

Ever since the commencement of the European settlements there had existed a social warfare in Canada, in which the different Indian nations were arrayed against each other and against the intruding settlers. It was one constant succession of raids on peaceful villages, isolated farm houses and Indian encampments, so that the whole country seemed likely to be denuded not only of its European, but of its Indian inhabitants.

Upon the death of Frontenac, in 1699, de Callières was appointed Governor of Canada, and, from having been so long in command at Montreal, the frontier town, his intercourse with the Indians had been more intimate and therefore his influence much greater. Learning of the general peace, concluded in Europe, the Iroquois approached the new Governor asking that representatives be sent to treat with them. But this proposition he declined, with the intimation that he could only treat with representatives of the tribes at Montreal. Acting on this proposition, a general council of delegates from the different Indian nations assembled in Montreal on the 18th of September, 1700, and concluded a treaty of peace which was to be ratified by a grand council of all the tribes, to be summoned the following year.

In August, 1701, this great council met, and the occasion was the most impressive event that had taken place since the founding of the city. Just outside the city walls, a spacious enclosure was formed with young saplings and seated with benches for the Indian deputies—over thirteen hundred in number.