

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



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## **RANNSACHADH ÙR GA FHOILLSEACHADH A' COMHARRACHADH 25 BLIADHNA DE DH'FHOGHLAM TRO MHEADHAN NA GÀIDHLIG**

**17 An t-Samhain 2010**

Thèid toraidhean aithisg sgrùdaidh farsaing air roghainn agus ruigsinneachd ann am Foghlam tron Gàidhlig (FtG) fhoillseachadh aig co-labhairt ann an Dùn Èideann Diciadain (17mh), nuair a thèid an t-slighe air adhart do dh'fhoghlam Gàidhlig a chur fon phrosbaig. Tha a' cho-labhairt ga cur air dòigh an dèidh 25 bliadhna de dh'fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig le Iris Taigh an Ròid, agus am measg na bhios an làthair le òraidean bidh Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Ionnsachadh fad-Beatha, Micheal Ruiseal, a libhrigeas a' phrìomh òraid. Thuirt am Ministear: "Tha a' Ghàidhlig na pàirt chudromach de chultar agus dualchas na h-Alba. Sin as adhbhar gu bheil an Riaghaltas seo gu buileach taiceil do na h-oidhirpean gus àireamhan an luchd-cleachdaidh fhàs, agus a' dèanamh nas urrainn dhuinn airson ginealach ùr a chruthachadh. "Tha pàirt deatamach aig foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an leasachadh a' chànain agus tha e na thoileachas dhomh gun do dhearbhadh an rannsachadh seo gu bheil clann a tha a' dol tro fhoghlam na Gàidhlig a' dèanamh a' cheart cho math, no nas fheàrr na an comhaoisean. "Tha mi air tadhal air sgoiltean Gàidhlig agus aonadan air feadh Alba agus air dearbhadh dhomh fhìn cho sònraichte 's a tha àrainneachd an ionnsachaidh. Bidh an Curraicealaim airson Sàr-Mhathais na bhuanachd do sgoiltean Gàidhlig, agus do sgoiltean eile na dùthcha le bhith a' beothachadh an fhoghlaim agus ga thoirt air adhart leis a' chloinn fhèin. "Tha mi air mo mhisneachadh leis an fhàs ann am foghlam Gàidhlig anns na bliadhnaichean a th' air a dhol seachad agus tha mi an dòchas gur e slighe a tha sin a mhaireas – gu dearbh, bu chòir gun toireadh an aithisg seo fois-inntinn do phàrantan nach eil ann ach buannachd dhaibh a bhith a' roghnachadh leithid de chlàr foghlaim dhan cuid chloinne." Bidh a' cho-labhairt a' cluinntinn mu lèirsinn Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig; a' conaltradh agus a' deasbad mu rannsachadh ùr a thaobh ruigsinneachd, roghainn agus leantailachd ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig; ag ionnsachadh mu na leasachaidhean as ùire ann am maoinachadh, solar agus liubhairt; a' comharrachadh nan ceumannan a dh'fheumar gus crìonadh sa Ghàidhlig a thilleadh. Thèid toraidhean an rannsachaidh, a chaidh a dhèanamh le Wilson MacLeòid, Fiona O' Hanlon agus Lindsay Paterson bho Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann fhoillseachadh agus a dheasbad aig a' cho-labhairt. Bathas a' coimhead air na bh' air cùl mar a bha pàrantan a' taghadh an cuid chloinne a chur

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gu foghlam Beurla no Gàidhlig, agus buaidh FtG air coileanadh chloinne. Airson roghainnean a rannsachadh, chaidh ochd bun-sgoiltean is àrd-sgoiltean ceangailte a thaghadh, a' riochdachadh gach co-theacs foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Chaidh agallamhan a chumail le ceannardan, oifigearan comhairleachaidh chomhairlean (22 uile gu lèir) agus 55 pàrant chloinne aig ìre bun-sgoil 7 no Àrd-sgoil 2 tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus 30 pàrant le clann aig ìre bun-sgoil 7 no Àrd-sgoil 2 tron Bheurla.

Chaidh ìrean ruigsinneachd chloinne a mheasadh air dà rannsachadh a chaidh a dhèanamh le luchd staitistig Riaghaltas na h-Alba airson 2007: Sgrùdadh Ruigsinneachd na h-Alba agus Sgrùdadh Foghlam na Gàidhlig, a thug a-steach 300 duine cloinne ann am foghlam Gàidhlig agus còrr is 15,000 duine cloinne ann am foghlam àbhaisteach tron Bheurla. Leig seo leis an luchd-rannsachaidh ruigsinneachd chloinne ann am foghlam Gàidhlig a cho-mheasadh ri ruigsinneachd trì buidhnean ann am foghlam àbhaisteach tron Bheurla – gu nàiseanta, anns na h-aon sgoiltean ri clann a' dol tro FtG agus buidheann eile a chaidh a chothromachadh le buidheann chloinne ann am FtG a thaobh gnè, inbhe eaconamach agus sgìre ùghdarrais ionadail. Tha an aithisg a' nochdadh gu bheil sgoilearan ann am FtG a' dèanamh nas fheàrr na an comhaoisean ann am foghlam Beurla ann an leithid leughadh tron Bheurla agus co-dhiù a' cheart cho math ann an leithid saidheans, matamataig agus sgrìobhadh ann am Beurla. Leis an sin, tha iad ag ionnsachadh cànan a bharrachd gun a bhith air an cumail air ais ann an raointean eile den cuid foghlaim.

Tha an rannsachadh cuideachd a' sealltainn gum bi daoine a' roghnachadh FtG don cuid chloinne gus cothrom fhaotainn air dà-chànanas airson buannachdan ionnsachaidh is sgilean ùra cànan, agus cuideachd air sgàth luach cultarach a' chànan mar phàirt de an dualchas teaghlaich, an dualchas coimhearsnachd, no de an dualchas nàiseanta.

Thuir Art MacCarraig, Cathraiche Bhòrd na Gàidhlig: “Tha an rannsachadh seo a' dearbhadh às ùr gu bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a' soirbheachadh dhan chloinn agus a chum math na Gàidhlig anns an fharsaingeachd. Tha clann le Gàidhlig aig a' char as lugha cho ruigsinneach ri an comhaoisean tro fhoghlam na Beurla anns a' mhòr-chuid de shuidheachaidhean. Tha cothroman nas fheàrr aig clann a tha gan oideachadh anns a' Ghàidhlig seach gu bheil iad ag ionnsachadh ann an dà chànan; tha ìre ruigsinneachd air leth aca agus tha iad fosgailte is deiseil airson a dhol an sàs ann am farsaingeachd cultar na h-Alba. “Ann an seagh nas fharsainge, nam bheachd fhìn tha foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' tairgsinn samhla gun choimeas air an Curraicealam airson Sàr-Mhathais a libhrigeadh, agus foghlam Gàidhlig a' snìomh teagasg foirmeil anns an sgoil ri àrainneachd is beatha chloinne san t-saoghal mhòr. Bidh seo a' tachairt le muinntir na coimhearsnachd aig a bheil Gàidhlig a' cuideachadh ann an sgoiltean, agus luchd-malairt le Gàidhlig a' cuideachadh ann an raointean eaconamach. Bidh a' chlann-sgoile fhèin cuideachd an sàs ann an gnothaichean

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cultarail gu cunbhalach, a bharrachd air a bhith an sàs ann an spòrs tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.” Tha amasan dòchasach aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig fàs de 15% a bhuinnig ann an àireamhan de sgoilearan a’ tòiseachadh air foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Bidh seo am feum taic gu math làidir anns na tràth bhliadhnaichean. Bidh feum air co-bhanntachdan gu math làidir le ùghdarrasan ionadail a thaobh a bhith a’ lìbhrigeadh seirbheisean foghlaim. Agus feumaidh sinn pàrantan a bhrosnachadh agus a mhisneachadh chun a’ bharrail gu bheil foghlam Gàidhlig math dhan cuid chloinne, agus gu bheil taic ann dhaibh. Tha barrachd innleachdan againn a-nis a bu chòir a bhith nan cobhair is nam faothachadh do phàrantan ma tha iomnaidh orra nach urrainn dhaibh taic a chumail rin cuid chloinne. Bidh sinn an dòchas gum misnich leithid an rannsachaidh seo barrachd phàrantan gus foghlam Gàidhlig a roghnachadh dhan cuid chloinne.” Am measg an fheadhainn eile a bhios a’ lìubhairt òraidean air an latha, tha an t-Àrd- Ollamh Antonella Sorace bho Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann a tha gu bhith a’ bruidhinn mu na buannachdan a tha ann an dà-chànanas; Seonag NicFhionghain, Stiùiriche Foghlaim Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar agus Donalda NicComb, Ceannard Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Bidh seiseanan ann feasgar far an tèid cinn-teagaisg fa leth a dheasbad leithid foghlam ro-sgoile, bun-sgoile, àrd-sgoile agus foghlam aig àrd-ìre, rannsachadh agus trusadh luchd-teagaisg. Bidh seisean ann cuideachd air an rannsachadh ùr a tha ga fhoillseachadh air an latha, le cothroman air an luchd-rannsachaidh a cheasnachadh.

Thuirteach-labhairt bho Iris Taigh an Ròid: “Suidhichte mu choinneamh cùl-raon de ghearraidhean sa bhuidseat, iarrtas a’ crìonadh ann an cuid de dh’ ùghdarrasan agus mòran iarrtais ann am feadhainn eile, agus deasbad mu mheud chlasaichean ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig, tha dearbhadh na slighe air adhart do FtG na obair ioma-fhillte aig a bheil feum air deasbaireachd fhosgailte le cur-a-steach bho gach neach a tha an sàs ann – luchd-cumaidh phoileasaidhean, luchd-teagaisg agus ceannardan sgoile, ùghdarrasan ionadail, buidhnean le dleastanas gus àrdachadh agus taic a thoirt don Ghàidhlig agus do phàrantan le ùidh ann am foghlam Gàidhlig.” Bidh a’ cho-labhairt, air a stiùireadh le Iain Moireasdan bho McGarvie Morrison Media, a’ tòiseachadh aig 08.45 le clàradh.

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## **GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH NEW RESEARCH**

**17 November 2010**

The findings from a new report on attainment in Gaelic medium education (GME), and on reasons why parents choose it, will be presented at a major conference in Edinburgh on Wednesday (17th), celebrating 25 years of GME and looking ahead to further developments. The conference is being organised by Holyrood Magazine and the keynote speakers include Michael Russell MSP, Minister for Education and Lifelong learning in the Scottish Cabinet. Michael Russell said: "The Gaelic language is an important part of Scotland's culture and heritage. That's why this Government is absolutely committed to growing the language and doing everything we can to create a new generation of Gaelic speakers.

"Gaelic medium education has a crucial part to play in the development of the language and I am pleased this research has found that pupils in Gaelic medium education do as well or better than their peers. "I've visited Gaelic Medium schools and units across Scotland and have seen for myself the positive learning environment. Curriculum for Excellence will benefit Gaelic schools, as with all our schools, by bringing learning to life and increasing hands on learning.

"I am heartened by the growth in Gaelic Education in recent years and hope that this trend continues - and certainly this report should give parents reassurance that choosing this path for their children will only benefit their educational journey."

The conference will debate several issues relating to GME including the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig's strategy for development; the outcomes of new research on why people choose or do not choose GME and on pupil attainment in GME; updates on funding arrangements, methods and provision and discussion on steps which have to be taken to reverse the decline in the number of Gaelic speakers. The conference will also mark the publication of the research conducted by Fiona O' Hanlon, Wilson McLeod and Lindsay Paterson of the University of Edinburgh into why people choose or do not choose Gaelic-medium education for their children, and what its effects are on pupils' attainment.

To investigate choice, eight primary-secondary school pairs were selected, covering the range of contexts across Scotland in which Gaelic-medium education is provided. Interviews

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were conducted with the schools' headteachers and Local Authority Gaelic advisers (22 in total), with 55 parents of pupils in Primary 7 or Secondary 2 Gaelic medium and with 30 parents of pupils in Primary 7 or Secondary 2 English medium.

Pupil attainment was studied mainly using two surveys conducted by Scottish Government statisticians in 2007: the Scottish Survey of Achievement, and the Survey of Gaelic Education, covering some 300 pupils in Gaelic-medium education and over 15,000 pupils in English-medium education. These enabled comparison of the attainment of Gaelic-medium pupils with three groups of English-medium pupils: nationally; in the same schools as Gaelic-medium pupils; and in a group matched to be similar to the Gaelic-medium pupils with regard to gender, socio-economic status and local authority area.

The findings show that pupils undertaking GME perform better than their English-medium peers in English reading and at least as well in science, mathematics and English writing. Thus they acquire or develop an additional language without diminishing their attainment in other areas of the curriculum. The research also provides an insight into the motivation of parents in choosing GME for their children. Parents believed that learning bilingually provides cognitive stimulation, and additional skills in learning further languages. Some parents also value the Gaelic language as part of their family, community or national heritage.

Arthur Cormack, Cathraiche (Chair) of Bòrd na Gàidhlig said: "We welcome this report which adds to a growing body of research confirming that Gaelic education is a success for the pupils involved, and for the Gaelic language. This report shows that attainment among Gaelic pupils is at least as good as that of their peers educated in English. Pupils in Gaelic medium education gain an advantage by being educated in two languages, their attainment is excellent, and they gain access to important aspects of Scottish culture." "More generally, in my opinion, Gaelic medium education offers an unrivalled model in delivering the new Curriculum for Excellence, incorporating teaching across subjects within the school context, and with many aspects reinforced by the experiences offered to Gaelic medium pupils outwith the classroom environment. These involve Gaelic-speaking people from the community helping in schools, and Gaelic-speaking business people assisting with enterprise projects. Pupils also take part in Gaelic cultural activities on a regular basis, as well as in sporting activities conducted in Gaelic. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has ambitious growth targets of 15% year-on-year in pupil numbers entering Gaelic medium education. This will require a strong, properly supported early years sector. It will require strong partnerships with local authorities to deliver school education. It also needs parents to be persuaded that a Gaelic education is good for their children, and that support is available for them. There is a growing number of mechanisms in place which should allay any fears parents have of not

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being able to support their children in Gaelic education and we hope that earlier research, and this latest report, will help in persuading more and more parents to choose a Gaelic education for their child.” Other keynote speakers at the Conference include Professor Antonella Sorace from Edinburgh University who will speak about the advantages of bilingualism; Joan MacKinnon Director of Education in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; and Donalda McComb Head Teacher of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, the Glasgow Gaelic School. There will be sessions in the afternoon debating key issues in areas such as pre-school provision, primary and secondary education and the tertiary sector, research and teacher recruitment. There will also be a session devoted to debating the findings of the newly published report summarised above.

A spokesperson from Holyrood Magazine said: “Set against a backdrop of looming budget cuts, declining demand in some local authorities and over subscription in others, and debate over class sizes in Gaelic schools, determining the best way forward for GME is a complex task that requires open discussion with input from everyone involved – policy makers, teachers and headteachers, local authorities, organisations with a remit to support or promote Gaelic and parents interested in GME.” The Conference, which will be led by John Morrison of McGarvie Morrison Media, begins at 0845 with Registration.