MOHAWK NATION
OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

BOOK VII OF THE REGISTER'S BOOKS

The Gazette and Law-Making

How the Nation makes its law and keeps it: the kinds of instrument, drafting them, the life of an instrument from draft to Gazette, changing the law without ever erasing it, retrospective entries, finding the law, the Crown — and the instruments waiting to be made now.

One of the National Books of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River.

First edition · October 2026

The Gazette and Law-Making

Book VII of the Register’s books

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SECTION 1

The Gazette

The Nation’s own register of its acts: what it is, and why every act of the Nation is entered in it.

For the Secretary-General, the Attorney General, the Registrar General, and every officer who drafts.

Its colour: **Plum**

THE GAZETTE

What it is

The Gazette is the Nation’s register of its own acts: every instrument the Nation makes — a directive, an order, an appointment, a notice, a treaty — is entered in it, given its Record Code (GZT001), dated, and published. An act not entered in the Gazette is not yet an act of the Nation.

Each entry also takes its place in the Master Gazette Index, numbered in order — G1, G2, and onward. That number is its place in the index, for reading and citing; its identifier is its Record Code.

WHY A people’s law must be findable by everyone it binds. Entering every act, in order, with its date and its authority, means anyone can know the law as it stands — and as it stood on any day before.

The frame

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognises the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain their own institutions and, where they exist, their own juridical systems, in accordance with international human rights standards (Articles 5 and 34). The Gazette is the record of the Nation’s exercise of that right.

SECTION 2

The instruments

Each kind of act the Nation makes, who makes it, and its Record Code.

Its colour: **Plum**

INSTRUMENTS

The kinds

Instrument	Family	Made by	What it does
Directive	DIR001	The Secretary-General	Constitutes a programme of the Secretariat, or directs its officers
Order	ORD001	The office the law empowers; the Court for its orders	Requires or permits a particular thing
Appointment, removal, vacancy, attestation	APP001 · REM001 · VAC001 · ATT001	The Secretary-General, or the office empowered	Fills, ends, records or attests an office
Notice	NOT001, and Gazette notices	The office concerned	Tells the public, or a party, a fact the law requires known
Treaty or instrument	TRE001	The Secretary-General, for the Nation	Records an agreement with another people or government
Land instrument	LIN001	Lands and Territory, as empowered	Records an interest or act concerning land
Standing orders	STO001	The office they govern	The rules of an office’s own procedure
Correspondence to the Crown	COR001	The Secretary-General	A letter of the Nation to the Crown, kept in its file

WATCH FOR DIR001, the directives’ family, is still marked “proposed” in the Register. Adopting it in the Conventions is among the first instruments to make (Section 9).

SECTION 3

Drafting

How an instrument is written: its parts, and the words to use.

After ISO 24495-1, plain language.

Its colour: **Plum**

DRAFTING

The parts of an instrument

Part	What it holds
Title	What it is, in a few words: “Directive on the Public Safety Service”
Record Code	Given when it is entered
Authority	The instrument under which it is made, cited by its Record Code
Recitals	“Whereas …”: the reasons, briefly; they explain, they do not command
Definitions	Each word with a special meaning, defined once
The provisions	Numbered; one idea to each; what must be done, by whom, by when
Consistency	How it accords with the Nation’s founding instruments
Supersession	What it replaces, by Record Code, if anything
Commencement	When it takes effect — on entry, on a stated day, or from an earlier day (Section 6)
Signature	The maker’s name and office; its Edge Mark when printed

The words

Write	Not
“must”	“shall” — readers misread it
“may”	“is entitled to, at its discretion”
The Nation’s own terms for its own institutions	Another government’s terms, where they carry that government’s assumptions
One provision, one idea	A provision of several sentences joined by “and”
A defined word, used the same way throughout	The same thing called by two names
A cross-reference by Record Code	“the instrument mentioned above”

RULE Draft so that a resident who has never read a law can tell, from the instrument alone, what it requires of them.

A provision

GOOD
· “The Treasurer General must publish the proof of reserves every day.”

NOT LIKE THIS
· “It shall be the duty of the Treasurer General, as and when appropriate, to cause to be published such proof of reserves as may be required from time to time.”

Why: The first says who, what and when. The second leaves each open to argument.

SECTION 4

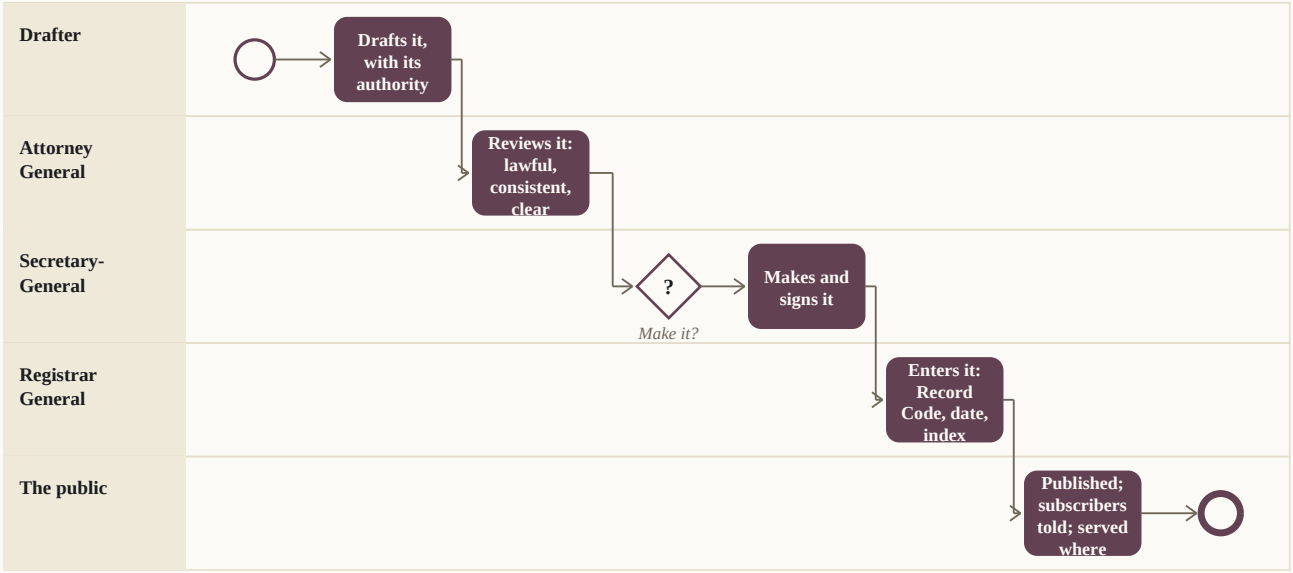
From draft to Gazette

The life of an instrument, and who holds it at each step.

Its colour: **Plum**

THE LIFE OF AN INSTRUMENT

How to read the diagram: each row is one party — Drafter, Attorney General, Secretary- General, Registrar General and The public. Follow the steps left to right, from the start to the end. A diamond marks a decision — Make it? — and the path that follows each answer.



	Step
1	Draft, citing the authority under which it is made
2	The Attorney General reviews it: within the Nation’s powers, consistent with its founding instruments and its other acts, and clear
3	The Secretary-General makes it — or returns it with reasons
4	The Registrar General enters it: its Record Code (GZT001), its date, its place in the Master Gazette Index, its subject and category
5	It is published on the Gazette’s public pages; the publication proof is kept; subscribers are told
6	Where the law requires a party to be served, the service schedule records whom, how and when
7	For a directive, its compliance ledger records what each office has done under it

SECTION 5

Changing the law

Amending, superseding, consolidating, correcting — without ever erasing.

Its colour: **Plum**

CHANGING THE LAW

Change	How	The old entry
Amendment	A new instrument stating exactly what changes, by provision	Stays, marked as amended, linked to the amendment
Supersession	A new instrument replacing an old one entirely	Stays, marked as superseded, linked to its successor
Consolidation	The text as amended, prepared for reading	Each amendment stays; the consolidation is a reading copy, citing them
Erratum	Corrects a slip — a misspelling, a wrong date — never the substance	Stays; the erratum stands beside it
Interpretation	A request to the Attorney General for the meaning of a provision	Answered, and the answer entered and published

RULE Nothing in the Gazette is ever deleted or rewritten. The Gazette is a record of what the Nation did, and when; changing it later would falsify that record.

SECTION 6

Retrospective entries

Entering acts the Nation made before the Register existed.

The retrospective queue.

Its colour: **Plum**

RETROSPECTIVE ENTRIES

Acts with their own dates

Many of the Nation’s acts were made before the Register existed, or before they were entered in it. They are entered with two dates: the date of the act itself, and the date of its entry. The Secretariat itself, constituted nunc pro tunc on 25 October 1784, was entered in the Gazette on 28 March 2026.

Such entries wait in the retrospective queue until their evidence is gathered: the original document, a certified copy, a record in another archive, or the testimony that establishes the act. Each is entered with that evidence cited.

RULE A retrospective entry says on its face that it is retrospective, gives both dates, and cites its evidence. It never pretends to have been entered on the earlier day.

SECTION 7

Finding the law

Citing, indexing, and reading the law as it stood on any day.

Its colour: **Plum**

FINDING THE LAW

Citing an instrument

Cite an instrument by its place in the Master Gazette Index and its Record Code — for example, **Gazette G4 · GZT001-260101-000004** — and, for a provision, its number.

The indexes

Index	For
The Master Gazette Index	Every entry, in order of entry
The chronology	Every act, in order of its own date — retrospective entries in their place
The subject index	Every act, by what it concerns
The category schedule	Every act, by kind
Citations	Every instrument, with every instrument that cites it

TIP To read the law as it stood on a day, take the chronology up to that day, and follow each instrument’s amendments and supersessions only as far as that day.

SECTION 8

The Crown

The Nation’s dealings with the Crown, kept on the record.

Its colour: **Plum**

THE CROWN

The Nation deals with the Crown directly. Every letter of the Nation to the Crown is official correspondence (COR001), kept in the Crown correspondence file with its replies; the standing notice to the Crown records what the Nation has told the Crown and when. Each instrument the Nation makes is reconciled with the Nation’s four founding instruments — the 1779 Pledge, the 1784 Proclamation, the 1789 Order in Council at Quebec, and the 1796 Register at Simcoe — and its consistency is stated in the instrument itself.

SECTION 9

Instruments to make now

What the Register and these books have proposed, waiting on the Gazette to adopt.

For the Secretary-General’s attention.

Its colour: **Plum**

TO MAKE NOW

	Instrument	Adopts
1	Amendment to the Conventions	The directives' family DIR001; the new families of forms (RGF001, LDF001, CRF001, SCF001, TGF001)
2	Amendment to the Order of Offices	The Editor in Chief; the Public Safety Service's structure; the Chief Compliance Officer, the Tellers and the Loan Officers
3	Directive on succession	Who acts in each office when it is empty; the order of succession to the Secretary-General
4	Directive on service standards	The time each form must be dealt with in
5	Directive on records	How long each kind of record is kept; legal holds; disposal
6	Directive on the bank's limits	The daily limit; the two-officer threshold; the large-cash threshold
7	Directive on the Public Safety Service	Its ranks, its forms, need-to-know, the Inspection Division
8	Directive on the Register's books	These books as the Nation's manuals; reprinting them when they change

Standards

Standard	For
ISO 24495-1, Plain language	How every instrument is written
ISO 8601	Every date in the Gazette
Akoma Ntoso (OASIS LegalDocML)	A machine-readable copy of each instrument, for other governments' systems — when adopted, beside its Record Code, never instead of it
UNDRIP, Articles 5 and 34	The frame of the Nation's own law-making

SECTION 10

How it works, and how we compare

The benchmarks the Nation measures itself against, the standards it follows, and the questions an expert or critic would ask — answered.

Its colour: **Cover tan**

An instrument’s life



How we compare

Benchmark	What they do	What the Nation does
The London Gazette (since 1665)	The official journal of record of the United Kingdom	The Gazette: every act entered, dated and published
legislation.gov.uk	The law as it stood on any date, with every change	The chronology and consolidations (Section 7)
Canada Gazette and the US Federal Register	Every regulation and notice published before it binds	Publication, with its proof kept
Akoma Ntoso (OASIS LegalDocML)	A world standard for machine-readable legislation	Each instrument in it, beside its Record Code, when adopted

Questions an expert or critic would ask

Can a body be constituted retrospectively?
An entry nunc pro tunc records an act with its own date, citing the evidence that it was made then. The Gazette never claims an entry was made on the earlier day; whether others accept the act is for them, on its evidence.

Who is bound by the Gazette?
The Nation’s offices and officers, and those within its order. The Gazette makes no claim on any other government’s behalf.

What stops the Gazette being rewritten?
Every entry is on the Ledger, anchored in Bitcoin; nothing in it is ever deleted.