



# CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS

Special Tribute to PAUL DEWAR Former NDP MP For Ottawa Centre



## William Commanda and Paul Dewar

On Parliament Hill Traditional Algonquin Territory at the celebration of the National Aboriginal Awards when Elder Commanda was presented the 2010 Lifetime Award

This was not the first time that William Commanda and Paul Dewar met. They actually met in April, 2008, with the Community Coalition Against Mining Uranium, at the CITIZENS' INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACTS OF THE URANIUM CYCLE, that former City of Ottawa Mayor Marian Dewar conducted with Fraser McVey. Elder Commanda, an activist on this file from 2007, was invited to offer the opening prayer; and I recall that he was very



**Circle of All Nations**  
Global Eco Peace  
Community Founded  
by Mishomis William  
Commanda



**Asinabka Sacred  
Chaudiere Site**  
Legacy Vision for  
Ancient and Historical  
Gathering Place



**William Commanda**  
Carrier Sacred  
Wampum Heritage,  
Honorary and  
Researched PhD,  
Officer of the Order of  
Canada

impressed with the young man's formal and passionate presentation before his mother at the inquiry; William Commanda noted this because as a historian and politician himself, and the Supreme Chief of the North American Indian Nations Government, he had a passionate interest in politics in the capital city and in global issues and was mindful also of the work and legacy of Paul Dewar's mother.

## Engaging with Circle of All Nations at Asinabka Sacred Chaudiere Site



Beyond Grandfather William Commanda's passionate attention to Nature via the lens of a relationship of respect and responsibility with the penultimate source and force, Mother Earth, he loved people, and people love/d him. Everybody joined us for his 95th birthday, hosted at the Canadian Museum of Civilization - even NDP Leader Jack Layton "crashed" our party and we introduced him to then National Capital Commission CEO Marie Lemay. Everybody was interested in Grandfather Commanda's vision for Reconciliation, Healing and Peace Building at the Sacred Chaudiere Site, and these two key players noted the work needed a champion, and Jack Layton assigned Paul Dewar responsibility for the initiative ([Tribute to Jack Layton Final .pdf](#)) Already then a conscientious and responsible politician, also engaged in the discussion of the exploding global issues that Elder Commanda also worried about daily, he saw the potential of the Elder's Legacy Vision of Hope for positive social and environmental impact on global thinking and Paul Dewar developed his own strategy of action, encouraged as well by several members of his constituency, and he invited Elder Commanda and Douglas Cardinal (the Indigenous Architect who developed the conceptual designs for the Indigenous Centre), to a strategic planning meeting in late winter. Thereafter, he issued a statement in Parliament on May 28, 2009: <http://www.asinabka.com/Archives/2009-07-29%20Dewar%20VI%20Support.pdf>. You will be interested to know that Indigenous Justice and Rights activist and hero, *Circle of All Nations* colleague, Donald Marshall Junior, was part of strategic planning. (NOTE: In the photo above, Paul Dewar is offering remarks at *Circle of All Nations*' Memorial Tribute to Donald Marshall Junior, at Victoria Island (attended also by former AFN Chief Shawn Atleo, GWC, Late activist Urban Elder Vern Harper, Indigenous Architect Douglas Cardinal, Wolf Project Director Ray Sunstrum and Elder Josie Whiteduck).

It is deeply meaningful that Paul Dewar includes the following lines in his "Goodbye Legacy Message": *Ottawa, don't stop now. Let's show our strength together. Let's embrace the vision of Algonquin elder William Commanda for an authentic and organic future, rooted in the wisdom of the Indigenous people upon whose land we reside. Let's exemplify how to save our biosphere, right here, with the protection of our beloved Ottawa River and Gatineau Park.*

### PHOTO JOURNALING PAUL DEWAR'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS PRIORITIES

Photo #1 - At **Circle of All Nations** Memorial for Donald Marshall Junior, prioritizing *Indigenous Justice and Rights*; Photo #2 - At **Circle of All Nations** Paddle for Peace Fall Equinox event at Victoria Island, prioritizing *Water, Environment and Sustainable Relationships*; Photo #3 - At **Circle of All Nations** event at Victoria Island prioritizing *Racial Harmony and Peace Building*; and Photo #4 here with CAN friend Ann Pennington Mayer, when Grandfather was presented with the first *Diversity Award* by what is now the *Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity* - she was passionately concerned about the "Honour of the Crown" and that the Crown act honourably. And yes, leaving a *Legacy of Hope for Youth* was a passionate concern of Grandfather Commanda and Paul Dewar both - and **Circle of All Nations** remains staunchly committed to "not stopping" .... [romola@circleofallnations.ca](mailto:romola@circleofallnations.ca)

