

The Statutes of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada in North America. Passed in the third session of the fourth provincial parliament of Upper Canada, met at York, on the second day of February, in the forty-seventh Year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third (1807). York: John Cameron, 1809.

47 George III– Chapter 6

An Act to establish Public Schools in each and every District of this Province. Passed 10th March, 1807.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

I. Whereas it is considered expedient that some means be devised for the education of youth. May it therefore please your Majesty that it be enacted; and it is hereby 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 Upper Canada; constituted and assembled, by virtue of, and under the authority, of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "*an Act for to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of his Majesty's reign, entitled, "an Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province,"*" and by the authority of the same; That for the establishment of public schools in this province, the sum of eight hundred Pounds shall be annually paid, in manner herein after mentioned, out of any monies, which are now raised or levied, or which hereafter may be raised or levied, by authority of Parliament, to, or for the uses of this Province.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be one public school in each and every district of this Province; and that out of the said sum of eight hundred Pounds, annually so appropriated as aforesaid, the annual sum of one hundred Pounds, shall be paid to each and every teacher, who shall be nominated and appointed, to any of the said public schools in this Province for the education of youth, in manner hereinafter mentioned.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the public school for the Western District, shall be opened and kept in the town of Sandwich. And the public school for the District of London, shall be opened and kept in the township of Townshend, at such place as the trustees or the majority of them shall think proper to appoint. And that the public school for the, District of Niagara, shall be opened and kept in the town of Niagara. And that the public school for the Home District, shall be opened and kept in the town of York. And that the public school for the District of Newcastle, shall be opened and kept in the township of Hamilton, at such place as the trustees, or the Majority of them shall think proper to appoint. And that the public school for the Midland District, shall be opened & kept in the town of Kingston. And that the public school for the District of Johnstown, shall be opened and kept in the township of Augusta, at such place as the trustees, or the majority of them shall think proper to appoint. And that the public school for the Eastern District, shall be opened & kept in the town of Cornwall.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, to appoint from time to time, not less than five fit and discreet persons in each and every District of this Province, trustees to the said public schools, which laid trustees or the majority of them, shall have full power and authority to nominate fit and discreet person as teacher thereof, and to examine into the moral character, learning and capacity of such person so nominated; and being satisfied with the moral character, learning and capacity of such person, it shall and may be lawful for the said trustees, or the majority of them, to report such their nomination to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, either to affirm or disaffirm such nomination as aforesaid.— Provided always, that the said Trustees, or the majority of them, Shall have full power and authority in their discretion, to remove such teacher, from his public, school, for any misdemeanor, or impropriety of conduct, and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, or the majority of them, in each and every District of this Province, in case of the demise, dismissal or removal of any teacher of the said public schools, to nominate and appoint, as of ten as the case may require, one other fit and discreet person, as a teacher to the said public school, which trustees or the majority of them, previous to such nomination and appointment as aforesaid, shall examine into the moral character, leaning and capacity of such teacher, and being satisfied therewith, such appointment shall be immediately transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, either to approve or disapprove of the same.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the trustees appointed under and by virtue of this Act, in each and every district of this Province, or the majority of them, shall have full power and authority to make such rules and regulations for the good government and management of the said public schools with respect to the teacher, for the time being, and to the scholars, as in their discretion shall seem meet.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the government of this Province, from time to time, to issue his warrant to the Receiver General of this Province, for the payment of such yearly salary or salaries half yearly, as shall or may from time to time be due to any teacher or teachers appointed under this act, upon such teacher or teachers producing a certificate signed by the trustees or the majority of them, of the district in which he shall have so taught or educated youth, of his having faithfully demeaned himself in his office as a teacher as aforesaid, for and during such time as he shall so require payment for his service.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be and continue in force for four years from the passing thereof, and from thence to the end of the then next ensuing Session of Parliament, and no longer.