

## **Hon Nanaia Mahuta**

### **Minister for Māori Development**

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

***This document has been proactively released via the Te Puni Kōkiri website***

This document reports on the Minister's travel to the United States of America, from 21 April to 24 April 2019 and Canada from 25 April to 30 April 2019.

Some parts of this document would not be appropriate to release at this time and if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

The relevant sections of the Act applied to this document are as follows:

- Section 6(a) which applies if the making available of the information would prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- Section 6(b) which applies if the making available of the information would prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; or any international organisation
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) which applies to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;

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Office of the Minister for Māori Development  
Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanala Mahuta**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the United States of America, from 21 April to 24 April 2019 and Canada from 25 April to 30 April 2019.

**Report – United States of America**

- 1 My key objective in visiting the United States of America was to lead New Zealand's delegation to the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Permanent Forum (the Forum) on Indigenous Issues in New York.
- 2 The key themes of the Forum related to the role and value of indigenous traditional knowledge and perspectives in addressing global challenges; the centrality of language to culture and identity; the call for greater self-determination for indigenous peoples and concern about increased violence against indigenous rights defenders.
- 3 During my time at the Forum, I delivered statements on
  - 3.1 Indigenous peoples Traditional knowledge, Generation, Transmission and Protection;
  - 3.2 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages; and
  - 3.3 Human rights: Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Chair of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and others.
- 4 Attending the Permanent Forum provided an opportunity to raise the profile of New Zealand's commitment to an international rules based system and our recognition of the value that Māori and indigenous models offer to wellbeing, particularly in a legal, policy and service delivery context. I was able to re-emphasise New Zealand's recognition that indigenous development is fundamental to strengthening relationships between indigenous peoples and their governments, and between indigenous peoples internationally.
- 5 In April, I announced that the New Zealand Government will work with Māori to develop a plan of action to drive and measure New Zealand's progress towards the aspirations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum, enabled me to highlight the development of New Zealand's Declaration Action Plan and the significant step towards building and strengthening relationships between the Crown and Māori.
- 6 The Declaration Action Plan will identify specific actions that can make real progress on the aspirations of Māori as the indigenous peoples of our country. I highlighted New Zealand's approach to addressing intergenerational wellbeing and the models that enable us to achieve Māori development objectives. This experience supports the formulation of a road map to enable our Government to signpost progress against our domestic obligations.

**Other meetings**

7 I had a number of bilateral engagements while I was in New York.

8 **Australia** – I met with the lead representative of the Australian delegation, Anne-Marie  
s 6(a) Roberts. We shared information on social procurement practices, in particular the  
Australian Government's indigenous procurement policy and implementation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This is a timely conversation as we design policy options  
to implement social procurement and supplier diversity in New Zealand for Cabinet  
consideration.

9 I have been asked to participate and speak at the 2019 World Indigenous Housing  
Forum (the Forum) which Australia will host in November 2019.

10 **Canada** – My discussion with the Hon Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous  
Relations and Northern Affairs highlighted the similarities and distinctions between  
New Zealand's treaty settlement process and Canada's modern treaty process. We  
face common challenges to ensure that economic development delivers benefits to  
indigenous communities. We traversed a number of topics from community outcomes,  
APEC 2021, provenance, water rights and interests, indigenous businesses and  
emerging technologies. The majority of our conversation concentrated on Canada's  
social procurement policy and cultural tourism.

11 **Chile** – Having met in Chile the previous month, the Undersecretary of Social Services  
of the Ministry of Social Development, Sebastian Villarreal Bardet conveyed Hon  
Alfred Moreno's gratitude for my visit to Chile in March. Our conversation continued to  
focus on opportunities for indigenous cooperation, [REDACTED]  
s 6(b)

[REDACTED] I highlighted that there are opportunities to share Māori  
knowledge and expertise and take advantage of trade opportunities that might result.

12 ~~**CANZUS** – This event was hosted by Canada's Minister of Crown-Indigenous  
Relations and Northern Affairs, Hon Carolyn Bennett. The discussion focussed on  
how to enhance indigenous participation. I noted the importance of inclusive  
participation given the transformative nature of involving indigenous peoples in finding  
solutions to social, environmental and economic challenges in our respective  
countries. [REDACTED]~~  
s 6(a)

13 **Rotorua Business Group** - Chile's Undersecretary Villarreal hosted a meeting of the  
Rotorua Group attended by Canada (Parliamentary Secretary Marc Miller); Australia  
(Anne-Marie Roberts) and I. This was an opportunity to highlight four areas of work:  
intellectual property and indigenous rights; implementation of the UNDRIP through a  
Declaration Action Plan; New Zealand's work in articulating the roles and  
responsibilities of governments on language revitalisation; and APEC 2021. I also  
emphasised that New Zealand is seeking to deepen indigenous enterprise networks  
and foster agility in the Māori economy through these relationships.

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- 14 The Group agreed to next meet in the margins of the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF) in Canada in October 2019. [REDACTED]

- 15 **UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)** – I took the opportunity to meet with Erika Yamada, Chair of EMRIP, to follow up on EMRIP's recent visit to New Zealand. I reinforced that the Treaty of Waitangi is an important context to how New Zealand will develop a Declaration Action Plan.

**Report – Canada**

- 16 My key objective in visiting Canada was to exchange policies and best practice for looking at innovative housing solutions and combatting homelessness; meet with indigenous young leaders; and to engage with key indigenous business leaders.
- 17 During my visit to Canada, I emphasised the value of Māori-indigenous cooperation as a key part of the bilateral relationship. The close indigenous alignment between New Zealand and Canada on a wide range of social and economic policy priorities and the importance of tikanga Māori underpinning our cultural relationships was evident.
- 18 **Indigenous housing solutions and Homelessness** – Separate hui with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, the Mizie Blik Development Corporation (MBDC) and the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) showcased a number of different models for establishing and operating indigenous housing units and addressing homelessness.
- 19 Of particular interest were the affordable home ownership programmes and their home ownership financing models. MBDC provides loans to qualifying Canadian indigenous people to assist with a down payment to purchase a home off-reservation. Funding is provided in the form of a forgivable loan which does not have to be repaid provided the borrower adheres to the conditions of the programme during the affordability period of 10 years. There is no interest charged on the principal amount of the loan. Similarly OAHS offers a forgivable loan assist indigenous families to purchase an off-reserve home in Ontario.
- 20 I visited a brand new 16 unit rental housing project built and operated by Na-Me-Res, an indigenous organisation focused on helping indigenous men live a healthy life. The housing unit is operated in partnership with MBDC. The 16 unit rental provides one bedroom, modern apartments at a subsidised rate. A network of programmes, including access to education, job training, support for health care (including mental health support), and a community, exists as part of the broader partnership Na-Me-Res has with MBDC. The key point highlighted in this engagement was that indigenous solutions needed to be driven by the community, have a vision that is broader than the individual and include a suite of wrap around services. A holistic approach is needed to truly combat housing issues.

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21 The President and CEO of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, Stephen Gaetz, briefed me on his organisations work around conducting and mobilising research to contribute to solutions to address homelessness. The meeting highlighted a shared understanding of the importance of providing more than just housing solutions i.e. recognising the importance of keeping people in their community and working with an indigenous centric approach. I have asked officials to keep a watching brief on the housing project under way in Hamilton, Ontario, particularly with respect to the co-design and co-development phase of the project.

22 Rangatahi leadership and development - I participated in the second Indigenous Change Makers Initiative, speaking with a group of 15 young indigenous leaders across Canada on acute issues facing indigenous communities and how these issues can be addressed. The engagement provided an opportunity for me to highlight the future work in Pae Aronui and other Rangatahi work programmes.

23 We discussed the similarities of challenges experienced by young Māori and indigenous youth across Canada, and how international partnerships can help address these issues. The idea of an indigenous-Māori young leaders exchange programme was touched on, with the New Zealand's High Commissioner noting the value of the two way working holiday programme that exists between New Zealand and Canada. Our discussion also traversed the 5-10 year contracting arrangements that exist for indigenous businesses and organisations in Canada (i.e. government procurement contacts), providing for greater certainty and ability to affect change.

24 Indigenous business engagement – I hosted a dinner with key indigenous business leaders and influencers. This provided an opportunity to talk about Māori economic development; connect directly with leaders on possible indigenous/Māori business partnerships; and set the scene for ongoing discussions at WIBF 2019.

s 6(a) 25

[Redacted text block]

s 9(f)(iv) 26

[Redacted text block]

27 First Nations Community Visits//Aotearoa ki te Ao – I was hosted by two separate indigenous communities located just out of Toronto; Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Chief Ava Hill of Six Nations took me on a site tour of the community showcasing the different forms of housing available to community members, the community owned and operated health care centre, police force, library, radio service, sports programme, and fire and paramedic services.

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- 28 A meeting with Chief Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations provided an opportunity for an exchange of ideas on how indigenous communities in Canada and New Zealand could be better connected including the sharing of indigenous crafts and designs to be used as an educational tool. The possibility of a formal indigenous-Māori exchange programme was also touched on.

**Proactive Release**

- 29 I propose to release the paper within the required 30 business days.

**Recommendations**

- 30 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister for Māori Development and of Local Government, Associate Minister for the Environment and Housing and Urban Development (Māori Housing)

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