

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada*, passed in the year 1856. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1856.

20 Victoria – Chapter 66

**An Act to provide for the separation of the County of Peel from the County of York. Assented to 19th June, 1856.**

Whereas a very large number of inhabitants of the County of Peel, the junior County of the United Counties of York and Peel, have by their Petitions prayed that the said County of Peel may be set apart as a separate County for judicial and other purposes without unnecessary delay, and the wealth and population thereof being sufficient to warrant the same, it is expedient to make provision to enable the said County to separate From the said County of York as soon as the necessary provisions for that purpose shall have been made: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

I. The Town Reeves and Deputy Town Reeves of the several Townships, Villages and Towns in the County of Peel, as the same is described and limited in and by the Act passed in the session held in the fourteenth and fifteenth years of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, *An Act to make certain alterations in the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada*, shall form a Provisional Municipal Council for the said County, and shall with respect to the said County, have, possess and exercise all and singular the rights, powers, privileges and duties conferred, granted or imposed by the Act passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, *An Act for abolishing the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada into Districts, and, for providing for temporary Unions of Counties for judicial and other purposes, and for the future dissolutions of such Unions, as the increase of wealth and population may require*, upon Provisional Municipal Councils erected by Proclamation under the authority of the said Act, and also all the powers which may be conferred on Provisional Municipal Councils generally by any other Act or Law in force in Upper Canada; subject to the provisions in the following sections contained.

II. It shall be the duty of the Warden of the United Counties of York and Peel, to call a meeting of the Reeves and Deputy Reeves of the County of Peel, at such place and hour as he shall appoint, on some day in the month of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six: A notice of such meeting shall be inserted in at least one of the Newspapers published within the said County of Peel, and a copy of such notice sent by mail or otherwise to each member of such Council, at least eight days before the day appointed for such meeting, by the Warden of the said United Counties of York and Peel: And the said Provisional Council at the first meeting thereof to be held under this Act, shall first proceed to elect a Provisional Warden, after which, at the same meeting, or some adjournment thereof, they shall proceed to pass a By-law for the purpose of taking a vote of the qualified Municipal Electors of the said County, on the question of separation, by a vote to be specially taken for that purpose, each qualified Elector having one vote and voting "Yea" or "Nay" after at least ten days' notice shall have been given in the manner to be provided by such By-law, of the time and place where the votes will be taken in the Wards of the several Municipalities forming the said County.

III. The Provisional Council shall meet, on the requisition of the Provisional Warden, on some day sifter the day or days appointed for taking such vote, and proceed in open Council to ascertain the number of votes recorded "Yea" and "Nay;" and if the result shall show that a majority of the votes recorded are "Nay," then after making a record of the same in the minutes of the said Provisional Council, the said Council shall be dissolved.

IV. If a majority of the votes recorded as aforesaid be "Yea," then the said Provisional Council shall, at some meeting to be held after the first day of February next, proceed to select a place for the County Town of the said County, and the place so selected shall be the County Town of Peel; and the said Provisional Council shall have and exercise the powers conferred on Provisional Municipal Councils by law, and shall and may purchase the necessary property at the place selected by the said Council assembled as aforesaid, and proceed to erect the necessary public buildings on such property; and all the provisions of the Act last above cited shall apply to the said Provisional Municipal Council, and to the said County of Peel.

V. The said Provisional Council shall have power and authority to appoint, by By-law or otherwise, such and so many officers and persons as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act; and the Provisional Warden or any Member of the Council shall administer to each person so appointed, the oath of office prescribed by law to be taken by any officer appointed under this Act, before he or they shall commence the discharge of the duties imposed on him or them; and each person so appointed and sworn shall be subject to all the responsibilities imposed on Municipal Officers by law.

VI. Any person or persons who shall wilfully interrupt or interfere with any of the proceedings authorized by this. Act, shall be dealt with and punished as provided by the Upper Canada Municipal Corporations Acts, with respect to persons interfering with the proceedings under the said last mentioned Acts.

VII. So soon as the Court House and Gaol of the said County shall be erected and completed at such County Town, according to the provisions of the fifteenth section of the said lastly in part recited Act, and the other provisions of the said fifteenth section shall have been complied with by the said County, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor of this Province to appoint the necessary officers as provided by the seventeenth section of the said in part recited Act, and by order in Council to issue a Proclamation dissolving the Union between the said County of Peel and the said County of York, from the date to be mentioned in such Proclamation; and all the provisions of the said lastly in part recited Act, or of any other Act or Law of Upper Canada applicable to Counties on and after their being separated from other Counties, shall apply to the said Counties of York and Peel respectively.

VIII. The said Warden of the United Counties of York and Peel shall by a warrant under his hand and seal, appoint some one of the Town Reeves or Deputy Town Reeves of the said County of Peel, to preside at the first meeting of the Provisional Municipal Council thereof, until a Provisional Warden shall be elected by such Provisional Municipal Council.

IX. This Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act.