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March 21, 2007

A Message from Elder (Dr) William Commanda regarding *Asinabka* – the Sacred Chaudière Site.

On December 21, 2006, I wrote to Prime Minister Harper regarding the vision for *Asinabka*, the Sacred Chaudière Site on the Ottawa River, a vision for an historic centre focused on environmental healing, racial harmony and reconciliation within the Nation's Capital.

I was greatly encouraged when the Prime Minister's office identified and forwarded my correspondence to four key departments for attention: Environment, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Transport, Infrastructure (and including responsibility for the National Capital Commission), and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

I have also written to other key leaders: the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, the Mayors of Ottawa and Gatineau, the Governor General, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the National Capital Commission, federal party leaders and others, because the vision is large, overlaps many jurisdictions, and requires integrated leadership and support for it to manifest.

I acknowledge receipt of correspondence from several ministers or their delegates, and I am copying them here for your information.

We have commenced a dialogue, and I am writing to also add several other voices to the review underway. You will see reflected in the attached correspondence from diverse citizens a passionate interest in this project.

I am grateful for this affirmation, and again urge the federal leadership to establish a multi disciplinary task force to support and advance this work.

Sincerely,

William Commanda
Algonquin Elder