



# The Great Peace of Montréal: a story of peace between nations

## AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF QUÉBEC

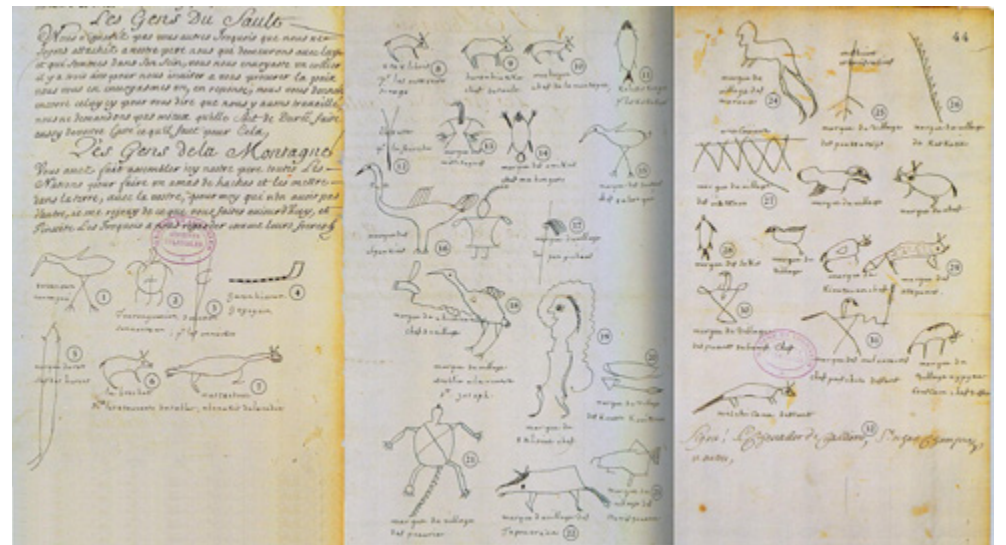
Québec has a long-standing tradition of respect for the Indigenous peoples that can be traced back to 1701, when Montréal was the setting for an event that changed the course of history.

## A TURNING-POINT IN FRENCH-NATIVE RELATIONS

The signing of the Great Peace ended several decades of conflict between the Iroquois, who were allied with the British, and the French along with their First Nations allies. It also marked a turning-point in French-Native relations and set the scene for an era of peace that lasted until the conquest of New France in 1760.

In July 1701, four of the five Iroquois nations, along with the First Nations that were allied with the French and lived mostly in the Great Lakes region, travelled to Montréal to discuss a peace treaty. The document was signed on August 4, 1701 by over thirty different nations.

They agreed to stop waging war on each other, to consider themselves allied, and to recognize the Governor of New France as a mediator if a new conflict arose. The Iroquois League agreed to remain neutral in the event of a war between the British and the French.



Picture : Centre des archives d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence (Archives nationales, France), C 11 A 19 fol. 41-44.

The Great Peace of Montréal, a peace treaty signed in 1701 by the Governor of New France, Louis-Hector de Callière, and 39 First Nations communities.

## AFFIRMATION OF THE FRENCH POSITION

The peace agreement showed that France could take an approach to First Nations relations that differed from Britain's, and enabled it to extend its military presence across North America during the following half-century. Trade and exploration could resume without hindrance.

## THE GREAT PEACE OF MONTRÉAL: AN ABIDING MEMORY

- In 1997, the Belvedere on Mount Royal was renamed in honour of Kondiaronk, the Huron chief who was one of the main instigators of the peace treaty;
- The city of Montréal renamed part of Place d'Youville as Place de la Grande-Paix-de-Montréal.

## A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONS

- In 1975, the Québec government and the Cree and Inuit communities signed the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, which establishes an environmental and social protection plan for James Bay and Nunavik, and was Canada's first modern land claim agreement.
- In 2002, the Québec government signed the Peace of the Brave agreement with the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee). The agreement provides for increased autonomy in return for the termination of certain land claims.

Place de la Grande-Paix-de-Montréal is part of Place D'Youville, in Old Montréal, and home to the obelisk that honours the founders of Ville-Marie.



Picture : © Pointe-à-Callière, Cité d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montréal