

The Provincial Statutes of Canada, passed in the year 1843. Kingston: Stewart Derbishire & George Desbarats, 1843.

7 Victoria – Chapter 5

An Act to regulate and facilitate the study of Anatomy. 9th December, 1843.

Whereas it is impossible to acquire a proper or sufficient knowledge of Surgery or Medecine, without a minute and practical acquaintance with the structure and uses of every portion of the human economy, which requires long and diligently prosecuted courses of dissections:

And whereas the difficulties which now impede the acquisition of such knowledge amount almost to a prohibition of the same, and it has become necessary, in consideration of the vising importance of Medical Schools in this Province, and for the relief of suffering humanity, to make some legislative provision, by which duly authorized teachers of Anatomy or Surgery may be provided with the bodies necessary for the purpose of instructing the pupils under their charge; Be it therefore-enacted by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the bodies of persons found dead publicly exposed, or who immediately before their death shall have been supported in and by any Public Institution receiving pecuniary aid from the Provincial Government, shall be delivered to persons qualified as hereinafter mentioned, unless the person so dying shall otherwise direct: provided always, that if such bodies be claimed within the usual period for interment, by *bonâ fide* friends or relatives, or the persons shall have otherwise directed as aforesaid before their death, they shall be delivered to them or decently interred.

II. And be it enacted, that the persons qualified to receive such unclaimed bodies shall be public teachers of Anatomy or Surgery, or private Medical Practitioners having three or more pupils for whose instruction such bodies shall be actually required: Provided always, that if there be any Public Medical School in the locality, such School shall have a preferable claim to any such body.

III. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor or person administering the Government of this Province to appoint, during pleasure, a person not being a Medical Practitioner, but being a person holding some Municipal Office and unconnected with any public or private School of Medecine [Medicine], to be The Inspector of Anatomy, for each City, Town or Place in which there shall be any such Public Institution or Medical School, as aforesaid.

IV. And be it enacted, that the duties of each Inspector of Anatomy, shall be as follows: He shall keep a Register of the name, age, sex (and of the birth-place, if it can be ascertained) of all unclaimed bodies given up for dissection: he shall keep a Register of all Medical practitioners duly qualified to receive and desirous of receiving bodies for dissection: he shall make an impartial distribution of the bodies in rotation, according to the actual wants of the claimants: he shall

inspect the several authorized dissection rooms, at least once in every six weeks, and shall direct the removal and decent interment of any remains that he may deem it advisable to require to be interred; and shall report to the Police Magistrate or the Chief Municipal authority, any infraction of the rules of common decency, or any improper conduct which he may know to be committed by the teachers or their students: he shall keep his Registers open for the inspection of any Medical Practitioner; who may desire to inspect them.

V. And be it enacted, that the Coroner who may preside at the inquest on any body found publicly exposed, and unclaimed by any *bonâ fide* friend or relative, shall give notice thereof to the Inspector of Anatomy of the locality, if there be any, failing which, he shall cause the body to be interred, as hath been heretofore customary.

VI. And be it enacted, that the Superintendent of each public institution receiving Government aid, shall immediately give notice to the Inspector of Anatomy for the locality, of the death of any inmate of the Institution who shall not be known to have any friends or relatives entitled to claim the body.

VII. And be it enacted, that each such Superintendent shall keep a Register shewing the name, age, sex and birth place (if known) of each person whose body shall be given over for dissection, and the name of the Medical Practitioner to whom such body shall have been delivered; and that no such Superintendent shall deliver anybody, except upon the written order of the Inspector of Anatomy for the locality.

VIII. And be it enacted, that the emoluments of the Inspector of Anatomy shall be as follows: he shall receive One pound five shillings, currency, for every body delivered over for dissection, which sum shall be paid him by the Teacher or Medical Practitioner, on receipt of the order for its delivery.

IX. And be it enacted, that every Medical Practitioner wishing to avail himself of the benefits of this Act, shall appear before one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace and the Inspector of Anatomy, and shall give security, himself in the sum of twenty pounds with two good and sufficient sureties, in the sum of ten pounds each, for the decent interment of the bodies after they shall have served the purposes required: and upon the due fulfilment of these conditions, the Inspector of Anatomy shall deliver to such Medical Practitioner a written authority to open a dissecting room entitled to the benefits of this Act.