Abair Gàidhlig!
May is Gaelic Month in Nova Scotia and this year, it was the month that the Office of Gaelic Affairs launched a new initiative, called Abair Gàidhlig! or in English, Talk About Gaelic!

“We chose this theme because we want to start a conversation in Nova Scotia about what Gaelic is and why it is important to the province,” explained Lewis MacKinnon, CEO of the Office of Gaelic Affairs.

Gaelic Month also saw the Office of Gaelic Affairs’ introduction of posters and pamphlets to accompany this initiative. The slogan “Abair Gàidhlig!” features prominently on the colourful and eye-catching posters, along with pictures of people of all ages from the Nova Scotian Gaelic community.

“With the posters, you get a picture of what our culture is like today,” explained MacKinnon. “It’s a living, exciting culture and there are opportunities for everybody to take part in it.”

In the pamphlet, you will find information about the history, language, and culture of the Gaels in Nova Scotia, in addition to information about the Office of Gaelic Affairs itself.

The posters and pamphlets have been distributed to schools and libraries in the province, as well as to other governmental departments and to Gaelic groups throughout Nova Scotia.

If your community group is interested in receiving posters or pamphlets from the Office of Gaelic Affairs, please get contact us.
Cuiribh Fàilte air FIOS:
Buidheann Ghàidhlig as Ùire ann an Albainn Nuaidh

A bheil fios agaibh dè th’ ann am FIOS?
’S e buidheann-stiùrìdh a th’ innte, air a chur air dòigh ’sa bhliadhna seo, gu taic a thoir do phrógraman bogaidh stèidhte ’sa choimhearsnachd ann an Albainn Nuaidh.
’S e an t-ainm slàn a th’ aig a’ bhuidhinn FIOS: An Comunn airson Ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig aig Baile. Tha an geàrr-ainm FIOS a’ seasamh airson Forthais, Inneachd, Oideachas, Seirbhisean; a’ cur an cèill an rùn iomlan a th’ aig a’ bhuidhinn.

‘S e Alba Nuadh an aon sgìre san t-saoghal far a bheil Mìos na Gàidhlig air a comharrachadh gu h-oifigeil.

Leis na modhannan ùra a th’ air a bhith an toirt a-steach ’sa mhór-roinn gus Gàidhlig a theagaisg do dh’ inbhich, bha aontachadh ann gu rohb feum ann air buidheann gus taic a thoir dhà na càrsaichean bogaidh a th’ a’ ruith ’sna coimhearsnachdan agus airson an leasachd.

An robh fhios agaibh?
’S e Alba Nuadh an aon sgìre san t-saoghal far a bheil Mìos na Gàidhlig air a comharrachadh gu h-oifigeil.

Welcome FIOS:
Nova Scotia’s Newest Gaelic Organization

What is FIOS?

FIOS is a steering group which has been created this year to support community-based immersion programs in Nova Scotia.

The full name of the organization is FIOS: An Comunn airson Ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig aig Baile, FIOS: The Society for Community Gaelic Language Instruction Through Immersion. The word FIOS means “knowledge” and the individual letters stand for Forthais, Inneachd, Oideachas, Seirbhisean: Information, Strategy, Tutorial, Services; drawing together into a whole the different aspects of the organization.

With the new methodologies for teaching Gaelic to adults that have been introduced to the province, it was agreed that there was need of a group that would foster and develop immersion courses ongoing in communities.

One of the first tasks of FIOS was to introduce a new name for the immersion courses that have now been running in the province for over a year. Many people in the Gaelic community will recognize Total Immersion Plus as the name of the teaching methodology employed in the immersion courses. But the courses themselves will become known in Nova Scotia by the name Gàidhlig aig Baile, which means Gaelic in the Community. This highlights the fact that these courses are community based, and are in particular an initiative of the Gaelic community in Nova Scotia.

If you would like to be involved in the steering group for Gàidhlig aig Baile courses, contact FIOS: gaidhligaigbaile@gmail.com

Did you know?
Nova Scotia is the only place in the world with an officially recognized Gaelic Awareness Month.
Buill Bòrd úr FhIOS: An Comunn airson Ionnasachadh na Gàidhlig aig Baile ann an coinneimh ann an Siudaig. Bhò chì gu deas: Clarainds Mac’Ill’Innein, Seumas Dòmhnullach Tadhg Aggett, Dwayne Mac Eachairn, Peigi NicGill’Iosa, Eòsag Nic an t’-Saoir.

Board Members of the newly created FIOS: An Comunn airson Ionnasachadh na Gàidhlig aig Baile organization in a meeting in Judique. From left to right: Clarence MacLennan, Shamus MacDonald, Tim Aggett, Dwayne MacEachern, Peggy Gillis, Joanne MacIntyre.

Prìomh Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig a’ fosgladh a dh’ aithghearr

Bidh prìomh Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig a’ fosgladh anns a’ Bhaile Mhòr an ceartuair. Bidh an oifis seo suidhichte air an t-Sràid Àird, àireamh 55. Bidh iar-oifisean eile suidhichte ann am Màbu agus ann an Halafacs.

Bithear a’ cur amach a thaobh mion-chunntasan an fosglaidh.

Main Gaelic Affairs Office Opening Soon

This main Office for Gaelic Affairs will soon open in Antigonish. The office will be located at 55 Main Street. Secondary offices will be located in Mabou and Halifax.

Notice will be sent out pertaining to details for the opening.

An robh fhios againn?

Ann an 1900, bha 100 000 luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach ann an Albainn Nuaidh.

Did you know?

In 1900, there were 100 000 Gaelic speakers living in Nova Scotia.
Comharraidhean Rathaide Dà-chànanach ann an Albainn Nuaidh

Nuair a bhios muinntir na h-Albann Nuaidh is luchd-tadhail airead na mór-roinne as t-samhradh seo, bidh rudeigin úr a’ glacadh an aire: airson a’ chid turas, chithear comharraidhean rathaide oifigeil ‘sa Ghàidhlig agus ‘sa Bheurla ann an Albainn Nuaidh. S’e toradh polileasaidh úr, leasaichte le Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig a th’ anns na comharraidhean seo.

Ma bhios coimhearsnachd sam bith ‘sna seachd siorramachdan an ear an Albann Nuaidh ag iarraidh comharradhean crice Gàidhlig is Beurla a chur an-àird, feumaidh an roinn iomadaidh gabhail ri reachd. Às deoghaidh sin, obrachaidh Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig cómhla ris a’ chomhhearsnachd gus ainmean-làte Gàidhlig freagarrach a chur air dòigh airson an cleachdadh air na comharraidhean crice. An uair sin, cuiridh Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig iarrtas do Roinn na Comhdhalach is Oifis Iomairtean Poblach airson nan comharraidhean a chur an-àird.

Gu ruige seo, tha comharraidhean crice dà-chànanach ri fhaicinn ann an àitichean mar Eilean na Nollaig, An Caolas Mòr, An Caolas Beag, Sanndraidh, is Baghasdail. An-dràsta, tha comharraidhean a’ dol suas ann an iomadh coimhearsnachd ann an Siorrachadh Antaiginis, agus thathar an dùil ri comharraidhean crice ann an feadhainn dhe na coimhearsnachd ann an Siorrachadh Phictou agus ann an àitichean a bharachd ann an Ceap Breatuinn ‘sna miosan ri teacdhd.

Bilingual Road Signs in Nova Scotia

When Nova Scotians and visitors are travelling throughout the province this summer, something new will catch their eye: for the first time, official road signs in Gaelic and English can be seen in Nova Scotia. These signs are a result of a new policy developed by the Office of Gaelic Affairs.

If any community in the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia wants Gaelic and English boundary signs, a motion must be passed on the municipal level. The Office of Gaelic Affairs then works with the community to establish the appropriate Gaelic place names to be used on the boundary signs. The Office of Gaelic Affairs then forwards a request to the Department of Transportation and Public Works for the signs to be erected.

Presently, bilingual boundary signs can be found in places such as Christmas Island, Grand Narrows, Little Narrows, Iona and Boisdale. Signs are currently being erected in various communities in Antigonish County, while bilingual boundary signs are expected some communities in Pictou County and in additional parts of Cape Breton in the coming months.
Turas a dh’ Albainn, Éirinn agus Èirinn a’ Chinn a Tuath
An t-Sultain 2006

Anns an t-Sultain ‘sa chaidh, shiubhail Ministear Iomairtean na Gàidhlig, Aonghas MacÌosaig, a dh’ Albainn, Éirinn agus Èirinn a’ Chinn a Tuath, còmhla ri Lodaidh MacFhionghain, Ceannard Oilfìs Iomairtean na Gàidhlig agus Frangach NicEachaìn, Ban-Ofìgear a’ Chultair. ‘B e rùn an turais a bhith a’ neartachadh cheanglaichean eadar Alba Nuadh is na sgìrean seo, pàirtean eile dhen Ghàidhealtachd eadarnàiseanta.

Trip to Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland
September 2006

Last September, Minister for Gaelic Affairs Angus MacIsaac travelled to Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland, accompanied by Lewis MacKinnon, CEO of the Office of Gaelic Affairs, and Frances MacEachen, Cultural Officer. The goal of the visit was to strengthen links between Nova Scotia and these other areas, which are part of the international Gàidhealtachd.

Ministear Iomairtean na Gàidhlig, Aoghnas MacÌosaig, Lodaidh MacFhionghain, Fear-Chomhairleach agus as deoghaidh cèllidh agus cùmhraidhean ris an luchd-obrach, Scol na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaiochta, An Coláiste Ollscoile, Éireann (Sgoil na Gàidhlig, Litréachais Ceiltich, Beul-oidéis agus Teangaireachd)

Minister for Gaelic Initiatives, Angus MacIsaac and Lewis MacKinnon, Advisor after visiting and discussions with Staff at UCD (University College Dublin) School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics.

Dè tha anns a’ Ghàidhealtachd?
’S ann anns a’ Ghàidhealtachd na h’àitichean far a bheil cultar is cànan nan Gàidheal a’ tighinn beò.

What is the Gàidhealtachd?
The Gàidhealtachd refers to the places where a living Gaelic language and culture is found.
Comhairle na Gàidhlig

‘S e buidheann neo-prothaid a th’ ann an Comhairle na Gàidhlig, a bhios ag obair gus cànán is cultar nan Gàidheal a ghlèidheadh is a chur air adhart ann an Albainn Nuaidh. ‘S e buidheann sgàilean a th’ anns a’ Chomhairle, a bhios a’ riochdachadh dhaoine, buidhnean, agus buidhnean coimhearsnachd taobh a-staigh coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig.

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhlig air a bhith ag obair air iomadh pròiseact a bhios a’ toirt buannachd dhan a’ Ghaidhlig ann an Albainn Nuaidh. Tha a’ Chomhairle an sàs ann an prògraman bogaidh stèidhte ‘sna coimhearsnachdan agus a bharrachd air ionairtean eile mar Eilean nan Òg, program foghlaimeachd airson òigridh, agus Caint mo Mhàthar, iomairt obrach-làraich air a dhealbhadh gus Gàidhlig lìthiste, ghnàthasach a chlàradh. Bìdh seò ann mar stòras os cionn luach airson luchd-dealbhadh, luchd-teagaisg, agus com-pàirtichean ann am prògraman bogaidh ‘sna coimhearsnachdan.

‘Na bhunnnacht mhór ‘sna beagan mhiosan sa chaithd, ‘s e Seumas Dòmhnallach, a’ chlaid Oifigear Riaghlaidh lìr thith aig a’ Chomhairle, stèidhte ann an Sandraigh.

Lorgar barrachd fhiosrachaidh air làrach-lìn Comhairle na Gàidhlig: www.gaelic.ca

The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia

The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia is a non-profit society dedicated to the maintenance and promotion of the Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia. The Council is an umbrella organization that represents individuals, organizations and community groups within the Gaelic community.

The Gaelic Council has been working on several projects that will benefit Gaelic in Nova Scotia. The council is actively engaged in community language immersion programming as well as other initiatives, such as Eilean nan Òg, a Gaelic youth apprenticeship program, and Cainnt mo Mhathar, a fieldwork initiative designed to record idiomatic, everyday Gaelic. This will be an invaluable resource for those designing, teaching and attending community immersion programs.

Of great advantage in the past few months has been the Council’s first full-time Administrative Officer, Shamus MacDonald, based in Iona.

More information can be found on the Gaelic Council website: www.gaelic.ca


Administrative Officer Shamus MacDonald addresses Gaelic Council members at the Council’s Annual General Meeting, Judique, May 2007.
Frangag NicEachainn: Ban-Oifigear a’ Chultair

Is Frangag NicEachainn Ban-Oifigear a’ Chultair aig Ofis Iomairtean na Gaidhlig. Bha i air a bhith ag obair fo Roinn na Turasachd, a’ Chultair is an Dualchais, ach ghluais an dreuchd aice gu Ofis Iomairtean na Gaidhlig sa Ghiblean, 2007.

Stéidhte ann am Màbu, bidh a’ Bh-Uas NicEachainn a’ toirt an aire air Phrògram Gniomhan Gàidhlig, a bhios a’ toirt maoineachadh do bhuidhnean Gàidhlig ‘sa choimhearsnachd, agus a’ gabhail a’ chinn air pròiseactan sònraichte a thaobh leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus am Meòrachan Còrdaidh eadar Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd is Alba Nuadh.

Frances MacEachen: Cultural Officer

Frances MacEachen is the Office of Gaelic Affairs’ Cultural Officer. Previously employed by the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage, Ms. MacEachen’s position was transferred to the Office of Gaelic Affairs in April, 2007.

Based in Mabou, Ms. MacEachen administers the Gaelic Activities Program which provides funding to Gaelic community groups, as well as looking after particular Gaelic development projects and the Memorandum of Understanding between Highland Council, Scotland, and Nova Scotia.

Caitlìn NìRodaigh: Cuidiche Rianachail

‘S e cuidiche rianachail Ofis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig a th’ ann an Caitlin NìRodaigh, stéidhte ann an Halafacs. Bidh i ag obair air pròiseactan mar eadar-theangachadh Gàidhlig airson lìrach-lìn OIG, agus a’ toirt fiosrachadh do dhaoine mu chothroman iomsachaidh Gàidhlig anns na coinmhearsnachdan aca.

Kathleen Reddy: Administrative Assistant

Kathleen Reddy is the Office of Gaelic Affairs’ Administrative Assistant, based in Halifax. She works on projects such as Gaelic translation for the OGA website, and providing individuals with information about Gaelic language learning opportunities in their communities.
Permanent CEO named

The Office of Gaelic Affairs has taken another step in the development and promotion of the Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia by naming a permanent chief executive officer.

Longtime Gaelic-language promoter Lewis MacKinnon, who had been acting in the position, will continue as permanent CEO after winning a competition for the job.

Mr. MacKinnon has many years of experience as a business manager and has been a champion of the Gaelic language.

Minister responsible for Gaelic Affairs Angus MacIsaac says Mr. MacKinnon has the perspective and experience required to address the important work of Gaelic renewal and development in Nova Scotia.

A’ sireadh fios a bharrachd mun Ghàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd agaibh? Cuiribh fòn gu Ofis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig aig 1-888-U-GAELIC no cuiribh post-d thugainn: gaelicinfo@gov.ns.ca fiosgaardhlig@gov.na.ca

Looking for more information about Gaelic in your community? Call the Office of Gaelic Affairs at 1-888-U-GAELIC or email us: gaelicinfo@gov.ns.ca fiosgaardhlig@gov.na.ca