

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the seventh Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1812.

52 George III – Chapter 7 (Session 1)

**An Act for limiting the time during which penal actions may be brought in the Courts of this Province. (19th May, 1812.)**

Whereas the want of a law limiting the time during which penal actions may be brought in this Province may cause the most serious inconveniencies and daily occasion grievous suits against His Majesty's subjects in this province and abuses which it is essentially necessary to prevent; Be it therefore 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 aforesaid, that from and after the passing of this act, all actions, suits, or informations which shall be brought or exhibited in this Province for any forfeiture on any statute or Law penal, made or to be made whereby the forfeiture is or shall be limited to the King, His Heirs or Successors only, shall be brought or exhibited within two years next after the offence committed or to be committed against such statute or Law penal, and not after two years; and that all actions, suits, or informations which, from and after the passing of this act, shall be brought or commenced for any forfeiture upon any penal statute or Law made, or to be made the benefit and suit whereof is or shall by the said statute or Law be limited to the King, His Heirs or Successors and to any other person who shall prosecute in that behalf, shall be brought or commenced by such other person that may lawfully sue for such forfeiture as aforesaid within one year next after the offence committed or to be committed against the said statute or Law; and in default of any Action or suit by such person, that then the same shall be brought or instituted for the King, His Heirs or Successors at any time within two years after that year ended, and of any Action, suit or information for any offence against any penal statute or Law made or to be made shall be brought after the time in the behalf limited as aforesaid, that then the same shall be void and of no effect, any Law made to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. Provided always that nothing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prolong or extend in any manner the time or delay for the commencement of any Action or suit in virtue of any penal statute which has fixed or prescribed or might hereafter fix and prescribe, a shorter time than that hereby limited.