



The Circle of All Nations Logo

This special logo incorporates many symbols of special significance to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples and to William Commanda himself.

The four colours of the Sacred Circle, at the simplest level, represent the four symbolic races of man, the Yellow, Black, Red And White peoples; the four cardinal directions, East, South, West and North; and the four elements, Fire, Earth, Water and Air. The symbolism and teachings of the Sacred Medicine Wheel are profound.

The Turtle, here representing Turtle Island, North America, is described similarly in the mythology and legends of Aboriginal peoples of the West, the Hindus of the East, and the Zulus of the South, amongst others, as being the animal that sacrificed its life to create Earth in the expanse of Sea and Sky; it endures as a symbol of sacrifice, creativity and fertility. The Western story of the Tortoise and the Hare stresses the importance of perseverance in following dreams and achieving goals.

The Sacred Tree is a spruce tree photographed by William Commanda. Four separate trunks emerge from the one base of this 75 foot tree. The seven roots of this tree, which reaches into the Sky, grow through the Turtle into Mother Earth and the Sea, connecting all. It represents the Seven Fires Prophecy of the sacred wampum belt William Commanda has carried for the people for over thirty years. (The Eastern Tree fell on 1 July 2001, underlining the urgency of the Prophecy.)

The other trees remind us of the importance of the trees to Mother Earth and to our lives. Now, as he watches with pain the endless passage of logging trucks through his family's traditional lands, William Commanda says "It feels like a needle piercing my eye".

The Mountains represent The Lake of Two Mountains, the traditional homeland of William Commanda's ancestors. They also represent the climb up the Sacred Mountain in the search for wisdom.

The Morning Star is the symbol of enlightenment and vision, and because it shone so brightly when he was born, his mother named William Commanda "Ojigkwanong".



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

The Seven Fires Prophecy holds a vision for a future where:

- We honour our relationship and responsibility to Mother Earth and all creation
- We celebrate our individual gifts and diversity, and still
- We recognize and respect our place within a circle of all nations

The steps to this future are few:

- First we look within, so we know ourselves best. We recognize, acknowledge and forgive ourselves our shortcomings and any failure to achieve our best potential
- We forgive others for any hardship and pain they may have caused us and our communities; we trust that this energy will transform them spiritually
- We recognize that our thoughts, words and actions affect ourselves, Mother Earth and all creation, and we embrace peace mindfully
- We listen to our minds but we trust our hearts above all

This path will lead us to love, sharing, respect, compassion, healing, justice, responsibility and reconciliation

It is of crucial importance that the people of the world:

- Respond immediately to the plight of the many oppressed by exploitation, social injustice, racism and war
- Animate the human capacity for forgiveness, compassion, love and reconciliation; and
- Create a global synergy to ensure the improvement of the lives of all

We shall then light the eighth fire together and we will become:

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



A Circle of All Nations A Culture of Peace



"It was prophesied that the time would come when the voice of indigenous peoples would rise again after five hundred years of silence and oppression, to light a path to an eternal fire of peace, love, brotherhood and sisterhood amongst all nations."

info@circleofallnations.com
www.circleofallnations.com





The Sacred Wampum Belts

In 1970, Elder William Commanda became Keeper of three sacred wampum belts of historical and spiritual importance. These belts, together with another one which disappeared many decades ago, were held by his great, great grandfather, Pakinawatik, and they carry testimony of significant prophecies, agreements and understandings which have guided the Anicinabe peoples for centuries. They have inspired the Elder's work over the past thirty years. In 1987, he began sharing the messages of the Wampum Belts publicly during the constitutional debates, and he has continued to do so since. Elder Commanda notes that the three belts he carries are living belts, since they are not housed in museums, and of late he has shared their messages with increasing urgency. This is consistent with the prophecy that speaks of the return of the voice of indigenous peoples.

The Seven Fires Prophecy Belt


Elder Commanda is believed to be the keeper of this ancient sacred belt at the time of the unfolding of its final message – the message of CHOICE - about our relationships with each other and with all the creations of Mother Earth. Will we be guided by values of sharing, balance and harmonious co-existence?

The 1700s Belt

In this three figure belt about equitable SHARING, William Commanda's ancestors commemorated their understanding about sharing the resources of their native land and their values and ideology with the newcomers, the French and the English, in the spirit of a confederacy. The inherent value of sharing remains the elusive quest of our times.

The Jay Treaty Border Crossing Belt

This belt underscores the fundamental spiritual message of indigenous peoples about BORDERLESSNESS: the Elder's people, the Mamuwini, the nomads, belong to North America, and as such they retain a sacred connection and responsibility to the land they are born to. As Elder Commanda puts it, "My territory is as the river flows, as the bird flies and as the wind blows."



The Vision and Work of Indigenous Elder William Commanda

The Circle of All Nations is not an organization or a network, but rather a global eco-community linked by the Elder's unshakeable conviction that in a very fundamental way, we all belong together, as the children of Mother Earth, irrespective of colour, creed or culture.



William Commanda - OJIGKWANONG

William Commanda, great, great grandson of Pakinawatik, hereditary chief of the Algonquins, was born on 11 November 1913, on the Kitigan Zibi Reserve in Canada. He was born to remember the history of his people and to forge a path into the future. Elder Commanda is keeper of three wampum belts of sacred and historic importance. He was a guide, trapper and woodsman, a birch bark canoe maker and craftsman of international renown, and chief of the Kitigan Zibi Reserve for over nineteen years. He led the Sunbow Five Walk for Mother Earth, is a respected spokesperson and spiritual leader at national and international gatherings, participates regularly in United Nations peace and spiritual vigils, and is acknowledged internationally for his work in promoting interracial and intercultural harmony, social justice, and respect for Mother Earth. He is the recipient of a Wolf Project Award and a Harmony Award for his efforts to foster racial harmony through his creation of the "Circle of All Nations". He hosts an annual international gathering at his home in Maniwaki, Quebec every August.

He teaches that:

*"We must come together with one heart,
one mind, one love and one determination."*



Grandfather Commanda's Gatherings

Grandfather William Commanda witnessed the oppression and near destruction of his land and his peoples, language and culture at almost every turn throughout his life. In 1961, diagnosed with terminal cancer, and at most painful low point of his life, he experienced a profound spiritual awakening, an awakening that placed him firmly on the Red Road of forgiveness, love, compassion and reconciliation.

He saw an urgency in the need to bring together the people of the four symbolic races of humankind, to evolve relationships based on these values, and to create a synergy to contribute to the spiritual transformation of a world seen by many as morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Over the decades, he promoted his vision nationally and internationally in a singularly independent fashion, with no formal infrastructure. People across the world have been touched by his extensive and tireless work and outreach to promote racial harmony and cross cultural understanding, to encourage and support spiritual development and to raise awareness of environmental issues and the abuse of Mother Earth.

The most special of his activities is the annual spiritual gathering that he hosts at his home every summer. Hundreds of people from far reaches of the globe journey to Maniwaki. People attend sacred sunrise, pipe and sweat lodge ceremonies; engage in discussions on four key themes of great importance to him: indigenous wisdom and respect for Mother Earth, racial harmony, social justice and peace; and they participate in art, drumming, healing and social activities and workshops. His gatherings are carefully designed to promote individual and group healing, build community, support youth empowerment and development and integrate the creative principle in spiritual, social and community development.

Ultimately, it is Grandfather's deep humility, great love and abiding compassion for all that encourages so many people to connect with their own individual potential, and to spiral into achieving their personal destinies, and taking their rightful places within their communities.