

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the fourth session of the fourth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1808.

48 George III – Chapter 10

An Act for extending the duration of the Patent granted for erecting the Bridge over the river Saint Charles, now called, Dorchester Bridge. (14th April, 1808.)

Whereas His Majesty's Letters Patent were granted on the twenty second day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, by His Excellency the Right Honorable Gov Lord Dorchester, then Governor in Chief of this Province, unto Nathaniel Taylor, John Coffin, William Lindsay, David Lynd, Peter Stuart, Charles Stewart, and James Johnston, Esquires, and Ralph Gray and John Purfs, Gentlemen, their heirs and assigns, for constructing a Bridge, over the River Saint Charles, whereby they were authorised for, and during the term of fifty years, from the date of said Letters Patent, to collect, and receive certain Tolls for passing the said Bridge, and conditioned that the same, (now called Dorchester Bridge,) should be delivered up to His Majesty in good and sufficient condition, at the end of the said term, free of any cost or expence. And Whereas an Act was passed in the thirtieth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act or Ordinance for securing more effectually the Toll of the Bridge over the River Saint Charles, near Quebec," whereby the said Toll were confirmed, and whereas the said Bridge having been erected at a heavy expence, with a very doubtful prospect of advantage to the Proprietors, and being of great public utility and convenience, as also the first Toll Bridge erected within this Province, the Proprietors thereof, merit the like favorable terms, as have been granted to any succeeding Bridge Proprietor. And Whereas a Toll Bridge has been since erected, under the authority of an Act of the Legislature, at the expence of an individual, in whom, his heirs and assigns the same is vested for ever, with a power of assumption by His Majesty, alter the expiration of fifty years, upon paying to the Proprietor the full value of the same, at the time of such assumption. 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;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the said Bridge, over the River Saint Charles, near Quebec, called, Dorchester Bridge, shall be, and is hereby vested in the present Proprietors thereof, their heirs and assigns, as Tenants in common, for ever, any thing in the said Letters Patent to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

II. Provided always, and it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that after the expiration of fifty years, from the date of the said Letters Patent, but not sooner, it shall be

lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to assume the possession and property of the said Bridge, upon paying to the said Proprietors thereof, their heirs, executors, Curators or assigns, the value which the same may at the time of such assumption bear and be worth.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Letters Patent, and the above said Act or Ordinance, shall, in all and every respect, not hereby altered, be considered and taken to be of force and effect, until the said Bridge shall be assumed by His Majesty, His heirs and successors, in virtue of the Province contained in this Act, and no longer.