

Translation of the Memorial from the French inhabitants of Annapolis River presented at a council held at the Governor's house in Halifax on Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> 1755 to Charles Lawrence and response.

In Thomas B. Akins, *Selections from the Public Documents of the Province of Nova Scotia* Halifax, C. Annand, 1869), p.261-262.

"To his Excellency the Honble. Charles Lawrence,  
Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of  
His Britannic Majesty's province of Nova Scotia  
and Colonel of one of his regiments of infantry

Sir,

" Having received your Excellency's orders dated July 12th, 1755, we assembled on Sunday, the 13th of the present month, in order to read them to all the inhabitants, wishing always to observe a faithful obedience.

"We have unanimously consented to deliver up our fire arms to Mr Handfield, our very worthy commander, although we have never had any desire to make use of them against his majesty's government. We have therefore nothing to reproach ourselves with, either on that subject, or on the subject of the fidelity that we owe to His Majesty's government. For, Sir, we can assure your Excellency, that several of us have risked our lives to give information to the government concerning the enemy; and have also, when necessary, laboured with all our heart, on the repairs of Fort Annapolis, and of other work considered necessary by the government, and are ready to continue with the same fidelity. We have also selected thirty men to proceed to Halifax, whom we shall recommend to do or say nothing contrary to His Majesty's Council; but we shall charge them strictly to contract no new oath. We are resolved to adhere to that which we have taken, and to which we have been faithful as far as circumstances required it; for the enemies of His Majesty have urged us to take up arms against the government, but we have taken care not to do so."

Signed by two hundred and seven of the said inhabitants..

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The Lieutenant Governor also acquainted the Council that, in Consequence of the Order of Council of the 4th Inst., the said Inhabitants had sent down Deputies with their Answer in regard to their taking the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty, and that they were now waiting without.

The said Deputies were then ordered to be called in, and being asked what they had to say, They declared that their appeared in behalf of themselves, and all the other Inhabitants of Annapolis River, That they could not take any other Oath than what they had formerly taken, which was with a Reserve that they should not be obliged to Take up Arms, and that if it was the King's Intentions to force them to quit their Lands, they hoped that they should be allowed a convenient Time for their Departure.

The Council then asked them several Questions concerning the Allegiance they so much boasted of in their Memorial, and the Intelligence which they say they have given the Government, of which they were desired to mention a single Instance whereby any Advantage had accrued to the Government, but this they were unable to do, on the contrary it was made very evident to them that they have always omitted to give timely Intelligence when they had it in their Power, and might have saved the Lives of many of His Majesty's Subjects, but that they had always secretly aided the Indians, and many of them had even appeared openly in Arms against His Majesty. They were then told that they must now resolve either to Take the Oath without any Reserve or else to quit their Lands, for that Affairs were now at such a Crisis in America that no delay could be admitted, that the French had obliged us to Take up Arms in our Defence against their Encroachments, and it was unknown what Steps they might take further, for which Reason if they (the Inhabitants) would not become Subjects to all Intents and purposes, they could not be suffered to remain in the Country. Upon which they said they were determined One and All, rather to quit their Lands than to Take any other Oath than what they had done before. The Council then told them that they ought very seriously to consider the Consequences of their Refusal, That if they once refused the Oath, they would never after be permitted to Take it, but would infallibly loose their Possessions ; That the Council were unwilling to hurry them into a Determination upon an Affair of so much Consequence to them, and therefore they should be allowed till next Monday at Ten of the Clock in the forenoon to reconsider the matter and form their Resolution ; when their final Answer would be expected.

And the Council then Adjourned to that Time.

CHAS. LAWRENCE.