

Laws of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1837. Toronto: Robert Stanton, 1837.

7 William IV – Chapter 21

An Act to authorise the Members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Province, to Frank Letters by the General Post, during the Sessions of the Legislature. Passed 4th March, 1837.

Whereas it is expedient to extend the privilege of Franking to the Members of the Legislative Council and Assembly, during the Session of Parliament: 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 Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "*An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled, '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 by the authority of the same, That from and after the First day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-eight, it shall and may be lawful to and for each and every Member of the Legislative Council and Assembly of this Province, to send by the General Post, to any place or places within His Majesty's Dominions in North America, free from the duty of Postage, during the sitting of any Session of the Provincial Parliament, any number of Letters or Packets not exceeding ten Letters or Packets in any one day, so as none of such Letters or Packets shall exceed the weight of one ounce, and so as each of them be superscribed or directed in manner hereinafter mentioned; and also that it shall and may be lawful to and for each and every Member of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, during the sitting of any Session, to receive by the General Post, from places within His Majesty's Dominions in North America, any number of Letters and Packets, not exceeding ten Letters or Packets in any one day, so that each Letter or Packet do not exceed the weight of one ounce, and be directed to the Member, at the place where he shall actually be at the time of delivery thereof, or at his usual place of residence, or at the House of Parliament, of which he shall be a Member.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no Letter or Packet whatsoever, directed by any Member of either the Legislative Council or Assembly of this Province, shall be exempted from the payment of Postage, unless the whole superscription upon any such Letter or Packet so sent, shall be of the hand-writing of the Member directing the same, and shall have endorsed thereon the name of such Member, together with the name of the Post Town from which the same is intended to be sent, and the day, month and year, when the same shall be put into the Post Office, the day of the Month to be in words at length, and the whole to be in the hand-writing of the Member; and also, unless every such Letter or Packet shall be put into the General Post Office, or other Post Office, or into any Receiving House, or place appointed by His Majesty's Post Master General, for the receipt of Letters and Packets, to be forwarded by the Post on the day of the date put upon such Letter or Packet, and unless the Member whose name shall be endorsed thereon, shall actually be in the Post Town

into the Post Office of which every such Letter or Packet shall be put, or within twenty miles of such Post Town, on the day, or on the day before the day, on which such Letter or Packet shall be put into the Post Office.

III. Provided always, And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever the number of Letters or Packets not weighing more than one ounce each, sent or received by any Member of the Legislative Council or Assembly, in any one day, shall exceed the number hereinbefore permitted to pass free from the duty of Postage, and the rates of Postage on the said Letters and Packets respectively, or any of them, shall differ, then such of the said Letters or Packets as would be chargeable with a higher rate of Postage than the remainder, shall be included in the number so exempted, in preference to any which would be chargeable with a lower rate of Postage, and the remainder of such Letters or Packets shall be chargeable with the several rates of Postage respectively, at which such Letters or Packets would by Law be chargeable, if sent or received by any persons not entitled to send or receive Letters or Packets free from the duty of Postage.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the said First day of January, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-eight, it shall be lawful for each and every Member of the Legislative Council and Assembly of this Province, to receive by the General Post any Petition addressed to either House of Parliament, free from the duty of Postage: Provided the same be sent without a cover, open at the sides, and shall not exceed the weight of six ounces.

V. And whereas frauds may be practised in sending Covers, Letters and Packets by Post, directed to Members of the Legislative Council and Assembly, at places where such Members do not usually reside, and are not then resident, and at different Houses and places in the same Post Town, and by directing Covers of Letters and Packets to Members, at their usual places of residence, containing Letters and Packets intended for others, and not intended for such Members to whom the Covers, Letters and Packets are so directed, on which Covers, Letters and Packets, so directed and enclosed, private marks may be put, whereby the persons for whom such Letters are really intended may receive such Covers, Letters and Packets, free from the duty of Postage, to the injury of the Revenue, for the remedy whereof, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Post Master General, and all persons acting under this Act, to charge the whole of such Covers, Letters and Packets, with the full duty of Letter Postage, according to the rates established by this Act, any thing herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: Provided always, that if it shall appear by the Certificate of such Member, that such Cover, Letter or Packet so charged, was actually intended for such Member, and not covering a correspondence to any other person, that then and in every such case, the Postage so charged and paid for every such Letter, Cover or Packet, shall be returned to such Member.