

The October Crisis 1970

Appendix V

**Excerpts of the “Montreal Annexation Manifesto, (20 September 1849)
and Signatories”**

(Published in the Montreal Gazette, 11 October 1849)

The whole petition was six pages long

To the People of Canada

The number and magnitude of the evils that afflict our country, and the universal and increasing depression of its material interests, call upon all persons animated by a sincere desire for its welfare to combine for the purposes of inquiry and preparation, with a view to the adoption of such remedies as a mature and dispassionate investigation may suggest.

Belonging to all parties, origins and creeds, but yet agreed upon the advantage of co-operation for the performance of a common duty to ourselves and our country, growing out of a common necessity, we have consented, in view of a brighter and happier future, to merge in oblivion all past differences of whatever character, or attributable to whatever source.

In appealing to our Fellow-Colonists to unite with us in this our most needful duty, we solemnly conjure them, as they desire a successful issue and the welfare of their country, to enter upon the task at this momentous crisis in the same fraternal spirit...

VI. Of all the remedies that have been suggested for the acknowledged and insufferable ills with which our country is afflicted, there remains but one to be considered. It propounds a sweeping and important change in our political and social condition involving considerations which demand our most serious examination. THIS REMEDY CONSISTS IN A FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL SEPARATION FROM BRITISH CONNECTION AND A UNION UPON EQUITABLE TERMS WITH THE GREAT NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERACY OF SOVEREIGN STATES...

FELLOW-COLONISTS,

We have thus laid before you our views and convictions on a momentous question-involving a change, which, though contemplated by many of us with varied feelings and emotions, we all believe to be inevitable; one of which it is our duty to provide for, and lawfully to promote...

Dated 20 September 1849 and signed by amongst others John Torrance Jacob De Witt, M.P.P., J. Redpath, John Molson, David Torrance, William Workman, D. L. Macpherson, L.H. Holton, Benj. Holmes, John Rose, Q.C., Edward Goff Penny, William Molson, D.Lorn Macdougall, Benj. Workman, J.W. Torrance, Peter Redpath, James Torrance and 308 other signatories, including artist Cornelius Krieghoff, John Abbott (later Prime Minister of Canada) and Alexander T. Galt. Members of the Papineau family also signed. The petition was opposed by Robert Baldwin and followers of Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine.