

## Gaelic Language in Community Program

### Background

In 2004 the Province of Nova Scotia introduced the Gaelic Activities Program to assist community organizations in increasing language learning opportunities in Nova Scotia, as well as opportunities to raise awareness of Gaelic language and culture. Since then, 53 organizations have held 154 activities to advance Gaelic in the province.

The growth of Gaelic activity has created more Gaelic learners in communities, schools and universities. Consultation with individuals and communities identified a need for greater opportunity to *use* the language socially. Languages cannot be maintained if not used in intimate environments of home and community. Since natural Gaelic immersion situations no longer exist, they have to be created. The first priority of the Gaelic Language in Community Program is to increase immersion opportunities to learn and speak Gaelic.

Although Gaelic has been spoken for several generations in communities in Nova Scotia, there remains much work to be done to create greater awareness of the language, its history, culture and its importance to the present and future of a diverse Nova Scotia. The second priority of the program is to create greater awareness, interest and involvement in Gaelic language and culture.

The Office of Gaelic Affairs recognizes that Gaelic has been spoken in Nova Scotia for more than 200 years, and within that time a unique Nova Scotia Gaelic identity has been nurtured. As well as songs, poetry, stories and music brought over and preserved from Gaelic Scotland, Gaels in Nova Scotia have supplemented this tradition with songs, music, oral history and stories composed to reflect their homes and communities in Nova Scotia. Supporting and enhancing a Nova Scotia Gaelic identity among speakers who live in Nova Scotia is an objective under both priorities. It is important for applicants to explain how their projects and activities are based on and nurture a Nova Scotia Gaelic identity.

The Gaelic Language in Community Program replaces the Gaelic Activities Program in the Office of Gaelic Affairs.



## **Priority 1: Increase immersion opportunities to learn and speak Gaelic**

In the document *Developing and Preserving Gaelic in Nova Scotia*, the first priority was to increase the number of Gaelic speakers. Language research indicates this is best done by increasing **immersion** opportunities to learn and use the language at home and in community spaces. The Gaelic Language in Community Program can support projects that meet the following goals:

1. increase the number of Gaelic immersion learning opportunities
2. increase the number of opportunities for Gaelic speakers to use the language
3. instil a Nova Scotia Gaelic identity among Gaelic speakers in the province
4. continue to develop a positive attitude toward speaking Gaelic in Nova Scotia

This can include, but is not limited to, the follow activities **which would be done through Gaelic**:

- Gaelic learning opportunities
- Gaelic activities targeted at certain groups (youth, adults) or activities for all ages i.e. sports, gardening, crafts, cooking, carpentry, outdoor recreation.
- Gaelic song, music and storytelling opportunities

***Funding allocated under this priority would not normally exceed \$5,000 per project or initiative.***

## **Priority 2: Increase awareness, involvement and interest in Gaelic language and culture**

Not everyone is ready to participate in a Gaelic immersion environment. Gaels need to reach out to people who may become Gaelic learners and who are supporters of the language and culture. The Gaelic Language in Community Program can support projects that meet the following goals:

1. Raise awareness and appreciation of Nova Scotia's distinct Gaelic legacy: its heritage, music, dance, song and storytelling traditions and customs
2. Provide opportunities for Nova Scotians to experience Gaelic language and culture
3. instil a Nova Scotia Gaelic identity among Gaelic speakers and learners
4. continue to develop a positive attitude toward speaking Gaelic in Nova Scotia

This can include, but is not limited to:

- Community non-immersion Gaelic language classes
- Workshops in song, storytelling, Gaelic history, culture and tradition
- Gaelic awareness promotional material (This does not include Gaelic or bilingual signs)

***Funding allocated under this priority would not normally exceed \$2,000 per project or initiative.***



**Deadlines for 2009 only: August 15 and November 15.**

**Deadlines for 2010 forward: February 15 and August 15.**

### **Eligibility**

An eligible applicant is a non-profit community organization within Nova Scotia that is registered as joint stocks entity with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.

### **Level of Funding**

Funding awarded will not normally exceed 75 per cent of eligible costs. The organization's contribution of 25 per cent can include approved in-kind costs, but must include at least a 10 percent cash contribution. The applicant's 25 percent contribution cannot include funding from other provincial or federal government departments.

### **Application Guidelines and Procedure**

1. Applicants **are strongly encouraged** to contact the Community Development Officer directly to discuss their proposed activity before completing the application form.
2. Applicants should ensure professional instructors/leaders of immersion classes and social activities are fluent speakers, or are working with support of fluent speakers.
3. Applicants should ensure professionals who lead non-immersion language classes are advanced Gaelic learners or fluent speakers. Professionals who lead workshops on Gaelic Nova Scotia should have proven knowledge and experience of Nova Scotia's Gaelic language and culture.
4. Activities can start no earlier than the deadline date.
5. It is strongly recommended that an application be submitted to a deadline, which is at least 6 weeks prior to the start date of the proposed activity.
6. It is recommended that those preparing the application involve other members of their organization in the process of developing and writing their proposal.
7. Completed application forms must be signed, by the chair of the organization or a designate, and dated. Please keep a copy of your application for your files.
8. Applications must be postmarked on or prior to the deadline date to be eligible. If the deadline date should fall on a weekend or holiday, applications that are received or postmarked for the following business day will be accepted.



9. The applicant must submit a final report within 60 days following completion of the project. A final report form will be sent from the Office of Gaelic Affairs to the applicant.
10. An applicant that has an outstanding final report for a project funded under previous deadlines cannot apply for another project until the outstanding final report has been received and approved.
11. The Gaelic Language in Community Program does not fund in-school or after-school Gaelic programming, which can be supported through the Department of Education's Gaelic Language Program Grants. For more information contact the Department of Education at 424-5436 or email: fedorcm@gov.ns.ca

**Send applications to: Office of Gaelic Affairs, P.O. Box 261 Mabou, Nova Scotia B0E 1X0, or fax (902) 945-2628. For more information call (902) 945-2114.**

## **Application Assessment**

Applications are reviewed by the Community Development Officer in the Office of Gaelic Affairs for completeness and eligibility. They then are assessed and scored by an External Assessment Panel, consisting of the Community Development Officer and community representatives. The panel's recommendations are forwarded to the CEO and Minister of Gaelic Affairs for review and final decision.

Applications will be assessed by using a score sheet that assigns a numerical value to the applicant's answers to questions in the application form. A copy of this score sheet is available on request. Be sure to answer each question clearly and directly as panel members can only assess applications on the information provided. Consideration will be given to the applicant's knowledge and experience and their ability to successfully complete the project.

Your application will be strengthened if you can show how your project or activity builds on or complements Gaelic language development work you have done previously or that of other organizations in the province. It is important to demonstrate your project is well planned and that it will be evaluated at its conclusion.

