

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the thirteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1829.

9 George IV – Chapter 46

An Act for the encouragement of Elementary Education. (14th March, 1829.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

Whereas it is expedient to diffuse the benefits of Education among all classes of your Majesty's Subjects in this Province, and to promote the Establishment of Elementary Schools in the Parishes, Seigniories [Seigneuries] and Townships; May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America,' and for making further provision for the Government of the said Province." And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person administering the Government of the Province, to pay, out of the unappropriated monies which are in the hands of the Receiver General of this Province, or which may hereafter come into his hands by warrant under his hand, the several sums herein after mentioned, for the following purposes—that is to say, a sum not exceeding three hundred pounds currency for the support of the Montreal British and Canadian School; a sum not exceeding two hundred pounds currency for the support of the Montreal National Free School; a sum not exceeding four hundred pounds currency, towards enabling the Trustees of the Quebec British and Canadian school to build a School House; a sum not exceeding four hundred pounds currency, towards enabling the Trustees of the Chapel of St. Andrew, at Quebec, to build a school house on the ground of their chapel; a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds currency to the Reverend Messire Girouard, founder of the college of St Hyacinthe towards enabling him to maintain that establishment; a sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds currency to the Reverend Messire Mignault, Rector of Chambly towards enabling him to maintain the school house of Chambly; a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds currency, towards the building of a school house in the Borough of Three Rivers [Trois-Rivières] as soon as three Trustees shall have been appointed at a meeting of the freeholders of the said Borough hidden for that purpose; a sum not exceeding four hundred and eighty-three pounds, ten shillings currency, towards enabling the Quebec Society for Education to discharge the debts it has created and towards maintaining their school house during the present year; a sum not exceeding two hundred pounds currency towards enabling the said Quebec Society for Education to erect a school house at Quebec, over and above the sum heretofore granted for the purpose; a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds currency for the support of the British and

Canadian School at Quebec during the present year; a sum not exceeding fifty pounds currency, towards enabling the Auxiliary Society of the Ladies of Quebec, to maintain their school for the instruction of indigent young females; a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds currency for the support of the Quebec National School during the present year; a sum not exceeding two thousand pounds currency towards the support of the schools established under the control of the Royal Institution during the present year; a sum not exceeding three hundred pounds currency to the Secretary of the Royal Institution, for the advancement of learning, for the whole of the arrears of his Salary as well as for the current year, at the rate of one hundred pounds per annum,

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that out of the unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government of the Province to allow to the Master or Mistress of any school in the country parishes, (les campagnes) not being under the direction and management of the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning, and having under tuition not less than twenty pupils, a sum of twenty pounds currency per annum, during three years, including the present year, and that it shall in like manner be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government of this Province, to pay to the Master or Mistress of every such School, a sum of ten shillings currency a year during the same period for every poor child receiving instruction therein gratis: Provided nevertheless that the said eleemosynary sum of ten shillings shall not be granted for more than fifty pauper children at one time in any such school, and that no such sum shall be paid until it shall have been certified by the said Trustees or by the Proprietor (when the affairs of the school shall be administered by the proprietor) that the number of pauper children receiving instruction gratis in such school is not less than twenty.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when five Trustees shall have been appointed for the purchase or erection of a school house in any part of this Province it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government of the province during the said three years, to advance and pay to the said Trustees out of the unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, a sufficient sum of money to pay one moiety of the money for the purchase and erection of the said school house, which sum shall be also advanced and paid in the same proportion to the Fabriques which shall have purchased a lot of ground and built a school house thereon by virtue of the existing laws. Provided that the said sum shall not for any one school exceed the sum of fifty pounds, and that it shall not be paid until after the Trustees for the purchase or the erection of such school shall have certified in writing to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person administering the Government of the Province, the full price of such purchase and building; and provided also that the sums to be so paid for such purpose shall not exceed two thousand pounds currency, a year.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the senior principal Militia Officer in every parish, Seigniori or Township, shall every year by notice posted up at the church door or other most public and frequented places in such parish, Seigniori or

Township, call a meeting of the landholders in each parish, Seigniorship or Township to be held at some convenient time and place therein, at which meeting the senior principal Militia Officer present will preside for the purpose of proceeding thereat to the election of five fit and proper persons to be trustees for the execution of this Act; and the five persons being freeholders residing in this Province, who shall be elected Trustees by a majority of votes at the said meeting, shall be Trustees for the purposes of this Act, for the parish, Seigniorship or Township in which they shall have been elected, and that when and so often as any such Trustee shall die or resign his office or leave the Province, his place shall be supplied by a successor qualified as aforesaid, and in the manner herein-before regulated, and that an entry of record of every such election shall be made, which shall forthwith by the chairman of the meeting, and one or more of the Trustees elected, be deposited in the office of the nearest Notary who shall be held to deliver authentic copies thereof.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Trustees to be so appointed, and their successors, shall, upon their nomination have the sole direction, control, management and administration of the School established by virtue of this Act.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Trustees of every School established or to be established according to this Act, and the proprietor, masters and mistresses of the schools not under the management of Trustees, who shall receive any sum of money by virtue of this Act, shall, and they are hereby required to lay before the three Branches of the Provincial Legislature within fifteen days from the opening of the Session thereof, in each and every year, a return of the state of the School which may be under their management or direction, as such Trustees, Masters or Mistresses, which statement shall be in the form set forth in the Schedule (A) hereunto annexed.

VII. And be it further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, that the several religious communities in the country parishes receiving the children of the poor for the purpose of educating them, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, in the same manner as if they were Schools of any one of the denominations herein before mentioned.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the due application of the monies hereby appropriated shall be accounted for to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the time being, in such manner and form as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors may direct.

SCHEDULE A.

RETURN of the SCHOOL for _____ in the County of _____ for the year 18 _____

Master and Mistress Names.	Average number of Scholars throughout the year.	Average price, Schooling and Boarding.	Number of poor children gratuitously taught.	Books used.	Under whose superintendence.	When established.	By what authority established.	How supported.	Remarks and if any particular system of teaching is followed.