

He Puapua for whom?

While Prime Minister, Hon John Key sent then Minister of Maori Affairs, Hon Pita Sharples to the United Nations to sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people, neither of them knew who these people were as Government did not have a definition of the indigenous people of New Zealand. See letter from Hon Pita Sharples below.

In Pita Sharples statement to the UN, he could only say, *“Maori hold a distinct and special status as the indigenous people, or tangata whenua, of New Zealand”*. In other words, there was no evidence that Maori were the indigenous people of New Zealand, just that, *“Maori hold a distinct and special status as the indigenous people, or tangata whenua, of New Zealand”*.

This was endorsed by, Dr Ranginui Walker, past Professor of Maori Studies at Auckland University who wrote in the “1986 New Zealand Yearbook”, page 18, *“The traditions are quite clear on one point, whenever crew disembarked there were already tangata whenua (prior inhabitants) living in New Zealand”*.

While Lt. Governor Hobson called the natives, *“New Zealanders”* in his Treaty of Waitangi draft, Rev Henry Williams who translated the Treaty of Waitangi, called the natives who were to sign the Treaty, *“tangata Maori”* to distinguish the natives from *“All the people of New Zealand”*. (The Pakeha)

Rev Henry Williams had been living in New Zealand since 1822, so he must have known from stories told by the tangata Maori, they were not the indigenous people or the tangata whenua. It must also be remembered, Lt. Governor Hobson, James Busby and Rev Henry Williams checked the translation of the Treaty for an hour before it was read to the gathering at Waitangi on 5 February 1840. If the 540 chiefs who signed the Treaty did not

agree with being called tangata Maori, then I am sure they would have complained. They did not!

Not only is there no evidence that tangata Maori were the Indigenous People of New Zealand, the 540 chiefs agreed they would, "*Have the same rights as the people of England*", which would include government, health and all services supplied by one government under one flag and one law, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

Here we have a government allowing a small group of New Zealand citizens, with no evidence they are the indigenous people of New Zealand, and in most cases, with only a minute trace of tangata Maori ancestry, about to run the country.

How ridiculous is this! Are you going to stand by and let it happen?

Until Government and today's part-Maori can prove with documented, forensic evidence that their tangata Maori ancestors were the indigenous people of New Zealand, then He Puapua must be shelved immediately!

Hon John Key sent Hon Pita Sharples to the UN to sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People without mandate from the people of New Zealand or any evidence who these people were.

Hon Jacinda Ardern, must come up with the evidence or shelve He Puapua immediately because she has no evidence or mandate from the People to let it proceed!

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Please distribute this article far and wide. Thankyou.



Office of Hon Dr Pita R Sharples

MP for Tamaki Makaurau
Minister of Māori Affairs
Associate Minister of Corrections
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02 APR 2012

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Tēnā koe Mr Baker

Thank you for your email of 18 March 2012 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the New Zealand Government's definition of the indigenous peoples of New Zealand.

I understand that you have previously asked the Attorney General, Hon Christopher Finlayson, for such a definition and were advised that no document exists containing this information. I do not hold a document that defines the New Zealand Government's definition of the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, therefore your request is declined under section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982.

However, I would like to reiterate the Government's position of support for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This was outlined in my statement to the United Nations on 19 April 2010, whereby I noted that Māori hold a distinct and special status as the indigenous people, or tangata whenua, of New Zealand.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to make a complaint to an Ombudsman. Kāti mō tēnei wā.

Heoi anō

nā Hon Dr Pita R Sharples
Minister of Māori Affairs