

An Invitation To *Faith Is Peace: Walk For Our Sacred Site, Akikodjiwan*

Kwey Kwey! Greetings to our fellow brothers and sisters of every Nation and every faith,

Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has called on all Canadians to work together to heal the broken relationship between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians. In TRC's 2015 final report, Call to Action 48ii calls on the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada to respect Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, consistent with Article 12:1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

We are writing to invite you to walk with us on Friday, June 23, 2017 to support protecting our sacred site, Akikodjiwan. Akikodjiwan is comprised of the Chaudière Falls, which are dammed and inaccessible, and the islands downstream: Albert, Chaudière, and Victoria. Akikodjiwan has been a sacred site for centuries for the Anishinabe and many other Indigenous Peoples.

The late Grandfather William Commanda had a beautiful vision, called Asinabka, for the area. His vision to heal the land and waters would reclaim it as a sacred site. Instead of endorsing this vision, the city of Ottawa allowed the site to be rezoned for Windmill Development's proposed condominium and retail development, "Zibi."

You are invited to stand shoulder to shoulder with Anishinabe Elders and allies to protect our sacred site from this corporate land grab. This is no less than a threat to the Anishinabe People's right to practise their religious freedom, a right guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

Rabbi Bulka stated that an attack on one religion is an attack on all religions. Anishinabe Elder South Wind (Albert Dumont, a signatory to this letter) points out that, "An attack on one faith's sacred site is an attack on all our sacred sites." He has issued a call to action to protect his sacred site, and we need your help.

Last year, over 600 people walked from Akikodjiwan to Parliament Hill for the *It is Sacred* walk.

Will you join us for the *Faith Is Peace* walk? This year, we are asking faith leaders in particular to step up to help us protect our sacred site. Can you ask your faith leader to attend or issue a written statement of support? You can ask questions and please RSVP to FaiThIsPeace2017@gmail.com.

Respectfully and in peace and friendship,

Migwech,

Elder Albert Dumont (South Wind), Nokomis (Grandmother) Jane Chartrand, and the Organizing Committee of *Faith Is Peace*.

Schedule on 23 June 2017:

10am: Gather on Victoria Island, at the Booth Street entrance. Prayers and ceremonies.

11am: Walk to Parliament Hill.

12pm (approximately): Reach Parliament Hill, gather for speakers.

For more information, please see:

Website: <http://albertdumont.com/faith-is-peace-walk/>

Call to Action: <http://albertdumont.com/indigenous-spirituality-is-precious/>

Event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1906106689612742/>

Website with media coverage of last year's *It Is Sacred* walk: <http://www.itissacred.ca/>

Contact for questions and to RSVP:

FaiThIsPeace2017@gmail.com