

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



**21/11/2011**

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**Airson a sgaoileadh sa bhad**

## **Coimhearsnachd sna h-eileanan a' gabhail ceum air thoiseach gus seasmhachd a thèarainn don Ghàidhlig**

Ghabh coimhearsnachd anns na h-Eileanan an Iar ceum mhòr air adhart aig an deireadh-seachdain a dh'ionnsaigh dèanamh cinnteach gum fuirich a' Ghàidhlig aig cridhe na coimhearsnachd, na dachaigh, na h-obrach agus foghlaim le bhith a' stèidheachadh fòram coimhearsnachd, le taic bhon ùghdarras ionadail agus bho na buidhnean Gàidhlig, gus iomairtean Gàidhlig a chur air adhart san sgìre.

Aig co-labhairt a chaidh a chumail ann am baile Shiaboist ann an Eilean Leòdhais Disathairne, chaidh toraidhean pròiseact rannsachaidh fad-bliadhna a thaisbeanadh don choimhearsnachd, rannsachadh a bha a' coimhead ri comasan daoine anns a' Ghàidhlig an taobh a-staigh na coimhearsnachd sin, cleachdadh na Gàidhlig sa bheatha làitheil agus barail na coimhearsnachd sin air a' Ghàidhlig.

Thaisbean an rannsachadh, a chaidh a bharantachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus a choileanadh le sgioba à Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, dealbh mhionaideach air comas anns a' chànan, barailean agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachd sna h-Eileanan an Iar far a bheil "comasachd anns a' Ghàidhlig ceannasach". Thuirt an Dr Gillian Rothach a bha a' stiùireadh na sgioba rannsachaidh, "Tha sinn glè thaingeil airson na taic mhòir a thug muinntir Shiaboist don phròiseact rannsachaidh seo. Tha sinn a' creidsinn gum feum dachaighean fa leth is coimhearsnachdan leithid Shiaboist a bhith aig cridhe nan iomairtean gus cleachdadh làitheil air a' Ghàidhlig a neartachadh. Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air deòntas na coimhearsnachd agus nam buidhnean a bhith ag obair nas dlùithe le chèile gus dèanamh cinnteach gun soirbhich a' Ghàidhlig mar chànan coimhearsnachd ann an Siabost."

Ged a bha an rannsachadh a' nochdadh dragh gum faod an cànan seargadh air falbh mar chànan coimhearsnachd an taobh a-staigh ginealach no dhà, bha faisg air 9 inbhich a-mach à

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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10 a bha a’ rangachadh na Gàidhlig aig teis-meadhain an dearbh-aithne mar dhaoine a tha a’ fuireach sna h-Eileanan an Iar. A’ leantainn air taic làidir aig an t-seiminear phoblach Disathairne, chuir na riochdairean coimhearsnachd aonta ri tionnsgnadh ioma-bhuidhneach a chur air bhonn, air a stiùireadh leis a’ choimhearsnachd gus dèanamh cinnteach à seasmhachd don Ghàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd.

Thairg Iain Aonghas MacAoidh, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, a’ phrìomh bhuidheann le dleastanas airson adhartachadh is leasachadh na Gàidhlig, taic neo-chùmhnantach na buidhne dhaibh. A’ labhairt aig an t-seiminear aig an deireadh-sheachdain, thuirt e: “Tha a’ phròiseact rannsachaidh seo air cuimseachadh gu soilleir air an fheum a th’ ann air oidhirp ioma-ghnìomhach aig ìre coimhearsnachd gus taic a chumail ri daoine nan dachaighean, san sgoil agus sa choimhearsnachd fharsaing, gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi a’ Ghàidhlig ga h-ionnsachadh agus ga cleachdadh. Tha an rannsachadh air cuideachadh leis na prìomhachasan san dàrna Plana Cànain Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a chumadh, agus tha sinn air lorg a-mach gu bheil na prìomhachasan sin air an aontachadh anns gach aon de na 16 coimhearsnachdan, sa bheil sinn air co-chomhairleachadh gu ruige seo.”

’S e coimhearsnachd a th’ ann an Siabost air taobh siar Leòdhais sa bheil saidhbhreas de Ghàidhlig, àireamh àrd sa cheud de fhileantaich agus fìor dheagh-ghean don Ghàidhlig. Am measg phrìomhachasan na buidhne-obrach, bidh dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil foghlam dà-chànanach aig a’ chloinne uile, agus filleadh a-steach na Gàidhlig don bheatha shòisealta is eaconamach. Chuir an comhairliche ionadail, Coinneach Moireach, fàilte air na h-oidhirpean ioma-ghnìomhach agus thuirt e gum faod Gàidhlig ann an Siabost a bhith air a cur air slighe chinnteach le bhith a’ brosnachadh dà-chànanas uile-choitcheann am measg luchd-còmhnaidh Shiaboist air fad. A’ bruidhinn às dèidh na co-labhairt, thuirt e: “Is ann o chionn ghoirid a thòisich daoine ann an coimhearsnachdan mar seo ag aithneachadh buannachdan dà-chànanaid, agus bu chòir meal-a-naidheachd a chur air na pàrantan sin a tha air roghnachadh an cuid chloinne a chlàradh ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ sireadh nam buannachdan sin don chloinne aca. Feumaidh sinn a-nis dèanamh cinnteach gun leudaich sinn a-mach na buannachdan foghlaim dearbhte ann an dà-chànanas gu gach neach sa choimhearsnachd seo. Tha mi a’ cur fàilte air an rannsachadh seo agus an taic a chaidh a thairgsinn don choimhearsnachd leis a’ chomhairle agus leis na buidhnean Gàidhlig mar fhreagairt dha.”

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



## Deireadh

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# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



## For immediate release

### Island community takes initiative to ensure sustainability of Gaelic language

A community in the Western Isles took a major step at the weekend towards ensuring that the Gaelic language remains at the heart of community life, the home, work and education by establishing a community forum, supported by the local authority and Gaelic bodies, to facilitate Gaelic initiatives in the area.

At a seminar held in the village of Shawbost on the island of Lewis on Saturday, the community were presented with the findings of a year-long research project looking at the ability of people within that community in the Gaelic language, the use of Gaelic in daily life, and the attitudes of that community towards Gaelic.

The research, commissioned by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and carried out by a team from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, presented a detailed picture of language ability, attitudes and use in a community in the Western Isles where “facility in Gaelic is dominant”. Dr Gillian Munro, who led the research team, said “We are very grateful for the huge support which people in Shawbost gave this research project. We believe that individual households and communities such as Shawbost must be at the heart of efforts to strengthen the daily use of Gaelic. We welcome the community and agencies’ willingness to work together more closely to ensure that Gaelic remains a community language in Shawbost.”

Although the research showed concerns that the language could die out as a community language within one or two generations, almost 9 out of 10 adults rated Gaelic as central to their identity as people living in the Western Isles. Following strong support at Saturday’s public seminar, the community representatives endorsed a community-led, multi-agency initiative to be set up to ensure the sustainability of the Gaelic language in the community.

Ceannard at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the principal body responsible for the promotion and development of Gaelic, John Angus MacKay, offered the support of the organisation. Speaking at the weekend seminar he said: “This research project has very firmly put the spotlight on the need for concerted action at community level to support people in homes,

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



in school, and in the wider community, to ensure that Gaelic is both learnt and used. The research has helped to shape the priorities in the second National Gaelic Language Plan and we have found that these priorities have been endorsed in every one of the 16 communities we have consulted in so far.”

Shawbost on the west side of the island of Lewis is a community with a wealth of Gaelic, a high percentage of fluent speakers, and goodwill towards Gaelic. The priorities for the new working group include ensuring bilingual education for all children, and integrating Gaelic into social and economic life. Local councillor, Kenneth Murray, welcomed the concerted efforts and said that Gaelic in Shawbost can be put on an assured path by encouraging universal bilingualism among all residents in Shawbost. Speaking after the conference he said: “It is only fairly recently that people in communities like this have recognised the benefits of bilingualism and the parents who have elected to enrol their children in Gaelic-medium education are to be congratulated in seeking to ensure these benefits for their children. We now need to ensure that we extend the proven educational benefits of bilingualism to everyone in this community. I welcome this research, and the support offered to the community by the Council and Gaelic organisations in response to it.”

**Ends**

**For further information please contact Steven MacIver, Communications and Corporate Affairs Officer, at [steven@gaidhlig.org.uk](mailto:steven@gaidhlig.org.uk) or phone 07557 481 081.**

**The following are available for interview:**

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