

**At a council holden at the Governor's house on Monday, the 9th day of September 1754, T.B. Akins, Selections from the Public Documents of the Province of Nova Scotia (Halifax, 1869), 215-219.**

At a council holden at the Governor's house on Monday, the 9th day of September, 1754

PRESENT —

Charles Lawrence Esqr. President.

Benj. Green,  
John Collier,  
Willm. Cotterell,  
Robt Monckton,

The President communicated the following letter from Mr. Le Loutre.

(Translated from the French.)

SIR, —

I have had the honor of being acquainted with Captain Hamilton for several years. He knows my way of thinking, & the real desire that I feel for the continuance of the good harmony that exists between our sovereigns.

He wrote to me some time ago from Port Royal, and informed me, that he would come to our neighbourhood, and propose a reconciliation between our savages [sic.] and the English. Since his arrival at Fort Lawrence, of which he advised me, he was pleased to accept the invitation to dinner which I gave him on our part.

It was then, that we had a conversation as to the means to be employed to bring about this reconciliation. He wrote to you on the subject, Sir, and you have since given your orders to Mr. Hussey, who commands at Fort Lawrence. The latter wrote to me on the 17th of the present month, about evening, to inform me that your wishes & those of the council at Halifax were, that I should repair with the chiefs of the savages [sic.] to Halifax, to treat upon the proposed peace, and offered me a passport.

I could not, on account of the Sunday, repair to Bay Verte where there is a very large number of Savages [sic.].

I went thither on Monday, and after having assembled them, I communicated and interpreted to them Mr. Hussey's letter. They held a council, and it was resolved to depute two of their captains to come with me for the purpose of making propositions to the commander.

I notified him on Wednesday last of the step these two deputies were about to take. He wrote to me that he would expect me & them in the afternoon. We repaired thither; we went in a boat from the other side of the river, Mr. Hamilton having gone from ours. Mr. Hussey was in a sort of little wagon from which he did not get down and received us haughtily enough, which offended our Savages [sic.]. The conversation was short. He told me that he was forbidden to treat either with me or the Savages [sic.]; that you & the council had reserved that affair to yourselves; that we would have to go to Halifax to treat directly with the Government & labour for peace.

Our savages [sic.] appeared displeased at not having an opportunity to explain themselves, or to make their representations, after having taken the trouble to come so great a distance. They complained of this even to Mr. Hamilton. Saturday last — a Saint's day with us — Mr. Hussey wrote to inform me that he was going to send a boat, & offered to forward my letters to you; but two hours after, Captain Baptiste Cope arrived from Cobequid; he had gone to Bay Verte, and had informed the village of savages [sic.] in that place that a hundred of the English had left Halifax and crossed the woods as far as Chigabenakady [Shubenacadie], the place of my mission; that they would have been much to be pitied had they not found houses of the inhabitants, where provisions such as beef, mutton &c. were furnished them.

I confess, Sir, that the savages [sic.] are much surprised at this step, and that it should be taken at a time when it is proposed on both sides to treat of a durable peace. But what astonishes them still more, is the document which Mr. Hussey gave to some of the refugees on the tenth of the present month. This document states that he, Mr. Hussey, is ordered by you Sir, to declare to all the French inhabitants who have abandoned their habitations, and to all the others who have taken the oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, that their oath continues in force as it has always done, and that nobody can annul it without the permission of the king of England, and that, if they be taken in arms against his Britannic Majesty in any place whatever, they shall be treated and punished as criminals. This document, which it does not suit my purpose just now to discuss, having come to the knowledge of our savages [sic.], this Baptiste Cope, another mikmak [Mi'kmaq] who speaks French, and Toubick, chiefs of the Medoctek savages of the river St. John, undertook on Sunday last, after high mass, to inform all these refugees, that, if any of them should be bold enough to return to the habitations which are now under English rule, they, the savages [sic.], speaking in the name of the whole nation would look upon them as enemies, and would treat them as such.

To day, Monday, all these different savages [sic.] assembled and held a council.

This, Sir, is the result, and what they request me to communicate to you.

Primo: They have determined to continue in peace, and to commit no act of hostility against the subjects of Great Britain, until the reply which you, Sir, and council are to give them on what they propose to you in writing, shall reach them.

Secundo: They agree to give no insult to those of the English whom they shall meet travelling on the high way; but that those, who shall depart from it, for the purpose of going into the woods, as the detachment did which came lately to Chigabenakady, which they consider all infraction, shall be treated as enemies.

Tertio: That in order to arrive at a solid and durable peace, there shall be ceded to them a certain space of territory which they only shall enjoy, suitable for hunting and fishing, and for the establishment of a village and a mission as a parish.

Quarto: That this space of territory shall extend from the south of Bay Verte, comprising Fort Lawrence and lands depending on it, to the entrance of Mines, thence ascending into Cobequid as far as and comprising Chigabenakady, and leaving this latter place, formerly my mission, in ascending and descending afterwards as far as the river Mouskedaboveck [Musquodoboit]; and from this place which is on the coast of the east to about eight leagues from Halifax, passing by the bay of all islands, Saint Mary's bay, and Moukoudome as far as Canceau [Canso], and from Canceau by the passage of Fronsac to the said Bay Verte.

Quinto: That within this space of territory, to which they restrict themselves, and which they consider very moderate and very limited in view of the immensity of land they did possess, and of the amount at present in their possession, the enjoyment of which they demand for themselves alone, with all possible tranquility, there shall exist neither fort nor fortress belonging to the French or the English.

Sexto: They most earnestly request, that the replies or decisions concerning the above articles be given to them between St. Michael and All Saints, that is to say in the course of the month of October next.

I do not doubt, Sir, that you and the counsel will find the proposals of these Savages [sic.] susceptible of diminution; but if you consider the actual state of a whole nation, compelled for a long time to change too frequently their suitable places of abode, and knowing no longer where to make choice of places in which to live with any sort of stability, besides driven to extremities by a too pressing misery, which they foresee will be still further augmented, you will find in them nothing but what is just. The lands which they leave you are immense in proportion; whereas these people, living only by hunting and fishing, would still require a much larger extent of territory.

It was not for me Sir, to induce any of their chiefs to betake themselves to Halifax in order there to propose the above articles. Their course will depend upon the reply that shall be made there; and if there is any likelihood that what they propose will be accepted I you Sir, and the council can send here some one with whom we can treat, and arrange at least the preliminary conditions.

They beg me to add Sir, that if their proposals are accepted, which they do not doubt, the treaty which will be made in consequence, shall be communicated to their allies, by whom they will have it signed and approved, as well as by them and their missionaries in order to invest it with every necessary formality, and to render it more authentic, so that it may be the more solid and durable.

As to myself, Sir, I shall omit nothing on my part to have this very important business crowned with the desired success. I shall make it my especial duty to contribute to it.

I have the honor to be

with the most perfect consideration

your very humble and obedient Servant,

(Signed) P. LELOUTRE,

ptre. g. v.

Beausejour, August 27th, 1754.

To Mr. Lawrence, Commander in chief at Halifax.

Which being read and considered, the Contents appeared too insolent and absurd to be answered through the Author nevertheless, It was Resolved that the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Fort at Chignecto be wrote to, to acquaint the Indians that if they have any serious Thoughts of making Peace, that they may, as they have been already informed, repair to Halifax, where they will be Treated with on reasonable Conditions.\*

CHAS. LAWRENCE.

JNO. DUPORT, Sec. Conc.