MOHAWK NATION
OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

BOOK XXX OF THE REGISTER’S BOOKS

The Style Book

The words the Nation uses and the ones it does not; names, titles and places; codes, numbers and dates; quoting and citing; the look of the Nation’s pages.

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

First edition · October 2026

The Style Book

Book XXX of the Register’s books

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SECTION 1

Voice and tone

How the Nation sounds, in every document.

Rules marked “proposed” are for the Director of Communications to settle; the others are the Nation’s settled practice.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

VOICE

The Nation writes as a nation: plainly, exactly, without heat. Its strength is its record, so it lets the record speak. A reader should finish any document knowing what the Nation asks, why, and on what authority — and should never have to guess.

Rule	In practice
Plain language, to ISO 24495-1	Short sentences; the main point first; one idea to a paragraph
Exact before eloquent	The instrument’s own words, quoted; the date; the section — not a summary of them
Calm, never angry	State the failure and the record of it; let the reader draw the conclusion
Active, with the actor named	“The Crown has not recorded the interest”, not “the interest has not been recorded”
Canadian spelling	honour, colour, centre, defence, licence (noun), cheque — as the Canadian Oxford gives them; quotations keep their own spelling
Formality to suit the reader	To the King and his ministers, formal; to members, warm and direct; to the public, plain

RULE The Crown’s mark is the Mark of Honour — Canadian spelling, as the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada writes it. Use it the same way in every book, heading, legend and poster.

SECTION 2

Words

The words the Nation uses, and the ones it does not.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

WORDS

Words carry positions. The Nation chooses its words so that every document, from a form to a petition to the King, says the same thing in the same way.

Use	Not	Why
Acquired territory	Traditional territory	The Tract was acquired by the Crown and given to the class; it is not claimed by occupation
Deed of gift	Dedication (of the Tract); trust	The class holds by the Crown’s deed of gift; trust framing brings the land under the Indian Act
Exclusive use and enjoyment	Use and occupation	Enjoyment is the Crown’s word in 1784; occupation is the test for Aboriginal title
A duty to observe	A duty to consult	The Crown decided in 1784; nothing is pending
The class; its posterity	The band; Six Nations (for the class)	The class is “some of the Mohawks” of three villages, and their posterity
Section 52 prevails	Laws of general application	That phrase is the section 88 gateway, which the Nation does not accept
(No one is a stakeholder)	Stakeholder	No one can be a stakeholder on this land
The Crown; the King	The government (for the Crown)	The Nation deals with the Crown directly

SECTION 3

The instruments, named and cited

The one correct way to name and date each.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

INSTRUMENTS

Instrument	Name it	Cite it
The Pledge	Haldimand’s Pledge of 1779	The Pledge of 7 April 1779
The Proclamation	The Haldimand Proclamation	The Proclamation of 25 October 1784
The mark	Lord Dorchester’s Order in Council	Order in Council, 9 November 1789 (LAC, RG1 L1, vol. 18, p. 110)
The pledge of faith	The Land Board of Niagara’s minute	Minute of 24 December 1791 (REG001-260808-000004)
The confirmation	Simcoe’s Proclamation	Proclamation of 6 April 1796
The encumbrance	Section 109	Constitution Act, 1867, s. 109
Supremacy	Section 52	Constitution Act, 1982, s. 52

RULE Name the instrument the same way every time, and date it the first time it appears in a document. The Simcoe Patent of 1793 is named only as the instrument the Mohawk refused.

SECTION 4

Which body is which

Four bodies, often confused — and how to name each.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

BODIES

How to read the drawing: four boxes, four separate bodies. The first, in red, is the Nation; the others are the band, the Confederacy and the Mohawk at large. Beneath each is who it is and how it stands. None of the four speaks for another.



The class of 1779 — “some of the Mohawks” of three villages — and their posterity, worldwide; deals with the Crown directly; its Secretariat

An Indian Act band, with an elected council; its reserve is Canada’s, and lies partly outside the Tract

The Confederacy of the six nations, with its own council; it does not speak for the Mohawk Nation of Grand River

Every Mohawk community — Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga and others — each on its own footing

Four bodies, never one. A sentence that blurs them misstates the Nation’s footing.

Write	Not
The Mohawk Nation of Grand River; the Nation	“Six Nations” or “the Confederacy”, meaning the Nation
The Six Nations of the Grand River (the band); its elected council	“Six Nations”, meaning everyone on the Grand River
The Haudenosaunee Confederacy	“The Iroquois”, except in quotations and titles
The Tract; acquired territory	“The reserve”, meaning the Tract

SECTION 5

Forms of address

How to address the Crown, governments, courts, chiefs and the Nation’s own officers.

Closings are proposed. In court, follow the court’s own practice where it differs.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

ADDRESS

Person	On the envelope or in the address	Salutation	In person
The King	His Majesty The King	Your Majesty	Your Majesty; then Sir
The Governor General	Her Excellency the Right Honourable [Name]	Your Excellency	Your Excellency
A Lieutenant Governor	Her Honour the Honourable [Name]	Your Honour	Your Honour
The Prime Minister	The Right Honourable [Name], Prime Minister of Canada	Dear Prime Minister	Prime Minister
A minister	The Honourable [Name], Minister of [Department]	Dear Minister	Minister
A member of Parliament or the legislature	[Name], M.P. (or M.P.P.)	Dear [Name]	[Name]
A judge	The Honourable Justice [Name]	Dear Justice [Name]	Your Honour
A justice of the peace	Justice of the Peace [Name]	Dear Justice of the Peace [Name]	Your Worship
A mayor	His Worship [Name], Mayor of [Place]	Dear Mayor [Name]	Your Worship
A chief	Chief [Name]	Dear Chief [Name]	Chief
The Nation’s officers	[First] [LAST], Secretary-General (and so for each office)	Dear Secretary-General	Secretary-General

Closing (proposed)	To
With the highest respect and consideration	The King and his representatives
With respect	Ministers, judges and officials
Yours sincerely	Everyone else

WHY The Nation writes to the Crown as a nation, not as the Crown’s subject. The traditional “most humble and obedient subject” is not used; the courtesy is kept, and the footing with it.

SECTION 6

Writing about people and peoples

Terms, and care.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

PEOPLE

Term	Use
Indigenous; First Nations	In general writing
“Indian”	Only in the names of statutes and offices, and in quotations
Status; registered	For registration under the Indian Act — the department’s name as it was at the time (INAC, then ISC)
UEL	For the Loyalists themselves, of the Revolution
UE	After the name of a descendant who holds the mark, without stops: Benjamin DOOLITTLE UE. With other letters, after orders and decorations and ahead of degrees: Jane SMITH, CM, UE, BA (Book V)
U.E.	Only when quoting Dorchester’s Order of 1789
UE, in charts	In charts and drawings, beneath a figure
Elder	Capitalised, for a recognised Elder
Customary adoption	For reception into the people and a clan, by Mohawk custom
Care (proposed)	Rule
The living	Name only those who agree, or who act in public office
The dead	The name as the family uses it; no cause of death unless the family gives it
Children	Never named, pictured or placed, except with a parent’s agreement
Stories	Told by permission of the teller (Book XXVIII)

SECTION 7

Writing for screens, and for everyone

Pages, links, pictures and files.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

DIGITAL

Rule	How
Write for the phone first	The point in the first line; short paragraphs; no wide tables on a page meant for phones
Link text says where it goes	“The Haldimand Proclamation, 1784”, never “click here”
Every picture has alternative text	For a drawing in a book, its lead-in, shortened
Accessible to WCAG 2.2, level AA	Contrast, headings in order, nothing told by colour alone
File names	book-NN-slug.pdf for books; the Record Code for records: REG001-260808-000004.pdf
Email signature	Name, LAST in capitals; office; “Grand River Territory, Ohsweken” — no province, no postal code
Every PDF	Title, author, subject and language set; the Record Code in the file name
The copyright notice	© Mohawk’s Printer for Grand River, [year], for the Mohawk Nation of Grand River — on every work of the Nation; never on a member’s own work

SECTION 8

On air: writing for the ear

The Station’s style: words written to be heard once.

Rules marked “proposed” are for the Director of Communications to settle.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

ON AIR

A listener hears a sentence once, and cannot read it again. Everything written for the Station is written for the ear: short, in order, with the point first and nothing a listener must hold in mind to understand what comes next.

Rule	On air
Numbers, spoken	“About two kilometres”, not “2,140 m”; round unless the exact figure matters
Dates and times, spoken	“Monday the twenty-sixth”; “seven o’clock this evening”
Names	Full name and title first; surname alone after
Pronunciation	A note in square brackets for the reader — Ohsweken: oh-SWAY-ken — checked by a speaker for Kanien’kéha
Attribution first	“The Conservation Authority says …”, then the claim
Station identification (proposed)	“This is Mohawk Nation Radio, on the Grand” — every half hour, at the block
Sponsors	“Sponsored by …” — never read as news, never mixed into a story
“Breaking”	Only when the Station takes over every channel (Book XXVIII)
Corrections on air	In the same programme the next day, at the same time, plainly

How to read the template: on the left is a news script as the reader sees it; each red number marks a rule at work. On the right, the same numbers give the rule.

NEWS — 7:00 PM — THE GRAND RIVER TODAY 1

The Grand River is running high tonight at Caledonia — 2

about one metre above its usual level for October. 3

The Grand River Conservation Authority says 4

no flooding is expected before Wednesday.

Secretary-General Benjamin Doolittle says the Secretariat 5

will read the river’s level on air each morning.

[Ohsweken: oh-SWAY-ken] 6

This is Mohawk Nation Radio, on the Grand. 7

1. The slug: what, when, which programme
2. Present tense, plain words, the place first
3. Numbers rounded and spoken: “about one metre”
4. Attribution before the claim: who says so
5. Full name and title first; surname alone after
6. A pronunciation note for the reader — never read aloud
7. Station identification, every half hour

SECTION 9

Warnings on air

Every emergency message, in the same order.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

WARNINGS

A warning must be understood by someone half-listening, in a kitchen or a car. It always follows the same order, so the listener learns where to listen for what to do.

How to read the template: on the left, a flood warning as it is read on air; each red number marks a step in the order. On the right, the steps.

WARNING — FLOOD — GRAND RIVER 1

Issued by the Grand River Conservation Authority, 2

at four o’clock this afternoon.

The river is expected to flood low land 3

between Brantford and Caledonia tonight. 4

Move vehicles and animals to high ground now. 5

Do not drive through water on the road.

The next update is at six o’clock. 6

This warning will be repeated. 7

1. WARNING, the hazard, and where — first
2. Who issued it, and when
3. What will happen
4. Where, by names everyone knows
5. What to do, as plain commands
6. When the next update comes
7. Repeat it, word for word, until replaced

RULE A warning is read word for word as issued, with its source named. The Station never softens, sharpens or guesses beyond it.

SECTION 10

The newsletter

The Nation’s newsletter, in print and by email.

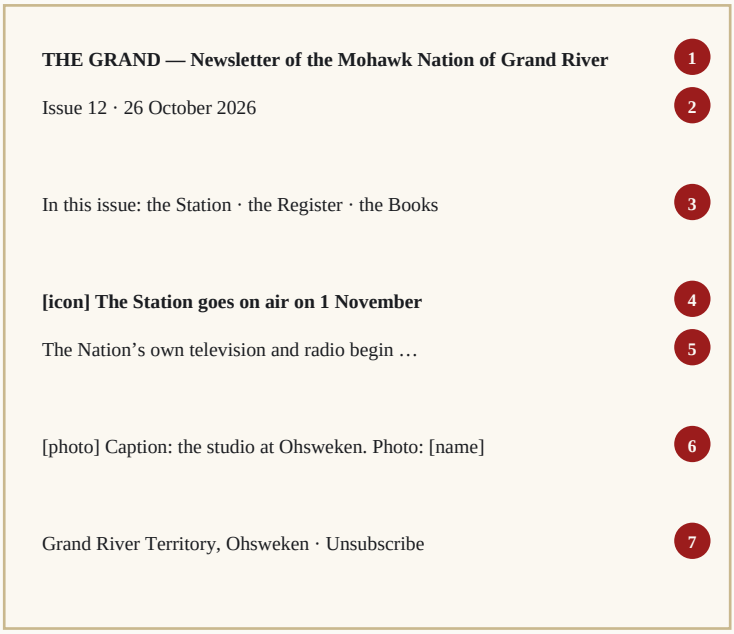
Rules marked “proposed” are for the Director of Communications to settle.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

NEWSLETTER

Rule	How
The masthead	The newsletter’s name, and whose it is — the Mohawk Nation of Grand River
Number and date	Issue number, and the date in words
Icons	Font Awesome only, set small and inline with the text — never custom drawn icons
Headings	Sentence case: “The Station goes on air”
Stories	The point in the first sentence; under 300 words, with a link to the rest (proposed)
Pictures	Captioned, credited, with alternative text; no wampum as decoration
The subject line (email)	What the issue holds, in under 60 characters (proposed)
The footer	Grand River Territory, Ohsweken — no province, no postal code; how to unsubscribe
The print edition	The same stories; links written out short; the Record Code of the issue on the back page

How to read the template: on the left is a newsletter’s front, as a reader sees it; each red number marks a rule at work. On the right, the rules.



1. The masthead: the name, and whose it is
2. Issue number and date, in words
3. Contents, in one line
4. A small Font Awesome icon, inline with the heading — never a drawn icon
5. The story’s point in its first sentence
6. Every photo captioned and credited, with alternative text
7. The footer: the Nation’s address — no province, no postal code — and a way to unsubscribe

SECTION 11

Social posts

Short, and still the Nation’s voice.

Proposed: for the Director of Communications to settle.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

SOCIAL

Rule	How
One point a post	And a link to where the rest is kept
The same words	The Style Book’s words apply: no “stakeholder”, no “traditional territory”
Pictures	Described in the alternative text; no wampum as decoration
Replies	Answered once, courteously, with the source; never argued in public
Corrections	A new post, saying what was wrong — the old one marked, not deleted

SECTION 12

Rewrites

The same sentence, wrong and right.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

BEFORE AND AFTER

Before	After	The rule
The Six Nations reserve lands near Brantford	The Haldimand Tract, acquired Mohawk territory	The Tract and the reserve are different lands
We call on all stakeholders to consult	We ask the Crown to observe its obligation	No stakeholders; observe, not consult
Mr. Doolittle, Secretary General of the Mohawk Nation	Benjamin DOOLITTLE UE, Secretary-General of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat	Name in parts; exact title, hyphenated
Ohsweken, Ontario N0A 1M0	Grand River Territory, Ohsweken	No province, no postal code
File no. CN-2026-0014	GZT001-261026-000078	One numbering scheme
The lands held in trust for the Mohawk	The lands given to the class by deed of gift	No trust framing
Provincial laws of general application apply	Section 52 prevails: a statute gives way to the extent it is inconsistent	Not the section 88 phrase
10/26/26	26 October 2026 (prose); 2026-10-26 (data)	Dates that cannot be misread

SECTION 13

Names and titles

People, offices and places, written the same way every time.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

NAMES

Rule	Example
A person’s name in its parts: first, middle, LAST in capitals	Ruth Anne WHITE
Offices by their exact names, as the Order of Offices gives them	Secretary-General; Attorney General; Registrar General; Director of Communications
The Two Row Times’ head	Editor-in-General — not “Editor”
The U.E. mark after the name of one who holds it	Benjamin DOOLITTLE UE
The Nation’s address	Grand River Territory, Ohsweken — no province, no postal code
The villages, in modern spelling	Canajoharie, Tikondarago, Aughquaga — but quoted exactly as each document spells them
The language	Kanien’kéha
The Chapel	His Majesty’s Royal Chapel of the Mohawks

SECTION 14

Kanien’kéha in print

Writing the language correctly, and respectfully.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

THE LANGUAGE

Rule	How
The spelling	The standard orthography agreed by Mohawk communities in 1993: the apostrophe for the glottal stop, the colon for a long vowel, and accents for stress
Check it	Every word of Kanien’kéha in print is checked by a speaker before it is published
Show it plainly	In the same type as the English, not in italics, so it is not marked as foreign in its own land
Give the English once	On first use, the English beside it; after that, the Kanien’kéha alone
Names given in the language	Written as the one who gave them wrote them; never “corrected”

RULE When in doubt about a word, leave it in English and ask a speaker. A wrong word in print is harder to undo than a missing one.

SECTION 15

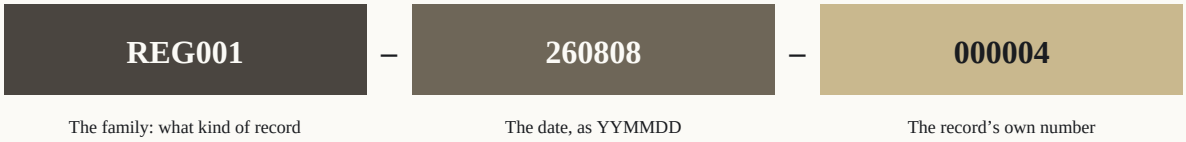
Numbers, codes and dates

One scheme, everywhere.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

CODES

How to read the drawing: every identifier the Nation issues is a Three-Block Record Code. The first block names the family of record; the second is the date, as year, month and day; the third is the record’s own number.



The Register’s certified extract of the Land Board of Niagara’s minute: REG001-260808-000004.

Rule	Example
One numbering scheme: the Record Code. No second number of the Nation’s own, of any kind	A court file of the Nation is a Record Code, not “CN-2026-0001”
Another body’s number kept only as a cross-reference, beside the Record Code	The province’s PIN, beside the title record’s code
Dates in prose: day, month in words, year	25 October 1784
Dates in data: ISO 8601	1784-10-25
Money	GR$50; $50 (Canadian); never both without saying which

SECTION 16

Quoting, citing and checking

Saying exactly what the record says.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

SOURCES

Rule	How
Quote exactly	The document’s own spelling and words; the long “ſ” of old print set as “s”, and said so
Quote briefly from others’ work	A short phrase from a modern book or article; the rest in the Nation’s own words, with the source named
Mark what is unverified	A dagger, †, until the Registrar General confirms it
Cite cases the way courts do	After the McGill Guide: name, year, report, page, court
Say what a source holds — no more	A case is cited for what it decided; the Nation’s inference from it is called the Nation’s inference
State the limits first	Where an authority cuts against the Nation, the book says so before a critic does

SECTION 17

Templates, marked up

A letter, a Gazette notice and a press release, rule by rule.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

TEMPLATES

How to read each template: on the left is the document as it is written; each red number marks a place where a rule applies. On the right, the same numbers give the rule.

A letter to a minister

Mohawk Nation of Grand River Secretariat 1

Grand River Territory, Ohsweken 2

SGO001-261026-000031 3

26 October 2026 4

The Honourable [Name], Minister of [Department] 5

Re: The Haldimand Proclamation, a duty imposed by law 6

The Proclamation of 25 October 1784 gave the Tract to the class 7

by deed of gift. We ask that the interest be recorded …

Benjamin DOOLITTLE UE, Secretary-General 8

1. The Secretariat's name in full, never abbreviated
2. The address: no province, no postal code
3. The letter's Record Code — the only number it carries
4. The date in words: day, month, year
5. The minister by office as well as name
6. The subject in the Nation's words: a duty imposed by law, not a duty to consult
7. The Crown's instrument, dated; "deed of gift"
8. Name in its parts, LAST in capitals; U.E.; the exact title

A Gazette notice

THE GAZETTE OF THE MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER 1

GZT001-261026-000078 2

NOTICE

The Secretary-General gives notice that the Rules of 3

Elections are put to a vote of the members, to close

on 20 November 2026. 4

Signed: Secretary-General — Record Code; fingerprint on the Ledger 5

1. The Gazette named in full
2. The entry's Record Code
3. Who acts, in the third person, and what is done
4. The date the matter takes effect or closes, in words
5. Signed by office; its fingerprint entered on the Ledger

A press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — 26 October 2026 1

Mohawk Nation of Grand River opens its Station 2

Grand River Territory, Ohsweken — The Nation’s own television and radio go on air on 1 November … 3

“A nation that cannot tell its own story is told by others.” 4

— Director of Communications

Contact: Office of the Director of Communications 5

1. When it may be used, and the date in words
2. The headline: plain, active, the Nation named
3. The dateline: the Nation’s own address
4. One quotation, from an officer by exact title
5. Who to contact, by office

SECTION 18

Look and pictures

How the Nation’s pages look.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

DESIGN

Rule	Why
The passport’s tan is the constant colour; no navy, anywhere	The passport is the Nation’s design constant (Book XXIX)
Flat and plain: no gloss, no 3D, nothing cheesy	A national record, not an advertisement
No wampum as decoration	It is not a pattern to fill space
The Seal never inside a circle or added frame	The mark is used as drawn
No gold for icons; small icons inline with text, from one set	Restraint, and one consistent hand
Georgia for text	One face, clear in print and on screen
Every drawing or chart has a lead-in saying what it shows and how to read it	So no reader needs it explained a second time

SECTION 19

Words, A to Z

The quickest reference for any officer.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

A TO Z

Word	Use
Acquired territory	Yes: the Tract, acquired by the Crown and given to the class
Band	Only for an Indian Act band, by name; never for the class
The class	“Some of the Mohawks” of three villages, and their posterity
Crown, the	The Sovereign and the Sovereign’s governments; the Nation deals with the Crown directly
Deed of gift	How the class holds the Tract
Dedication	Of roads and parks, by others; never of the Tract
Editor-in-General	The head of the Two Row Times
Enjoyment	Exclusive use and enjoyment: the Crown’s word of 1784
Gazette, the	The Nation’s record of its acts; always capitalised
Kanien’kéha	The language; with its apostrophe and accent
Laws of general application	Never: say “section 52 prevails”
Observe	What the Crown owes; not “consult”
Posterity	The class’s descendants, by either sex, and those received by adoption
Record Code	The only number the Nation issues
Reserve	Canada’s reserve; never the Tract
Secretary-General	Hyphenated; the Nation’s chief office
Stakeholder	Never
Trust	Never for the Tract or the Nation’s land
U.E.	After the name of one who holds the mark: Benjamin DOOLITTLE UE

SECTION 20

Citing the record

How to point a reader to the source.

Formats are proposed, after the McGill Guide.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

CITATIONS

Source	Cite it so
A Gazette entry	The Representation and Notice to His Majesty, Gazette entry GZT001-260401-000057
A Register record	Certified extract REG001-260808-000004
The Ledger	Ledger entry 1,204 (sequence), with its Record Code
Library and Archives Canada	LAC, RG1 L1, vol. 18, p. 110
Hansard	House of Commons Debates, 5 April 1909, at [page]
A court decision	Doe d. Jackson v. Wilkes (1835), 4 U.C.Q.B. (O.S.) 142
A statute	Constitution Act, 1867, s. 109
The Two Row Times, printed	Two Row Times (Ohsweken), ISSN 3111-4989, 1 April 2026, p. [n], “[headline]”
The Two Row Times, online	Two Row Times (online), ISSN 3111-4997, 1 April 2026, “[headline]”, [web address]
A legal notice in it	“[title of notice]”, [its Record Code], Two Row Times (Ohsweken), ISSN 3111-4989, [date], p. [n]

RULE Every claim of fact rests on a source a reader can find. Where none has yet been found, the dagger says so: †.

SECTION 21

Words to avoid, and why

The longer list, with a reason for each.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

AVOID

Avoid	Write instead	Why
Stakeholder	(Name who they are)	No one can be a stakeholder on this land
Traditional territory	Acquired territory	The Tract was acquired by the Crown and given to the class
Land claim	The interest; the Nation’s interest	The Nation holds the interest; it does not claim it
Laws of general application	Section 52 prevails	The phrase is the section 88 gateway
Trust; held in trust	By deed of gift; given to the class	Trust framing brings the land under the Indian Act
Dedication (of the Tract)	Deed of gift	Dedication is how roads and parks are made
Reserve (for the Tract)	The Tract	The reserve is Canada’s, and different land
Duty to consult	Duty to observe	The question was decided in 1784
Aboriginal right (for this interest)	Crown-derived interest	The interest comes from the Crown’s instruments, not section 35
Settlement; compensation (as the aim)	Observance; recording	Compensation accepts a loss the doctrine denies
Body politic; collective (for the class)	The class; its posterity	Doe d. Jackson v. Wilkes: no collective could take
Tribe	Nation; people	The Nation’s own word

SECTION 22

Corrections

How a mistake is put right.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

CORRECTIONS

	Step
1	Find it: by an officer, a member or any reader — every report is answered
2	Correct it: the record or the book is corrected, never silently
3	Say so: the change is listed in the colophon’s change record, with its version and date
4	Record it: a correction to a published record is entered in the Gazette and on the Ledger
5	Keep the old: the earlier version stays on the Register, marked superseded

RULE The Nation never changes a published record quietly. A correction made in the open is a strength; a silent one would undo the Ledger’s whole purpose.

SECTION 23

Benchmarks, and hard questions

The style guides the Nation measures itself against.

Its colour: **Ink grey**

BENCHMARKS

How we compare

Benchmark	What they do	What the Nation does
The Canadian Style (Government of Canada)	One government, one way of writing	One Nation, one way of writing
The GOV.UK style guide	Plain words, short sentences, written for the reader	Plain words; the reader first
The Chicago Manual of Style	The authority on quotation, citation and the parts of a book	Exact quotation and full citation

Questions an expert or critic would ask

Why so strict about words?
Because the words are the positions. A form that says “traditional territory” concedes what the Nation denies.

Isn’t capitalising surnames old-fashioned?
It is how passports and registers write names, so a name is never mistaken for a given name.

Why only one numbering scheme?
Two schemes for one record is how records are lost. The Record Code is the only number the Nation issues.

Who settles a question this book does not answer?
The Director of Communications, and the answer is added to the next edition.