

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1849. Montreal: Stewart Derbshire & George Desbarats, 1849.

12 Victoria – Chapter 194

An Act to incorporate The Merchants' Exchange and Reading Room of Montreal. 30th May, 1849.

Whereas an Association hath been formed in the City of Montreal, by Merchants and others resident in that City and the neighbourhood thereof, under the name of The Association of the Merchants' Exchange and Reading Room of Montreal, for the purpose of opening a reading Room for the use and benefit of the Members of the Association, and of such other persons as may hereafter become Members thereof; And whereas George D. Watson, a member of the said Association, hath by his Petition to the Legislature, represented that the said Association has been formed for the purpose of establishing a Merchants' Exchange and Reading Room in the said City, at which Merchants and others, inhabitants of the said City and neighbourhood, might meet each other, and might have the advantage of perusing the newspapers and other periodical publications, and hath prayed that the said Association be incorporated; And whereas it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petitioner: 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 George D. Watson, John Young, Luther H. Holton, William Bristow, Theodore Hart, Alfred Larocque and Wm. B. Cumming, with all such other persons as are now or may hereafter become members of the Corporation under the By-laws thereof, and their successors for ever, shall be and are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Association of the Merchants' Exchange and Reading Room of Montreal, and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, which they may, at their pleasure, change or alter, and by the said name they may from time to time, and at all times have, acquire and possess in any manner whatsoever, for them and their successors, and for the purposes of the said Corporation, any goods or property, real or personal, provided the annual revenue of such real property shall not exceed the sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds currency.

II. And be it enacted, That the Reading Room of the said Corporation shall be held to be the domicile thereof and service thereat of any process or notice of any kind, addressed to the said Corporation, shall be held to be sufficient service thereof on the Corporation.

III. And be enacted, That the Officers of said Corporation shall be a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary; and the said officers, and four other Members of the Corporation shall be a Board of Management for the affairs thereof, and shall have such powers as shall be assigned to such Board by the By-laws of the Corporation, by which the *quorum* of the Board may also be fixed.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said officers and other members of the Board of Management, shall be elected for one year only, by the members of the Association, at the General Meeting which shall be held on the third Monday in April, in each year, at the domicile of the Corporation; they may however, be re-elected, with their own consent; and sufficient notice of such general meeting shall be given by the Secretary, eight days at least before the day of holding the same: Provided always, that if the said election should not take place on the day herein-above appointed for it, it may be had at any other subsequent meeting of the said Corporation specially called for this purpose by the Chairman, by public notice given at least eight days before such meeting; and the Officers and other Members of the Board of Management, shall remain in office until such meeting shall be held, and an election had thereat.

V. And be it enacted, That any vacancy which may occur among the said Officers or other members of the said Company, more than four months before the then next annual election, shall be filled by the appointment of a member or officer to fill such vacancy, by the majority of the other members of the said Board, such appointment being made from among the Members of the Corporation.

VI. And be it enacted, That the said Corporation may, for its government, for the management of its property, and for regulating the admission of new members and the conditions on which any person shall remain a Member thereof, adopt such Constitution and make such By-laws as may be thought proper; and such Constitution shall not be annulled, altered or amended, except at some annual meeting for the election of the Board of Management, at which at least fifteen members shall be present, and by four fifths of the members present at such meeting; and no motion, tending to annul, alter or amend any article of such Constitution shall be taken into consideration at such annual meeting, unless notice of such purposed amendment shall have been given to the Chairman at least three months previous to such Annual Meeting, and shall have been, during that time, posted in a conspicuous place in the Reading-Room of the Corporation: Provided always, that neither the said Constitution nor the said By-laws shall be repugnant to this Act or to the laws of the Province: And provided also, that the present By-laws and Constitution of the Association shall be the By-laws and Constitution of the Corporation hereby established, until they be annulled, altered or amended, as aforesaid.

VII. And be it enacted, That the members of the said Corporation, whether they shall have been such prior to or after the passing of this Act, shall pay an annual contribution to be fixed by the Board of Management, which contribution if not duly paid, may be recovered by the Corporation in any Court having jurisdiction in civil cases to the amount.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the members of the said Corporation shall not be personally liable for any debts of the said Corporation.

IX. And be it enacted, That the officers and members of the Board of Management of the said Association shall be and remain the officers and members of the Board of Management of the Corporation hereby established until the first annual election of such officers and members under

this Act; and the property of the said Association shall on the passing of this Act become and be the property of the said Corporation, and the debts and liabilities of the said Association shall become and be the debts and liabilities of the said Corporation, which shall be and is hereby substituted in the place of the said Association to all intents and purposes.

X. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be held to be a Public Act, and as such shall be judicially noticed by all Judges, Justices of the Peace and others whom it may concern, without being specially pleaded.