OFFICIAL

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL
TE PAPARAHI O TE RAKI INQUIRY

WAI 1040
WAI 2124

IN THE MATTER of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Te Paparahi O Te Raki Inquiry (Wai 1040)

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by James Christopher Eruera for and on behalf of Rima Edwards and for the benefit of Ngapuhi Nui Tonu.

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by Rima Edwards, James Christopher Eruera and Tangiwai Puhipi for and on behalf of themselves and the descendants of Mauitikitiki a Taranga ki Aotearoa.

AFFIDAVIT OF SIR GRAHAM LATIMER

Dated this 18th day of April 2010

RECEIVED
Waitangi Tribunal
23 APR 2010
Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

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I, **SIR GRAHAM LATIMER**, Kaumatua, of Kaitaia, swear:

1. I was born on 7 February 1926 in Waiharara.

2. I am involved with the Wai 861 claim, on behalf of the Tai Tokerau District Maori Council.

3. I have held positions on a number of Maori boards and councils. I have been a member of the New Zealand Maori Council ("NZMC") since 1964, and I became the president of the NZMC in 1973. It was in this role that I took the New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney-General case to the Court of Appeal in 1987.

4. I have also been on the Tai Tokerau District Maori Council, the Chairman of Tai Tokerau Maori Trust Board and involved with several other Boards and Councils.

5. I am the Chairman of the Crown Forestry Rental Trust, and have been since the Trust's inception in 1990.

6. I have been involved with Treaty of Waitangi claims in other ways too. I got involved with the Waitangi Tribunal when I went to Wellington. There was no Maori representative on the Tribunal and I questioned this. It took about two years of organisation to get it all together. I was appointed as one of the first three members of the Waitangi Tribunal in 1977. From 1993 to 1998 I was a member of the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission. I have also been involved with the Tribunal as a claimant.

7. Since then, I've been involved with a lot of different claims, such as the Crown Forest claim, the Sewerage claim, and now the Wai 861 Tai Tokerau claim. The old people told me that I was the best person to take on the Government and the claims. I'm just like any other person, but I have the responsibility to take the claims through. The people came to me with their concerns, because they didn't have anybody else to ask for help, so I couldn't fob anyone off. But the buck stops here and we've got to find a way to get a better relationship and a better understanding between our peoples that is between Maori and Pakeha and everyone else. We can't dodge the matter anymore.

8. When people ask me to do something I can't say no. The old people would have said to me, "Don't you have the mana Graham?!" I have to take these things on, not for myself, but for my people.

The Treaty

9. The Treaty is such a huge document, but it's not only for us. The whole world is listening in to the silent argument that we're having at the moment with regards to the Treaty. The thing is, is that we haven't really even got to the first step yet.

10. The Treaty is the only document we've got to take us into the future so it's important that we don't lose it.

11. My tupuna Paerata signed He Wakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirene in Paihia and my tupuna Hare Reweti signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Kaitaia.

The Queen

12. I met the Queen when she came over here, but I didn't ask her about Maori issues. She has done us no harm herself. The fact that she came and made herself available was a huge plus for us. As the old people say, don't close the door before you open it.

Mana

13. The mana of Maoridom has never been touched. However, most Maori don't know what we have in our own hands. We have the chance to be good enough to lead this country in this wide world.

Rangatiratanga

14. Our tupuna knew that they were being asked to sign away their sovereignty, but they didn't do it.

The Crown Forest Case

15. The Crown was going to sell the land upon which Crown forests grew and we went to Court to stop them because all these lands were subject to Maori claims under The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.

16. When I got involved with the Crown Forest case I had a lot of support from people who told me that even though there may be hard times down the road, I should never give in. I was a new boy back then, but I knew I would never give up. I couldn't see myself conceding to the Crown selling the forests, and us losing our rights. It was a matter of conscience for me to keep going. I couldn't for the life of me say yes to anybody who wanted to sell land to the detriment of Maori.

Kohanga Reo

17. I think getting Kohanga Reo up and started was one of the best thought out ideas we've had. Someone had to teach our children. We had many wonderful people help us with that, people like Whina Cooper, who were only too pleased to help our people, especially when our children are concerned.

The Future

18. The reason I continue to pursue Treaty Claims is because I'm worried about the land and the children. Those are the two most important things. Your goal must be your whanau, because without them you don't really have a reason to pursue the case. We need to address our responsibilities to our children. If we can't create a situation where our children are happy and enjoying the style of life that we provide, then we're not doing it properly. It's also important that we look at nature, because if you don't consider nature then you're on the wrong course.

19. We have gone a long way down the road by listening, and our people can never turn back, so we just have to keep trying. I have a lot of the responsibility to keep trying. We all need to work hard to make sure that something is achieved down the line. I'm getting concerned that time has already run out. But I'll keep trying and I hope my people and the Crown keep trying to sort this out too.

20. One of the major changes that I want to see implemented through the Treaty process is for our people and the Crown to communicate better, and for our concerns to be listened to. This isn't just a Taitokerau thing, or just a Maori thing, it's all around the world, wherever there are indigenous people. Communication and cooperation is really important.

21. The Crown made money by selling our land, but now they don't have much money so they should give us our land back. What we really want is a proper, fair deal for Maori.

22. While you have to tread with care, you must deal with our people and the Government. Some things just have to be done. In the near future, all that we're doing now will hopefully come to fruition and we'll be able to get on in life without having to worry about race relations or anything else. There's always hope up over the hill.

23. We need to make sure our lands, waters and everything that makes us Maori is returned to us.

SWORN at St Stephens Church Pamapuria Kaitaia)
by the above named **SIR GRAHAM**)
LATIMER)
this 18th day of April 2010)
before me:)

Walroll Walters C.S.M. J.P.
Signature
RD.2. Kaitaia
Phone 09 408 3319
027 255 7135

A Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand