

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG A' CUR FÀILTE AIR OILTHIGH NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Airson a chleachdadh bho: 9.00m Diciadain 2 Gearran 2011

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air fàilte a chur air an naidheachd gun deach inbhe Oilthighe a bhuileachadh air Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean (OGE).

Tha am Bòrd air a bhith taiceil bho chionn ghrunn bhliadhnaichean dhan phrionnsabal gum bu chòir oilthigh a bhith stèidhichte air a' Ghàidhealtachd airson adhbharan misneachail co-cheangailte ri cùisean cànan, foghlam, sòisealta, eaconamach agus cultarail. Tha an suidheachadh sin as aonais oilthigh air bacadh a chur air iomairtean eile nach do choilean an làn-amasan, agus tha sin air a bhith a' ciallachadh gu bheil an sgìre air a bhith deireannach an coimeas ris a' chòrr dhen dùthaich far a bheil leithid de ghoireas. Bha na buannachdan a thàinig an-lùib a bhith stèidheachadh UHIMI, Institiud nam Mìle Bliadhna tro UHI air dearbhadh gu robh feum air gluasad gu làn-inbhe Oilthighe.

Thuir Cathraiche a' Bhùird Art MacCarraig: "Tha an naidheachd seo fìor chudromach mar chomharradh gu bheil pròiseact UHIMI air adhartas a dhèanamh gu ìre eile agus gu bheil a-nis impidh ann airson an tuilleadh leasachaidh sgoilearach, a' toirt togail dhan fheadhainn a tha an sàs ann agus do chliù na h-oilthigh fhèin agus an sgìre dham boin i. Tha cion oilthighe air a' Ghàidhealtachd air a bhith a' cumail chùisean leithid ùrachadh anns an eaconamaidh agus gu gnothaichean sòisealta air a' Ghàidhealtachd air ais. Ann a bhith a' buileachadh inbhe Oilthighe air UHIMI bidh Alba ga h-aithneachadh mar dhùthaich a tha a' coimhead air adhart, in-ghabhalach, le urram mòr ga chur air foghlam. Tha an saoghal mòr glè eòlach air cuid de na rudan tarraingeach a th' anns an sgìre agus tha e gu math coltach gum bi oileanaich bho dhùthchannan eile gu math èasgaidh tighinn a cheart cho math ri muinntir na h-Alba fhèin."

Thuir Ceannard a' Bhùird Iain Aonghas MacAoidh: "Tha UHI air a bhith aig cridhe gu leòr de na th'air a bhith a' tachairt a thaobh a bhith a' misneachadh na Gàidhlig le bhith a' togail air an dualchas gun choimeas a th'againn anns an sgìre, le bhith ag àbhaisteachadh na Gàidhlig nan cuid rianachd, teagaisg agus rannsachadh. Tha an Oilthigh leis a sin ann an suidheachadh buileach àraid airson cur ris an obair a tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' stiùireadh, leis a' phrìomh amas a bhith a' meudachadh àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig. Cha robh a' chòrr aig mòran de dh'òigridh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean ach an sgìre fhàgail airson an cuid foghlaim, agus cha robh tilleadh orra. Leis a sin thàinig crìonadh ann an àireamh an

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t-sluaigh a bha an comas cosnadh, agus cuideachd àireamh nas àirde nan àbhaist de gach ceud de sheann daoine. Tha daoine a tha a’ siubhal bhon dachaigh a’ toirt leotha an cuid cànan, cultar agus na tomhaisean air an cuir iad luach, a’ sìor lagachadh nan coimhearsnachdan dham boin iad agus a’ lùghdachadh cothroman a dh’fhaodadh a bhith ann airson ùrachadh agus fàs. Ann a bhith a’ stèidheachadh oilthigh anns an roinn seo dhen dùthaich dh’fhaodadh sin a bhith na lasair airson cùisean a thilleadh, a’ neartachadh nan coimhearsnachdan agus a’ cruthachadh gluasad ùr a’ togail air stòrais prìseil ar cultair. Bheir e cuideachd dhuinn an cothrom coimhead ri ginealach ùr de luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig ann an sgìre far a bheil buaidh eachdraidh air an sluaigh a sgrìobh le fìor dhroch bhuaidh air suidheachadh na Gàidhlig an lùib sin.”

A chrìoch

**Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun naidheachd seo, cuiribh fios gu:
Iain A MacAoidh, Ceannard, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, air 01463 225454**

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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG WELCOMES ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Embargoed until 9.00am Wednesday 2 February 2011

Gaelic development agency Bòrd na Gàidhlig has welcomed the confirmation today (February 2nd) of full University status for the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The Bòrd has been a long-term supporter of the proposal to establish a university in the Highlands and Islands for positive linguistic, educational, social, economic, and cultural reasons.

The lack of such an institution has meant that the impact of other initiatives have not realised their full potential, leading to relative disadvantage when compared to other parts of Scotland that have enjoyed such provision. The benefits to the region evidenced since the establishment of the UHI Millennium Institute (UHIMI) clearly pointed to the need to continue the momentum towards full university status.

Bòrd Cathraiche (Chair) Arthur Cormack said: “This announcement is a major milestone in the progression of the UHIMI initiative which provides a new stimulus for further developing academic excellence, enhancing the motivation of those involved and the reputation of the institution and the region. The absence of an institution with full university status in the Highlands and Islands has been a drawback in terms of social and economic regeneration. The awarding of University title to UHIMI will greatly enhance the status of Scotland as a forward looking, inclusive country with a strong educational ethos. The region has many attractions which are well recognised worldwide, and it is entirely probable that the creation of a university will attract students from other countries as well as widening choices for native Scots.”

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Chief Executive John Angus MacKay said: “UHI has taken a central role in encouraging the growth of Gaelic language and culture by promoting the unique Gaelic heritage of the region, and by integrating the language into its administration, teaching and research. It is therefore uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to the work Bòrd na Gàidhlig is driving, aimed at increasing the numbers of Gaelic speakers. Many young people have had to leave the Highlands and Islands for their education and have no route back, leading to contraction in the population of economically active people and higher than national average percentages of older people. People who leave take their language, culture and value systems with them, further impoverishing their native communities, and lessening the potential for regeneration and growth. The establishment of a university in the region

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will act as a catalyst for counteracting these trends, strengthening society and creating a new dynamic for building on rich cultural traditions. It will also enhance the opportunities to create new generations of Gaelic speakers in an area in which historically economic and social deprivation had led to decline in population with consequent negative impact on the Gaelic language.”

END

For further information contact:

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