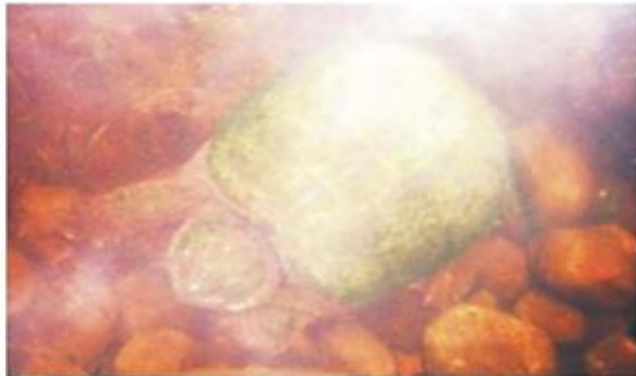


**LEARNING FROM
A KINDERGARTEN
DROPOUT**

a ninety year old's guide to the good life



Derivative Photoatlas from Book

**From Day One
to
Day Thirteen**

**Romola V. Thumbadoo (Ottawa)
and
Alexander Wolodtschenko (Dresden)**

**Dresden-Ottawa
2022**

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1. About the Book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“

Learning from a kindergarten dropout: Cultural Sharings and Reflections, 2005, by Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo, a 192 page full-colour photo journal, offers a fascinating glimpse into the passions of one of Canada's most well known and dearly loved personalities, Grandfather William Commanda; far from disparaging education, it actually describes the teachings of the late Anicinabe elder, Carrier of Three Sacred Wampum Belts, including the Seven Fires Prophecy Belt, highlighting insights that have already proved inspirational to countless peoples across Canada and beyond, and illustrating its underlying theme: the relevance of Indigenous wisdom to these times of prophecy. The book contributed to his recognition by two leading educational institutions, with an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Ottawa, and doctorate honorifique from l'université du Québec-Outaouais. It also served as a catalyst for his appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada, and selection as the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. A comprehensive and provocative book, it provides a mini-history on William Commanda and his peoples and an overview of many key Indigenous concepts pertaining to the medicine wheel, law of nature, Aboriginal justice, child raising, forgiveness and healing. It shares stories about special people whose paths intersected with his. It includes many graphic and easily adapted teaching and training tools and is a rich resource for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal readers, teachers and students. Inspiring hope and pride, the book illustrates deep respect for Mother Earth, promoting environmental stewardship, racial harmony and peace building in a way that makes his prayer, Ginawaydaganuc – We are All Related - come to life at multiple levels. Proceeds from the book are dedicated to animate A Circle of All Nations: the global eco-community unified by Grandfather William Commanda's fundamental and unshakable conviction that as children of Mother Earth, we all belong together, irrespective of our individual colour, creed or culture. It's a great gift idea for conferences!

This book contributed to the academic research for the William Commanda PhD thesis and post doctoral research study by Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo. <https://circleofallnations.ca>

2. Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout - Organization

The book concept is based on the training materials of a 13 day session at the Kumik Lodge, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada , October 24 – November 5, 2004, presented by William Commanda and Romola Thumbadoo.

The reflective book (193 pages) includes 13 themes (days) of cross cultural training material supported by additional narrative and photos. It is structured around the number 13, an important number to Indigenous peoples, in part because there are 13 Moons in a year and Moon is the primary time keeper for the people of the American North East.

It is a collaborative expression of William Commanda and Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo, and the vision for a Circle of All Nations, a Culture of Peace, and is grounded in Indigenous, environmental, self development and peace building thinking, ideas and work.

Graphic Layout and Cover by Karen Bisson (www.DestinyByDesign.ca).

3. About Authors and e-Book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“



The book “Learning from a kindergarten dropout” is dedicated to sharing the work, activities, passions and perspectives of Indigenous Elder William Commanda.

It was organized and written by Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo in 2005, in collaboration with William Commanda. Romola is CEO and Coordinator of the Circle of All Nations.

Both hard and e-copies are available from romola@circleofallnations.ca

4. e-Book Contents from Day One to Day Thirteen

DAY ONE	Sunday, October 24, 2004 <i>The Nomad - Mamiwini Energy</i> Key Focus – The Journey	11	DAY EIGHT	Sunday, October 31, 2004 <i>Strengths Inherent in Traditional Values</i> Key Focus – Reflecting on A Few Fundamental Indigenous Values	121
DAY TWO	Monday, October 25, 2004 <i>The Grounding Ideology</i> Key Focus – A Brief Overview of Some Indigenous Concepts	19	DAY NINE	Monday, November 1, 2004 <i>A Place for All</i> Key Focus – The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre and the Visionary Architect	127
DAY THREE	Tuesday, October 26, 2004 <i>The Historical Context</i> Key Focus – Mini Backgrounders on William Commanda and his Peoples	29	DAY TEN	Tuesday, November 2, 2004 <i>The Transformative Value</i> Key Focus – Some Thoughts about Forgiveness and Healing	139
DAY FOUR	Wednesday, October 27, 2004 <i>Breathing Life into Mythological History</i> Key Focus – Animating the Seven Fires Prophecy within a Circle of All Nations	47	DAY ELEVEN	Wednesday, November 3, 2004 <i>A Grounding Prayer</i> Key Focus - Finding Strength in the Spirit of this Land	149
DAY FIVE	Thursday, October 28, 2004 <i>Ideological Differences</i> Key Focus – Differing Perspectives on a Child Raising and Moon Cycles	69	DAY TWELVE	Thursday, November 4, 2004 <i>Racial Harmony</i> Key Focus – Taking One’s Rightful Place	163
DAY SIX	Friday, October 29, 2004 <i>Organizing Principles</i> Key Focus – The Law of Nature and Planning the Medicine Wheel Way	89	DAY THIRTEEN	Friday, November 5, 2004 <i>Living in the Moment</i> Key Focus – Almost 91 and Still Working	173
DAY SEVEN	Saturday, October 30, 2004 <i>Dreamcatcher Network</i> Key Focus – Reflecting on Aboriginal Justice	109			

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 1

DAY ONE

Sunday, October 24, 2004

The Nomad – Mamiwinini Energy

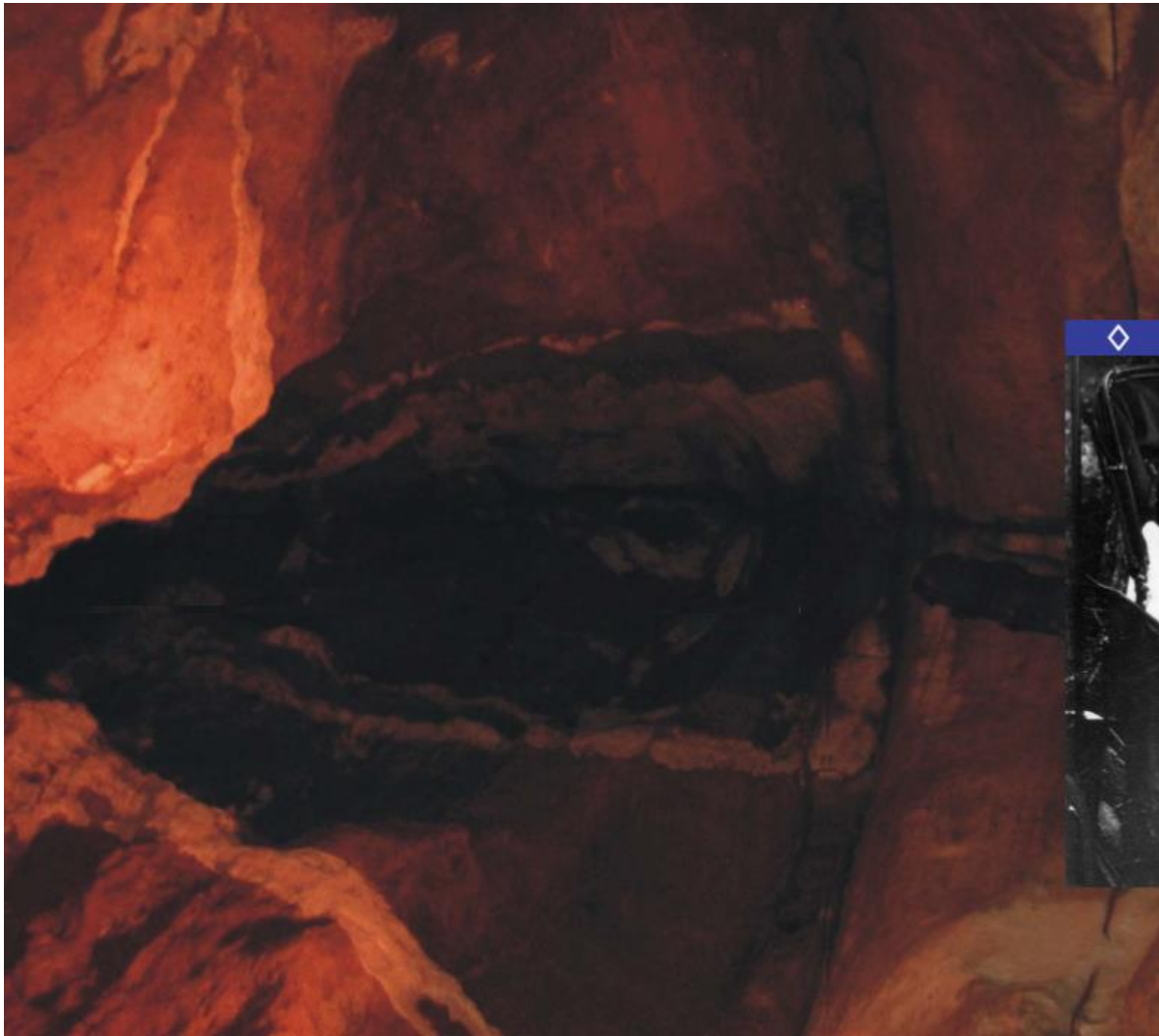


Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout.

11

The Nomad - Mamiwinini Energy – *The Journey*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 2



DAY TWO

Monday, October 25, 2004

The Grounding Ideology



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

19

The Grounding Ideology – *A Brief Overview of Some Indigenous Concepts*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 3



DAY THREE

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

A Historical Context



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

29

The Historical Context – *Mini Backgrounders on William Commanda and his Peoples*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 4



DAY FOUR

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

Breathing Life into Mythological History

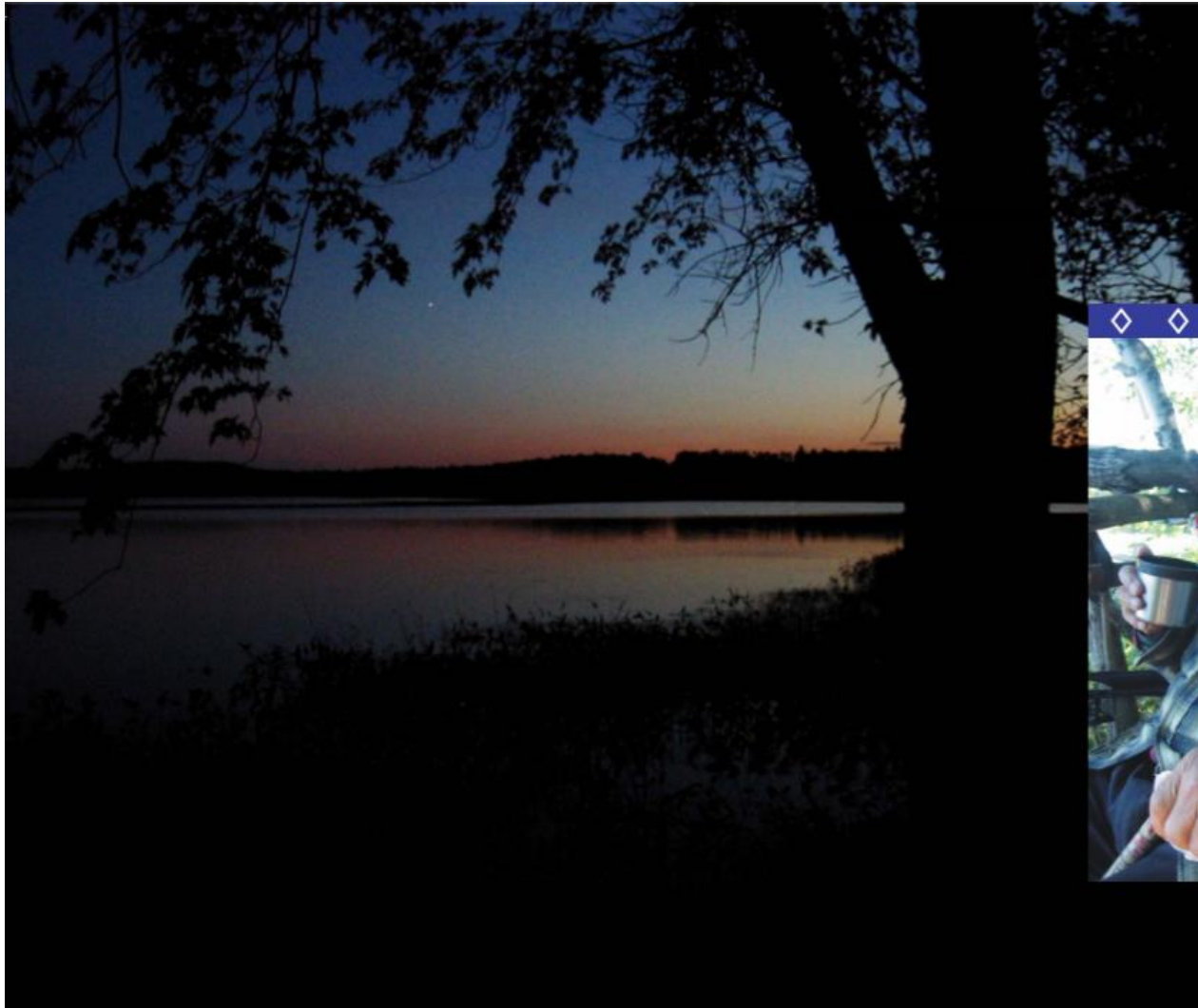


Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

47

Breathing Life into Mythological History – *Animating the Seven Fires Prophecy*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 5



DAY FIVE

Thursday, October 28, 2004

Ideological Differences



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

69

Ideological Differences – *Differing Perspectives on Child Rearing and Moon Cycles*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 6



DAY SIX

Friday, October 29, 2004

Organizing Principles



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

89

Organizing Principles - *The Law of Nature and Planning the Medicine Wheel Way*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 7



DAY SEVEN

Saturday, October 30, 2004

Dreamcatcher Network



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

109

Dreamcatcher Network – *Reflecting on Aboriginal Justice*

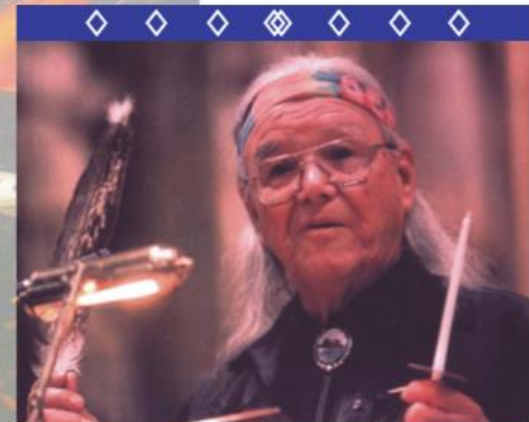
5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 8



DAY EIGHT

Sunday, October 31, 2004

Strengths Inherent in Traditional Values



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

121

Strengths Inherent in Traditional Values – *Reflecting on a few Fundamental Indigenous Values*

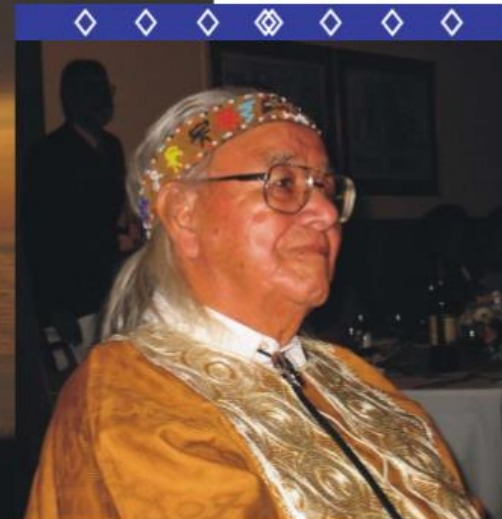
5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 9



DAY NINE

Monday, November 1, 2004

A Place for All



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

127

A Place for All – The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre and the Visionary Architect

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 10



DAY TEN

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

A Transformative Value



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

139

The Transformative Value – *Some Thoughts about Forgiveness and Healing*

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 11



DAY ELEVEN

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

A Grounding Prayer



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

149

A Grounding Prayer – Finding Strength in the Spirit of the Land

5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 12



DAY TWELVE

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Racial Harmony



Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout

165

Racial Harmony – *Taking One's Rightful Place*

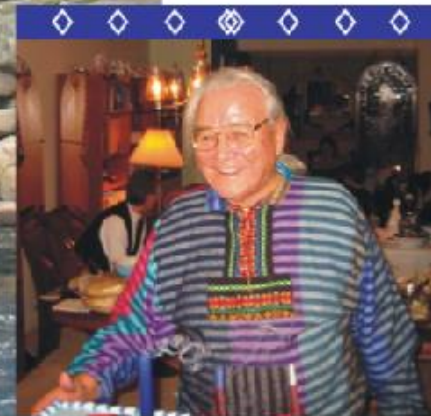
5. From Day One to Day Thirteen: Title Page 13



DAY THIRTEEN

November 5, 2001 – Friday

Living in the Moment

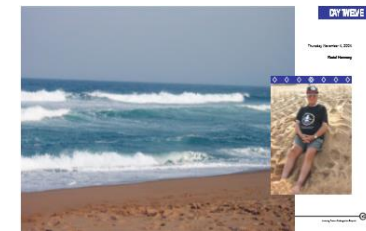
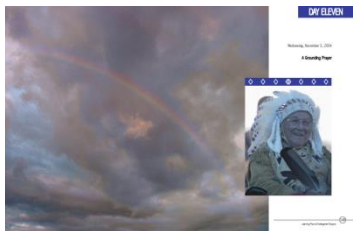
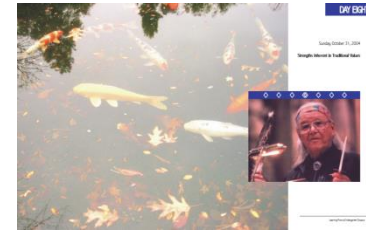
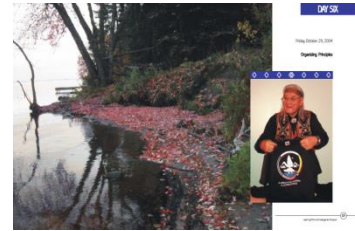
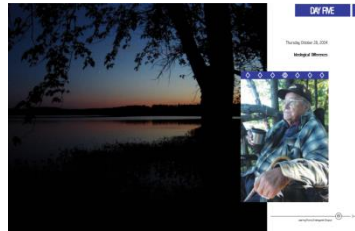


Living in the Moment with Doreen

173

Living in the Moment – *Almost 91 and Still Working*

6. Photogallery of 13 Title Pages



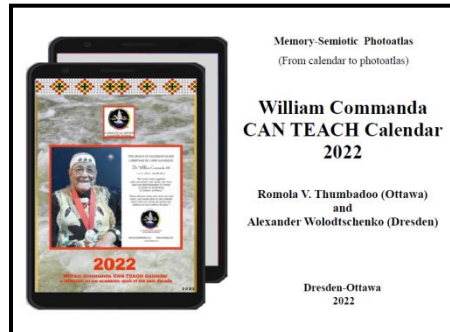
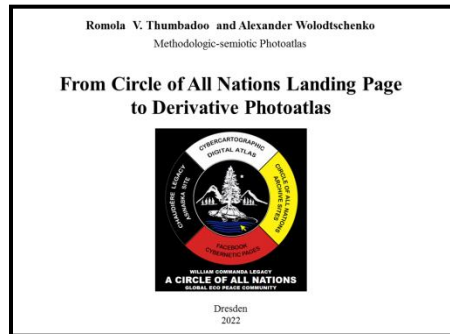
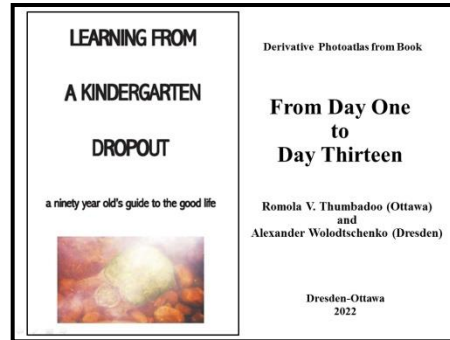
7. Conclusion

The thematic photoatlases “From Day One to Day Thirteen” is our third project which deals with creation of derivative photoatlases and is dedicated to William Commanda, April 2022.

The photoatlas includes 13 illustrative title pages of the book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“.

Our second project, the photoatlas “From Circle of All Nations Landing Page to Derivative Photoatlas” is a derivative one based on creation of a Landing Page for the new <https://circleofallnations.ca> website.

The first photoatlas, as memory photoatlas “William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar2022” is also a derivative one based on the commemorative 2022 William Commanda calendar created by Romola V. Thumbadoo to document his relevance to academia.



The three projects aim to create a storytelling, methodical and commemorative photoatlas series dedicated to North American Indigenous Elder William Commanda.

8. References and Imprint

Slides 1, 7-21: Photo archive of William Commanda and Romola V. Thumbadoo

Slide 5: Photo archive of Monica S. Thumbadoo

Slide 23: Photo archives of R.V. Thumbadoo and A. Wolodtschenko

Selected web-addresses:

<https://circleofallnations.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations>

<https://atlas-semiotics.jimdo.com/>

[https://gcrc.carleton.ca/index.html?module=module.grcatlas atlases](https://gcrc.carleton.ca/index.html?module=module.grcatlas%20atlases)

Romola V. Thumbadoo and Alexander Wolodtschenko

From Day One to Day Thirteen

(From e-book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“ to Photoatlas)

Derivative Photoatlas

Dresden-Ottawa 2022

9. Collaborators

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