

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1846. Montreal:
Stewart Derbishire & George Desbarats, 1846.

9 Victoria – Chapter 38

An Act to empower Commissioners for inquiring into matters connected with the public business, to take evidence on oath. 9th June, 1846.

Whereas it frequently becomes necessary for the Executive Government to institute inquiries on certain matters connected with the good government of this Province; And whereas the power of procuring evidence under oath in such cases would greatly tend to the public advantage as well as to afford protection to Her Majesty's subjects from false and malicious testimony or representations: 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, and 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 whenever the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, shall cause inquiry to be made into and concerning any matter connected with the good government of this Province, or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof, or the administration of justice therein, and such inquiry shall not be regulated by any special Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the government as aforesaid, by the Commission to confer upon the Commissioners or persons by whom such inquiry is to be conducted, the power of summoning before them any party or witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, (or on solemn affirmation if they be parties entitled to affirm in civil matters,) and to produce such documents and things, as such Commissioners shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine, and the Commissioner shall then have the same power to enforce the attendance of such witnesses and to compel them to give evidence, as is vested in any Court of Law in civil cases; And any wilfully false statement made by any such witness on oath or solemn affirmation, shall be a misdemeanor punishable in the same manner as wilful and corrupt perjury: Provided always, that no such party or witness shall be compelled to answer any question, by his answer to which he might render himself liable to a criminal prosecution.

II. And be it enacted, That this Act shall remain in force until the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight and no longer.