

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada*, passed in the year 1854. Quebec: Stewart  
Derbshire and George Desbarts, 1854.

18 Victoria – Chapter 229

**An Act to incorporate the Upper Canada Bible Society. Assented to 19th May, 1855.**

Whereas an Association has been formed in Upper Canada by certain persons therein anxious for the moral and religious improvement, of the people thereof, under the name of the “Upper Canada Bible Society,” for the purpose of circulating the Bible throughout Upper Canada, at the lowest possible prices, and gratuitously to such as have not the means of paying therefor; And whereas the persons hereinafter named, Office Bearers and Members of the said Society, and acting in behalf thereof, have, by their petition to the Legislature, represented that the benefits derivable from the said Association would not only be secured but much enhanced by the incorporation of the members thereof, and have prayed that, they may be so incorporated; And whereas it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petitioners, subject to the provisions and enactments hereinafter contained: 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, as follows:

I. There shall be and there is hereby constituted and established in the City of Toronto, in that part of the Province of Canada called Upper Canada, a body politic and corporate under the name of the “Upper Canada Bible Society’,” which said Corporation shall consist of Jesse Ketchum, the Reverend Robert Burns, D. D. the Reverend H. J. Grassett, the Reverend John Roaf, James S. Howard, William A. Baldwin, William McMaster, William Osborne, John Tyner, Robert James Alexander Christie, Andrew T. McCord, John Rains, Thomas Clarkson, and all others who now are Members of the said Society, or who may hereinafter become Members of the Corporation under the By-laws thereof, so long as they shall continue Members thereof according to the said By-laws, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to change, alter, break and renew the same when and as often as they shall think proper; and the said Corporation may’, under the corporate name aforesaid, contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, prosecute and be prosecuted in all places and Courts in this Province, according to the laws thereof; and shall have power to take under any’ legal title whatsoever, and to hold for the use and purposes of the said Corporation, without any further authorization, all property real or personal of what nature or kind soever, which may hereafter be sold, ceded, exchanged, given, bequeathed or granted to the said Corporation, or to sell, alienate, convey, let or lease the same, if need be, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; Provided always, that the net rents, issues and profits arising from the real property and territorial acquisitions of the said Corporation, shall not at any time exceed the annual sum of live hundred pounds of lawful money of Canada.

II. At any time after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for any five Members of the said Corporation, by a notice to be published in some newspaper published in the City of Toronto, to call a General Meeting of the Members of the Corporation to be held at some certain place in the said City to be named in such notice, on a day and at an hour to be also named therein; and at such meeting or any adjournment thereof, the majority of the Members present, the whole number present not being less than ten, (except for the purpose of choosing a Chairman and adjourning, for which any number shall suffice,) shall have power to make such and so many Bylaws (not being contrary to the laws of this Province or to this Act,) as they shall deem useful or necessary, as well concerning the admission of Members as the condition upon which any person shall remain a Member of the said Corporation, and for the general conduct and government thereof, and for the superintendence, advantage and improvement of all the property, real or personal belonging to, or which shall hereafter belong to the said Corporation, and for appointing such Directors, Officers or Body, for managing the affairs of the said Corporation, and vesting them with such powers and giving them such tenure of Office, as the majority of the Members at such Meetings shall deem expedient, and also to regulate the mode in which General Meetings of the Corporation shall be called and held, and may at any subsequent General Meeting amend or repeal the said By-laws or any of them.

III. The property now held by, in trust for, or to the use of the said "Upper Canada Bible Society," shall be and is hereby vested in the Corporation hereby constituted, for the uses and purposes thereof.

IV. All the property which shall at any time belong to the said Corporation, as well as the revenue arising therefrom, shall at all times be exclusively applied and appropriated to the purposes mentioned in the Preamble to this Act, and to no other object.

V. It shall be incumbent on the said Corporation, to submit annually to each of the three branches of the Legislature during the first fifteen days of each Session thereof, a detailed statement shewing all the real or immoveable property held by them, with the estimated value thereof and the revenue derived therefrom.

VI. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.