

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the third session of the ninth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1819.

59 George III – Chapter 22

**An Act to appropriate a certain Lot of Ground in the City of Montreal for the Site of a Public Library, and to incorporate certain Persons therein-mentioned. (24th April, 1819.)**

Whereas George Auldjo, John Brown, Jean Bouthillier, John Bodton, Louisa Caldwell, Isaac Winslow Clarke, Austin Cuvillier, François Desrivères, James M'Gill Desrivères, Francois Antoine Larocque, Pierre Dominique Debartzch, David David, Saveuse da Beaujeu, Frederick William Ermatinger, the Heirs of the late Pierre Fortier, Robert Froste, John Forsyth, John Fleming, Henry Graffete, Robert Griffin, Henry Griffin, Samuel Gale, John Gray, Margaret Gray, George Gregory, Louis Guy, Samuel Gerrard, Benaiah Gibb, Geo. Garden, William Hallowell, Alexander Henry, Sir John Johnson, Baronet, John Jameison, John Lilly, James Leslie, Juliana Langan, Jean Marie Mondelet, John Molson, Henry M'Kenzie, Thomas M'Cord, John M'Tavish, Peter M'Cutcheon, James Monk, William M'Gillivray, Archibald Normand M'Leod, George Moffatt, Isaac Ogden, John Ogilvy, the Heirs of the late George Platt, the Heirs of the late Pierre Louis Panet, Louis Joseph Papineau, Andrew Porteous, Turton Penn, Joseph Perrault, Frederic Auguste Quesnel, David Ross, John Richardson, James Reid, the Heirs of the late John Rowand, Alexander Skakel, William Stephens, George Selby, John Stansfeld, Stephen Sewell, Charles Tait, Alexander Thain, Jasper Tough, Thomas Thain, Thomas Wilson, James Woolrich, and Arthur Webster, Directors and Proprietors of the Montreal Library, have by their petition prayed that a portion of the ground at present occupied for the use of the Court House in the City of Montreal, be granted to them for the erection of a Public Library thereupon, to be built at their own expence, and whereas it is expedient that Institutions intended to promote and disseminate knowledge should be encouraged and assisted; 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 of the same, that from and out of the lot of ground appropriated and occupied for the use of the Court House in the said City of Montreal, and from the North-West angle of the said lot, a lot or emplacement of fifty feet French measure in front, by eighty-nine feet like measure in depth, shall be and the same is hereby appropriated and allotted for the site of a Public Library and for no other purpose whatsoever.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Lot of Ground herein-before appropriated and allotted, and the said Public Library intended to be thereupon built, shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the persons herein-before named, their Heirs, Representatives and Assigns for ever, who are hereby made and declared to be a Corporation under the name of the "Company of Proprietors of The Montreal Library," for the special purpose of being capable to take and hold in perpetual succession, the above-mentioned lot of ground for the purposes aforesaid.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Company shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at any meeting assembled for the purpose, after at least two weeks previous notification to that effect, herein after-mentioned, in some one of the news-papers printed and published at the City of Montreal, make and establish such Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations for the good Government of the said Montreal Library as the majority of the Proprietors there present shall deem expedient; which said Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations until the same are repealed, altered, or amended, shall thereafter take effect, and be binding upon the said Company. Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained nor any By-Law, Role or Regulation, that may hereafter be made in pursuance of the same, shall, in any manner or way extend or be construed to extend to authorize any Proprietor or Proprietors of the said Library or of the building so as aforesaid, intended to be erected on the ground by this Act allotted and appropriated for the said Library, to sell or dispose of his, her or their share, or shares in the said Library, and in the said building, otherwise than by selling or transferring his or their interest or interests in the shares which such Proprietor or Proprietors may hold in the said Montreal Library, and building to be therefore erected, which shares are hereby made and declared to be transferable and assignable.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the above named Proprietors of the said Montreal Library, to entitle them to the lot of ground herein-before appropriated for a public Library as aforesaid, and to the benefit of this Act, shall cause the aforesaid intended Public Library to be built, erected and completed within five years from and after the passing of this Act, and in default so to do, the person herein-before named, or their Heirs, Successors or Assigns shall, to all intents and purposes cease to be a Corporation, as they are herein-before declared to be.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Prothonotaries of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Montreal shall be, and they are hereby disseized and divested of so much of the aforesaid lot of ground appertaining to the Court-House in the said City of Montreal, as is by this Act vested in the aforesaid Proprietors of the Montreal Library for the purposes of this Acts any Law or Ordinance to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.