

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1851. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1852.

16 Victoria – Chapter 202

An Act to amend the Laws relative to Commissioners' Courts for the Trial of Small Causes in Lower Canada. Assented to 14th June, 1853.

Whereas for the prevention of fraud, it is expedient to make provision for the due attestation of the signatures to the Petitions for the discontinuance or re-establishment of Commissioners' Courts, under the Act passed in the present Session and intituled, *An Act to amend the Act providing for the summary decision of Small Causes in Lower Canada*: 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 before any Petition under the Act cited in the Preamble of this Act, either for the discontinuance or for the re-establishment of a Commissioners' Court in any Parish, Seignior or Township, shall be certified by any Justice of the Peace or Officer of Militia, as being signed by an absolute majority of the Municipal Electors residing in such Parish, Seignior or Township, each signature shall be attested on oath, before some Justice of the Peace residing in the County in which such Parish, Seignior or Township shall lie, by some Municipal Elector of such Parish, Seignior or Township known to such Justice of the Peace, in the following form, or words to the like effect:

"I, M. N. swear that A. B., C. D. and E. F. (inserting the names of the party or parties whose signature or signatures is to be attested,) signed the above written Petition in my presence; that I am personally acquainted with him (or them) and know that he is (or each of them is) a Municipal Elector of the Parish (Seignior or Township) of _____ (if any of the signers make their marks instead of signing their names, add,) and that the said Petition was read over distinctly and explained to those of the said signers who have made their marks thereto instead of signing their names."

(Signature,) M. N.

"Sworn before me, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of _____ by M. N., (trade, profession or quality) who is personally known to me as a Municipal Elector of the Parish (Seignior or Township) of _____ and as a person worthy of credit, at this day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and fifty-_____."

O. K.

J.P.

And if any signature be not so attested, it shall not be counted in ascertaining the number of persons signing such Petition; Provided always, that the signatures of different signers of any

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Petition may be attested by different, witnesses, and any number thereof may be attested by one witness, and that the mark of any person attested as aforesaid shall be counted as a signature.