

undertaken without much reflection and for well-ascertained motives of sufficient necessity or utility. His Majesty is aware that they who propose them are never in want of specious and plausible reasons in favor of their establishment being adopted; they always allege the good of trade or the necessity of restraining some savage nation, but it has only too often been proved that they were actuated by private interest. Such posts, moreover, are very expensive for His Majesty, and that is one of the chief causes of the immense increase in the colony's expenses for some years. Thus His Majesty desires that, not only shall the *Sieur de Vaudreuil* not agree to the establishment of any new post until he has thoroughly ascertained its advantages, but moreover that he shall find out whether, among the number established some time ago, and even before the last war, there be not some that can be dispensed with, and in such case, he shall at once suppress them. And, to enable His Majesty to judge for himself of the usefulness of all the posts he may retain, he wishes him to send him a statement setting forth the time when they were established, the reasons therefor, the advantages derived from them, and the manner in which they are exploited.

Of all the branches of the administration confided to the *Sieur de Vaudreuil*, that which demands his most constant attention is the government of the savages. He is informed that Canada is inhabited by numerous nations, all the more difficult to restrain that their most ordinary trait of character is frivolity and fickleness. The experience acquired by the *Sieur de Vaudreuil* on this important point, and the reputation he has long had among all those nations, lead His Majesty to hope he will make use of those advantages with all the success His Majesty can desire on the most important occasions; but, whatever confidence he may have in him, he cannot dispense with entering into some special explanations regarding the principles which must guide him in this respect.

His Majesty wishes him to devote all the attention in his power to avoiding war with the savages as much as possible.