



@Château Ramezay

The American Revolution in Quebec Our March Toward Democracy

American Revolution and Democracy: The Quebec experience

Montréal, June 23, 2026 — To commemorate the **250th anniversary** of both the retreat of the American Continental Army from Quebec and the signing of the **United States Declaration of Independence**, the **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** has organized a special exhibition for its local and foreign visitors alike. This exhibition explores pivotal events surrounding **the American Revolution** that unfolded on Canadian soil and reflects on **Canada's own path toward democratic governance**, culminating in the 1867 Canadian Confederation.

Exhibition “The American Revolution in Quebec - Our March Toward Democracy”

The American Revolution is a pivotal event in global history. Less well known is that it was also an important moment in Quebec’s history. Few are aware that our territory was invaded by American insurgents in 1775; that Québec City was besieged and attacked; that Montréal was occupied from November 1775 to June 1776; that the Château Ramezay served as the headquarters of the American troops; and that the Continental Congress invited the “oppressed habitants of the Province of Quebec” to join the rebellion of the Thirteen Colonies. Perhaps these events are vague in our collective memory because Quebec remained a British colony.

However, the invasion and the invitation to join the rebellion by the Americans is an important page in **Canada’s own march toward democracy**. There were intermittent obstacles and struggles, but it ultimately led to the establishment of a parliamentary, rather than republican, democracy, based on the principle of "responsible government" introduced in the mid 19th century.

To mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Château Ramezay offers a retrospective of the Canadian democratic experience. Beginning with the fall of New France and continuing through to the provincial demands of Honoré Mercier. Multiple historical events such as the passing of Benjamin Franklin at the Château, the Rebellion of the Patriots of 1837-1838 and the fire set at Montréal’s Parliament are remembered. Certain topics, such as the treatment of First Nations, the abolition of slavery and women’s suffrage, are more deeply examined. Concurrently, this exhibit explores the hazards of the relationship between Canada and the United States up until the American Civil War.

Portraits, archives, medals, weapons, and contemporary accounts pulled from our vaults serve as witnesses to these past developments, while accompanying detailed texts provide context and insight into their unfolding and the various perspectives and understandings that surrounded them.

This exhibition will be presented from the **3rd of July 2026 until the 28th of March 2027**.

The Museum is open every day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Quebec government through its *Programme de soutien aux initiatives de commémoration*.

About

The **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** is a non-profit organization which aims to preserve and make accessible the first building in Quebec to be classified an historical monument, as well as highlight a collection centered around the history of Montréal and the province. Founded in 1895, the Museum is certified by the Government of Quebec. Visit our website at chateauramezay.qc.ca and our Facebook page, facebook.com/Chateau.Ramezay.

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