



Entewatia'terò:roke' ne
onkwa'nikòn:ra akwé:tsi iohontsá:te
né:ne' tsi Tiohtià:ke ne 1701

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM THE GREAT PEACE OF MONTRÉAL

SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2026

325th Anniversary of the Signing of the
Great Peace of Montréal Treaty, August 4, 1701



THIS SYMPOSIUM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE ARTS OPPORTUNITIES FUND (MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

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onkwa'nikòn:ra akwé:tsi iohontsá:te
né:ne' tsi Tiohtià:ke ne 1701**

**We will bring together spirits
from all over the world,
just as we did in Montréal in 1701.**

Three hundred and twenty-five years ago, Montréal was the site of a diplomatic gathering unprecedented in the history of North America. In both its scale and significance, the Great Peace of Montréal marked a significant turning point in the history of New France and in relations between Indigenous Nations and the French.

From July 28 to September 8, 1701, more than 1,300 delegates from northeastern North America and the Great Lakes region converged on Montréal to negotiate a “general peace.” Bringing together nearly forty nations, the agreement ended almost a century of conflict between France and its Indigenous allies on the one hand, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, or Five Nations, on the other.

This symposium brings together speakers from the United States, France, Québec, Canada, and Indigenous communities to offer fresh perspectives on this pivotal moment in history—one defined by peace, remembrance, and cross-cultural encounter.

*The presentations will be recorded and made available online after the event.
Talks will be delivered in French  or in English , and will be simultaneously translated.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 — KAHNAWÀ:KE

1 pm - 5 pm

Visits for registered symposium participants.
Kanien'kehá Onkwawén Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 — POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

Multimedia Room, L'Éperon MONTRÉAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY COMPLEX
350 Place Royale, Old Montréal

8 am

Registration

9 am - 9:15 am

Opening Address : Ka'nahsohon Deer (Kahnawà:ke)

9:15 am - 9:30 am

Symposium Introduction
Welcome from the Organizing Partners

9:30 am - 10:30 am

KEYNOTE DISCUSSION: “TELLING THE GREAT PEACE”

Emilie Monnet (Artist, Onishka Productions) in conversation with Gilles Havard (CNRS, Paris)
Moderator: Catherine Desbarats (McGill University)

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

SESSION 1. HAUDENOSAUNEE-FRENCH TREATIES BEFORE 1701

Moderator : Melanie Gilbert (Kahnawà:ke)

- Jean-François Lozier (Canadian Museum of History), “The Greater Peace? French and Haudenosaunee Treaty-Making, 1665-1667” EN
- Scott Berthelette (Queen’s University), “’To observe a perfect neutrality:’ The 1688 Declaration of Neutrality, Haudenosaunee Foreign Policy, and Laying the Groundwork for the Great Peace of Montréal of 1701” EN
- Questions and Discussion

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

SESSION 2. RITUALS, PRACTICES, AND NARRATIVES OF DIPLOMACY

Moderator: Maxime Gohier (Université du Québec à Rimouski) FR EN

- Gilles Havard (CNRS, Paris), “Commensality and Condolence: Kinship in the Great Peace of Montréal” FR
- Darren Bonaparte (Mohawk Author, Akwesasne), “The Purple and the White: Ruminations on Wampum” EN
- Colin Coates (York University, Toronto), “ ‘Une espèce de comédie’: The Performance of Power in the St. Lawrence Valley, 1658 and 1701 ” EN
- Questions and Discussion

2:45 pm - 3 pm
Break

3 pm - 4:15 pm

SESSION 3. WENDAT PERSPECTIVES ON DIPLOMACY

Moderator: Jonathan Lainey (McCord Stewart Museum) **FR**

- Fannie Dionne (Jesuit Archives & Research Centre) and Megan Lukaniec (Laval University), “Diplomatic Language in Wendat Dictionaries” **FR**
- Jean-Philippe Thivierge (Onyionhwentsiio, Wendat Nation Council), “The Wendat of Lorette and the Great Peace of Montréal: Reflections on Political Relations in the St. Lawrence Valley” **FR**
- Questions and Discussion

4:15 pm - 4:45 pm

Presentation: “The Archaeology and Materiality of Peace,” followed by an Introduction to the Great Peace and the 1701 Treaty Museum Tour

- Louise Pothier (Pointe-à-Callière Museum) and Margot Paget (Archives nationales d'outre-mer) **FR**

4:45 pm - 7 pm

- Great Peace Trail and Reception

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Tanna Schulich Hall, Elizabeth Wirth Music Building
527, Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal

8 am

Registration

9 am - 9:15 am

Opening Address: Katsi’tsahen:te Cross-Delisle (Kahnawà:ke)

9:15 am - 10:30 am

**SESSION 4. MONTRÉAL AND THE GREAT PEACE:
LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

Moderator: Catherine Desbarats (McGill University) **FR** **EN**

- Dominique Deslandres (Université de Montréal), “Indigenous Montréal at the Time of the Great Peace of Montréal” **FR**
- Brett Rushforth (Huntington Library et University of South California), “The Great Peace in Global Perspective: The French Empire in 1701” **EN**
- Questions and Discussion

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

SESSION 5. FAMILY NETWORKS AND MEDIATION

Moderator: Alexandre Dubé (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi) **FR**

- Roland Viau (Anthropologist), "The Great Peace of Montréal: A Canadian Idea? " **FR**
- Michael Davis (McGill University), “The Great Peace of Mobile: Parallel Diplomacy in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1699-1702” **FR**
- Questions and Discussion

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Lunch on your own

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
SESSION 6. DETROIT AND THE GREAT PEACE

Moderator: Linda Sioui (Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup) EN

- Karen Marrero (Wayne State University), “Coming to Their Country: Indigenous and French Women and the Establishment of Detroit” EN
- Andrew Sturtevant (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire), “A Haudenosaunee Heart: The Wyandots’ Peace of 1701” EN
- Questions and Discussion

2:45 pm - 3 pm
Break

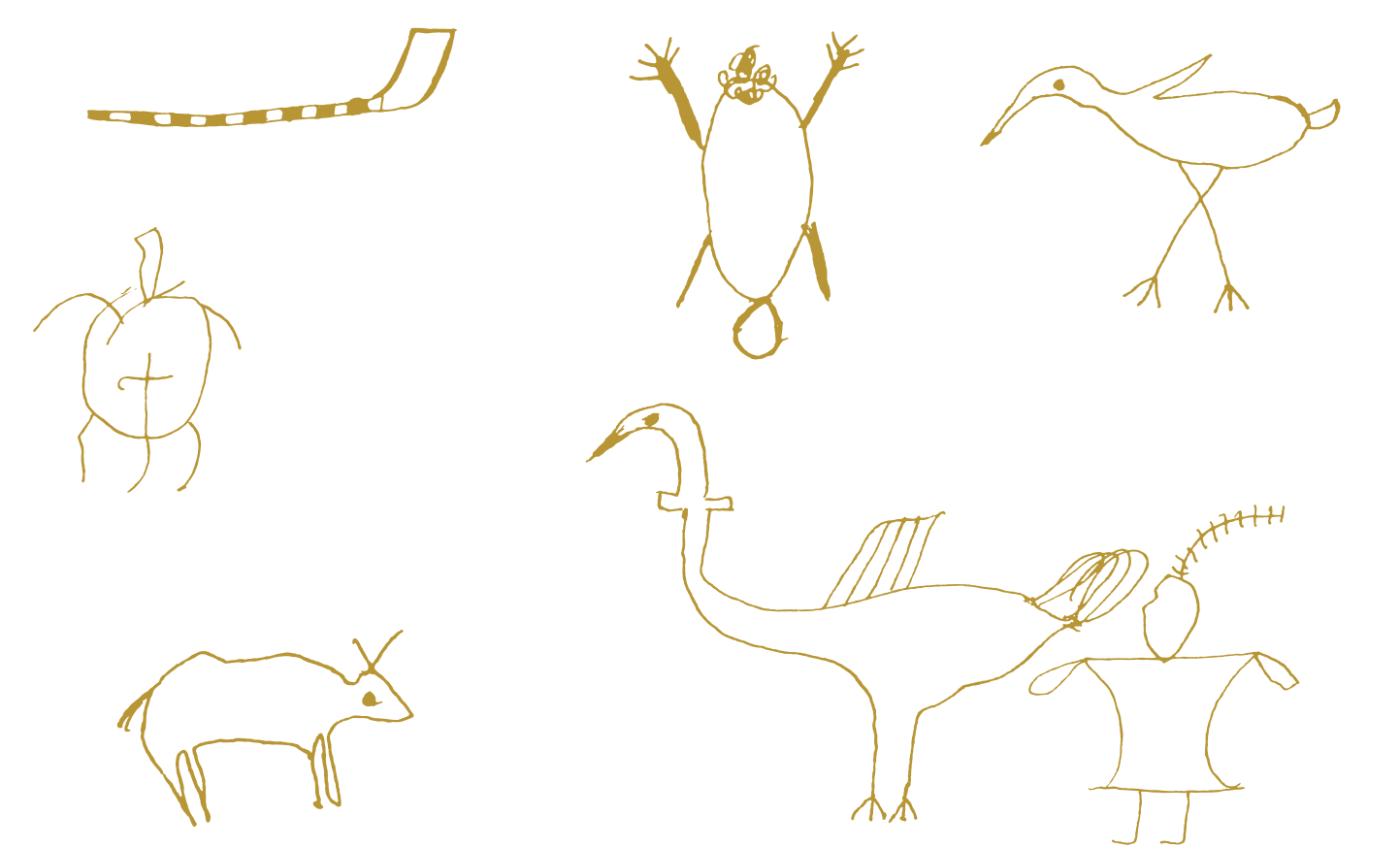
3 pm - 4:30 pm
KEYNOTE ROUND TABLE

The Great Peace as Living History - What place in Indigenous communities and histories today? EN

Moderator: Jonathan Lainey (McCord Stewart Museum)

Panelists are Taiaiake Alfred (Kahnawà:ke), Nadia Myre (Montréal and Kitigan Zibi), Celeste Pedri Spade (Nezaadikaang, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation), Nate Poyfair/ (Miami Tribe of Oklahoma)

4:30 pm - 6 pm
• Visit of the exhibition *Indigenous Voices Today: Knowledge, Trauma, Resilience* and Farewell Drink at the McCord Stewart Museum
690, Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal



OPENING ADDRESS

KA'NAHSOHON KEVIN DEER

(Kahnawà:ke)



KATSI'TSAHEN:TE CROSS-DELISLE

(Kahnawà:ke)



LECTURERS

SCOTT BERTHELETTE

“To observe a perfect neutrality”: The 1688 Declaration of Neutrality, Haudenosaunee Foreign Policy, and Laying the Groundwork for the Great Peace of Montréal of 1701

In June 1688, Otreouti, an Onondaga leader whom the French called “La Grande Gueule” (“Big Mouth”), approached Montréal with a large contingent of Onondagas, Oneidas, and Cayugas. This meeting resulted in a formal declaration of neutrality where Otreouti and twenty-one other Haudenosaunee headmen placed their clan signatures on a document signifying their intention “to observe a perfect neutrality” between England and France. I argue that this declaration of neutrality laid the groundwork for Great Peace of Montréal of 1701, which confirmed the Haudenosaunee Confederacy’s foreign policy of neutrality that would, in turn, allow them to maintain full political independence from France and England. The policy of neutrality that Otreouti first advocated in June 1688 would position the League of Five Nations as sovereign and independent from the two colonial empires throughout much of the eighteenth century.



Scott Berthelette is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada, whose research focuses on New France, Euro-Indigenous Relations, and the early modern Atlantic World. His first book, *Heirs of an Ambivalent Empire: French-Indigenous Relations and the Rise of the Métis in the Hudson Bay Watershed*, was published by McGill-Queen’s University Press in 2022. It was awarded the Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize from the French Colonial Historical Society for the best book in French colonial history. Scott has also published his research findings in the *Canadian Historical Review*, *Ethnohistory*, *American Indian Quarterly*, and *Early American Studies*.

DARREN BONAPARTE

The Purple and the White: Ruminations on Wampum

Connecting wampum belts to specific events in the historical record is not always possible, as the scribes recording treaty councils rarely described them. The largest belt in the McCord Stewart Museum is one of the rare belts whose story is well established. Some have contested histories, and others will probably always remain elusive. Mohawk author Darren Bonaparte presents the text of a speech given by a colonial official, an engraved illustration he later used for official business, and Indigenous oral traditions recorded a century later to present a circumstantial case for a well-known wampum belt.



Darren Bonaparte is a cultural historian from the Akwesasne First Nation. He is a frequent lecturer at schools, universities, museums, and historical sites in the United States and Canada. He has written four books, several articles, and the libretto for the McGill Chamber Orchestra’s *Aboriginal Visions and Voices*. Darren Bonaparte is a former chief of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. He is

the creator of *The Wampum Chronicles* and historical advisor to film and television. He currently serves as the Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

COLIN COATES

“Une espèce de comédie”: The performance of power in the St Lawrence Valley, 1658 and 1701

Jesuit historian Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix described the Indigenous ceremonies at the Great Peace of 1701 as “une espèce de comédie.” (Vol. 2, p. 281). This paper will contrast French accounts of the ceremonies held at the signing of the Treaty of Montréal in 1701 with a play performed for newly arrived Governor Pierre de Voyer d’Argenson in 1658. The 1658 play and the narratives about the 1701 meeting (by Bacqueville de la Potherie and Charlevoix) depicted French ceremonial and linguistic engagement with Indigenous leaders, and the comparison sheds light on the nature of French power in the settler colony.

Colin M. Coates is Professor of Canadian Studies and History at Glendon College, York University, and President of the Canadian Historical Association. He has published extensively on the history of New France and Lower Canada, as well as on cultural and environmental history. His recent works include: *Political Culture in Louis XIV’s Canada: Majesty, Ritual, and Rhetoric*. Montréal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2024.



MICHAEL DAVIS

The Great Peace of Mobile: Parallel Diplomacy in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1699–1702

Abstract: On March 26th, 1702, Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville assembled several important micos, or leaders, from a host of Mississippian nations, including, most importantly, the Chickasaw and Choctaw, for a peace summit at Fort Louise de la Louisiane, just above Mobile. Presenting himself as a *fanimingo* (“master of peace”), Iberville sought to use this event to resolve regional conflicts and extend French influence through Indigenous diplomatic practices. This paper examines these negotiations within a broader familial and imperial context, arguing that Iberville’s efforts were closely connected to those of his brother Paul Le Moyne de Maricourt, who had helped facilitate the Great Peace of Montréal a few months earlier using similar strategies of mediation and alliance building. By placing these two parallel diplomatic moments in conversation, this paper highlights how French imperial expansion was shaped not only by official policy, but by mobile family networks and shared experiences.

Michael Davis received his PhD in History from McGill University. His thesis, entitled “Brothers in Arms: The Le Moyne Family and the Atlantic World, 1685–1745,” won the Prix-Louise Dechêne, given out by the Institut de l’Amérique française. Every two years, the prize rewards the best doctoral thesis (defended at any university) dealing with the history of French America.



DOMINIQUE DESLANDRES

Indigenous Montréal at the Time of the Great Peace

This presentation examines the various forms of interaction between Indigenous peoples and French settlers in the Government of Montréal in 1701.

Dominique Deslandres is Professor Emerita at the Université de Montréal. She has published widely in the history of religion in New France. Her research on the people who shaped Montréal highlights both the power dynamics that structured Montréal society and the colony’s history of slavery. Through a community-engaged research approach, she continues to advance the partnership project entitled *Donner le goût de l’archive à l’ère numérique. Production et partage de données historiques et archéologiques sur les peuples de Montréal au 17^e siècle*. She has been honoured with membership in Québec’s *Société des Dix*.



FANNIE DIONNE

Diplomatic Language in Wendat Dictionaries

(with Megan Lukaniec)

Early Wendat–French dictionaries constitute an exceptionally rich corpus for understanding diplomatic practices in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These manuscripts include numerous entries related, directly or indirectly, to peace and war, including terms for ambassadors, messengers, treaties, betrayal, friendship, hostages, and spies, as well as diplomatic objects and practices such as those associated with wampum.

These sources also present important limitations. Their entries are decontextualized, rarely dated with precision, and shaped by the missionary process of recording the language in writing. They provide little insight into the contexts in which these terms were used or into their practical application. They also pose methodological challenges, as their study often requires expertise from multiple disciplines.

This joint presentation by a Wendat linguist and a non-Indigenous historian will examine the diplomatic language preserved in Jesuit Wendat dictionaries from both linguistic and historical perspectives.

Fannie Dionne holds a PhD in History from McGill University. Her doctoral research examined the history of Jesuit Wendat dictionaries from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century. She is currently a historian at the Jesuit Archives & Research Centre. Her essays have appeared in journals such as the *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, *Études canadiennes/Canadian Studies*, *Arborescences* and *Cap-aux-Diamants*.



GILLES HAVARD

Keynote discussion : Telling the Great Peace

(with Émilie Monnet)

This opening conversation takes the form of a dialogue between a remarkable historian of French-Indigenous relations during the era of New France, and an artist and playwright whose stunning work deals, among other themes, with colonialism and Indigenous memory. As early as 1992, Gilles Havard, published the first book-length study of the event we have come to know as the Great Peace of Montréal (1701). For over a decade, Émilie Monnet, whose mother is Algonquin Anishinaabe and whose father, like Havard, is French, with Breton roots, has produced performances that allow us to see the world differently, and have the power to transform it. Even as it recalls important aspects of what happened in 1701, this dialogue will explore how an encounter, involving over a thousand actors living over three hundred years ago, speaking dozens of different languages, has been narrated, and how it might yet be.



Commensality and Condolence: Kinship in the Great Peace of Montréal

The sources available for studying the Great Peace of Montréal of 1701 strikingly illustrate the principle that, among Indigenous peoples, the idea of peace was inseparable from the establishment of kinship ties. The use of the calumet and wampum, along with the crucial issue of captives, lay at the heart of kinship-making in 1701. This presentation, however, will focus on two other, less-studied ritual dimensions.

The first is the act of eating together, embodied in the image of the “common bowl.” Rather than symbolizing the opening of hunting grounds to all allies, this bowl defined a social space of commensality—and therefore of peace. The second theme is condolence ceremonies, prompted in part by the deaths of several Indigenous leaders during the conference. These ceremonies reflect a culture of alliance forged through the treatment of the deceased and the collective emotions aroused by death. The presentation will also revisit the distinction commonly drawn in the historiography of North American Indigenous peoples between “real kinship” and “fictive kinship.”

Historian **Gilles Havard** holds the agrégation in history (for which he prepared at Rennes II University) and a PhD in history from Paris VII University. He is a senior research fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris. His publications include *La Grande Paix de Montréal de 1701* (a new edition forthcoming from Éditions du Boréal), *Histoire des coureurs de bois* (2016), *L'Amérique fantôme* (2019), and *Les Natchez* (2024). His next book, *Empire of Pelts: French Fur Traders in North America*, will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in November 2026.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS LOZIER

A Greater Peace? French and Haudenosaunee Treaty-Making, 1665–1667

This symposium marking the Great Peace of Montréal of 1701 provides an opportunity to revisit another peace settlement or, more precisely, a series of four closely connected treaties concluded between the French and the Haudenosaunee between 1665 and 1667. Although this episode has received relatively little scholarly attention, it represents a major geopolitical turning point and a pivotal moment in the development and innovation of intercultural diplomacy. The negotiations that culminated in what might aptly be called the “Great Peace of 1667” were far from the first diplomatic encounters between the French and the Haudenosaunee. It is therefore unsurprising that, in keeping with Indigenous diplomatic protocols that had prevailed in the region for more than half a century, speeches were delivered and wampum belts were exchanged. What distinguished these negotiations, however, was that the French, for the first time, drafted written treaties and obtained the signatures of the parties involved. Examining the Great Peace of 1667 also invites broader reflections on the history of the French colonial empire. Above all, it challenges the widely repeated claim that the Great Peace of Montréal of 1701 brought to an end a century of warfare. Throughout this period, the Haudenosaunee were never the French’s implacable enemies. Likewise, the French were not as consistently skillful or as benevolent in their relations with Indigenous peoples as they are often portrayed to have been.



Jean-François Lozier is Curator of Early Canadian History at the Canadian Museum of History, a position he has held since 2011. He holds a PhD from the University of Toronto and has taught history at the University of Ottawa, where he continues to serve as Adjunct Professor. His research focuses on the material culture of early Canada in all its forms, Euro-Indigenous relations in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the commemoration of this distant past in the present day. His book *Flesh Reborn: The Saint Lawrence Valley Mission Settlements Through the Seventeenth Century* (2018) received the Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Award from the French Colonial Historical Society. His forthcoming book examines the Franco-Haudenosaunee peace treaties of 1665–67.

MEGAN LUKANIEC

Diplomatic Language in Wendat Dictionaries

(with Fannie Dionne)

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This joint presentation by a Wendat linguist and a non-Indigenous historian will examine the diplomatic language preserved in Jesuit Wendat dictionaries from both linguistic and historical perspectives.



Megan Lukaniec is an associate professor and holds a Canada Research Chair in Reconstruction and Revitalization of Indigenous Languages. A member of the Wendat Nation, she has worked in collaboration with her community since 2006 to reclaim their ancestral language, which was dormant for over a century. She reconstructs the Wendat language through a historical-comparative analysis of Wendat archival documentation.

KAREN MARRERO

Coming to Their Country: Indigenous and French Women and the Establishment of Detroit

Two elite French women reached Detroit as the ceremonies attending the Great Peace of Montréal were coming to a close in 1701. The establishment of a fledgling French presence in Detroit had been approved on paper by Indigenous representatives negotiating in Montréal. But it was Haudenosaunee women’s reception of the French women as they arrived that acted as formal permission for French settlement. This presentation will examine the political and economic significance of Indigenous and French women in early Detroit.



Karen Marrero is Associate Professor of History at Wayne State University. Her book *Detroit’s Hidden Channels: The Power of French-Indigenous Families in the Eighteenth Century* was jointly published in 2020 by Michigan State University Press and University of Manitoba Press and her recent co-edited book (with Andrew Sturtevant) *A Place in Common: Rethinking the History of Early Detroit* was published in 2025 by Michigan State University Press.

ÉMILIE MONNET

Keynote Discussion: Telling the Great Peace

(with Gilles Havard)

This opening conversation takes the form of a dialogue between a remarkable historian of French-Indigenous relations during the era of New France, and an artist and playwright whose stunning work deals, among other themes, with colonialism and Indigenous memory. As early as 1992, Gilles Havard, published the first book-length study of the event we have come to know as the Great Peace of Montréal (1701). For over a decade, Émilie Monnet, whose mother is Algonquin Anishinaabe and whose father, like Havard, is French, with Breton roots, has produced performances that allow us to see the world differently, and have the power to transform it. Even as it recalls important aspects of what happened in 1701, this dialogue will explore how an encounter, involving over a thousand actors living over three hundred years ago, speaking dozens of different languages, has been narrated, and how it might yet be.



Émilie Monnet is artistic director of Productions Onishka since 2011. Anchored in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal, the interdisciplinary artistic company Onishka – whose name means “wake up” in Anishnabemowin – weaves interconnections between Aboriginal peoples in Québec, throughout Canada and around the world. Émilie Monnet is also founder and artistic director of Scène contemporaine autochtone / Indigenous Contemporary Scene, an international platform for the presentation and promotion of Indigenous performing arts since 2016.

MARGOT PAGET

Archaeology/Materiality of Peace

(with Louise Pothier)

The Treaty of the Great Peace of Montréal, signed on August 4, 1701, is an exceptional historical document. It provides rare and invaluable evidence of the relations established between the French and the Indigenous nations of North America. Remarkable for its pictograms, it emerged from the encounter between French administrative tradition and Indigenous cultural practices. This emblematic document of New France’s diplomatic and military history is now preserved at the Archives nationales d’outre-mer in Aix-en-Provence, where it is considered one of the treasures of the records of the Secretariat of State for



the Navy.

Margot Paget is archivist-paleographer and a heritage curator at the Archives nationales d’outre-mer in Aix-en-Provence, where she oversees ministerial records and the map collection.

LOUISE POTHIER

Archaeology/Materiality of Peace

(with Margot Paget)

Archaeological research at the site of Fort Ville-Marie and Louis-Hector de Callière’s estate in Montréal has uncovered material evidence that may be associated with Franco-Indigenous diplomatic activities in the early 18th century. This presentation will highlight the key findings.



Louise Pothier is Curator and Chief Archaeologist Emerita at Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal’s archaeology and history complex. For more than 30 years, she has worked in the fields of archaeology, heritage interpretation, and the preservation and presentation of historic sites. She notably led the interpretation and presentation of Fort Ville-Marie site at Pointe-à-Callière. She is the editor of the *Archéologie du Québec* series, published by Éditions de l’Homme from 2015 to 2022, and has been a member of the Société des Dix since 2020.

BRETT RUSHFORTH

The Great Peace in Global Perspective: The French Empire in 1701

This presentation places the events of summer 1701 into a wider perspective, comparing the Great Peace of Montréal to contemporary French diplomacy in the Gulf of Guinea, northern South America, and Louisiana. Rather than focusing on French global designs, however, the paper foregrounds non-European actors whose 1701 negotiations mirrored—and often tellingly diverged from—Indigenous American strategies.



Brett Rushforth is Editor in Chief of *the Huntington Quarterly* and History Faculty (by courtesy) at the University of Southern California. He has previously held positions at the University of Oregon and the College of William and Mary. He is the author of the multiple award-winning *Bonds of Alliances: Indigenous and Atlantic Slavery in New France* (2012). He is co-author, with Christopher Hodson, of *Beyond the Ocean: A New History of France and the Atlantic World from the Crusades to the Ages of Revolutions* published by Oxford University Press in 2026.

ANDREW STURTEVANT

A Haudenosaunee Heart: The Wyandots’ Peace of 1701

In 1695, the governor general of New France railed at the Wyandots for, in his words, having an “English [o]r Iroquois heart.” By then it had become a familiar refrain—the French and their Indigenous allies frequently complained of the “secret understanding” between the Wyandots living at Michilimackinac and the Haudenosaunee, particularly the Senecas. Seeking to centre Wyandot perspectives and diplomatic objectives, this paper situates the Great Peace of 1701 and the establishment of Detroit as a victory, not simply of French and Haudenosaunee diplomacy, but of Wyandot geopolitics. The story demonstrates what Liz Ellis has called “the great power of small nations” to set the course of empires.



Andrew Sturtevant received his M.A. and PhD. in history from the College of William & Mary and now teaches at University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, where he is an affiliate of the American Indian Studies program. He has published essays on Indigenous Detroit and co-edited *A Place in Common: Rethinking the History of Early Detroit* with Karen Marrero. His monograph *Pontiac’s Other War: Imperial and Indigenous Politics in the Detroit Borderland, 1701–1766* is under contract with the University of North Carolina Press.

JEAN-PHILIPPE THIVIERGE

The Wendat of Lorette and the Great Peace of Montréal: Reflections on Political Relations in the St. Lawrence Valley

Historiography generally states that the Wendat of Lorette were absent from the 1701 peace conference. This presentation revisits that interpretation by drawing on a range of historical sources to re-examine the diplomatic relationships involving the Wendat of Lorette and their place within the political landscape of the St. Lawrence Valley.

Jean-Philippe Thivierge is a Wendat historian who has worked for the Wendat Nation for more than eleven years. He holds a degree in History from Université Laval and specializes in the historical use and occupation of Wendat traditional territory, as well as the evolution of Wendat diplomatic relations within colonial systems. He has also contributed to numerous contemporary research projects involving members of the Wendat community and has developed expertise in cultural mediation initiatives in both Québec and Ontario.



ROLAND VIAU

The Great Peace of Montréal: A Canadian Idea?

Without denying the evident fact that the political gathering—or diplomatic saga—of the Great Peace was a Franco-Indigenous achievement, this presentation will advance the hypothesis that the idea of a general, continent-wide peace in New France may have originated among the colony’s Canadian-born population—more specifically, with the Le Moyne clan, a Montréal merchant family. We will argue that, from father to son, the Le Moynes played a decisive role over a period of sixty years—*before, during, and after* the conclusion of what Bacqueville de La Potherie, a first-hand observer, called at the time “the great undertaking of Peace.”

Trained as an anthropologist and historian, Canadianist by choice and ethnohistorian by method, **Roland Viau** now describes himself as a humanologist. By this, he means an observer who views humanity as a single cultural whole. Although his work is devoted primarily to the study of Indigeneity in all its forms and debates, he is equally interested in the many ways of being human. His research seeks to understand cultural differences among societies while highlighting the contribution of every woman and every man of the past to every woman and every man of the present.

Now retired from the Université de Montréal, where he taught anthropology and victimology for thirty years (1985–2015), Roland Viau continues his work as an independent researcher. He is the author of *Enfants du néant et mangeurs d’âmes. Guerre, culture et société en Iroquoisie ancienne* (1997), *Femmes de personne. Sexes, genres et pouvoirs en Iroquoisie ancienne* (2000), *Amerindia. Essai d’ethnohistoire autochtone* (2015), and *Gens du fleuve, gens de l’île, Hochelaga en Laurentie iroquoise* (2021). With Alain Beaulieu, he co-authored *La Grande Paix. Chronique d’une saga diplomatique*, illustrated by Francis Back (2001).



KEYNOTE ROUND TABLE

TAIAIAKE ALFRED

Taiaiake Alfred is a Kahnawà:ke Mohawk scholar and political strategist. He has a PhD from Cornell University, founded Indigenous programs at Concordia University and the University of Victoria, and originated the concept of Indigenous Resurgence. He’s been named as Best Column Writer by the Native American Journalists Association and is a National Aboriginal Achievement Award laureate. Taiaiake Alfred is the author of four books of political philosophy, including *Heeding the Voices of Our Ancestors and Peace, Power, Righteousness* from Oxford University Press, and *Wasáse and It’s All about the Land* from the University of Toronto Press. Currently, he is the Senior Advisor on Indigenous Initiatives at McGill University, leads the Kahnawà:ke Governance Project and is Co-Director of the Onkwehón:we Project.



NADIA MYRE

Nadia Myre is a contemporary visual artist whose multi-disciplinary practice delves into themes of resilience, belonging, transformation, and the politics of recognition. As *Canadian Art* describes, “Nadia Myre’s work weaves together complex histories of Aboriginal identity, nationhood, memory, and handicraft, using beadwork techniques to craft exquisite and laborious works.” Her work has been exhibited extensively in North America and internationally in the UK, France, Italy, Greece, Mexico, Gabon, and China.



CELESTE PEDRI-SPADE

Celeste Pedri-Spade PhD, is an Anishinaabekwe anthropologist and member citizen of Nezaadiikaang (Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation). In 2022, she became McGill University’s first Associate Provost, Indigenous Initiatives. In this role, she oversees the University’s ongoing response to its 52 Calls to Action, McGill’s pathway toward truth and reconciliation. Prior to joining McGill, she served as the Queen’s National Scholar in Indigenous Studies at Queen’s University. Celeste began her academic career at Laurentian University, where she was the inaugural Director of the Maamwizing Indigenous Research Institute. Her research interests include critical Indigenous pedagogies and identity politics, Indigenous visual and material culture, decolonial praxis, and Anishinaabe governance. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Victoria.



NATE POYFAIR

Nate Poyfair is one of five elected leaders of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma (Formerly of the southern Great Lakes, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin homelands) as the Second Councilperson. Nate also is an employee of the Miami Tribe as the Assistant Cultural Resources Officer. He attended Miami University (Oxford) and the Myaamia Heritage Program designed to teach college students about Myaamia ‘Miami’ language, culture, and community. Nate spends the majority of his time expanding his knowledge on Myaamia and Native American history in order to disseminate information about the Miami Tribe’s history and culture to tribal citizens and the general public. He welcomes inter-tribal collective efforts at revitalization and preservation and spends as much time as he can promoting such efforts, as well.



SESSION MODERATORS

CATHERINE DESBARATS

Catherine Desbarats is Associate Professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. Her research and publications have focused on the history of the colonial state in New France, with particular emphasis on its financial dimensions. She is currently completing a book on money and debt as technologies of French imperial expansion in the early modern period. She is currently a co-investigator on the Onkwehón:we Project: Territory, Identity and Social Interaction in Ancestral Iroquoia, a collaborative and interdisciplinary research partnership funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



ALEXANDRE DUBÉ

Alexandre Dubé is Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, where he teaches the history of Canada, New France, and the Atlantic World. He has served as French Language Secretary of the Canadian Historical Association. He holds a PhD in History from McGill University. His research focuses on political history, the history of the state, political economy, and material culture. His publications examine the political culture of French Louisiana, the governmental and administrative practices of the French Empire, and public history.



MELANIE GILBERT

Mélanie Konwenni Gilbert is a Kanien’keha:ka of Kahnawa:ke with a Degree in Political Science and over 30 years experience working within her community.



MAXIME GOHIER

Maxime Gohier is Professor of History at the Université du Québec à Rimouski and a specialist in the history of Indigenous peoples under the French and British regimes. His research focuses primarily on the political history of Indigenous communities in the St. Lawrence Valley, with particular emphasis on their relationships with the colonial state and on their documentary heritage. He is co-director of the “*Nouvelle-France numérique*” partnership project and the author of *Onontio le médiateur : la gestion des conflits amérindiens en Nouvelle-France (1603-1717)* (Septentrion, 2008), among other publications.



JONATHAN LAINEY

A Wendat historian, **Jonathan Lainey** has worked in the field of Indigenous history and heritage for more than 30 years. He is Curator of Indigenous Cultures at the McCord Stewart Museum. His research interests include the social, political, and cultural history of Indigenous peoples in Québec and Canada, as well as the history of objects and collections over time, with a particular focus on wampum belts.



LINDA SIOUI

Linda Sioui is a member of the Wendat First Nation of Wendake, near Québec City. She holds a master’s degree in Anthropology from Université Laval (Québec) and a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Native Studies. Most recently, she is the author of *The Reaffirmation of Wendat/Wyandotte Identity* (Canadian Museum of History and University of Ottawa Press, 2026).

She has worked in the fields of education, culture and heritage, tourism, within institutions such as the First Nations Education Council, the Huron-Wendat Nation Council, as well as the Canadian Museum of History, the McCord Stewart Museum and the musée du quai Branly in Paris. She is currently a lecturer, consultant, researcher, and professor at Cégep de Rivière-du-Loup.





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Signatures on the 1701 treaty (detail), Archives nationales d'outre-mer,
France, C11A, V.19, FOL. 41-44

