

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the fourth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1805.

45 George III – Chapter 5

**An Act for the Relief of the Poor in the loan of Seed Wheat, Corn and other necessary Grain. (25th March, 1805.)**

Whereas many Farmers distressed by the short harvest of the last year, have consumed for their support during the present year, what was necessary for their next Seed and such as are able to spare Seed, for their supplies, may not be willing to trust it to the poorer inhabitants, without indisputable security for the payment thereof at the next ensuing harvest: In tenderness therefore to the distressed, 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 of 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;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that any contract or agreement which shall, after the passing of this Act, and before the first day of July next, be bona fide made in writing, for supplies of Wheat, Peas, Oats or any other Seed Corn or Potatoes, in the presence of a Public Notary or one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, or a Curate of any Parish, or a Captain of the Militia, and one other credible Witness, for any quantity of Seed Corn, not exceeding forty minots of Wheat, and thirty minots of other Bread Corn or Grain, nor twenty minots of Potatoes to any one buyer or borrower, his debt therefor shall in all Courts be deemed, and adjudged to be a privileged debt, with the benefit of preference to the Vendor or Lender, before any other Creditor, for any demand of any kind whatsoever, any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding: Saving nevertheless to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, all the rights of the Crown, with its dues and demands, as fully and effectually, as if this Act had never been made.