

Time to Update the Statutory Definition of a 'Maori'

'Maori' today are not the 'Maori' who signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

All the Acts below are for a specific reason as Maori ancestry (blood quantum) became further and further diluted with other races. The first Act; **"The Native Lands Act of 1865"**.

The fact is, through the continuing intermarriage of their ancestors' own free will with other races, government had to continually change the Acts to define, *"Who is a Maori"*?

Under the **1975 Waitangi Tribunal Act**, Maori today can be a person with 1% Maori ancestry (blood quantum) and 99% of another race. This is ridiculous and must be changed!

It is now 50 years since the **1975 Treaty of Waitangi Act**; therefore, Government must reassess and **"Update the Statutory Definition of a Maori"**.

The Maori race, through intermarriage of their ancestors' own free will with other races has reached a stage where it is unrealistic to give Maori special rights and privileges in an Act, over all other New Zealand Citizens.

Government must, therefore, come to its senses and pass a new Act., **"The New Zealand Citizens Act 20??: "all New Zealand Citizens will have the same rights under one flag and one law, irrespective of race colour or creed"**.

This Act would honour both the Treaty of Waitangi and Lt. Governor Hobson's one Treaty Principle, **"He iwi tahi tatou – We are now one people"**, New Zealand Citizens.

The eight Acts over the years to define, "Who is a Maori". Nine is an updated Act.

1. The **Native Lands Act of 1865** defined a Maori as, “an Aboriginal Native and shall include all halfcastes and their descendants by Natives”.
2. The **Qualification of Electors Act 1879** defined a Maori as, “an Aboriginal inhabitant of New Zealand and includes any halfcaste living as a member of a native tribe according to their customs and usages and any descendants of such a halfcaste by a Maori woman.
3. The **Electoral Act 1893** defined a Maori as, “an Aboriginal inhabitant of New Zealand and includes halfcastes and their descendants by natives”.
4. The **Native Land Court Act 1894** defines a Maori as, “an Aboriginal native of New Zealand and includes halfcastes and their descendants”.
5. The **Native Land Acts 1909** defines a Maori as, “a person belonging to the Aboriginal race of New Zealand and includes a halfcaste and a person intermediate in blood between halfcaste and a person of pure descent from that race”.
6. The **Maori Affairs Amendment Act 1974** defines a Maori as, “a person of the Maori race of New Zealand and includes any descendant of such a person”.
7. The **Electoral Amendment Act 1975** defines a Maori as, “a person of the Maori race and includes any descendant of such a person who elects to be considered a Maori for the purposes of the Electoral Act”.
8. The **1975 Waitangi Tribunal Act** defines a Maori as, “a person of the Maori race of New Zealand; and includes any descendant of such a person.
9. The **New Zealand Citizen Act 20??**: all New Zealand Citizens will have the same rights under one flag and one law, irrespective of race colour or creed.

Prepared by: The One New Zealand Foundation Inc. (Copyright).
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Website; www.onenzfoundation.co.nz. Email: onzf@bigpond.com.au

