Albert Islands.

Grandfather William Commanda spiritual leader of the Algonquin Asinabka peoples of North America was promised by former Chairs of the National Capital Commission Jean Pigott and Marcel Beaudry that this sacred unceded land of the Algonquin Asinabka Peoples, would be honoured by having an "Indigenous Peace Ecology Centre" built on Asinabka Island, also known as Victoria Island.

In November 2010 the City of Ottawa endorsed this project. Why is this now being renegeged upon? It is absolutely wrong.

It was always assumed that the NCC would be acquiring the islands and that they would be developed under their direction. For Historical, Traditional, Legal, and Moral reasons we must protect our rich heritage for future generations.

We should clean up the mess that industrialization has left and leave this area with our First Nations.

Will you honour the City's commitment to return this land to its rightful owners, the Algonquin People?

Sincerely,

Calvin Clime

**From:** Julie Comber  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:01 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Objection to rezoning Chaudière Island Windmill's proposed development

Dear Mr. Zwierzchowski,

Please forward my written submission to the City of Ottawa Planning Committee, (that is meeting Thursday Oct 2nd 9:30am at City Hall). I wish to register my objection to the proposed rezoning of Chaudière islands which would allow the Windmill condominium development to proceed. This area is sacred to the Algonquin and other aboriginal peoples. It was meant to be neutral ground, where people could meet and perform ceremonies. It was not meant to be a place for people to live and shop, as per Windmill's proposal.

Giving the go-ahead to build condos on these islands would negatively impact achieving the full vision of late Algonquin spiritual leader Grandfather William Commanda to have a sacred site. See the Asinabka website for more: <http://asinabka.com>. And more about the Falls here: <http://albertdumont.com/the-kettle-of-boiling-waters-chaudiere-falls-algonquin-territory/>

It is time to respect our aboriginal peoples, and to achieve the vision for Indigenous & Peace Centres on sacred islands at Chaudiere Falls. This would be a wonderful project for Ottawa, our Nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Julie

Julie Comber  
PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education  
University of Ottawa/Université d'Ottawa

From: Chuck and Janet Commanda

Date: October 1, 2014

Attention: Mrs. Hieu Nguyen, Planner and Mr. Christopher Zwierzchowski, Committee Coordinator

Planning and Growth Management Department

City of Ottawa

**Re: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands**

We submit this letter in writing as notice of our interest and concerns and objections to the proposals to be discussed at a public meeting tomorrow October 2, 2014. We will do our best to attend the meeting tomorrow but either way we wish to be kept informed of any decisions or other information associated with tomorrow's meeting and to be added as a party to the hearing of any appeal including the Ontario Municipal Board.

We are an Algonquin couple. I, Chuck Commanda am an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi First Nation and I, Janet Commanda is a metis with Anishnabe ancestors.

Chuck Commanda: My grandfather is Doctor William Commanda, Algonquin Elder, Officer of the Order of Canada, recipient of the Key to the City of Ottawa and many other awards during his lifetime. He was the founder of a Circle of All Nations an organization based in Ottawa with which I have been active with for many years. I am a master birch bark canoe builder and basket maker thanks in large part to my grandfather.

The need for reconciliation has been underscored by our people for centuries and now it is additionally represented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission who have identified in their interim report the priority for education of Canadians about our shared history and the rich cultures of the Indigenous peoples.

Both Janet and I have spent the last few years working with youth in schools and other settings sharing our rich culture through birch bark canoe building and basket making. The experience has been very rewarding but we see first hand that there is a long way to go to achieve a reconciliation our future generations deserve to live in a world where as my grandfather's vision directed; A Circle of All Nations a Culture of Peace.

Janet Commanda: I'm concerned that despite a deep oral history and extensive documentation of the sacred nature of these islands to Algonquin and other Indigenous peoples it is proposed to amend the City of Ottawa Official plan and change the zoning by-law from uses that are compatible with that history and conflict with commitments by previous Canadian governments and the City of Ottawa to share and implement Dr. William Commanda's vision for a National Indigenous Centre and a naturalized park that respects the sacred islands.

These islands have been the source of Indigenous celebrations, prayer and healing activities involving Algonquins, other Indigenous peoples and in recent times people from all parts of Canada and guests from throughout the world. Besides the rich oral history of Indigenous peoples about the sacred nature of this special area in the heart of Canada's capital Samuel de Champlain and Philemon Wrights sister among many others witnessed their sacred Indigenous use.

We hope you will respect Chaudière, Albert and Victoria Islands as they should be respected.

Chi Miigwetch,  
Chuck and Janet Commanda

**From:** Earl Commanda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 3:05 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** In opposition

Mr. Zwierzchowski, (City of Ottawa)

I oppose the rezoning proposal for two of the islands (also known as Victoria Island) that would allow the Windmill condominium development.

Giving the go-ahead to building condominiums on these islands would detrimentally impact the ability to achieve the full vision of the late Algonquin spiritual leader Grandfather William Commanda for this religious / sacred site and for all of Ottawa Aboriginal community that see's this place as a sacred place in the Nation's Capital.

In Solidarity

Earl Commanda  
Ojibway Nation

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**From:** Natalia Crowe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:40 PM  
**To:** Hume, Peter E; Harder, Jan; Stephen Blais; Bloess, Rainer; Chiarelli, Rick; Hobbs, Katherine; Hubley, Allan; Monette, Bob; Qadri, Shad; Tierney, Timothy; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire); Zwierzchowski, Christopher; Nguyen, Hieu

**Cc:**

**Subject:** City of Ottawa Planning Committee: Honour Grandfather Commanda's Vision for Chaudiere Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island) in the Nation's Capital

**Attachments:** asinabka-bn-brochure-final-french-eng.pdf; Letter to City of Ottawa Planning Committee Re Grandfather Commanda Vision for Chaudiere Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island) - September 30, 2014.pdf

September 30, 2014

City of Ottawa

Planning Committee

**Cc:** Circle of All Nations  
 Kokomville Academy  
 Ottawa Riverkeeper  
 Ecology Ottawa  
 uOttawa Environmental Law Clinic  
 uOttawa Aboriginal Law Students' Association  
 uOttawa Environmental Law Students' Association

**Re: Oppose the amendment to the Lebreton Flats Central Area Secondary Plan, Honour Algonquin Elder William Commanda's Vision for Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island) in the Nation's Capital**

Dear Planning Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose on October 2, 2014 the amendment to the Lebreton Flats Central Area Secondary Plan. To date, the developer, Windmill Development Group, has not incorporated the Vision of the late Algonquin Grandfather William Commanda, Member of the Order of Canada and holder of the Keys to the City of Ottawa. I am one of the many people who fully support Grandfather Commanda's four-part Vision for Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island), a copy of which is attached in English (page 1) and in French (page 2).

Grandfather Commanda's Vision calls for 1) Building an Indigenous Centre, 2) Building a Peace Building Centre, 3) Creating an Educational Eco-City Park and Historic Interpretive Centre and 4) Freeing Chaudière Falls.

On December 30, 2013, I wrote to Rodney Wilts of Windmill Development Group and provided Mr. Wilts with a copy of Grandfather Commanda's Vision for Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island). My December 2013 letter to Mr. Wilts is below in the body of this email.

It is unacceptable that Windmill's development proposal presented on pages 67-81 in the Cultural Heritage Impact Statement does not incorporate nor make reference to Grandfather Commanda's Vision.

I asked the Windmill Development Group and now ask the City of Ottawa to ensure that any development on Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island) - which as you know, is on unceded Algonquin Territory - happens in accordance with Grandfather Commanda's Vision, Article 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*.

Please support Grandfather Commanda's Vision for Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island), which according to Grandfather Commanda and to so many others like myself "...offers a unique opportunity to correct mistakes of history and look towards the future."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Natalia Crowe JD MES BAHons

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Natalia Crowe**

Date: 30 December 2013 20:21

Subject: Comment Re: Les Iles Planning Proposal - Chaudiere Falls/Asinabka (Victoria Island)

To: [rodney@windmilldevelopments.com](mailto:rodney@windmilldevelopments.com)

Cc: Meredith Brown <[keeper@ottawariverkeeper.ca](mailto:keeper@ottawariverkeeper.ca)>, Aboriginal Law Students Association University of Ottawa <[alsa.uofa@gmail.com](mailto:alsa.uofa@gmail.com)>, ELSA Executive / AÉDE Exécutif



<elsa.executif@gmail.com>, ben.powless@ecologyottawa.ca, Jacob Wawate  
<jacob\_wawatie@kokomvilleacademy.com>,

December 30, 2013

Windmill Developments  
Rodney Wilts  
Partner

Cc:  
Ottawa Riverkeeper  
Ecology Ottawa  
uOttawa Aboriginal Law Students' Association  
uOttawa Environmental Law Students' Association  
Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Peoples' Social Forum  
Earth Warrior Standing Circle/Aki Cimaginicik Wakagabwiwin

Dear Mr. Wilts,

**Re: Les Iles Planning Proposal**

As an indigenous law student, I am writing to thank you and your team at Windmill Development group for meeting with citizens of the Algonquin Nation over Les Iles Planning Proposal to be presented to Ottawa City Hall and Gatineau City Hall for consideration this spring.

I ask that the Windmill Development Group continue to work closely with the Algonquin Nation, especially with the Elders, on how to honour and protect the sacred Chaudiere Falls and Asinabka (Victoria Island) and realize the vision for an Indigenous Centre. Doing so will respect Article 32 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (see attachment), the international standard for obtaining the Algonquin Peoples' *free, prior and informed consent* to develop lands and resources in Ottawa and Gatineau, which as you know, is on unceded Algonquin territory.

To honour our collective responsibilities and shared home, I encourage you and your team to read about the vision for Chaudiere Falls and Asinabka (Victoria Island) expressed by the late Algonquin Elder William Commanda (see attachment), recipient of the Order of Canada and holder of the Keys to the City of Ottawa, as well as about the sacredness of Chaudiere Falls and Asinabka (Victoria Island) by Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont (link to article [here](#)). I support this sacred Algonquin vision and hope you will too.

Thanks again and best wishes to Windmill Developments.

Sincerely,

Natalia Crowe, MES

--

JD Candidate (2014)  
University of Ottawa  
Kichi Sipi (Ottawa River) Valley  
Unceded Algonquin Territory

September 30, 2014

City of Ottawa  
Planning Committee

Cc: Circle of All Nations  
Kokomville Academy  
Ottawa River Keeper  
Ecology Ottawa  
uOttawa Aboriginal Law Students' Association  
uOttawa Environmental Law Students' Association

**Re: Oppose the amendment to the Lebreton Flats Central Area  
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Dear Planning Committee Members,

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Please support Grandfather Commanda's Vision for Chaudière Island and Asinabka (Victoria Island), which according to Grandfather Commanda and to so many others like myself "...offers a unique opportunity to correct mistakes of history and look towards the future."

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*Natalia Crowe*

Natalia Crowe JD MES BAHons



A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS  
A CULTURE OF PEACE



Dr. William Commanda, OC

## PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL NATIONAL HISTORIC CENTRE AT ASINABKA/CHAUDIÈRE FALLS, OTTAWA, CANADA

A proposal for development of a special National Historic Centre at the sacred Chaudière Falls, Ottawa, Canada

### ISSUE:

The vision calls for a fully inclusive City Park, Historic Interpretative Site, Conference Centre and Aboriginal Centre at the Sacred Site of Asinabka/Chaudière Falls, Chaudière and Victoria Islands, within the Nation's Capital

### BACKGROUND:

Since the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in this area in 1613, the area around the Chaudière Falls has been acknowledged as a sacred meeting place of great importance to indigenous peoples, having been used as such for easily five thousand years. Indeed, it is one of the earliest sites of human occupation in this country. Later, it served as a significant meeting place with the earliest settlers, the French and the English. Today the world finds a home on its shores.

This special area holds singular sacred, archaeological and historic value, and has been the site of cultural convergence, political evolution, and internationally influential industrial development and innovation over the past centuries.

The *Ottawa River Heritage Designation History* celebrates this remarkable heritage of the watershed, and the heart of the story lies here in Ottawa/Hull, at the meeting place of three rivers, with the mighty Ottawa, the heritage river of the Algonquins, connecting with the Gatineau from the Province of Quebec and the Rideau from the Province of Ontario.

Elder William Commanda, a trilingual Algonquin from Quebec, recently honoured by the University of Ottawa with the presentation of an Honorary Doctorate Degree, and in June 2006, presented with the Key to the City of Ottawa, a remarkable, internationally recognized man with a passionate interest in the environment, this country and all its citizens, and founder of the *Circle of All Nations*, holds a broad vision for the entire area focused on two themes that predominate in his work: Respect for the Mother Earth and Racial Harmony and Peace-building. Today, the environmental crisis and war are our greatest national preoccupations and challenges.

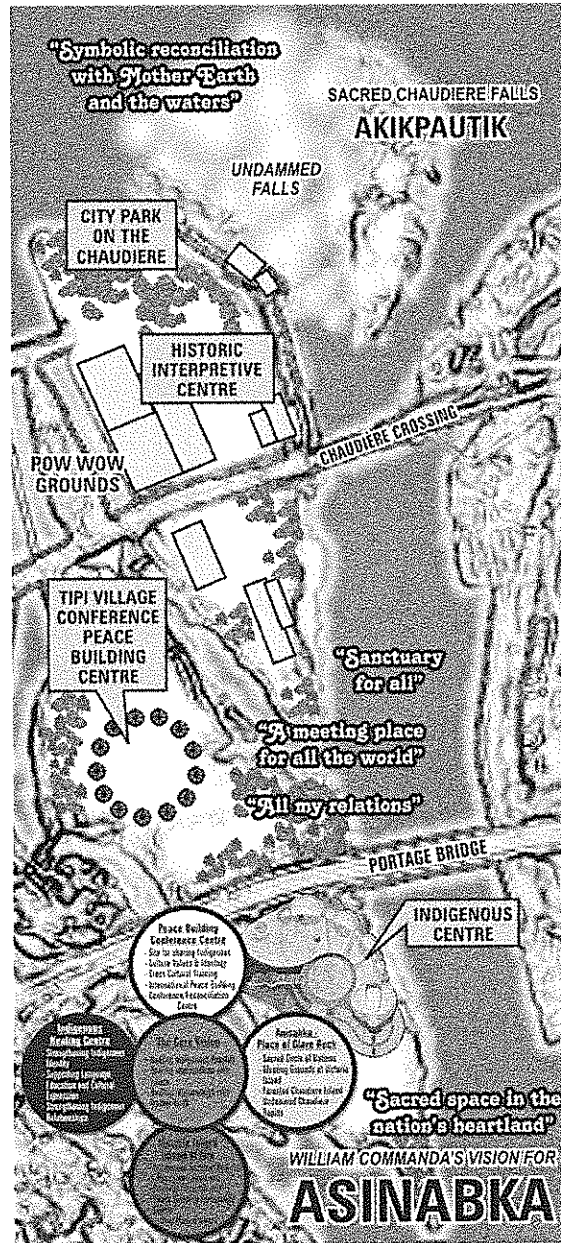
### THE ACTIVITY:

Dr. Commanda's bold four-fold vision calls for

- 1) Freeing the Chaudière Falls,
- 2) Creating a City Park & Historic Interpretive Centre
- 3) Building a Peace Building Meeting Site, and
- 4) Building an Aboriginal Centre

### DETAILS:

1. It is a vision of potentially significant international influence for symbolic reconciliation with Nature, both water and land, by undamming the sacred Chaudière Falls to the extent possible, and returning it to its former magnificence; planting the Chaudière Island with trees and creating an educational eco-city park in the heart



of the country, expressive of both of its history, and its future, offering a modern day reclaimed green sanctuary and pow wow grounds to offset concrete urban sprawl; it also calls for developing a historic interpretative centre to commemorate the history of settlement pre and post contact: ceremony, ancient trade routes, exchange of goods, logging, hydro electric power, industrial development, inventions etc.

2. Consistent with the ancient history as meeting place, and current need for creative meeting spaces designed to serve as collaborative think tanks for reflective contemplation on global and local issues during this UN Decade for Culture of Peace, for international cross-cultural exchange and training, the remaining portion of the vision calls for a *Tipi Village* pod-style conference hotel on the western portion of Victoria Island, fully accessible within the core area of the capital city.

3. Finally, for almost four decades, the Eastern portion of Victoria Island has been designated the site for an Aboriginal Centre; over the past eight years, Elder Commanda has worked to develop a vision for the Centre; Aboriginal Architect Douglas Cardinal, with support from Canadian Heritage, developed the conceptual architectural plans to the Level B; Elder Commanda negotiated a draft Memorandum to Cabinet with a consultant for the National Capital Commission, and at the Circle of All Nations International Gathering of August 2006, the NCC expressed full support for this proposal.

4. The entire site will be a great attraction for Aboriginal peoples, citizens of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, the country at large, children, new Canadians and international tourists.

5. Though damaged over the years, the sacred Chaudière site of the Algonquin Peoples remains a beautiful natural and national treasure waiting to be recognized and honoured.

6. Elder Commanda's vision also offers a unique opportunity to *Correct Mistakes of History and Look Towards the Future*.

7. It is recognized that this work spans many federal departments, jurisdictions and responsibility centres. It needs a collective and collaborative national will and leadership to create the momentum for its successful realization.

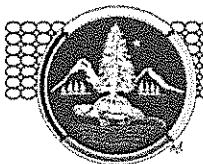
### TIME FRAME:

The timing is propitious for the bestowing a lasting national and indeed international legacy commemorative of the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace, in anticipation of two key dates: 2010, when the world comes to Canada for the Olympics, and 4 June, 2013, the four hundredth year anniversary of the arrival of Champlain in this area (June being also the time Heritage Rivers Day is celebrated). **UPDATE:** Now projected for 2017.

### ACTION REQUESTED:

Widespread endorsement of this fully inclusive proposal through the establishment of a multi disciplinary task force to develop the implementation plan for the Sacred Site.

Send your message of support to [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca) and [circleofallnations@sympatico.ca](mailto:circleofallnations@sympatico.ca) or [info@asinabka.com](http://info@asinabka.com).



A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS  
A CULTURE OF PEACE



Dr. William Commanda, OC

## PROPOSITION D'UN CENTRE HISTORIQUE NATIONAL AUX ASINABKA/CHUTES DE LA CHAUDIÈRE, OTTAWA (CANADA)

Le projet d'aménagement d'un Centre historique national au site sacré des chutes de la Chaudière à Ottawa

### VISION:

Cette vision se compose de l'aménagement d'un site complet qui comprendrait un parc municipal, un site d'interprétation historique, un centre de conférences ainsi qu'un centre autochtone sur les lieux sacrés d'Asinabka (les chutes de la Chaudière et les îles Chaudière et Victoria), en plein cœur de la capitale nationale.

### HISTORIQUE:

Depuis l'arrivée de Samuel de Champlain dans cette région en 1613, les lieux qui entourent les chutes de la Chaudière ont été reconnus comme étant des lieux sacrés de rencontre pour les peuples autochtones, lieux qui sont d'une grande importance pour eux puisque cet usage date d'au moins cinq mille ans. En effet, il s'agit de l'un des plus anciens sites occupés par des humains au pays. Plus tard, cet endroit a également servi de lieu de rencontre avec les premiers pionniers, les Français et les Anglais. Aujourd'hui, le monde entier pourrait y trouver un lieu de rencontre, un chez soi.

Cet endroit spécial est imbu d'une valeur singulière, puisqu'il s'agit d'une valeur qui est à la fois sacrée, archéologique et historique; c'est un lieu de convergences, où l'évolution politique et l'innovation et le développement industriels se sont fait sentir à l'échelle internationale au cours des derniers siècles.

L'histoire de la désignation patrimoniale de la rivière des Outaouais célèbre le patrimoine remarquable de ce bassin important et le cœur de cette histoire se retrouve ici, à Ottawa/Hull, où trois rivières se rencontrent : la majestueuse Kitchissippi (rivière des Outaouais/Ottawa river), rivière patrimoniale des Algonquins, dans laquelle se jettent la rivière Gatineau du côté québécois et la rivière Rideau du côté ontarien.

L'ainé William Commanda, un Algonquin trilingue vivant au Québec, à qui l'Université d'Ottawa a récemment rendu hommage en lui présentant un Doctorat honoraire, et à qui la ville d'Ottawa a remis, à l'été 2006, la Clef de la ville d'Ottawa, est un homme remarquable, connu à l'échelle internationale et qui possède une passion pour l'environnement, pour ce pays-ci et pour tous ses citoyens. Ayant fondé le Cercle de toutes les nations (Circle of All Nations), il cultive une vision d'ensemble pour la région dont l'emphase repose sur deux principes qui guident toujours son travail : le respect de notre Mère la Terre et la culture de la paix, de l'harmonie inter-raciale. Aujourd'hui, la crise environnementale et la guerre sont nos préoccupations et nos défis les plus importants.

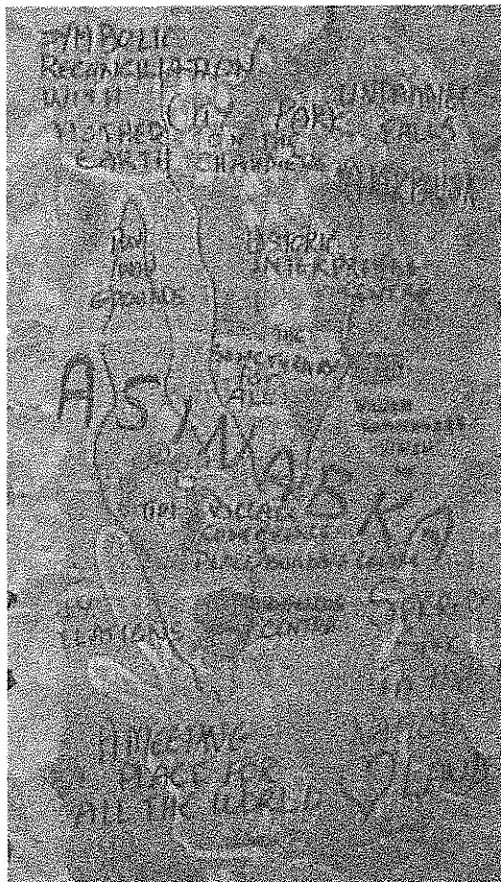
### ACTIVITÉS:

La vision courageuse de Dr. Commanda comporte quatre éléments principaux :

- 1) La libération des chutes de la Chaudière
- 2) La création d'un parc municipal et d'un centre d'interprétation historique
- 3) La construction d'un centre de conférences voué à la Paix
- 4) La construction d'un centre autochtone

### DÉTAILS:

1. Le démantèlement de la dame des chutes sacrées de la Chaudière, dans la mesure du possible, et la restauration de l'ancienne majesté de ces chutes, ont le potentiel d'avoir une influence internationale comme symbole de réconciliation avec la nature, à la fois avec l'eau et avec la Terre. En plantant des arbres et en créant un parc écologique éducatif sur l'île Chaudière, en plein cœur du pays, l'histoire et le futur trouveraient leur



place, côte à côte, dans ce retour contemporain d'un sanctuaire de verdure et d'un terrain de *pow wow*, adoucissant aussi les étendues de béton du centre-ville. Un centre d'interprétation historique y commémorerait l'histoire de la région avant et après le contact avec les Européens : les cérémonies, les anciennes routes d'échange, la coupe du bois, le développement hydroélectrique et industriel, les inventions, etc., toutes choses qui font la richesse de cette région.

2. Afin de respecter l'ancienneté de cet endroit comme lieu de rencontre et pour répondre aux besoins contemporains en lieux propices pour réfléchir et collaborer à la recherche de solutions aux questions locales et mondiales de l'heure en cette Décennie internationale pour une culture de la paix de l'ONU, la vision propose un centre de conférences prenant la forme d'un hôtel modulaire basé sur le modèle d'un village de tipis dans la partie ouest de l'île Victoria, favorisant des séances de formation et des échanges inter-culturels internationaux, tout à fait accessibles, en plein cœur de la capitale.

3. Enfin, depuis presque quatre décennies, la partie est de l'île Victoria est désignée comme site pour un centre autochtone; au cours des huit dernières années, l'ainé Commanda a travaillé à mettre au point une vision pour ce centre : l'architecte autochtone Douglas Cardinal, avec l'appui de Patrimoine canadien, a élaboré des plans architecturaux de niveau B; l'ainé Commanda a négocié la présentation d'un projet de loi au Cabinet avec un conseiller de la Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN), et au mois d'août 2006, lors de la rencontre internationale du Cercle de toutes les nations, la CCN a exprimé son plein appui pour ce projet.

4. Le site entier sera d'un grand attrait pour les peuples autochtones, pour les citoyens de Gatineau et d'Ottawa, pour tous les citoyens canadiens, les enfants, les nouveaux citoyens et les visiteurs de partout dans le monde.

5. Bien qu'endommagé au cours des ans, le site de la Chaudière, site sacré des peuples Algonquins, demeure un trésor national naturel d'une grande beauté, qui n'attend que d'être reconnu et mis en valeur.

6. La vision de l'ainé Commanda offre aussi l'unique possibilité de corriger des erreurs de l'histoire et de présenter une vision d'avenir.

7. Nous reconnaissons qu'un projet d'une telle envergure relève de l'autorité de nombreux ministères fédéraux ainsi que de divers paliers et organismes : c'est pourquoi une volonté collective et un esprit de collaboration et de leadership nationaux sont requis pour mettre en œuvre un tel projet et en assurer le succès.

### RÉALISATION:

L'heure est propice à la création d'un héritage national et même international qui aura longue vie, à la fois pour souligner la Décennie internationale pour une culture de la paix de l'ONU et pour marquer deux dates importantes : l'an 2010, lorsque le monde entier viendra au Canada pour les Olympiques et le 4 juin 2013, le 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'arrivée de Champlain dans cette région (le mois de juin étant aussi le mois de célébration de la journée des rivières patrimoniales, *Heritage Rivers Day*). **N.B. Maintenant pour 2017.**

### ACTION DEMANDÉE:

- un appui répandu de cette proposition globale et la création d'un comité de travail multidisciplinaire qui sera chargé d'élaborer un plan de réalisation pour ce site sacré. Envoyez votre message d'appui à [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca) et [circleofallnations@sympatico.ca](mailto:circleofallnations@sympatico.ca) ou [info@asinabka.com](mailto:info@asinabka.com).

**From:** Joel Davison Harden  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 3:39 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher; Nguyen, Hieu  
**Cc:** Chernushenko, David; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire);

**Subject:** Planning Committee meeting tomorrow (and discussion of Chaudiere Falls / Island development)  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

Hello,

I write this email about the proposed Chaudiere Falls / Island condominium project by Windmill Development Group.

I am a resident of Ottawa, and Carleton University sessional instructor who lives in Capital Ward. I hope to appear before the City of Ottawa Planning Committee tomorrow morning on this matter if I can resolve a conflict with my teaching schedule on campus. In the event that I can't resolve this conflict, I have a question to pose to members of the Planning Committee.

Has the Windmill Development Group or the City of Ottawa received free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) by the Algonquin Nation, and wider Anishanaabe Nation for this proposal? I ask because the proposed site is sacred, unseeded Algonquin territory, for which development parties have an obligation to gain meaningful consent. I understand that Windmill has talked to Aboriginal leaders, but this does not suffice (under domestic or international law) as an appropriate FPIC process.

Canada, as you likely know, has a woeful record in dealing with Aboriginal land claims, and it would be unfortunate if this trend was continued in City of Ottawa development discussions. Do not "green light" this project without due consideration for Aboriginal claims. If there isn't a clear answer about FPIC at this point, I urge you to delay further consideration of this project.

I would appreciate it if my question and concerns could be relayed to Planning Committee members. I offer my thanks in advance for doing so.

Regards,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:  
 JOEL DAVISON HARDEN**

**From:** Ruth Deatcher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 2:55 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** In opposition

Mr. Zwierzchowski, (City of Ottawa)

I oppose the rezoning proposal for two of the islands (also known as Victoria Island) that would allow the Windmill condominium development.

Giving the go-ahead to building condominiums on these islands would detrimentally impact the ability to achieve the full vision of the late Algonquin spiritual leader Grandfather William Commanda for this religious / sacred site and for all of Ottawa Aboriginal community that see's this place as a sacred place in the Nations Capital.

In solidarity,  
Ruth Deatcher  
*concerned citizen*  
*member of the Mi'gMaq Nation*

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**From:** jrpotvin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:52 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Rezoning of sacred island

Good day sir

I would like to formally notify you, the City of Ottawa, and any other governing body, that I object to the proposed rezoning of the Algonquin traditional and ceremonial land call Asinabka, or as you refer to as Victoria Island.

We need to recognize that these areas are sacred to the traditional peoples and we still hold ceremony there.

Please seriously consider our voices in this open meeting. I will try to attend, otherwise consider this my vote against rezoning for development, other than Elder William Commanda's vision.

Migwetch

Francine Desjardins

Sent from Samsung tablet

**From:** Frances Deverell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 10:28 PM  
**To:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Cc:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Re: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments 3 and 4 Booth Street Chaudiere and Albert Islands

Dear Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Zwierzchowski;

I would also like to express my personal support for the recognition of the 2006 process which identified Chaudiere and Albert Islands as sacred territory of the Algonquin people, unceded territory, and believe that it should be declared Algonquin territory for the Algonquin to decide what, if any development would take place on that island. I am opposed to any approval of development on that land without full consultation and agreement by the Algonquin nation.

This is an opportunity for us to redress some of the many wrongs that have been done to these people and I very much hope we take advantage of it.

Blessings,

Rev. Frances Deverell

Retired Unitarian Minister in the Community.

*Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back.*

Dag Hammarskjold

**From:** Anthony Di Virgilio  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 3:11 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Pan and Zoning By-law Amendments

Hi Chris,

I spoke to you the other day, I work for Douglas Cardinal, my name is Anthony Di Virgilio.

Thank you for inviting submissions on the official plan and by-law amendments, ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Pan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 3 and 4 Booth Street - Chaudière and Albert Islands. I want to go on record as objecting to the proposed amendments.

I feel strongly that Windmill should not be able to build on the islands. These lands belong to the Algonquin people, as you know, and the land is unceded. It is a sacred space for the First Nations, and I feel that we have taken enough from them in our Nation's history.

This land should be enjoyed as a park, not just for those who live in Ottawa but for all Canadians and our international guests as well. There is so much other land in Ottawa for Windmill to develop on. I honestly don't believe that building towers on the islands is even a good idea to begin with. The traffic on the bridge will be horrible and the land will only be used by the dozens of wealthy people who can afford to live there, rather than the millions who will come from all over Canada and all over the world.

Worst of all is how insulting this will be to our First Nations community. I hope that you will make the right decision, regardless of how many paid supporters Windmill appears to have.

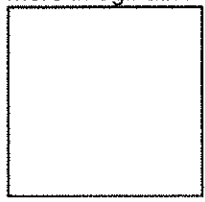
Best,  
 Anthony

**From:** Harder, Jan  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** FW: Chaudiere and Albert Island

**From:** Doyle  
**Sent:** October 01, 2014 10:44 PM  
**To:** Harder, Jan  
**Subject:** Chaudiere and Albert Island

**On Behalf Of** Kevin

I am surprised to hear that such a special site in the region and such a sacred site to our First Peoples will be developed as just another real estate development. I hope that City Council can show more imagination and respect for a very special land and water formation.



Kevin Doyle



City of Ottawa  
Contact Committee Coordinator  
Christopher Zwierzchowski

**Re: Proposed Re-zoning of Victoria Island & Other Islands for  
Condo development**

As President of First Peoples Group based in Ottawa, please accept this letter as my written submission to register my opposition to the proposed rezoning and development of the Victoria Island area for condominiums and other related development.

Let me be short and to the point. The entire Ottawa area is un-ceded and un-surrendered Algonquin Territory. You know this. Ottawa City Council knows this. Never mind the fact that should the City of Ottawa proceed with this they will be again disrespecting Algonquin people – they will also be exposing taxpayers to a lengthy, expensive legal battle that the City of Ottawa will lose.

Before any development takes place the City and any other developer needs to do the right thing and meet with the Algonquins of Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan to discuss openly and honestly their desire for development. Whether or not the City does the right thing here remains to be seen.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Freedman  
President, [www.firstpeoplesgroup.com](http://www.firstpeoplesgroup.com)

**From:** Jennifer Fletcher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 9:14 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Subject:** Chaudiere Falls - NO Condos on This Site

Hello,

I am contacting you regarding the proposed plans to develop condominiums at Chaudiere Falls. As a resident of the city of Ottawa and more importantly, someone who lives on unceded Algonquin territory, I believe that developing this site would be unconscionable because it is a site that is considered sacred by many Algonquin people. This is not just a piece of property, this is a place that already has purpose and cannot just be "rezoned". Grandfather William Commanda, who has recently passed away, spent many years championing the cause of the Chaudiere Falls being a sacred site for the Algonquin people and a site that would bring all people together. Please, show some respect for Grandfather Commanda's legacy and for all the people who would like to see his vision realized.

Please consult with the Algonquin people before allowing developers to steal their land. "Purchasing" this land from the city does not make it a fair trade, it does not belong to the city to begin with.

Thank you,

Jennifer Fletcher

**From:** J-I Fournier  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:50 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher; Hume, Peter E; Harder, Jan; Stephen Blais; Bloess, Rainer; Chiarelli, Rick; Hobbs, Katherine; Hubley, Allan; Monette, Bob; Qadri, Shad; Tierney, Timothy; Watson, Jim (Mayor/Maire)  
**Subject:** message pertaining the Zoning amendments for Chaudiere and Albert Island

Kwe/Hi/Bonjour Mr. Zwierzchowski and to whom it may concern.

Ref: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands

My name is Jean-Luc Fournier, I am writing this letter to you today to share my deep concerns with the proposed Zoning By-law Amendments for Chaudiere and Albert Islands.

I will start by saying that I am saddened by the lack of meaningful consultation with the surrounding Algonquin (Anishnabeg) communities of Kitigan Zibi and Golden Lake and also the indigenous organizations here in the city. We should all remember the raising of the flags ceremony that happened last year at City Hall, with Mayor Watson himself recognizing the nature and the title holders of this beautiful land we all inhabit. Furthermore, Mayor Watson seemed committed to strengthening the relationship with the Algonquin peoples (Anishnabeg) since he understood that these lands were unceded and unsurrendered. This brings us to the matter of the sacred islands (Chaudiere, Albert & Victoria) that the Algonquins (Anishnabeg) gathered periodically at and maintained a deep and profound relationship with. Windmill's consultation process, based on my personal experience, is a failed and superficial attempt at taking input from the Algonquin communities, the title holders of these islands.

It is even more infuriating when we know that people from all walks of life have dedicated their time and energy for the past 30 years to bring to life the vision of the great late William Commanda; known as Grandfather by most. Despite the fact that the development project does not directly affect the future of Asinabka (Victoria island) we have to keep in mind that all those islands have a special significance for the Algonquins (Anishnabeg), especially Chaudiere Island since it is the closest from the sacred Chaudiere falls also known as Akikpautik (Sacred Pipe Smoking).

Since time immemorial, all indigenous nations that traveled on Kich sibi (ottawa river) and stopped by this iconic site to offer some tobacco, prayer and songs before continuing on their travel. This relationship continues today. Even Champlain and many other wrote extensively about the special relationship Indigenous groups had with the falls.

Now, let it be known that I am objecting such development and the further desecration of Anishnabe ceremonial sites on these two islands. I am standing with the people that wish to bring the vision of Grandfather Commanda forth. Please show respect and uphold dignity to

the original people of these lands as they showed the same respect to your ancestors when they first settled in the area (Ottawa-Gatineau).

Meegwetch (Thank you) for taking the time to consider my input on the matter.

Jean-luc Fournier  
Artist/Cultural Ambassador  
Ottawa University student



**From:** Sibyl Frei  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 7:27 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Development of Chaudiere and Albert Islands

Hello Christopher Zwierzchowski,

I understand that an application has been made to create an extensive development on Chaudiere and Albert Islands. I am writing as a Canadian citizen and former Ottawa resident to urge Ottawa City Council to turn down this and other non-indigenous development applications, and instead to fulfill the City's commitment made to William Commanda to build an indigenous peace centre on those lands and otherwise leave them for indigenous peoples' use and development.

Respectfully,

Sibyl Frei

**From:** shirley gagnon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:04 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** condominium developments on victoria island

Mr. Zwierzchowski,

I oppose this development on Victoria Island. There are very few green space in the downtown core of Ottawa. Also, the vision of Grandfather William Commanda and Douglas Cardinal will not be realized. This would a symbol of reconciliation for the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. As an Indian residential school student, I would very much appreciate that this would a monument to leave our descendants to show how Canada truly wants to reconcile the past.

Thanks,

Shirley Gagnon



Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace UR Canada)

The purpose of UR Canada is to pay tribute to the dream of Kindred Spirits, **Martin Luther King, Jr**, Victorious Child of the Middle Passage, **Nelson Mandela** of the Xhosa People, the motto of Jamaica, my heritage country: "Out of Many, One People", **William Commanda** of the Algonquin People of Canada, and all who are in their circle.

**Reconciliation Day in Ottawa**, during Black History Month, acknowledges the pain of past and present conflict and calls upon us to engage in a circle of others, in common cause, to find ways to move forward together to shape a better today and future for our generations. (Children of all ancestries and heritages who now sing together of Canada as "Our home and native land").

**REQUEST TO:** The City of Ottawa Planning Committee,

**FROM:** June Girvan, Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)

**SUBJECT:** I oppose

Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street Chaudière and Albert Islands).

**I hereby request that** the The City of Ottawa Planning Committee,

- protect the dream of Elder William Commanda legacy holder of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, for the Chaudière and Albert Islands, by not favouring rezoning of this ancestral, sacred ("religious") space
- take into consideration that,
  - the City of Ottawa paid public tribute to the dream of Elder William Commanda; acknowledged his plan the Chaudière and Albert Islands, and endorsed his proposal;
  - Elder William Commanda was not able to realize his vision during his lifetime, because he could not access the unambiguous good will, economic resources and sustained political patronage from the City or the Federal government for this ancient heritage site;
  - in keeping with the 21<sup>st</sup> century spirit and ideals (e.g. restorative justice) being pursued in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada, keep the space free and clear of development until such time as,
    - those who are committed to his legacy are in a financial and political position to realise his dream, it on his behalf, as a civic and national memorial to him; and/or
    - those who seek to be developers, are willing to unambiguously commit to Elder William Commanda's legacy plan for legacy plan for the ancient heritage region.

We, Canadians, you and I and others, are given this opportunity to do something noble, in the spirit of the 21<sup>st</sup> century sensibilities and ideals such as the virtue of restorative justice, being pursued through initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. I ask you to enable us to seize the opportunity given, to protect the legacy of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples and enable the positive possibilities envisioned for our collective future of generations that is our inheritance from Elder William Commanda.

We do count on you, members of the Committee, to do the right thing by William Commanda, of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, a man who is Canada's own Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted by

June Girvan,

Volunteer-in-Chief, Peace, Unity and Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)

**Please see attached- Backgrounder**

Gandalf to Frodo, in R.R.R Tolkien's Lord of the Rings: "All you have to do is to decide what to do with the time given".



Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace UR Canada)

**TO:** The City of Ottawa Planning Committee

**FROM:** June Girvan, Peace, Unity & Reconciliation in Canada (Peace, UR Canada)

**BACKGROUND TO REQUEST** (Please refer to accompanying Letter of Request)

**SUBJECT:** I oppose - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Islands)

**WHEREAS,** Elder William Commanda, legacy holder of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, carried the spirit and history of his ancestors; and was respectfully embraced as Grandfather, in his Circle, which includes persons of the diverse ancestries who now sing together of Canada as "our home and native land"; and

**WHEREAS,** Grandfather had a dream; a dream for Canada, centred on the Chaudière and Albert Islands, unceded territory, and ancestral meeting ground of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples who, from near and far, made the water journey ("pilgrimage"), to gather; and

**WHEREAS,** the cultural and spiritual ("religious") significance of the Chaudière and Albert Islands was known and acknowledge by Samuel de Champlain in 1613 and Papineau in the 1800s, and asserted by Grandfather during Canada's Constitution talks in 1985; and

**WHEREAS,** Grandfather's dream for Canada is that one day, the Chaudière and Albert Islands would be fully returned to their ancestral identity, as a cultural and spiritual ("religious") gathering place, and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century be dedicated to peace, unity and reconciliation between and among all Canadians. This includes, First Peoples, Founding Nations, (English and French), and peoples from the four direction on Mother Earth, who now sing of Canada as "our home and native land"; and.

**WHEREAS,** in 2006, the City of Ottawa gave Grandfather Elder William Commanda the key to city, paying tribute to his dream and acknowledged his plan; and in 2010, the City endorsed his proposal; and.

**WHEREAS,** unfortunately, Grandfather, was not afforded the sustained support from the city of Ottawa and other necessary political patronage to see his plan realized during his life-time; but dream did not die with him. We can make it happen; and

**WHEREAS,** an idea, recently developed, for other usage of the Chaudière and Albert Islands has precipitate thoughts of rezoning Chaudière and Albert Islands; and

**WHEREAS,** your Committee has been given a historic and cultural opportunity to do something noble, in the spirit of the 21<sup>st</sup> century sensibilities and ideals such as the virtue of restorative justice, being pursued through initiatives such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; .

**THEREFORE,** we entreat you to seize the opportunity given to you to protect the dream of Grandfather and enable the positive possibilities envisioned for us and our collective future, our collective generation.

We do count on you, members of the Committee, to do the right thing by William Commanda, of the Algonquin/Asinabka Peoples, a man who is Canada's own Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

June Girvan, for Peace, Unity and Reconciliation (Peace U R Canada)

October 1, 2014

Gandalf to Frodo, in J.R.R Tolkien's Lord of the Rings: "All you have to do is to decide what to do with the time given".

**From:** Bigbear  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:51 AM  
**To:** Nguyen, Hieu; Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands  
**Attachments:** OPEN LETTER AVI June 2014 final.pdf; Albert Tanasco letter 1-2.jpg; Albert Tanasco letter 2-2.jpg; Asinabka Heritage Note 23 Sept 2014 pdf.pdf

Mr Nguyen/Mr Zwierzchowski, City of Ottawa,  
[hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca](mailto:hieu.nguyen@ottawa.ca), [Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca](mailto:Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca)

Ref: ACS2014-PAI-PGM-0181 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street – Chaudiere and Albert Islands

As per email recd from City of Ottawa re-zoning amendments should stay zoned as a park and open as public space, not privatized so as to honour the Sacred Chaudiere Falls Site!

Many 1st Nations Algonquin Ceremonies were done at this site including Victoria Island and must be respected as per outlined emails already sent to you by Romola Trebilcock of Circle for All Nations which my belated Elder, William Commanda and Romola were able to put a 53 page document sent to Domtar as to WHY this site is needed to be revisited with the plans already fully approved by the Algonquin Nation that Mr Douglas Cardinal has plans for.

I am a tax payer and living here in the City of Ottawa which I was born in, also am Algonquin by descent and related to many including our belated Elder. My own personal ceremonies with many Elders have been and still are being done at these locations. I hope my word counts in this letter and is read out to the Council of the City of Ottawa.

I am attaching files of letters at the time of 1995 when Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation, Chief Albert Tanasco had written about how our peoples rights were affected and allowed to do such Ceremonies and to treat Victoria Island as a place for the people gathering there in accordance to the Natural Laws of our Peoples, without drugs or alcohol.

To this day this letter still applies and am in hope it will be respected, as the present Chief, Mr Gilbert Whiteduck is now chief of Maniwaki!

Attached are the files sent from Circle of All Nations already sent to your Council as well as the letter from belated Chief Albert Tanasco of Maniwaki!

In closing, your round table discussion from what I received will be happening on Thurs 02 Oct 14 starting at 9:30am, pls advise if this is not so, as I would like open microphone to talk about this with your Council!

Best regards,

Ron KitchiMak8a Goddard-Fournier, aka Bigbear,  
 Niiwi'in Noodi'in/4 Wind's Intertribal Medicine Council member, serving the Ottawa Community since 2000!  
<http://web.295.ca/~bigbear/bigbear/>



**THE ALGONQUIN ANISHINABEG NATION  
LA NATION ALGONQUINE ANISHINABEG**

*Abitibiwinni - Kipawa - Kitigan Zibi  
Lac Simon - Long Point*

314 Hill Street, P.O. Box 520  
Maniwaki, Quebec J9E 3C9

Tél.: (819) 449-1225  
Fax: (819) 449-8064

July 26, 1995

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is in regards to the Algonquin First Nation people who are occupying Victoria Island on the Kitci Zibi Ottawa River. These first nation peoples are there for a reason and have every right to be there, if they choose so.

As you may be aware this is an Algonquin territory which has never been given up or surrendered in any way. Our land claim has been an issue for a few years now trying to get both governments to sit down with us we hope to come to an agreement on how to co-manage and co-exist in our territory. I am sure if there's a will there's a way.



Quoting from Royal proclamation of October 7, 1763, part IV., "And whereas it is reasonable and essential to our interest and security of our colonies, that the several nations or tribes of indians with whom we are connected and who live under our protection, should not be molested or be disturbed in the possession of such parts of our dominions and territories as, not having been ceded to or purchased by us are reserved to them, or any of them as their hunting grounds.

These first nation peoples will respect all environmental policies that are in place. No drugs or alcohol will be tolerated in this area or anywhere else."

I remain confident that you will respect the rights of all first nations in this matter, I take this opportunity to wish you a nice summer.

Sincerely,  
**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

Albert Tenasco Jr.  
Grand Chief,  
Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation

**From:** John J. Heney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 11:00 AM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Subject:** Opposition to rezoning of Chaudière and Albert isands in the Ottawa River

*[Please acknowledge receipt of this email]*

An open letter to Mayor Jim Watson and Members of Ottawa City Council  
 c/o [Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca](mailto:Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca)

**Opposition to Rezoning Proposal in respect of Chaudière and Albert Islands**  
 Re: Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments – 3 and 4 Booth Street (Chaudière and Albert Island).

\*\*\*\*\*

To Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Members of Ottawa City Council

Your Worship and Councilors:

**I wish to register my opposition** to the City of Ottawa’s intention to rezone lands around the Chaudière Falls from public-use lands to those open for commercial (mixed use) development.

I am not convinced that planning underway for this site has involved as much consultation as necessary for the highest and longest-term benefit for all stakeholders. Nor that the widest and wisest range of options has been entertained and properly studied with the level of creativity that could apply. **This site does not deserve to look like Vancouver’s towering, compacted West End skyline.** Anyone can do that. There are other options in sight that are truly world-class that have not been thoroughly studied.

One such notion involves the reservation of unceded territory at Chaudière Falls and Victoria Island in the National Capital Region for the realization of a Circle of All Nations gathering site. It would be complemented by a healing centre that would serve all Canadians and world citizens. While one of the most visible proponents of this idea was the late Grandfather William Commanda, it is an idea that truly has wide support.

- The historic multicultural use of this land and how so many communities and nations have converged on this site, all the way back to prehistoric times, make it a fitting choice for such activity.
- The beauty of the site, it’s water-swept and mid-river location, and its placement in the midst of urban buildup on both sides of the Ottawa River add to the urgency of this matter and the high relevance of its candidacy as public use land.
- If otherwise developed, the loss of such a central, iconic public space would be irreversible.
- The notion of a circle space and healing centre lends the Ottawa, federal, Quebec and Ontario governments an *unprecedented opportunity* for an unprecedented legacy that would arise from such a universal and collaborative use. This blended with the



inclusive consultation that would make this possible, and see this done right. The project, the space and the use could all converge and emerge as exemplary.

So far, in stark contrast, Windmill Developers plans to build approximately 1200 residential units, 4,800 square meters for retail, 17,000 square meters for offices, and a hotel on Chaudière and Albert Islands. Such a development could go anywhere. The same chance does not apply overall for the ultimate public good that would come with community and a gathering use of the site.

In fact, the late William Commanda, spiritual leader of the Algonquin Asinabka peoples of North America, was promised by former chairs of the National Capital Commission Jean Pigott and Marcel Beaudry that this sacred unceded land of the Algonquin Asinabka Peoples would be honoured by having an “**Indigenous Peace Ecology Centre**” built on Asinabka Island, also known as Victoria Island? Did you know that in November 2010 the City of Ottawa endorsed this project?

This phenomenal opportunity sits on the brink. Pull things back and take a studied and refreshing look at the situation. Now!

It is not too late to fold in commercial development of the entire area on the shoreline nearby, but with the islands in question set aside specifically as a gathering and healing space upon which many nations could come together. Consider the possibilities as this iconic site at the centre of Canada’s national capital region, symbolically set on an iconic waterway and so close to a World Heritage Site that is the Rideau Canal could be applied! In support of healing, gathering and collaboration across the region, across our country, and around the world.

“We have met at the Chaudière!” could become a cry of victory for all manner of resolved conflicts and successful healing in need of the symbolic, real, deep and lasting results this initiative would support. And the entire local region would benefit socially, educationally, economically and spiritually from such a gathering centre, in so many ways.

**Your proposal for rezoning would instantly put an end to that grand vision**, instead supporting a rolling commercial development that adds nothing new and is so much of the same old bricks-and-mortar vision. Windmill and its ilk can do the same anywhere else. In the meantime, they could step up and be part of something truly significant as well. But only if the wider good and longer benefit and more wholesome vision are given space -- literally and spiritually -- and the chance to emerge.

Step back from the rezoning.

Set a meaningful, focused, respectful, inclusive and visionary dialogue in motion.

See a world-class use and legacy emerge from this one-of-a-kind opportunity.

Sincerely,

John J. Heney

*Mr. Heney is a longtime and recognized supporter of heritage at all levels. He is also a known participant in collaboration and consultation for wider and greater public good, in the interest of all stakeholders toward exemplary results.*

**From:** Michel Hogue  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:38 PM  
**To:** Zwierzchowski, Christopher  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Hieu  
**Subject:** Official Plan & Zoning By-law Amendment 3 and 4 Booth Street

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to register my deep concern about the proposed rezoning application, as both a City of Ottawa resident and a historian. Although I am pleased to see formal recognition of the historic significance of some of the buildings and other parts of the site's industrial history, the absence of any real reference to the broader historical significance of the Chaudière Falls and the lands that surround it is particularly glaring. A rich history lies underneath the post-industrial remnants that now line the river. This site has long been significant to a variety of peoples--most notably, the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. As city officials have no doubt been made aware through their consultations with different Aboriginal groups, this spiritually significant place was an important gathering point for indigenous peoples for thousands of years and it remains so. For many others--Indigenous, Euro-Canadians, Europeans--who travelled up and down the Ottawa River as part of the traffic in furs or timber, or who passed through as surveyors, tourists, or other wayfarers, the falls were important as a stopping point, a tourist attraction, an impediment, and, eventually, an economic engine and a vital part of the city's economic history. It is distressing to see so little regard paid to the rich and diverse history that is written into this particular landscape.

To be sure, these histories are not so easily captured by tidy heritage designations that can be attached to individual buildings. What's required here is a broader vision, one that allows for a meaningful consideration of the site as whole and its complicated human history. Certainly, the vision articulated by acclaimed architect Douglas Cardinal provides a compelling argument for how this might be accomplished.

I urge the city to move these issues to the forefront and, at the very least, to incorporate into this plan measures that would safeguard these key sites.

Thank you,

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To whom it may concern,

It truly saddens me to think that the City of Ottawa would even be entertaining the notion of re-zoning these lands to allow for commercial development. This land has far more value to the city, to the public, to the indigenous peoples of the Ottawa Valley and Canada, than the value of the short sighted economic facelift these lands will receive after these lands are re-zoned. I truly hope the good planner of the City of Ottawa have more vision and more respect for these lands than to provide them so easily over to the will and whim of private control. These lands are sacred to the Algonquin and many other Aboriginal peoples, and while they have endured a history of abuse and neglect from the wax and wane of industry, these lands hold hundred and thousands of years of the cultural memories of the people who honored and revered these lands as a spiritual mecca. These lands are part of our Canadian history as well and should be preserved and allowed to heal in such a way as to retain, promote, and revitalize the history, culture, and spirit of these lands for the benefit of all. They must not be re-zoned for commercial development.

These lands should be free from the threat of development, which the rezoning of the lands will so quickly provide for. The development of these lands into residential properties will only serve to benefit a select and very fortunate segment of the population, and the City of Ottawa, the capitol of this great country, should not so easily to the wants and need of private interest. Does our great capitol not have enough developments and re-developments already for which to be proud of, without severing off such a historic and sacred piece of land to the begging hands of Windmill Development Corp., forever removing it from the City's grasp and future use of all people? These lands **must** be retained under current zoning until such a time when there is investment of positive thinking which may lead to the re-development and restoration of these lands to such a way which reflect the cultural history and value of these lands, undo- the historical wrong doing and abuse of these lands, and honor the intrinsic value of these lands to Algonquin and other Aboriginal Peoples, as well as provide a place for all people to gather and utilize.

There in the center of the Ottawa River, in the heart of Algonquin Traditional Territory, where the indigenous nation, the Algonquin, still hold Aboriginal title, this land must not be re-zoned to provide access for private development of residential property that benefits few financially fortunate people. There on these lands, which at one time were witness to the on obstructed power and majesty of the falls, and hosted and fed the people who honored and revered them from places far and wide, these lands must not be made available to a development which provides an expensive view of this sacred, albeit altered and industrialized, landscape. There on these lands exists a wealth of opportunity to explore the possibilities for a morally and ethically positive re-development of these lands, for the benefit of all. Should these lands be re-zoned and Windmill proceeds with their plans for development, this future is gone. The City of Ottawa will have done nothing but provide to path towards furthering the historical and societal abuse of the spirit and power and beauty of these lands, and to further add insult to injury to the Algonquin, holders of Aboriginal Title, within a culturally significant valuable piece of their Traditional Territory.

The lands of these sacred islands between the great City of Ottawa and Gatineau, the French and the English must be utilized and shared for the benefit of all as a true example of good faith and good will. The current zoning must be maintained. The City must look past its economic blinders, and see that there are huge societal values to these lands which can be increased for the benefit of all, if the current zoning is maintained. Economic gain can and will come from these lands in a much more positive form if the current zoning is retained. I truly hope that the City planners can see past immediate economics in re-zoning these lands for the benefit of Windmill and an exclusive segment of the population. I would like to believe that the great minds in our capitol can see that the City has an opportunity to build and ensure a proud future for these lands, and allow these lands to become a model, a gift, a shining example of restoring integrity to culturally significant areas in the heart of a developed and industrialized landscape. These islands need more positive, more natural, more sacred, more beautiful, more public space, and to provide for private interest development.

Furthermore, these lands are not owned by the City of Ottawa. These lands are indeed leased lands, which means that they actually are property of the Crown, which mean they are actually held under Aboriginal title by the Algonquin's. This re-zoning is not a decision that the City of Ottawa can make without obtaining Aboriginal consent and undertaking meaningful approaches to consultation and accommodation, which at this point in time has not occurred. It is pre-mature and extremely disrespectful of the Algonquin and the people of Ottawa and Ontario to be deciding upon the re-zoning of these lands at this point in time. There has not been adequate consultation with either the Algonquin or the public.

This case of project fast-tracking, on such significant lands cannot and will not go overlooked should the City re-zone these lands at this point in time. It is not fair to say that opposition has not been voiced, when the opposition has not been heard, and the opposition has not been informed. By the magnitude of the significance of these islands to the Algonquin Nation, and by the lack of consultation with public and aboriginal stakeholders, if the City of Ottawa expects to re-zone these lands that this point and time, for the purpose of furthering Windmill vision and in the face of the vision held by Algonquin and other Aboriginal elders for decades, then demonstrations and public outcry will be heard far and wide.

The mass of supporters of Idle no More, who once rallied around Victoria Island, will surely be awaiting the outcome of the decision to change or maintain the current zoning of these lands. I along with many many supporters truly hope at the end of the day, the decision has not been made that these defiled but sacred islands, are once again pulled out from under the noses of Algonquin Title to their Traditional Territory and into the 'care' and development of private interest. What story does the City of Ottawa want to be more proud off, or does it care? What future does the City of Ottawa wish these lands to have for people local and from afar, or does it care? What example from the Capitol does the City want to send about righting a historical wrong and restoring the environmental and cultural history of these islands for the future benefit of all, or does it care.

I believe the City of Ottawa does care, and that they will do the right thing and leave the current zoning in place. Windmill will not be broken by the decision to leave the current zoning in place, but these lands

and the Algonquin will suffer insult and injury that will not recover so easily, and the more will be lost than gained if the City decides otherwise.

Sincerely,

Ethan Huner

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