

## The words of Isaac Brock in a speech made July 22, 1812:

### About the Indians:

*But they are men, and have equal rights with all other men to defend themselves and their property when invaded.*

### About the United States' invitation to Canada to surrender rather than fight:

*The officer commanding that detachment has thought proper to invite his majesty's subjects, not merely to a quiet and unresisting submission, but insults them with a call to seek voluntarily the protection of his government ... The unavoidable and immediate consequences of a separation from Great Britain must be the loss of this inestimable advantage [prosperity because of the maritime power of Britain]; and what is offered you in exchange? To become a territory of the United States, and share with them that exclusion from the ocean which the policy of their government enforces...; you are not even flattered with a participation of their boasted independence; and it is but too obvious that, once estranged from the powerful protection of the United Kingdom, you must be reannexed [taken control of again] to the dominion of France, from which the provinces of Canada were wrested by the arms of Great Britain...*

## The words of Laura Secord, as told to the Prince of Wales in 1858:

### Describing her experience of June 1813:

*It was there [at Queenston] I gained the secret plan laid to capture Captain Fitzgibbon and his party. I was determined, if possible, to save them. I had much difficulty getting through the American guards... With the intelligence I gave him [Colonel Fitzgibbon] he framed his plans and saved his country. I have ever found the brave and noble Colonel Fitzgibbon a friend to me.*

## The words of Chief Tecumseh to his people

### About American westward expansion (speech in the winter of 1811 - 1812):

*Brothers, - When the white men first set foot on our grounds, they were hungry; they had no place on which to spread their blankets, or to kindle their fires. They were feeble; they could do nothing for themselves. Our father commiserated their distress, and shared freely with them whatever the Great Spirit had given his red children. They gave them food when hungry, medicine when sick, spread skins for them to sleep on, and gave them grounds, that they might hunt and raise corn.*

*Brothers, the white people came among us feeble, and now we have made them strong, they wish to kill us, or drive us back, as they would wolves and panthers.*

*Brothers, - The white men are not friends to the Indians: at first, they only asked for land sufficient for a wigwam; now, nothing will satisfy them but the whole of our hunting grounds, from the rising to the setting sun.*

### Speech at Fort Walden in September 1813:

*Our lives are in the hands of the Great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it is his will, we wish to leave our bones upon them.*

**Sources:** Words of Isaac Brock and Laura Secord as cited in Morton, D., and M. Weinfeld. "Who Speaks for Canada? Words that Shape a Country". Toronto, ON: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1998. 5-6, 8-9.

Words of Chief Tecumseh as cited on Galafilm War of 1812, Tecumseh's Speeches:  
<[http://galafilm.com/1812/e/people/tec\\_speeches.html](http://galafilm.com/1812/e/people/tec_speeches.html)>