

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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Letter from Bòrd na Gàidhlig Cathraiche to The Herald

20 August 2011

The Editor

The Herald
200 Renfield Street
Glasgow
G2 3QB

19.08.2011

By e-mail letters@theherald.co.uk

Dear Sir

It is extremely disappointing that The Herald descended into putting a negative spin on what is a positive piece of research on the Gaelic language in its article of 19 August - Survey reveals degree of apathy among Scots towards Gaelic - in which it is declared "Half of Scots are either ambivalent towards or oppose the use of the Gaelic."

As highlighted in the research report, some people may never have had the opportunity to engage in any way with the Gaelic language. Given the small percentage of the Scottish population who currently speak Gaelic, half the population in favour of Gaelic would actually be a good result.

But this report, Attitudes Towards the Gaelic Language, is much better than that. 81% feel it is important that Scotland does not lose its Gaelic language traditions while 70% think there should be more opportunities to learn Gaelic. 65% think more should be done to promote Gaelic in Scotland and 53% would like to see more Gaelic in Scottish life.

The Herald should pay attention to the Scottish public - its readers - as this report in fact reconfirms the findings of earlier research. Each time the Scottish public has been asked the majority have supported the maintenance of the Gaelic language and recognised the need for greater access to learning the language.

Gaelic as a language for the whole of Scotland which, in practice, means making it accessible to anyone who wishes to learn the language in or out of school, appreciate Gaelic through the arts and media or use Gaelic in the home and community. The Gaelic language

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contributes much to Scottish cultural life as well as to the Scottish economy and is, for an increasing number of people, a firm part of their lives in modern day Scotland.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Arthur Cormack

Cathraiche