MOHAWK NATION
OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

BOOK III OF THE REGISTER'S BOOKS

Lands and the Tract

How the Nation measures the Tract and keeps its land records: the graded line and its one answer, titles and notices of interest, the Surveyor General, the forms and field work, the Map Room, the Wall, housing and the Conservancy.

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

First edition · October 2026

Lands and the Tract

Book III of the Register’s books

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Posters	The Three Villages (ISBN 978-1-0680559-5-9): an A3 wall poster, printed by Mohawk’s Printer for Grand River. It tells the story of the three villages, the Pledge and the Grand River, and why the class is mistaken for the Six Nations. It is shown in this book on a page of its own.
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SECTION 1

The Tract

What the Nation holds in the land, in brief.

For Lands and Territory, the Surveyor General, and everyone who holds or deals with land on the Tract. The full account is Book I.

Its colour: **Forest**

THE TRACT

The Proclamation of 25 October 1784 sets apart the lands six miles deep from each side of the Grand River, from its mouth to its source, for the Mohawks and their posterity. The Nation holds that interest as Crown-derived, preserved at Confederation by section 109 and protected by section 52 — not trust land, and not a section 35 right.

The Nation	On land held by others
Records its interest over the whole Tract	Does not seek to overturn private titles that do not conflict with it
Keeps its records beside the provincial register	Holds that registration cannot defeat the interest, and will not concede it
Measures, maps and certifies the Tract itself	Lodges notices of interest, so that the interest is on the record

The poster: The Three Villages

How to read the poster, on the next page — turn the book to read it. Across the top runs the story in seven steps, from Carleton’s promise of 1775 to Simcoe’s oath of 1796, with the dates on a spine above them. Beneath, the three villages burn, and the people walk the road to Fort Niagara, Lachine, the Bay of Quinte, the St Lawrence and the Grand River, where the Nation’s own land map stands. The lower band says why the class is mistaken for the Six Nations, shows the posterity scattered across the world today, and shows the land and the census of 1785 in numbers. The poster is printed by Mohawk’s Printer, ISBN 978-1-0680559-5-9.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

The Three Villages

Three villages. One promise. A line that never ends.

Canajoharie, Tikondarago and Aughquaga, from a promise to the posterity today · From Book III of the National Books, Lands and the Tract

not to scale

1710 *four chiefs in London* · 1775 *the promise* · 1779 *the Pledge* · 1783 *the peace* · 1784 *the Grand River* · 1789 *the Mark of Honour* · 1796 *the oath* · Today *the posterity*

1 1775 · THE PROMISE

At a council at Montreal, Sir Guy Carleton asks the nations to take up the hatchet, and promises that any losses in the war will be replaced.

2 1775–1779 · THE LOSS

The Mohawks of the Valley withdraw north, to safety and to fight beside the King's forces. Their villages are occupied or burned: in the Pledge's words, "Ruined by the Rebels".

3 1779 · THE ASK, AND THE PLEDGE

On 7 April the Mohawks of the three villages tell Haldimand of Carleton's promise and ask that it stand. He ratifies it: the villages are to be restored "to the state they were in before".

4 1783 · THE PEACE

On 3 September the Treaty of Paris gives the Mohawk Valley to the United States and says nothing of the villages. The promise can no longer be kept where it was made.

5 1784 · THE GRAND RIVER

On 25 October Haldimand sets apart six miles each side of the Grand River for "the Mohawk Nation and such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that quarter". A census in 1785 counts 548 Mohawks there.

6 1789 · THE MARK OF HONOUR

On 9 November Lord Dorchester marks those who "adhered to the Unity of the Empire", and their descendants by either sex, with the letters U.E. The founders of the three villages are United Empire Loyalists.

7 1796 · THE OATH

On 6 April, Simcoe's Register Proclamation: the mark is ascertained on oath before a magistrate. The Nation's position is that this was never done for the class; its Register records each line now.

FROM MANY VILLAGES TO THREE

1634 8 villages · **1677** 4 castles · **1700–75** 3 castles · **1779** the Pledge: 3

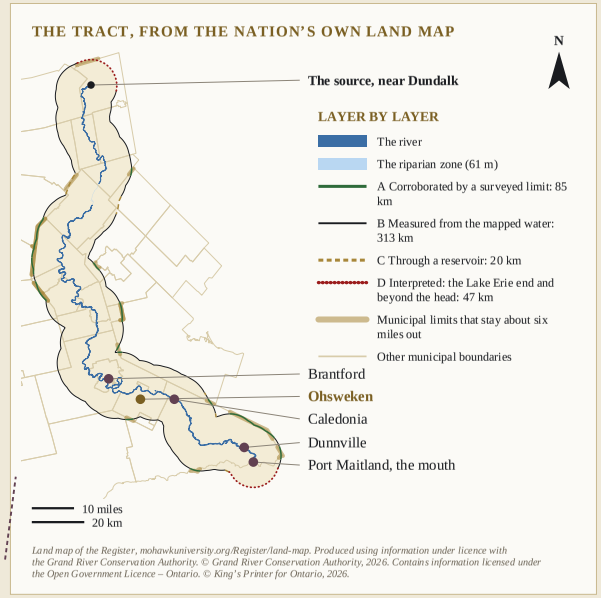
Rebuilt south of the river after 1693; by 1775 the Lower and Upper castles remained, Tarajorees having merged into Canajoharie after 1755. The Pledge names "Canojaharie, Tikondarago and Aughuago".

THE THREE VILLAGES, BURNED · 1775–1779



THE ROAD · 1775–1784

THE TRACT, FROM THE NATION'S OWN LAND MAP



Land map of the Register, mohawkuniversity.org/Register/land-map. Produced using information under licence with the Grand River Conservation Authority. © Grand River Conservation Authority, 2026. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario. © King's Printer for Ontario, 2026.

WHY IT IS CONFUSED

One sentence, two groups. The Proclamation names "the Mohawk Nation", then "such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that quarter".

A grant that widened. In 1805 the Grand River Council recalled that it was first meant for those who had lost their lands on the Mohawk and Susquehanna Rivers, then "extended to such others of the Six Nations as wished to settle there".

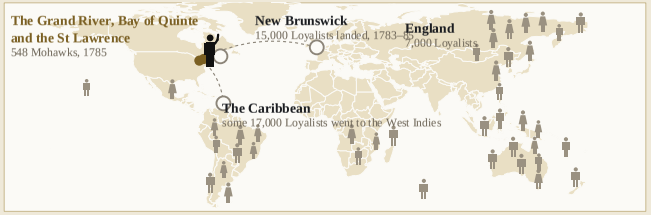
One reserve, one name. What remains is Six Nations of the Grand River, six nations in one community, so "Grand River Mohawk" and "Six Nations" are used as if they were one.

Many Mohawks, many places. Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Akwesasne, Wahta and Tyendinaga each have their own history. The Pledge's Mohawks are those of three named villages who adhered to the Crown.

The class is defined by village and by adherence: not by band, clan or nation.

WHO THEY ARE TODAY

Generations on, the posterity are anywhere, in any life, born in marriage or out of it. Most do not know. Each is still joined by a line to a founder.



- Where the Mohawks of the villages are recorded
- Where the Loyalists went
- A descendant today: anywhere, in any life. Most do not know

Land outlines: Natural Earth

THE POSTERITY HAS NO EDGE

Marrying out, having no clan, having no status: none of these ends the line. A descendant, by either sex, born in marriage or out of it, in any place and any life, who can link to one founder is the posterity. Most do not know. A band counts those on its list; a clan follows the mother; the posterity follows the line, and passes beyond both.

The Register organizes; it does not control. It records each line back to a founder, and the person keeps the right. The mark, UE, is the Crown's (1789); the magistrate's oath ascertains it (1796).

The land today



5 of every 100 acres

The Tract of 1784: about 950,000 acres; the Six Nations reserve: about 46,000. About 30,000 registered members; 13,000 on the reserve (2026).

The census of 1785, on the Grand River



Cayuga 281 · Oneida 262 · Onondaga 145 · Tuscarora 109 · Seneca 98 · others 400 · 1,843 in all (Kelsay, 1984)

Think you may be one of the posterity? Start with The Line of Honour, and see how the mark passes in The Mark of Honour: the companion posters, from Mohawk's Printer.

Sources: Haldimand's Pledge, 7 April 1779; Joseph Brant's account of Carleton's promise, 1775; the Haldimand Proclamation, 25 October 1784; the Grand River Council, 4 May 1805 (Six Nations Archive); Lord Dorchester's Order in Council, 9 November 1789; Kelsay, Joseph Brant (1984), for the 1785 census; the UNB Loyalist Collection; Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte; Six Nations of the Grand River (Canadian Encyclopedia, 2026); the Register's land map (mohawkuniversity.org/Register/land-map/), from the Grand River Conservation Authority's data. Tikondarago is generally identified with the Lower Castle at Fort Hunter.

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MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER SECRETARIAT

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SECTION 2

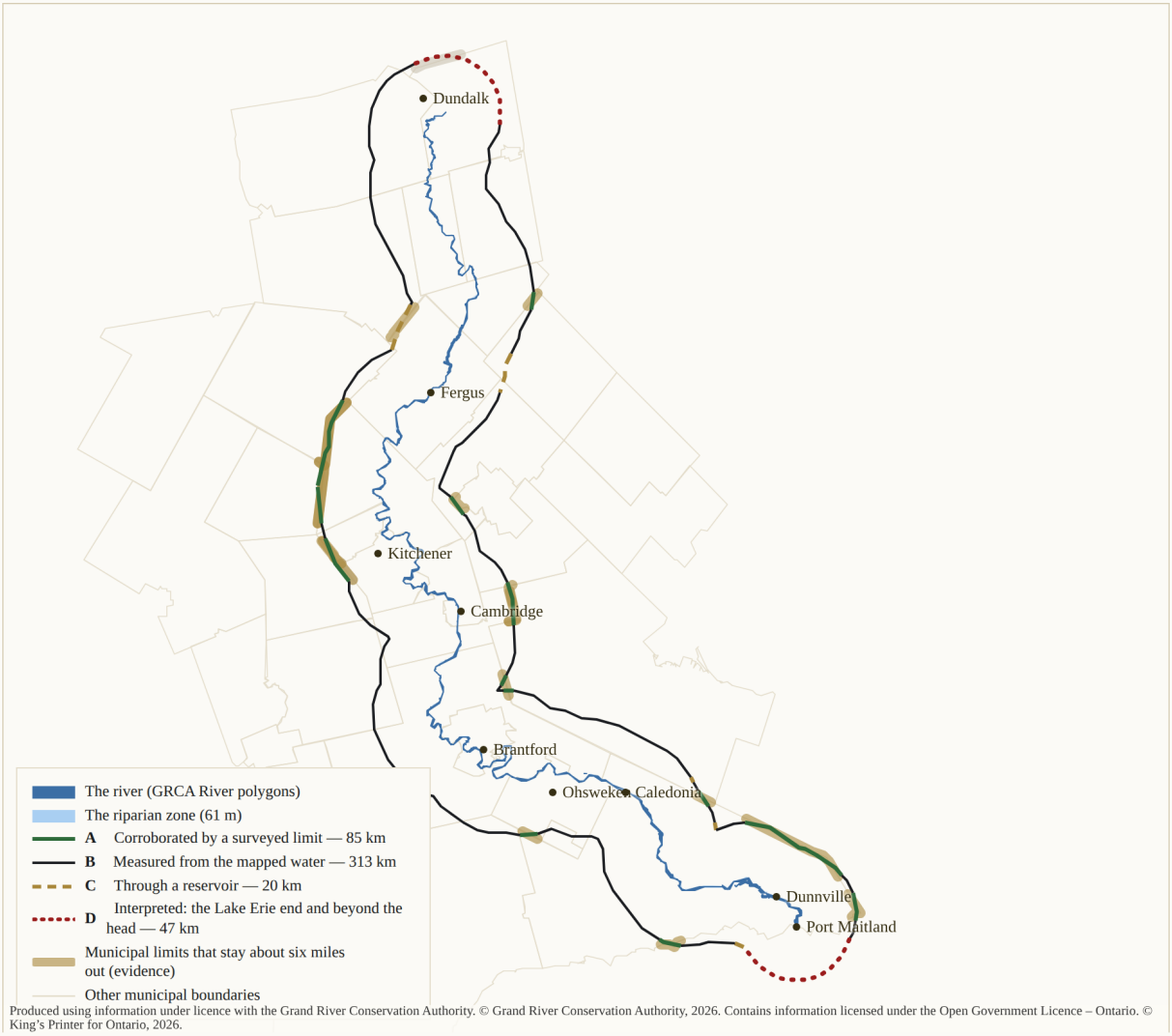
Measuring the Tract

How the Nation draws the six miles, and gives one answer to “is this place inside?”

Its colour: **Forest**

MEASURING

How to read the map: the blue line is the Grand River; the boundary line six miles from each bank is graded by its evidence — A strongest, D interpreted. The table beneath gives each grade’s length.



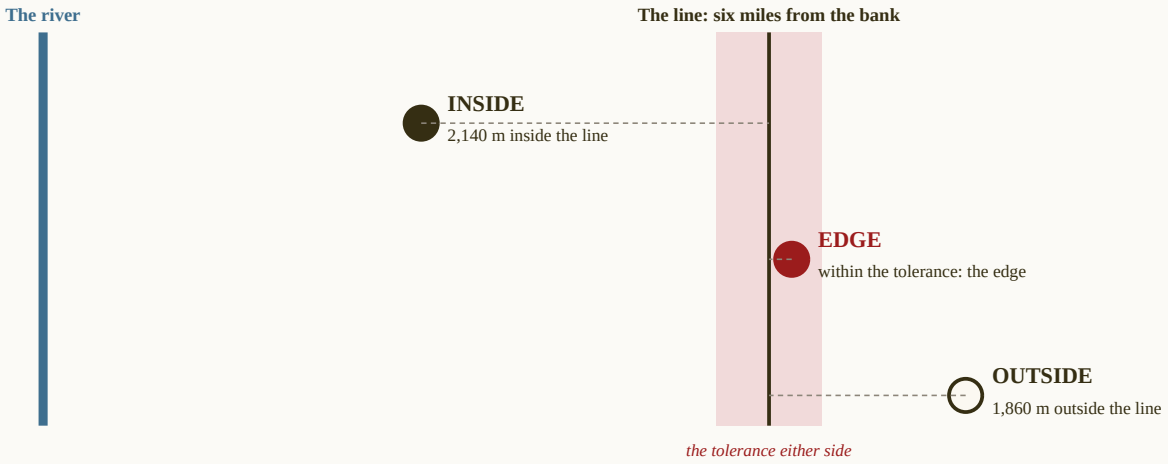
The Nation’s land map, its line graded by evidence. © Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat · Published by Mohawk’s Printer · ISBN 978-1-0680559-2-8. Produced using information under licence with the Grand River Conservation Authority. © Grand River Conservation Authority, 2026. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario. © King’s Printer for Ontario, 2026.

Grade	The line here is	Length
A	Corroborated by a surveyed limit	85 km
B	Measured from the mapped water	313 km
C	Through a reservoir	20 km
D	Interpreted: the Lake Erie end and beyond the head	47 km

One answer, everywhere

Every map, title check, field observation, report and public page asks one authority, and gets the same answer: inside, outside, or at the edge; the distance to the line, in metres on the ground; the tolerance that made it an edge; and what the answer rests on — which determination, its fingerprint, and the certificate that certifies it, or that none does.

How to read the drawing: the river is on the left, and the boundary of the Tract runs six miles out from its bank. The shaded strip either side of the line is the tolerance of the survey. A place well within the line is INSIDE; a place within the tolerance is at the EDGE; a place beyond it is OUTSIDE. The dotted line from each place is its distance to the boundary — given, in metres, with every answer.



Illustration, not to scale. Every answer gives its distance to the line, the tolerance, and a certificate.

A worked answer (illustration)	
The place	A point given by its latitude and longitude
Answer	INSIDE
Distance to the line	2,140 m
Tolerance	The Survey Standard’s tolerance for the boundary, plus the point’s own accuracy when known
Rests on	The graded determination in use, by its fingerprint — certified, or marked uncertified

RULE The graded determination, measured from the banks, is the one in use. A buffer of the river’s centre line is used only when no graded determination is loaded, and is then marked uncertified. An answer recorded on a title keeps what it rested on, so a later change of the line shows, rather than silently rewriting the past.

SECTION 3

The map, its sources, and the matrix

Ontario’s data, the Nation’s map — how it differs from other maps, the survey that was lost, and the matrix that compares them all.

Its colour: **Forest**

SOURCES

Ontario’s data, the Nation’s map

The Nation’s map is its own. It is built from the province’s own inputs: the Grand River Conservation Authority’s river data and Ontario’s municipal boundaries, used under the Grand River Conservation Authority’s licence and the Open Government Licence – Ontario. A line drawn only from the province’s data cannot be dismissed as the Nation’s invention — and every part of it is graded by the evidence behind it.

How it differs from other maps

Map	How the Nation’s map differs
The Grand River Conservation Authority’s watershed	The watershed is every place whose water reaches the Grand River — far up the Speed, the Conestogo, the Nith and the Eramosa. The Tract is six miles from the main river’s banks. Guelph is in the watershed and outside the Tract
Maps commonly shown of the Tract, including the Six Nations’ map	Measured from each bank, following every bend, mouth to source: on the Nation’s map, part of the Six Nations reserve and almost all of the New Credit reserve fall outside the Tract — so the part of the reserve beyond the line is Canada’s reserve for the Six Nations, not Haldimand land
Ridout’s survey of 1821	Stops at the Falls near Elora; the Nation’s map follows the Proclamation’s words to the source

The reserve and the Tract are not the same land

The part of the Six Nations reserve that lies outside the six-mile line was never Haldimand land: it is land Canada reserved for the Six Nations — Canada’s reserve, not the Mohawk’s Tract. The reserve and the Tract are different lands, made by different acts for different peoples. To treat the Tract as “the reserve”, as courts and governments have done, is to confuse the two; the Nation’s map shows exactly where they part.



The Nation’s land map south of Ohsweken: the six-mile line (B) runs south of the Grand River, and the reserve’s boundaries continue beyond it. Produced using information under licence with the Grand River Conservation Authority. © Grand River Conservation Authority, 2026. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario. © King’s Printer for Ontario, 2026.

As the Nation holds: the Tract is acquired Mohawk territory, for the exclusive use and enjoyment of the class and its posterity. The Mississaugas of the Credit surrendered these lands to the Crown in 1784; they cannot hold in the Tract what they surrendered, and the New Credit reserve lies almost entirely outside it. If the Six Nations and the Mississaugas of the Credit hold reserves as bodies under the Crown's own law, those reserves can only be the parts outside the Tract. Within the six-mile line, the land is dedicated to the Mohawk class.

The survey that was lost

The Land Board of Niagara's minute of 24 December 1791 records that "the Chairman presented Mr Jones's survey of the lands in the Grand River promised to Indians of the Mohawk Nation." That survey — the only one made of the lands as promised, seven years after the Proclamation — is lost or destroyed. The minute survives, and is in the Register as a certified extract (REG001-260808-000004).

Year	The lands were described or measured by
1784	The Proclamation's own words: six miles deep from each side of the river, mouth to source
1791	Mr Jones's survey, presented to the Land Board of Niagara — lost or destroyed
1793	The Simcoe Patent — never accepted by the Grand River Mohawk
1821	Ridout's survey: 674,910 acres, to the Falls near Elora
2026	The Nation's graded determination, certified, from the province's own data

WHY With the survey of 1791 lost, no single map can be taken on trust. The Nation's answer is to lay every source side by side, and show where they agree and where — and why — they differ.

The matrix

A matrix sets places in rows and sources in columns, and records what each source says about each place. These are the Nation's real determinations, from its Register's Tract authority, for twelve places from the source to the mouth (town centres, approximate). The column for the Six Nations' map is left to be entered from that map — never guessed.

Place	The Nation's determination	Grand River watershed (GRCA)	Ridout, 1821	The reserve today	Six Nations' map	What it shows
Dundalk	INSIDE · 5,627 m · grade B	Within	Beyond its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, near the source — beyond Ridout's limit of 1821; the Proclamation runs to the source
Fergus	INSIDE · 9,933 m · grade B	Within	Beyond its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside — beyond Ridout's limit; within the Proclamation's words
Elora	INSIDE · 9,713 m · grade B	Within	At its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside — at Ridout's northern limit, the Falls
Guelph	OUTSIDE · 5,810 m · grade B	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	In the watershed, outside the Tract: the watershed is not the Tract
Kitchener	INSIDE · 6,149 m · grade A	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade A: corroborated by a surveyed limit
Cambridge	INSIDE · 9,531 m · grade A	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade A
Paris	INSIDE · 9,612 m · grade B	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade B

Place	The Nation’s determination	Grand River watershed (GRCA)	Ridout, 1821	The reserve today	Six Nations’ map	What it shows
Brantford	INSIDE · 10,506 m · grade B	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade B — outside the reserve today
Ohsweken	INSIDE · 6,857 m · grade B	Within	South of its northern limit	Within	To be entered	Inside the Tract and the reserve: the sources agree
Caledonia	INSIDE · 9,543 m · grade B	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside the Tract; outside the reserve today
Dunnville	INSIDE · 9,385 m · grade A	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade A, near the mouth
Port Maitland	INSIDE · 9,933 m · grade D	Within	South of its northern limit	Outside	To be entered	Inside, grade D: interpreted at the Lake Erie end — survey here first

Each of the Nation’s determinations is certified (TDC001-261021-000002) and gives its distance to the six-mile line, on the ground, and the grade of the evidence there.

What a matrix helps with

It helps	Because
Show where the sources agree	Agreement across independent sources is strong evidence
Show exactly where, and why, they differ	A difference is explained, not hidden: a watershed is not a Tract; 1821 stopped at Elora
Decide where to survey first	Where the grade is C or D, or the sources disagree, the Surveyor General commissions a survey there first
Answer a landholder plainly	One row tells them what every source says about their place
Serve as evidence	A court sees every source, side by side, with the evidence for each
Show when the line changes	Each determination is kept by its fingerprint; a new one shows beside the old
Assess jurisdiction	Each place is confirmed, provisional, contested or outside — and only the confirmed is put forward
Settle the outermost boundary	The line enclosing every confirmed determination, surveyed until it closes

From matrix to jurisdiction

The matrix does more than compare maps. It is how the Nation assesses each place, settles its outermost boundary, and decides where it assumes jurisdiction — within its own order.

A place is	When	So
Confirmed	Certified, grade A or B, the sources agree, and the boundary there closes	Put forward for the Nation to assume, by Gazette
Provisional	Grade C or D, or a single source	Surveyed next; not assumed until confirmed
Contested	The sources disagree	Each source’s evidence weighed; surveyed; the reason recorded
Outside	Every credible source puts it beyond the line	Recorded as outside

The outermost boundary, and its closing distances

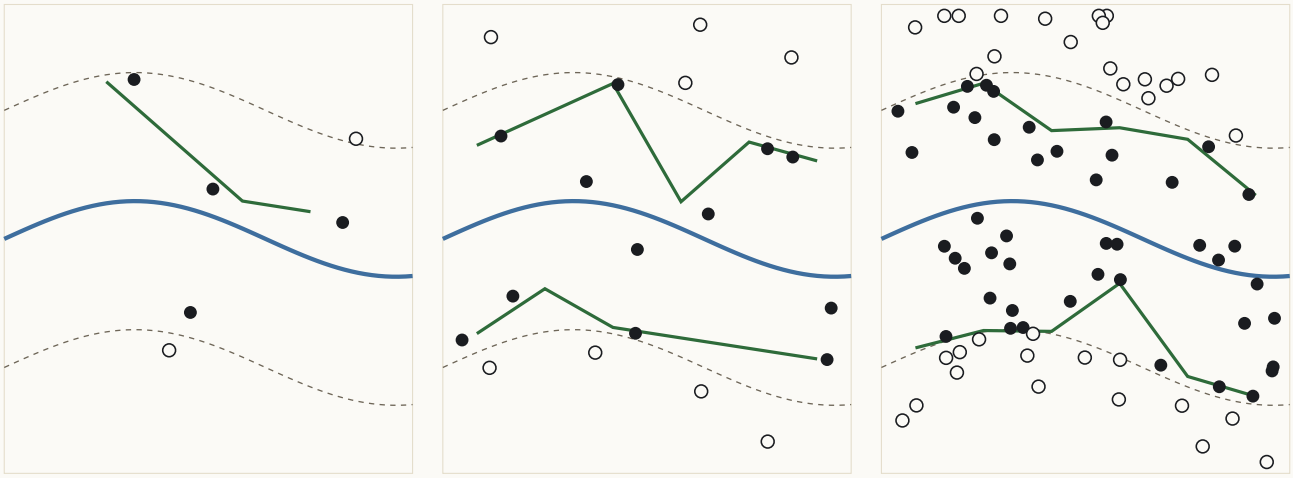
	Step
1	Take every confirmed determination along each side of the river, and draw the outermost line enclosing them
2	Survey that line as a closed traverse: courses and distances measured from a starting monument, around, and back to it
3	Work out the closing distance: how far the measured courses fall short of returning exactly to the start
4	If it closes within the Survey Standard’s tolerance, the boundary is confirmed; if not, the courses are measured again
5	Record the boundary, its traverse and its closing distance on the Register; put it forward for the Gazette

A worked closing (illustration)	
Traverse	12 courses around one segment of the boundary, 9,840 m in all
Closing distance	1.8 m — the gap between the last course’s end and the starting monument
Precision	1 in 5,467 (9,840 ÷ 1.8)
Result	Within the tolerance: the segment closes; confirmed

The Nation’s Survey Standard sets the tolerance: on the line, the Register now uses 25 m; the closing precision for a traverse is proposed, for the Nation to adopt by its Gazette.

The more determinations, the clearer the matrix survey

How to read the drawings: each panel shows the same stretch of the boundary, surveyed with more determinations from left to right. Filled points answered “inside”, hollow points “outside”; the green line joins the outermost inside answers, and the dashed line is the true boundary. The more points, the closer the two lines.



6 determinations **20 determinations** **80 determinations**

Like people stopped at different places, near the river and far from it: each determination answers only “inside” (filled) or “outside” (hollow). The outermost inside answers trace the boundary (green); the true six-mile line is dashed. With six, the traced line is far from the truth; with twenty it draws near; with eighty it all but meets it.

RULE Jurisdiction is assumed only over a boundary that is confirmed and closes — never over a provisional or contested one. Every assessment, closing distance and assumption is on the Register and the Ledger.

SECTION 4

Titles and notices of interest

How the Nation’s records sit beside the provincial register.

Its colour: **Forest**

TITLES

For a parcel found inside the Tract, the Register keeps a title and interest record (TIT001): the registered owner and the chain of instruments as the province shows them; the Nation’s interest over the same ground; and whether the two conflict. The province’s parcel number is kept only as a cross-reference, beside the Record Code — never as a second numbering of the Nation’s own.

A notice of interest’s life

How to read the diagram: each box is a state a notice of interest can be in, and each arrow a step from one to the next — from prepared, to lodged, to acknowledged or refused. The boxes with a double border are where a notice’s life can end.



	Step
1	Prepared from the title and interest record, citing the instruments
2	Lodged against provincial title — with the land registry office, or by hand to the office that holds the record — its provincial instrument number kept only as a cross-reference
3	The stamped copy, or the registry’s record, kept on the notice (NOI001) with its fingerprint
4	Published in the press of record where notice to the public is needed; the tear sheet kept as evidence
5	Every step on the Ledger

WATCH FOR A notice of interest records the Nation’s interest. It does not take land from anyone, and it is not a demand on any owner.

SECTION 5

The Surveyor General

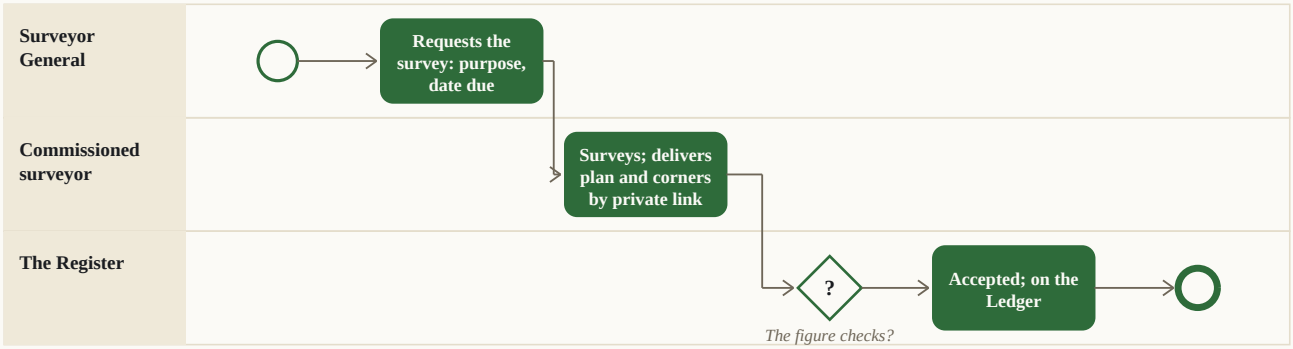
Commissions, surveys and the standards they meet.

Its colour: **Forest**

SURVEYS

The office	How
Commissions	Surveyors, cartographers and field technicians commissioned by the Nation, each with a licence (LIC001): their name in parts, role, qualifications held elsewhere (an Ontario or Canada Lands Surveyor’s licence, kept as a cross-reference), scope and term; each grant and revocation on the Ledger
Survey requests	The office asks for a parcel to be surveyed — its purpose, when it is due — and assigns it to someone commissioned, who delivers the plan and corner coordinates through a signed, private link
Adding a survey	Coordinates in UTM (NAD83(CSRS), the land’s zone) or latitude and longitude; each corner’s monument recorded; the figure checked before it is accepted

How to read the diagram: each row is one office. Follow a survey from the Surveyor General’s request, through the commissioned surveyor, to the Register, which checks the figure before accepting it.



SECTION 6

Lands forms and field work

The forms of Lands and Territory, and an encroachment from report to record.

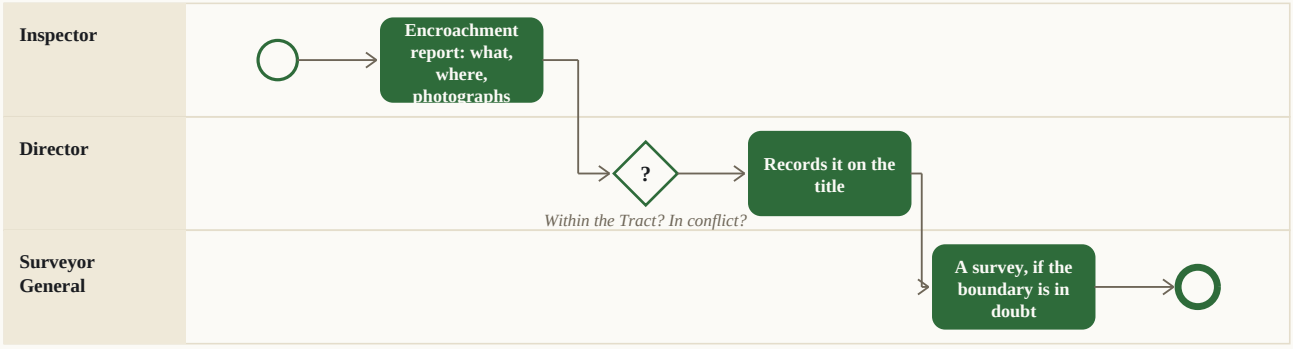
Its colour: **Forest**

FIELD WORK

Form	For
Site inspection	What an inspector found on the ground, with photographs and coordinates
Request for a survey	Asking the Surveyor General for a survey
Encroachment report	Something built or done on land in conflict with the Nation’s interest
Application for land use	Using land for a purpose
Boundary dispute	A disagreement over where a boundary lies
Water-use notice	Taking or using the river’s water
Permit to harvest	Harvesting on the Nation’s land

Each is in Book XIV, on paper; each follows the Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 19152), WGS 84 and ISO 8601.

How to read the diagram: each row is one office. Follow an encroachment from the inspector’s report, through the Director’s decision, to a survey where the boundary is in doubt.



SECTION 7

The Map Room, the Wall, housing and the Conservancy

The Nation’s maps, its supporters’ plans, its homes, and its own trust.

Its colour: **Forest**

BEYOND THE LINE

Part	What it is
The Map Room	The Nation’s maps and posters, each with its record (MAP001, PST001) and its versions — a new version never overwrites the old — and a certificate of the record
The Million Acre Wall	Supporters mark acres on the Tract; each plan is a record of support, given freely, never sold — it gives no right in any land
Housing	The Mohawk Nation Housing Initiative’s waitlist: residents apply from My Register (HAP001); priority by published points — urgency, household needs, time waiting; offers (HOF001) to the top verified applicant
The Lands Trust Conservancy	The Nation’s own trust instrument (Gazette G60) — the Nation’s own business, distinct from any framing of the land as held in trust by the Crown

SECTION 8

How we compare

The benchmarks, the standards, and an expert’s questions.

Its colour: **Forest**

BENCHMARKS

How we compare

Benchmark	What they do	What the Nation does
The Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 19152)	A world standard for who holds what rights in land	The model for the Nation’s land records
The Social Tenure Domain Model (UN-Habitat and GLTN)	LADM applied to customary and unregistered tenure	The Nation’s interest recorded beside, not inside, another register
The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure (2012)	Responsible governance of tenure, recognising all legitimate rights	Every right recorded openly, and checkable
The Māori Land Court (New Zealand, since 1865)	An Indigenous people’s own land records and court	The Nation’s own records, its Surveyor General, and its Court
The Nisga’a Nation’s land title office	A nation’s own land title system, under its own law	The Nation’s title and interest records
Ontario’s land registry	The provincial register of title	Kept beside — every provincial number a cross-reference only

The standards

Standard	For
ISO 19152 (LADM)	Land records
ISO 19111	Coordinate reference systems
NAD83(CSRS) and UTM; WGS 84	Coordinates
ISO 19115	Map metadata
RFC 7946 (GeoJSON)	Map data exchange
ISO 8601	Every date

Questions an expert or critic would ask

Are you claiming my home?
No. Private titles that do not conflict with the Nation’s interest are not challenged. The Nation records its interest, and holds that registration cannot defeat it.

How accurate is your line?
Each part is graded by its evidence, A to D, and every answer gives its distance and tolerance and what it rests on. Grades C and D are marked as such.

Why use Ontario’s and the GRCA’s data?
Because they are the province’s own inputs: a line drawn only from them cannot be dismissed as the Nation’s invention.

Does marking acres on the Wall give me land?
No. A plan on the Wall is a record of support; it gives no right in any land.

Why from the banks, not the centre?
The Proclamation measures from each side of the river; the Nation reads it as written.