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**THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON**

**CHAPTER 111
INDEPENDENT TRIBAL PRESS ORDINANCE**

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**THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON**

**Chapter 111
Independent Tribal Press Ordinance**

(a) **AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE.**

(1) Authority. The authority for this Ordinance is found in the Grand Ronde Tribal Constitution under Article III.

(2) Purpose. To establish a free and independent press and to ensure the Tribal publication has the independence to report objectively.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**

(1) “Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Proceeding” includes any proceeding or investigation before or by any judicial, legislative, executive, or administrative body within the Tribe.

(2) “Medium of Communication” includes any newspaper, other periodical, book, pamphlet, website, podcast, news service, wire service, news or feature syndicate, broadcast station or network, cable television system, video, live stream, or other record.

(3) “Information” includes any written, oral, or pictorial news; or any digital or tangible record.

(4) “Unpublished Information” includes Information not disseminated to the public by the person from whom disclosure is sought, whether or not related Information has been disseminated, and includes, but is not limited to, all notes, outtakes, photographs, video clips, or other data of any type not itself disseminated to the public through a Medium of Communication, whether or not published Information based upon or related to such material has been disseminated.

(5) “Processing” includes compiling, storing, and editing Information.

(6) “Journalist” means any person who is a reporter, photographer, editor, commentator, journalist, correspondent, announcer, videographer, or other individual regularly engaged in obtaining, writing, reviewing, editing, or otherwise preparing news for any newspaper, periodical, press association, newspaper syndicate, wire service, website, radio or television station, or other news service. Any individual employed by any such news service in the performance of any of the above-mentioned activities shall be deemed to be regularly engaged in such activities.

(7) “Smoke Signals” is the Tribal press and includes any and all successors.

(c) AN INDEPENDENT TRIBAL PRESS.

(1) Smoke Signals shall be an independent Tribal press, free from any undue influence, and free from any particular political interest. It is the duty of the press to report without bias the activities of the government and the news of interest so as to have informed citizens.

(2) Smoke Signals shall be published in paper and/or electronic form bi-monthly to report news and provide a forum for all views of the membership.

(d) FUNDING.

(1) Policies and procedures shall be developed and implemented to provide funding for the operation of Smoke Signals.

(2) All revenues earned by Smoke Signals and non-Tribal funds generated by Smoke Signals shall stay in Smoke Signals' budget to help fund operations and will not be deposited into the Tribe's General Fund.

(3) All funding needed from the Tribe for operations will be appropriated through the Tribal budget process.

(e) EDITORIAL BOARD.

(1) An Editorial Board is hereby created and shall consist of at least three (3), but no more than five (5), individuals. A majority of the Board shall be Tribal members.

(2) Current Tribal employees, and employees of Tribal enterprises including Spirit Mountain Casino, may serve on the Editorial Board, but a majority of the Board shall be comprised of non-employees. Smoke Signals staff may not serve on the Board.

(3) The term of office for an Editorial Board member shall be for three (3) years, except the terms of initial Editorial Board members may be staggered between one (1) and three (3) years.

(4) To be eligible to serve as an Editorial Board member a person must:

(A) Be at least 18 years old;

(B) Have qualified experience in management and/or publication;

(C) Be of good character and integrity; and

(D) Certify he or she will adhere to the standards of accepted ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists and endorsed by the Native American Journalists Association.

(5) Applications to serve on the Editorial Board shall be reviewed by the Tribe's executive team (direct reports to the Tribal Council), who shall also interview applicants. The executive team will recommend individuals to the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council will then appoint individuals to the Editorial Board considering, but not bound by, the executive team's recommendations.

(6) Editorial Board members may be removed from the Editorial Board only for cause, and after a hearing and majority vote of the Editorial Board or the Tribal Council.

(7) Editorial Board members shall be compensated at a rate established annually by the Editorial Board and approved by the Tribal Council. Editorial Board members shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred on Smoke Signals business, including necessary travel expenses, in a manner consistent with the applicable policies and procedures of the Tribe.

(8) Editorial Board members shall regularly attend and participate in conferences and meetings where journalistic ethics and practices are discussed.

(f) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD.

(1) The Editorial Board members shall serve their terms of office free from any undue influence or any political interest.

(2) The Editorial Board shall establish and enforce an editorial policy that will be fair and responsible in reporting of general news, current events, and issues of Tribal concern including activities of the community, language, culture, history, and other subjects which will inform Tribal members about their government, Tribe, and culture.

(3) The Editorial Board shall ensure its operational structure is maintained, and that its duties and obligations are fulfilled.

(4) The Editorial Board shall review policies to ensure fairness and professionalism in all editorial practices.

(5) The Editorial Board shall hold periodic meetings in order to conduct official business and policy review.

(6) The Editorial Board shall select the individual to serve as the Smoke Signals editor.

(g) EDITOR.

- (1) To be eligible to serve as Editor, a person must:
 - (A) Have a degree in journalism or a related field;
 - (B) Have five years of experience in professional journalism in the fields of reporting, copy editing, multi-media, photographing, or editing;
 - (C) Have good character and integrity; and
 - (D) Certify he or she will adhere to the standards of accepted ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists and endorsed by the Native American Journalists Association.
- (2) The Editor shall serve until removed by the Editorial Board or until the Editor resigns the position in writing to the Editorial Board.
- (3) The Editor shall hold his or her position free from any undue influence and any political interest. The Editor shall not participate in any political campaign or be involved in any Tribal political activity, except to exercise his or her right as a Tribal member to express his or her individual opinion, and to cast his or her vote.
- (4) The Editor shall oversee operations of Smoke Signals.
- (5) The Editor shall adhere to the editorial policy established by the Editorial Board, and be fair and responsible in reporting of general news, current events, and issues of Tribal concern including activities of the community, language, culture, history, and other subjects which will inform Tribal members about their government, Tribe, and culture.
- (6) The Editor shall regularly attend and participate in conferences and meeting where journalistic ethics and practices are discussed.

(h) PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTIC SOURCES.

- (1) No journalist shall be required to disclose in a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Proceeding either:
 - (A) The source of any published Information or Unpublished Information obtained in the gathering, receiving, or Processing of Information for any Medium of Communication to the public; or
 - (B) Any Unpublished Information obtained or prepared in gathering, receiving or Processing of Information for any Medium of Communication to the public; unless the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde finds that the

party seeking the Information or identity has established by clear and convincing evidence that such Information or identity is relevant to a significant issue in the action and could not with due diligence be obtained by alternate means.

(2) This Section (h) does not apply with respect to the content or source of allegedly defamatory Information in a civil action for defamation wherein the defendant asserts a defense based on the content or source of such Information.

(i) SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be invalid under applicable law, that provision shall be severed from this Ordinance and the remainder of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

(j) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to have waived the sovereign immunity of the Tribe, any Tribal entity, department or program, or any Tribal official or employee.

I certify this to be a true copy of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon Independent Tribal Press Ordinance.


Tribal Council Secretary

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