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c 169 Quieting Titles Act

Ontario

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Title deeds.

Registered

instruments.

CHAPTER 169.

The Quieting Titles Act.

- Owners, etc. in fee simple may obtain judicial investigation of judicially investigated and the validity thereof ascertained and declared, whether he has the legal estate or not, and whether his title is or is not subject to any charge or incumbrance. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 1.
- 2. Any other person who has any estate or interest in land may apply for the investigation of his title and a declaration of the validity thereof; but it shall be in the discretion of the tionary with the judge.

 2. Any other person who has any estate or interest in land may apply for the investigation of his title and a declaration of the validity thereof; but it shall be in the discretion of the judge before whom the proceedings are taken to grant or refuse the application and such discretion may be invoked and exercised at any stage of the proceedings, and the decision of the judge in exercising such discretion shall be subject to appeal. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 2.
- Attorney-General may apply to quiet title to Crown lands. Majesty's Attorney-General for Canada or His Majesty's Attorney-General for Ontario may apply for an declaration of the title of the Crown to any land and a declaration of the validity thereof, and the application may be made by information instead of petition, but in other respects the practice and procedure shall be the same as in ordinary cases. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 3.
- 4. Every application shall be made to the Supreme Court of whom.

 4. Every application shall be made to the Supreme Court of a judge thereof and, subject to the provisions of section 3, shall be by petition (Form 1). R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 4.
- How the application shall be supported by the following must be supported, particulars,—
 - (a) the title deeds, if any, and evidences of title in the possession or power of the applicant; R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 5, cl. (a).
 - (b) certified copies of all registered instruments, or registered memorials of instruments, affecting the land, or of all since the last judicial certificate, if any, under this Act, up to the time of the granting of the certificate of title save and except mortgages of which discharges have been registered more than ten years prior to the date of the application and the discharges of such mortgages; R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 5, cl. (b); 1931, c. 23, s. 9 (1).

- (c) an abstract of the title certified by the registrar of Registrar's the registry division in which the land lies, unless certificate. the same be dispensed with in whole or in part:
- (d) a concise statement of such facts as are necessary Statement of facts. to make out the title which do not appear in the produced documents; but no abstract of produced documents shall be required except on special
- (e) proof of any fact which is required to be proved Proof of in order to make out the title, and which is not established by the produced documents, unless the judge dispenses with such proof until a future stage of the investigation;
- (f) an affidavit or deposition by the person whose title Affidavit and is to be investigated and a certificate of his counsel counsel, etc. or solicitor, to the effect hereinafter mentioned, unless the judge, for special reason, dispenses therewith:
- (g) a schedule of the particulars produced under this Schedule of particulars section. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 5, cls. (c-g). produced.
- 6 .- (1) The affidavit or deposition of the person whose What the title is to be investigated shall state that to the best of his deposition of knowledge and belief he is the owner of the estate or interest must state. claimed by the petitioner, subject only to the charges and incumbrances set forth in the petition or in a schedule thereto. or that there is no charge or incumbrance affecting the land; that the deeds and evidences of title which he produces, and of which a list is contained in the schedule produced under the next preceding section, are all the title deeds and evidences of title relating to the land in his possession or power, and that he is not aware of the existence of any claim adverse to or inconsistent with his own to any part of the land or to any interest therein; or, if he is aware of such adverse As to adverse claim, he shall set forth every such adverse claim, and shall session, etc. depose that he is not aware of any except what he sets forth.
- (2) The affidavit or deposition shall also set forth whether As to petitioner's posany one is in possession of the land and under what claim, session and other right or title, and shall state that to the best of the deponent's material forter. knowledge, information and belief, the affidavit or deposition facts. and the other papers produced therewith fully and fairly disclose all facts material to the title claimed by the petitioner, and all contracts and dealings which affect the same or any part thereof or give any right as against him.

In certain cases it may be dispensed with or made by another person.

(3) The affidavit or deposition may be dispensed with, or may be made by some other person instead of the person whose title is to be investigated, or an affidavit or deposition as to part may be made by one person, and as to part by another, in the discretion of the judge to whom the application is made, and in such case the affidavit shall be modified accordingly. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 6.

What the certificate of counsel or solicitor must state.

7. The certificate of the counsel or solicitor shall state that he has investigated the title and believes the petitioner to be the owner of the estate which he claims in the land. subject only to any charge or incumbrance set forth in the petition or in the schedule thereto, or that he so believes, subject to any condition, qualification or exemption set forth in the certificate, and that he has conferred with the deponent on the subject of the various matters set forth in the affidavit or deposition referred to in sections 5 and 6 and believes the affidavit or deposition to be true. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 7.

On what evidence judge

8.—(1) The judge in investigating the title may receive may proceed and act upon any evidence that is received by the Supreme Court on a question of title, and any evidence which the practice of conveyancers authorizes to be received on an investigation of a title out of court, or any other evidence, whether the same is or is not receivable or sufficient in point of strict law or according to the practice of conveyancers, if the same satisfies the judge of the truth of the facts intended to be established thereby.

Evidence in proceedings to quiet titles. Rev Stat. c. 168.

(2) It shall not be necessary to produce any evidence which by The Vendors and Purchasers Act is dispensed with as between vendor and purchaser, or to produce or account for the originals of any registered deeds, documents or instruments, unless the judge otherwise directs.

Form of proofs.

(3) The proof may be by affidavit or certificate or may be given orally or in any other manner or form satisfactory to the judge. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 8.

Taxes must have been paid except for current year.

9. Before a certificate of title is granted satisfactory evidence shall be given by certificate, affidavit or otherwise, that all taxes, rates and assessments for which the land is liable have been paid, or that all, except those for the current year, have been paid, and by the production of a certificate from the Treasurer of Ontario that all claims for succession duty in respect of the land to be included in the certificate have been satisfied. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 9: 1931, c. 23, s. 9 (2).

- 10. If the judge is not satisfied with the evidence of title Further produced in the first instance he shall give a reasonable judge not opportunity to produce further evidence or to remove defects satisfied. in the evidence produced. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 10.
- 11.—(1) Except as hereinafter provided, before a cer-Judge to tificate of title is granted or a conveyance is made under this to be pub-Act, the judge shall direct to be published in the Ontario Gazette, and if he sees fit in one or more newspapers, and in such form, and for such period as he deems expedient, a notice either of the application having been made, or of the order or decision of the judge thereon, and the notice shall state the time within which adverse claims may be filed, and the certificate or conveyance shall not be signed or executed until after the expiration of at least four weeks from the first publication of such notice or such other period as the judge may appoint.
- (2) Where the value of the land is proved to the satisfac-Notice of tion of the judge to be not more than \$3,000, he may dispense where land is with the publication of the notice and in lieu thereof may more than direct that for such period as he may think fit a printed or \$3,000. type-written notice of the application, or of the order or decision of the judge thereon, be posted up in one or more conspicuous places on the land, and in such other place, if any, as he may think fit, and the certificate or conveyance shall not be signed or executed until the period limited by such notice for filing adverse claims shall have expired. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 11.

- 12. Where the judge is satisfied respecting the title, and Judge may considers that the certificate of title can safely be granted cate without or the conveyance can be safely executed without any other further notice. notice of application than the published or posted notice, he may grant the certificate or direct the execution of the conveyance. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 12.
- 13. Where it appears that there is any person who may Notice to have a claim adverse to or inconsistent with that of the adverse claimant. petitioner to or in respect of any part of the land, the judge shall direct such notice as he deems necessary to be mailed to or served on such person, his agent or solicitor. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 13.
- **14.**—(1) Where it appears that any persons who will Appointment become the heirs of a living person or that any person not ad litem. in esse may be interested in opposing the claim of the petitioners, the judge may appoint a guardian ad litem to represent them and they shall be bound by the adjudication.

Costs.

(2) The judge may order that the costs of the guardian ad litem be paid by the petitioner.

Who may be guardian.

(3) Unless the judge otherwise directs, the Official Guar-R.S.O. 1927. dian shall be appointed guardian ad litem. c. 154, s. 14.

Further publiention or service of notice.

15. Before granting the certificate or directing the execution of the conveyance the judge may require any further publication to take place, or any other notice to be mailed or served which he deems necessary. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 15.

Adverse claimants to file statements.

16.—(1) Any person having an adverse claim, or a claim not recognized in the petition may at any time before the certificate is granted or the conveyance is executed, file and serve on the petitioner, his solicitor or agent, a statement of his claim (Form 2).

Verification.

(2) The claim shall be verified by an affidavit to be filed therewith. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 16.

In case of contest. judge may

17. In case of a contest, the judge may either decide the question of title on the evidence before him, or may refer refer the case, the same or any matter involved therein to the Court of Appeal, or may direct any mode of investigation which he deems expedient, and may defer granting the certificate or directing the execution of the convevance. R.S.O. 1927. c. 154, s. 17.

Security for costs.

18. The judge may at any stage of the proceeding order security for costs to be given by the petitioner, or by any person making an adverse claim. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 18.

Payment of costs.

19. The judge may order costs either as between party and party, or as between solicitor and client, to be paid by or to any party to any proceeding, and may give directions as to the fund out of which any costs shall be paid. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 19.

Withdrawal of application

20. The petitioner may by leave of the judge withdraw his application at any time before final adjudication, on payment of all costs incurred in the investigation, either by himself or by any adverse claimant. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 20.

Petition may be referred to referee or counsel,

21. Subject to rules of court, the judge may refer a petition or any question arising in the course of any proceeding thereon to any referee of titles or other officer of the court, or to counsel named by the judge, who shall proceed as the judge himself should do, had the reference not been made, and shall have all the powers of the judge, except the power to grant the certificate or to direct the execution of the conveyance. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 21.

- 22.—(1) Every claim of title under this Act shall be Claims of presumed to be subject to the following exceptions and quali-presumed to be made with certain exceptions.
 - (a) the reservations, if any, contained in the original grant from the Crown;
 - (b) any municipal charges, rates or assessments theretofore imposed for local improvements and not yet due and payable;
 - (c) any title or lien which, by possession or improvements or other means, the owner or person interested in any adjoining land has acquired to or in respect of the land;
 - (d) any lease or agreement for a lease for a period yet to run, not exceeding three years, where there is actual occupation under the same;
 - (e) any public highway, right of way, watercourse and right of water, and other easement;
 - (f) any right of the wife or husband of the petitioner to dower or curtesy; R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 22 (1).
 - (g) any claim for succession duty. 1931, c. 23, s. 9 (3).
- (2) If the petitioner desires the certificate to declare the But claim title to be free from such exceptions or qualifications, or any without of them, the petition shall so state, and the investigation exceptions, shall proceed accordingly, but this subsection shall not apply to the exception or qualification as to a public highway. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 22 (2).

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

- 23. The judge may give one certificate of title comprising One certificall the land mentioned in the petition, or may give separate several. certificates as to separate parts of the land. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 23.
- 24. The certificate of title (Form 3), shall be under the Form of cerseal of the court and shall be signed by a judge and, where title, the proceedings on the petition are conducted in Toronto, by the Referee of Titles and in other cases by the Inspector of Titles and shall also be signed by the Registrar or an assistant registrar of the Supreme Court, and the same and the

schedule, if any, thereto or a duplicate or counterpart of the same shall be registered in full both in the Supreme Court and in the registry office of the registry division where the land lies without any further proof thereof. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 24.

Registration of certificate.

25. A certificate of the registration in the Supreme Court may be endorsed on the certificate of title, or on any counterpart or certified copy thereof, thus:

Registered in

19

Book

Page

A.H.,

Registrar of the Supreme Court (or as the case may be.)

and a memorandum or certificate so signed shall be evidence of the registration mentioned therein. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 25.

Effect of certificate of title.

26. The certificate of title, sealed, signed and registered as required by section 24, shall be conclusive, and the title therein mentioned shall be deemed absolute and indefeasible, on and from the date of the certificate, as regards His Majesty and all persons whomsoever, subject only to any charges or incumbrances, exceptions or qualifications mentioned therein or in the schedule thereto, and shall be conclusive evidence that every application, notice, publication, proceeding, consent and act which ought to have been made, given and done before the granting of the certificate, has been made, given and done by the proper person. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 26.

Certified copy of certificate to be evidence.

27. After a certificate of title is registered a copy thereof purporting to be signed and certified as a copy by the Registrar or an assistant registrar of the Supreme Court, or by the registrar of the registry division in which the land lies, shall be admissible evidence of the certificate for all purposes without further evidence of such copy, and without accounting for the non-production of the certificate. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 27.

Conveyance by the Court in case of sale. 28. In case of a sale by the Supreme Court the Court may investigate the title with a view to granting an indefeasible title, and in that case a conveyance (Form 4), executed to the purchaser, under the seal of the Court and purporting to be under the authority of this Act, shall have the same effect as a certificate. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 28.

Where an indefeasible title is contracted for.

29. Where judgment is given for the specific performance of a contract for the sale of land and it is provided by the contract that the vendor shall give an indefeasible title,

the court may make the like investigation, and the conveyance may be according to Form 4. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 29.

JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF PARTICULAR FACTS AFFECTING TITLES.

- **30.** Where a person domiciled or claiming land in Ontario Right to desires to establish that he is the legitimate child of his judicial parents, or that the marriage of his father or mother or of of some fact his grandfather and grandmother was a valid marriage, or affect a title. that his own marriage was a valid marriage, or that he is the heir or one of the heirs of any person deceased, or that he is a natural born subject of His Majesty, he may, if the court thinks fit, have any of such matters judicially investigated and declared. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 30.
- 31.—(1) The application shall be by petition supported Application. by an affidavit of the petitioner verifying the statements of How the petition, and stating that his claim is not disputed or petition must questioned by any person; or, if his claim is to his knowledge disputed or questioned, the facts in relation to such dispute or question, and that he is not aware of any dispute or question except what he has set forth, and stating such other facts as may satisfy the court of the propriety of proceeding with the investigation.
- (2) The proceedings upon the petition shall be the same Investigaas nearly as may be as in cases under section 1, and the etc., in such certificate granted on the investigation shall be registered case. in the same way, and may be proved by the like evidence, as in the case of a certificate granted under section 12.
- (3) The certificate when registered shall be conclusive and Effect of certificates in favour of the person to whom the same was granted and all persons claiming by, from, through or under him as regards His Majesty and all persons whomsoever and shall be *prima facie* evidence in favour of all other persons as against His Majesty and all persons whomsoever of the truth of the fact therein declared. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 31.

EFFECT OF FRAUD IN OBTAINING CERTIFICATE.

32. If in the course of any proceeding any person acting certificate either as principal or agent knowingly and with intent to obtained by deceive makes or assists or joins in or is privy to the making of any material false statement or representation, or suppresses, withholds or conceals, or assists or joins in or is privy to the suppression, withholding, or concealing from the court of any material document, fact or matter of information, any certificate or conveyance obtained by means of such

fraud or falsehood, shall be null and void except as against a purchaser for valuable consideration without notice. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 32.

RE-INVESTIGATION.

Re-investigation, petition for.

33.—(1) After a certificate is granted or a conveyance is executed any person aggrieved thereby may, on petition, and after satisfactorily accounting for his delay, by leave of the court or a judge, have the title or claim re-investigated on such terms as may be deemed just.

Registration.

(2) A certificate of the presentation of the petition shall be registered in the proper registry office.

But those who have purchased, etc., in the meantime not to be affected. (3) No proceeding on such petition shall affect the title of any person who, after the date of the certificate or conveyance under this Act and before the registration of the certificate of the presentation of the petition, has acquired by sale, mortgage, or contract, for valuable consideration, any estate or interest in the land described in the certificate or conveyance, or, if the certificate was granted under section 30, in any land or other property, the title to which was derived from, through or under the person named in the certificate, in the character which is thereby declared to belong to him.

What order may be made.

(4) The court or judge may make such order on the petition as he may deem just having regard to the provisions of subsection 3 and of section 32. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 33.

APPEALS.

Appeals.

34. An appeal shall lie from an order or decision of a judge under this Act to the Court of Appeal in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions as in the case of an appeal from a judgment or order of a judge of the High Court in an action. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 34.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Register to be kept. 35. A separate book shall be kept in the Supreme Court for the registration of certificates and conveyances under this Act, and the certificates and conveyances registered therein shall be numbered in order, and an index to the book shall be kept in such form as the Court may direct. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 35.

Where any party is a minor, mental defective, etc.

36. Where any person who, if not under disability, might have made any application, given any consent, or done any act, or been party to any proceedings under this Act, is an

infant, a mentally defective person, or a mentally incompetent person, the guardian of the infant, or committee of the estate of the mentally defective person or mentally incompetent person, may make such application, give such consent, do such act, and be party to such proceeding as such person might if free from disability, and shall otherwise represent such person for the purposes of this Act, and if the infant has no guardian, or the mentally defective person or mentally incompetent person no committee of his estate, the Court or judge may appoint a person with like power to act for the infant, mentally defective person or mentally incompetent person. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 36.

- 37. A married woman shall, for the purposes of this Act, Married be deemed a *feme sole*. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 37.
- **38**. No objection to a petition shall be allowed upon the No objection ground that the petitioner should first have brought an action, to establish and if it appears upon the determination of the investigation petitioner that the petitioner is entitled to the possession of the land first have he may obtain an order against any other party to the pro-brought an ceeding for the delivery of possession thereof. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 38.
- **39.** Proceedings shall not abate or be suspended by any Proceedings death or transmission or change of interest, but in any such by certain event the court or a judge may require notices to be given events. to persons becoming interested, or may make any order for discontinuing, or suspending, or carrying on the proceedings, or otherwise, in relation thereto as may seem just. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 39.
- **40**. No petition, order, affidavit, certificate, registration or Proceedings other proceeding shall be invalid by reason of any informality want of or technical irregularity therein, or of any mistake not affecting the substantial justice of the proceeding. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 40.
- **41**.—(1) There shall be an Inspector of Titles who shall Inspector of supervise the work of the local referees of titles.
- (2) Such officer of the Supreme Court as may be designated to be officer for that purpose by rule of court shall be the Inspector of Court. Titles. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 41.

(Note. - See Rule 625 of the Consolidated Rules of Practice.)

Referees of Titles. **42.** Every local master shall be local referee of titles and the Inspector of Titles shall be the Referee of Titles where the proceedings under the petition are to be conducted at Toronto. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 42.

Powers of Inspector and referees.

43. The Inspector of Titles, the Referee of Titles and every local referee of titles in respect of the petition and the proceedings thereunder shall have the like powers as the Master in Chambers. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 43.

Powers of Referee of Titles. **44**. The Referee of Titles and every local referee of titles shall have the same powers as a judge of the Supreme Court within the limits prescribed by the rules. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 44.

Application of Judicature Act. Rev. Stat. c. 100.

45. Subject to rules of court, unless where otherwise provided, the practice and procedure under *The Judicature Act* and rules made thereunder shall apply to proceedings under this Act. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 45.

Court may make general rules for carrying out this Act. Rev. Stat. c. 100.

46.—(1) The judges authorized under *The Judicature Act* may make rules for referring petitions under this Act to any referee of titles or other officer of the Court, or to any counsel or other person and may regulate the fees to be paid on such references.

Rules for practice and procedure. (2) The judges may also make rules for the purposes of and for regulating the practice or procedure under this Act notwithstanding that the practice or procedure prescribed by this Act may be thereby varied. R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, s. 46.

FORM 1.

(Section 4).

PETITION TO QUIET A TITLE.

In the Supreme Court of Ontario.

In the matter of (the East half of lot No. Concession of the Township of briefly describing the property).

in the or as the case may be,

To the Honourable the Judges of the Supreme Court of Ontario.

The Petition of

of

SHEWETH,-

That your Petitioner is absolute owner in fee simple in possession (or as the case may be) of the following land (describing it).

That there is no charge or other incumbrance affecting your Petitioner's title to the land, (except, etc., or that your Petitioner's title is subject only to the charges or incumbrances in the schedule hereto mentioned, and that the only persons having or claiming any charge, incumbrance, estate right or interest in the land are set forth in the schedule hereto annexed, and that the charge, incumbrance, estate, right or interest belonging to or claimed by each is therein set forth.) Your Petitioner therefore prays that his title to the land may be investigated and declared under *The Quieting Titles Act*.

A.B.

or

C.D., Solicitor for A.B.

R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, Form 1.

FORM 2.

(Section 16 (1)).

ADVERSE CLAIM.

In the Supreme Court of Ontario.

In the matter of, etc., (as in petition).

G. H., of, etc., claims to be the owner of the land [or as the case may be (stating briefly the nature and the grounds of the claim)].

Dated this

day of

, 19

G.H.,

E.F., Solicitor for G.H.

R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, Form 2.

FORM 3.

(Section 24).

CERTIFICATE.

In the Supreme Court of Ontario.

These are to certify under the authority of The Quieting Titles Act, that A.B., of , is the legal and beneficial owner in fee simple in possession (or as the case may be) of all, etc. (here describe the land) subject to the exceptions and qualifications mentioned in section 22 of the said Act (or as the case may be), and to (specifying either by reference to a schedule or otherwise any of the charges or incumbrances, exceptions or qualifications to which the title of A.B. is subject), but free from all other rights, interests, claims and demands whatever.

[Or that (stating the fact found and declared under section 30, and stating on whose application the same are declared)].

In witness whereof

one of the Justices of the Court has hereunto set his hand, and the seal of the Court has been hereunto affixed, this day of , 19 .

G.S.H., Inspector (or Referee) of Titles. J.A.B. [L.S.]

R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, Form 3.

FORM 4.

(Section 28).

CONVEYANCE BY THE SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court of Ontario, under the authority of *The Quieting Titles Act*, doth hereby grant unto A.B., of [here describe the land sold] to hold the same unto the said in fee simple (or as the case may be),

subject to [here specify as in the case of a certificate of title].

In witness whereof

one of the Justices of the Court has hereunto set his hand, and the seal of the Supreme Court has been hereunto affixed, this day of , 19 .

G.S.H., Registrar. J.A.B. [L.S.]

R.S.O. 1927, c. 154, Form 4.