

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

18 Victoria – Chapter 230

**An Act to incorporate the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book 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 Religions Tract and Book Society,” for the purpose of disseminating throughout Upper Canada, Religions tracts and Books 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 die 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 Britian 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 Religious Tract and Book Society,” which said corporation shall consist of the Rev. James Richardson, the Rev. H. J. Grasselt, the Rev. John Roaf, the Rev. Robert Burns, D. D., Peter Freeland, John McMurrich, William McMaster, Andrew J. McCord, James S. Howard, Thomas Clarkson, William Osborne, Oliver Mowatt, Thomas Hutchinson, and all others who now are Members of the said Society, or who may hereafter 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 such Corporation 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, alien, 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 anytime exceed the annual sum of five 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 By-laws, (not being contrary to the Laws of tills Province or to this Act,) as they shall deem useful or necessary, as well concerning the admission of Members as the conditions upon which any person shall remain a Member of the said Corporation, and for the general conduct and government thereof, and of any agency or auxiliary thereof, and for the superintendence, advantage and improvement of all the property, real or personal, belonging 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 Members at such Meeting 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 Religious Tract and Book 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 die 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.