

such parts of our dominions and territories as, not having been ceded to or purchased by us, are reserved to them, or any of them, as their hunting grounds; we do, therefore, with the advice of our Privy Council, declare it to be our Royal will and pleasure that no Governor or Commander in Chief in any of our colonies of Quebec, East Florida, or West Florida do presume, upon any pretence whatever, to grant warrants, or survey or pass any patents for lands beyond the bounds of their respective Governments as described in their commission; as also, that no Governor or Commander in Chief in any of our other colonies or plantations in America do presume for the present, and until our further pleasure be known, to grant warrants of survey or pass patents for any lands beyond the heads or sources of any of the rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from the west and north-west, or upon any lands whatever which, not having been ceded to or purchased by us as aforesaid, are reserved to the said Indians, or any of them; and we do further declare it to be our Royal will and pleasure for the present as aforesaid, to reserve under our sovereignty and protection, and dominion, for the use of the said Indians, all the lands and territories not included within the limits of our said three new Governments, or within the limits of the territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, as also all the lands and territories lying to the westward of the source of the rivers which fall into the sea from the west and north-west as aforesaid. And we do hereby strictly forbid, on pain of our displeasure, all our loving subjects from making any purchases or settlements whatever, or taking possession of any of the lands above reserved, without our especial leave and license for that purpose first obtained.

And we do further strictly enjoin and require all persons whatever who have either wilfully or inadvertently seated themselves upon any land within the countries above described, or upon any other lands, which, not having been ceded to or purchased by us, are still reserved to the said Indians as aforesaid, forthwith to remove themselves from such settlements.

And whereas great frauds and abuses have been committed in the purchasing lands of the Indians, to the great prejudice of our interests, and to the great dissatisfaction of the said Indians; in order, therefore, to prevent such irregularities for the future, and to the end that the Indians may be convinced of our justice and determined resolutions to remove all reasonable cause of discontent, we do, with the advice of our Privy Council, strictly enjoin and require that no private person do presume to make any purchase from the said Indians of any lands reserved to the said Indians, within those parts of our colonies where we have thought proper to allow settlements; but that if at any time any of the said Indians should be inclined to dispose of the said lands, the same shall be purchased only for us, in our name at some public meeting or assembly of the said Indians, to be held for that purpose, by the Governor or Commander in Chief of our colonies respectively, within which they shall lie: and in case they shall lie within the limits of any proprietary Government, they shall be purchased only for the use and in the name of such proprietaries, conformable to such directions and instructions as we or they shall think proper to give for that purpose; and we do, by the advice of our Privy Council declare and enjoin that the trade with the said Indians shall be free and open to all our subjects whatever, provided that every person who may incline to trade with the said Indians do take out a license for carrying on such trade from the Governor or Commander in Chief of any of our colonies respectively, where such person shall reside, and also give security to observe such regulations as we shall at any time think fit, by ourselves or by our commissioners to be appointed for this purpose, to direct and appoint for the benefit of that said trade; and we do hereby authorize, enjoin, and require the Governors, Commanders in Chief of all our colonies respectively, as well those under our immediate government, as those under the government and direction of proprietaries, to grant such license without fee or reward, taking especial care to insert therein a condition that such license shall be void and the security forfeited in case the person to whom the same is granted shall refuse or neglect to observe such regulations as we shall think proper to prescribe, as aforesaid.

And we do further expressly enjoin and require all officers whatever, as well military as those employed in the management and direction of Indian affairs within the territories reserved as aforesaid, for the use of the said Indians, to seize and apprehend all persons whatever, who standing charged with treasons, misprisions of treason, murders, or other felonies or misdemeanors shall, fly from justice and take refuge in the said territory, and to send them under proper guard to the colony where the crime was committed of which they stand accused in order to take their trial for the same.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 7th day of October 1763, in the 3d year of our reign.  
God save the King.

I do, in obedience to His Majesty's command, give this public notice to all persons residing within my jurisdiction (being that country justly claimed by the Six Nations, their allies and dependants) that I will, to the utmost of my power, cause the same to be observed, and I do strictly enjoin all such persons to pay due obedience thereto.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Johnson Hall, the 24th day of December 1763, in the 4th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and "so forth."

By order of Sir William Johnson,  
Witham Marsh,  
Secretary for Indian affairs.

*William Johnson.*

God save the King.