

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the Second Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: William Vondenvelden, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1797.

37 George III – Chapter 4

An Act for amending the Laws now in force, and for making more effectual Provision, for the Pilotage of the River St. Lawrence between the Bason of Quebec and the Island of Bic, and for improving the Navigation thereof unto the City of Montreal. [2d. May, 1797.]

Whereas the Interests of Trade and Commerce, and the safety of the Navigation require, that further and more effectual Provision should be made for the Pilotage of the River St. Lawrence between the Bason of Quebec and the Island of Bic [ile du Bic]; and Whereas an Ordinance passed in the twenty-eighth year of His present Majesty's reign by the Governor and Legislative Council of the late Province of Quebec, intituled "An Ordinance for regulating the Pilotage of the River St. Lawrence, and for preventing abuses in the Port of Quebec," and also an Act or Ordinance passed in the thirtieth year of His Majesty's reign by the same authority, intituled "An Act or Ordinance to amend an Ordinance intituled, "An Ordinance for regulating the Pilotage of the River St. Lawrence, and for preventing abuses in the Port of Quebec" have been found by experience to be inadequate to the said purposes; 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 to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for any Pilot then licenced, or that shall hereafter be licenced by His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government for the time being, to ask, demand and receive, of and from all and every person or persons who shall employ him to Pilot any Ship or Vessel, between the Island of Bic up to the Bason or Port of Quebec, additional Pilotage, at the rate of four shillings Currency, and from the Bason or Port of Quebec to the Island of Bic, additional Pilotage at the rate of two shillings currency, for every foot of water such Ship or Vessel shall draw, over and above the rate of Pilotage allowed in and by the Ordinance first above mentioned.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the Naval Officer of the Port of Quebec, before clearing any Ship or Vessel from his Office outwards, to ask, demand and receive of and from the Master or Commander of such Ship, or Vessel, the additional sum of two shillings and six-pence currency per foot, for every foot which the said Master or Commander is bound by Law to pay to the person or persons Piloting the same, between the Island of Bic up to the Bason or Port of Quebec and also, an additional sum of two shillings and six-pence currency per foot, for every foot which the said Master or

Commander is bound by law to pay to the person or persons Piloting the same, from the Bason or Port of Quebec to the Island of Bic; and also to ask, demand and receive from the Master or Commander of any such Ship or Vessel as shall pass the Bason of Quebec for the Town of Three Rivers or upwards, he further sum of two pounds currency, if the said Ship or Vessel shall be by the Register thereof one hundred Tons measurement and not exceed one hundred and fifty tons: of three pounds Currency, if the said Vessel shall exceed one hundred and fifty tons, and not exceed two hundred tons; of four pounds currency if the said Vessel shall exceed two hundred tons, and not exceed two hundred and fifty tons; and of five pounds currency, if the said Vessel shall exceed the measurement of two hundred and fifty tons: and all sums so received, shall be paid quarterly by the said Naval officer to His Majesty's Receiver General for the Province of Lower-Canada, to be applied in such way and manner as His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government for the time being, shall see fit, for supporting and improving the navigation and Pilotage of the River St. Lawrence, from the Island of Bic up to the City of Montreal, and shall be accounted for to the Crown, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, as his Majesty shall be pleased to direct.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons shall hereafter be licenced to Pilot any Ship or Vessel, who has not bona fide served a regular apprenticeship, agreeable to the Ordinance aforesaid, and who shall not have made one or more Voyages to Europe or the West-Indies, in some square rigged Vessel, to be proved by the certificate of the Owner or Master of the Vessel in which the said person shall have returned, the better to qualify him in the art of working or Piloting Ships and Vessels in the River St. Lawrence, of which apprenticeship and Voyage or Voyages, he shall produce satisfactory proof on his examination to be received a Branch Pilot, and that all apprenticeships to be entered into from and after the passing of this Act, shall be under Indenture made and executed before a Public Notary.

IV. And be it further enacted by the same authority, that by and with the consent and approbation of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person administering the Government for the time being, it shall and may be lawful for the Superintendant, and such other person or persons as it shall please His Excellency to name and appoint, to make such salutary Rules and Regulations, from time to time for the conduct of Pilots, and of Masters of Ships towards Pilots, as to them or the Major part of them, in their discretion, shall seem meet, and to enforce the same by penalties not exceeding five pounds currency, or suspension for a time, or dismissal from Office if a Pilot: And all and every penalty incurred under such Rules and Regulations, shall and may be sued for and recovered, as other penalties are sued and recovered, under the Ordinance and Act aforesaid, any Law or Usage to the Contrary notwithstanding.