FILE 5 Haka in Parliament

EXPLORE *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*

TB → p. 49 (doc 3)

DIFFÉRENCIATION

"The government doesn't care": Māori greet New Zealand PM with indifference at muted Waitangi

When New Zealand's political leaders gathered to speak at the Waitangi treaty grounds where Māori chiefs and the British Crown forged a nation 186 years ago there was a striking absence: the public.

As a light rain fell on the green peninsula in the far north of New Zealand on Thursday, fewer than 100 people gathered to watch the leaders welcomed onto the grounds, and only a handful of people heckled[1] ministers as they spoke.

The muted tone on the eve of Waitangi Day, which commemorates the signing of the nation's founding document the Treaty of Waitangi, marked a dramatic shift[2] from a year earlier. In 2025, protesters turned their backs on government ministers and twice removed a microphone from David Seymour, the Act party leader and architect of the divisive Treaty Principles bill that sought to radically alter the way the treaty was interpreted. A year earlier, the rightwing coalition government faced record crowds and heated protests over their policies that many fear are undermining the treaty and rolling back Māori rights.

The absence of protest does not necessarily mark a shift of sentiment in favour of the coalition government, which faces an election in November. Rather, it signals fatigue within the Indigenous population, a breakdown in trust in the government, and a desire to refocus attention towards Māori communities, visitors to the grounds tell the Guardian.

Kassie Hartendorp, the director of community campaigning organisation Action Station Aotearoa, says protests have partly subsided[3] because the government had already shown Māori "exactly who they are" and Māori were sick of their time and energy being taken up.

"This coalition government largely doesn't care what Māori think of them … if they did, we wouldn't have had this absolute onslaught of anti-tiriti [treaty] policies."

Eva Corlett, *The Guardian*, 2026

1. interrupted 2. change 3. declined



▲ Traditional Māori waka (boat) ceremony on Waitangi Day, 6 February, 2026.

WAY 1

1. a. Look at the text and the photograph. **Identify** the type of event and its date.

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b. Guess what type of document it is and tick the correct answer.

This text is: ❑ a biography ❑ an article ❑ a report

2. Read the first two paragraphs. **Pick out** the adjectives that best describe the atmosphere. **Justify** with a quote for each of them.

❑ packed ❑ quiet ❑ cheerful ❑ limited ❑ bleak

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3. a. Read paragraphs 1-3. **Fill in** the table with information in your own words about the following Waitangi Days.

	2024-2025	2026
Atmosphere	.....	.....
Actions or events	....	....

b. Sum up the difference between the events.

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4. Read the *Culture Spot* and paragraph 3 again. **Rephrase** the cause of the atmosphere in 2024 and 2025.

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5. Read paragraph 4 and **rephrase** the arguments describing the atmosphere during the 2026 event.

• "The absence of protest does not necessarily mark a shift of sentiment in favour of the coalition government" (l. 18-19)

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• "Rather, it signals fatigue within the Indigenous population" (l.20-21)

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• "a breakdown in trust in the government" (l.21)

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• "a desire to refocus attention towards Māori communities" (l.22-23)

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6. Sum up the government's opinion about the Māori population according to Kassie Hartendorp.
Use the following expressions: *indifference* • *disregard* • *undermine*

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WAY 2

1. Look at the text and the source. **Deduce** the nature of the document and what it might be about.

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2. a. Read paragraphs 1-3. **Fill in** the table with information in your own words about the following Waitangi Days:

2024-2025	2026
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b. Explain the difference you can observe between the events.

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3. Focus on paragraph 3 again and read the *Culture Spot*. Rephrase the cause of the atmosphere during the 2024-2025 events.

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4. Focus on l.18-19. **Rephrase** the way the lack of attendance is explained.

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5. a. Spot the visitors' arguments to describe the atmosphere of the 2026 event.

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b. Rephrase each argument.

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6. Sum up Kassie Hartendorp's opinion about the importance granted to the Māori population by the government.

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