

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG A' TAGRADH GU

COIMISEAN AIR NAN ÌREAN POBLACH SON ALBA

Sgrìobh Bòrd na Gàidhlig gu Coimisean nan Ìrean Poblach ann an Alba le gearan mun dol-a-mach aig fear de Chomhairlichean na Gàidhealtachd agus na bh'aige ri ràdh mu chùisean co-cheangailte ri Gàidhlig. Tha seo an dèidh dhan Bhòrd cuideachd sgrìobhadh gu Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a thoirt taic dhaibh nan ceumannan an aghaidh a' Chomhairliche John Rosie à Inbhir Theòrsa an dèidh dha ionnsaigh a thoirt air Gàidhlig le briathrachas agus beachdan a tha, am barail a' Bhùird, gu tur neo-chothromach, gràineil agus an aghaidh na càileachd.

Thuir Cathraiche a' Bhùird Art MacCarmaig: “Tha sinn uile eòlach gu leòr air na beachdan a tha an Comhairliche Rosie air nochdadh mar tha mun Ghàidhlig roimhe seo agus tha sinn air a bhith a' feuchainn ri co-luadar reusanta agus ciallach a chumail leis. Ach tha am briathrachas a chleachd e an t-seachdain seo chaidh, a' coimeas gnothaichean Gàidhlig ri na bha a' tachairt anns a' Ghearmailt ri linn Hitler, dìreach suaitheanta. Chan eil gnothaich aig Comhairliche sam bith a bhith ri leithid agus tha sinn làn thaiceil dhan Chomhairle anns na ceumannan a tha iad a' gabhail. Fhuair e cothrom na Fèinne leis a' Chomhairle ag iarraidh air a leth-sgeul a ghabhail agus chan eil coltas ann gu bheil e deònach na beachdan gràineil agus suaitheanta aige a tharraing. Cuiridh sinn cùisean a-nis an làmhnan a Choimisein.”

Tha leth-bhreac dhen litir aig a' Chathraiche an-luib an naidheachd seo. Thuir Mgr MacCarmaig gu robh e air leth tàmailteach gu robh leithid de ghnothach air tighinn anns an rathad agus am Bòrd ag obair gu dlùth leis a' Chomhairle a-thaobh na Gàidhlig agus suidheachadh sgoiltean thar na roinne a leasachadh. “Tha Cròileagan ann an tè de na sgoiltean far an tèid Ceannard ùr fhastadh. Ann an suidheachadh mar seo airson luchd-obrach fhastadh, a tha gu cinnteach àbhaisteach anns a h-uile dòigh, agus far a bheil

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Gàidhlig na pàirt de phoileasaidh na Comhairle leis an aon sheasamh ri gnothaichean eile, tha e gu math fada air ais gun tigeadh Comhairliche sam bith a-mach le leithid de bheachdan a tha faoin agus gràineil. Tha leithid de thachartas mar seo a’ cur sgleò air cùisean ann an suidheachadh far a bheil am Bòrd a’ feuchainn ri com-pàirteachas èifeachdach a chur air chois leis a’ Chomhairle airson foghlam Gàidhlig adhartachadh, agus a’ fàgail dhaoine air an dà thaobh gu math an-fhoiseil.

“Tha na beachdan a chaidh a nochdadh leis a’ Chomhairliche Rosie nan dragh agus nan tàmailt do dhaoine fad is farsaing, eadar Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig fhèin, a’ Ghàidhealtachd agus an saoghal mòr a bhios a’ coimhead air seo le uabhas.”

Aig deireadh na seachdain seo chaidh, sgrìobh ceannbhairean na Comhairle gu Mghr Rosie ag iarraidh air a lethsgheul a ghabhail airson na thuirt e a thaobh na Gàidhlig agus mar a tharraing e fhèin agus an Comhairle Dòmhnall MacAoidh a-mach à agallamhan airson Ceannardan sgoile mu thuath.

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Bòrd na Gàidhlig invites Standards Commission to investigate Highland Councillor's conduct

The Gaelic development agency Bòrd na Gàidhlig has written to the Chief Investigating Officer, Standards Commission for Scotland, asking him to consider a complaint about the unacceptable conduct of a Highland Councillor. This follows the Bòrd's decision to write to Highland Council in support of moves to seek an apology from Thurso councillor John Rosie following his intemperate use of language, referring to Gaelic in a way which was, in the Bòrd's view, unbalanced, offensive and unwarranted.

Bòrd Cathraiche (Chair) Arthur Cormack said: "We are all very familiar with the views which Councillor Rosie has previously expressed about Gaelic and we have tried to engage with him in a reasonable and meaningful way. However, the language he used last week when he compared Gaelic issues to the situation which existed in Germany in Hitler's time is particularly offensive. It ill behoves any councillor to behave in this way and we fully support Highland Council in their request to Mr Rosie that he apologise. However, it would now appear that Councillor Rosie has no intention of withdrawing his inflammatory remarks and we are putting the matter in the hands of the Commission."

A copy of the Cathraiche's letter is attached to this News Release. Mr Cormack added that he was particularly concerned that such a situation had arisen at a time when the Bòrd was working closely with Highland Council on Gaelic related issues so that further developments could take place throughout the region.

"There is a Gaelic playgroup in one of the schools where a new Head teacher is being appointed. In a situation like this where employment issues are being considered, and the post is being handled within standard Council protocols and where Gaelic is accepted as a

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matter of policy supported by the Council, it is extraordinary that a Councillor would express views which are, by any measure, offensive and pointless. This sort of thing simply casts a shadow over our relationship at a time when the Bòrd is working very hard to secure a constructive and effective partnership with the Council, seeking improvements and further development in Gaelic education. It is understandably unsettling for all concerned. I am sure that the views expressed by Councillor Rosie will have been offensive to many people, even beyond the Gaelic community, the wider Highland area and the world at large where such views are abhorrent.”

Last week, the Council’s leaders wrote to Councillor Rosie seeking an apology for what he had said about Gaelic in relation to Hitler’s Germany and his withdrawal, along with Councillor Donnie MacKay from an appointment process being held for Head Teacher posts in the north.