

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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Cor na Gàidhlig an 2011

Tha mi a' coimhead air adhart ri 2011 le measgachadh de mhisneachd is mì-chinnt air caochladh adhbharan. Feumar a bhith misneachail is dòchasach mu adhartas no cha bhi spionnadh san iomairt gus cor na Gàidhlig a neartachadh; ach tha buaidh nan gearraidhean ann am maoin na Gàidhlig ann an 2011/12, ceist mu thuilleadh ghearraidhean air an ath-bhliadhna agus dè a tha sin a' dol a chiallachadh dhuinn fhìn is dha na buidhnean leis a bheil sinn ag obair, ag adhbhrachadh mì-chinnt.

Air sin a ràdh, saoilidh mi gu bheil Bòrd na Gàidhlig air modh-obrach a stèidheachadh le Comhairlean is buidhnean poblach eile, an Riaghaltas is buidhnean Gàidhlig, a chuidicheas sinn uile tron ath-bhliadhna gus a bhith nas èifeachdaiche le nas lugha de mhaoin. Ri linn sin, tha misneachd agam gum faic sinn àrdachadh san àireamh chloinne a tha a' dol tro fhoghlam Gàidhlig, agus san àireamh inbheach a tha ga h-ionnsachadh is ga cleachdadh, agus tha sin a' togail dòchais gum bi sin a' neartachadh cor na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachdan air an tuath is anns na bailtean, ged a tha mòran ri dhèanamh anns gach suidheachadh.

Air an tuath mar eisimpleir, bidh sinn ag obair gu dlùth le Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd gus aire phàrantan a tharraing gu buannachdan da-chànanas is Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Fhuair sinn deagh dhearbhadh air an sin anns an rannsachadh a rinneadh le Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann a chaidh fhoillseachadh o chionn ghoirid. Agus bithear a' sgaoileadh na teachdaireachd sin cuideachd sna bailtean far a bheil Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig stèidhte.

Bidh caochladh bhuidhnean poblach ag ullachadh, a' foillseachadh is a' cur an gnìomh phlanaichean Gàidhlig a bheir a' chànan gu aire an t-sluaigh tro chothroman a faicinn 's a cluinntinn ann an caochladh shuidheachaidhean. Togaidh seo inbhe na Gàidhlig, agus bheir

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Press Release



e tuilleadh misneachd dha daoine mu h-ionnsachadh is a cleachdadh. Seach gur h-e buidheann beag le uallach mòr a th' ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig, is ann tro cho-obrachadh le iomadach buidheann is neach eile a thig an toradh a choileanas ar dleastanas.

Is e 27mh Màirt 2011 latha a' chunntais-sluaigh, anns a bheil dà cheist a tha co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig: ceist a tha ag iarraidh beachd air comas labhairt, sgrìobhaidh is leughaidh ann am Beurla, Gàidhlig is Albais, agus ceist an dèidh sin a tha a' faighneachd a bheileas a' cleachdadh cànan seach Beurla san dachaigh. Ma tha gin de na comasan sin aig daoine, agus ma tha iad a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig idir san dachaigh, bu chòir dhaibh sin a chlàradh. Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig, le taic o bhuidhnean eile, a' cuideachadh na roinne a tha an urra ris a' Chunntas-Sluaigh gus fiosrachadh a thoirt do dhaoine mun ghnòthach agus gam brosnachadh gus na foirmean a lionadh gu dòigheil.

Gu h-àraidh, bidh cothrom sin a dhèanamh ann an Gàidhlig air-loidhne agus bidh sinn a' moladh do dhaoine an cothrom sin a ghabhail. Bidh e furasta gu leòr dhan fheadhainn aig a bheil goireasan san dachaigh ach bidh sinn cuideachd a' toirt taic dha iomairtean gus cothrom a thoirt dha daoine sin a dhèanamh ann an ionadan sa choimhearsnachd, far a bheil na goireasan rim faotainn.

Tha e air leth cudromach gum faigh sinn cunntas làidir o na ceistean sin a bheir dealbh chothromach dhuinn air cor na Gàidhlig an Alba ann an 2011, a chuidicheas le planadh airson cùisean a thoirt air adhart sna deich bliadhna a tha romhainn.

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr Dhuibh Uile!

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



The Situation for Gaelic in 2011

I am looking forward to 2011 with a mixture of encouragement and uncertainty for various reasons. It is necessary to be confident and positive about progress or the initiative to strengthen the position of Gaelic will lack impetus; but the impact of the cuts in Gaelic funding in 2011/12, uncertainty about further cuts next year and what that means for us and for the other organisations with which we work, is creating uncertainty.

Having said that, I consider that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has established working procedures with Councils and other public bodies, the Government, and Gaelic organisations which will assist us all through the coming year to be more effective even though with less funding. Because of that, I am confident that we shall see an increase in the number of children going through Gaelic medium education, and in the number of adults learning Gaelic and using it, and that raises the hope that that will strengthen the state of Gaelic in communities in the rural areas and in the cities, although much remains to be done in each and every situation.

In the rural districts for example, we shall be working closely with Western Isles Council and Highland Council to raise parents' awareness of the benefits of bi-lingualism and Gaelic medium education. We received positive confirmation of that through the research conducted by Edinburgh University which was published recently. And that message will be relayed in the cities also where Gaelic Medium Education is already established.

A variety of public organisations will be preparing, publishing and implementing Gaelic plans which will bring the language to the attention of the population through opportunities which will enable them to see the language and to hear it in various circumstances. This will raise the status of Gaelic, and it will give further encouragement to people in relation to learning it and using it. Since Bòrd na Gàidhlig is a small organisation with large

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



responsibilities, it is collaboration with many other organisations and individuals which will bring about the results which will fulfill our obligations.

The 27th of March 2011 is census day, in which there are two questions in relation to Gaelic: a question which asks for an opinion on the ability to speak, write and read English, Gaelic and Scots, and after that a question which asks whether or not another language apart from English is used in the home. If people have any of these abilities and if they are using Gaelic at home, they ought to record that. Bòrd na Gàidhlig, with support from other organisations, will be assisting the department which deals with the Census to inform people of the matter and will be encouraging them to complete the forms accurately.

In particular, there will be an opportunity to complete the forms on-line and we will be making recommendations to people to take advantage of this opportunity. It will be easy enough for people who have the facilities to do so at home, but we will also be supporting initiatives which will give people the opportunity to complete the forms in centres in the community, where the facilities are available.

It is particularly important that we obtain a strong lead from these questions which will give us a balanced picture of the state of Gaelic in Scotland in 2011, which will assist with planning towards progressing matters in the ten years ahead.

A Happy New Year to You All!