

Provincial Statues of Canada, passed in the year 1845. Montreal: Stewart Derbishire & George Desbarats, 1845.

8 Victoria – Chapter 78

An Act to enable the Corporation of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, to dispose of certain portions of Land, for the better support of the University of McGill College. (29th March, 1845.)

Whereas the Honorable James McGill, late of Montreal, now deceased, by his last Will and Testament, bearing date the eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, did give and bequeath a certain estate called Burnside, near Montreal, containing about forty-six acres of land, together with the sum of ten thousand pounds, current money of this Province, to certain Trustees named in his said Will, in trust, to convey the same to The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, upon condition that the said Royal Institution shall erect and establish, or cause to be erected and established thereupon a University or College for the purposes of Education and the Advancement of Learning; And whereas, by reason of a protracted litigation having ensued concerning the payment of the said sum of ten thousand pounds currency, it was deemed advisable by the said Royal Institution to receive in part satisfaction of the before mentioned sum of ten thousand pounds of the said currency, and interest accrued thereon a certain other portion of land of about seventeen acres, adjoining to the before mentioned estate called Burnside; And whereas the said Royal Institution have caused to be erected on the said estate of Burnside certain suitable buildings, and have obtained from His late Majesty King George the Fourth, his Royal Charter incorporating the said University or College by the name and title of The Governors, Principal and Fellows of McGill College; And whereas the net amount of income arising from so much of the aforesaid legacy of ten thousand pounds currency, as remains unexpended after the erection of buildings as aforesaid, is insufficient for the maintenance and support of the said College; And whereas parts or portions of the land bequeathed as aforesaid may with due advantage be disposed of and made productive for the better support of the College; And whereas it is expedient that sufficient authority be given for effecting the disposal of parts or portions of its lands: 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 the United Kingdom 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 from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, or such other body Corporate as may hereafter become duly seized and possessed of the aforesaid estate, to lease such portions of the said property, from time to time, and for such limited periods as they may think fit, or to dispose thereof in perpetuity for an annual irredeemable ground rent, (rente foncière,) or otherwise to alienate such parts and portions of the said lands, and on such terms and conditions as may be considered most advantageous for the present, and permanent interests of the said College: Provided that such rente foncière, (in case any portion of such lands be disposed of in perpetuity for an annual irredeemable ground rent,)

(rente foncière) shall be subject to an increase of not less than twenty-five per cent, on the original rent, at the expiration of every twenty years, for one hundred years: Provided always, that the lots or portions of land so to be leased, sold or otherwise alienated, shall be exhibited on one or more plans of the whole, correctly executed, and be publicly disposed of to the best and highest bidder after one month's public notice thereof, and of the terms and conditions connected therewith, in not less than two newspapers published in Montreal.