

**Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig  
Office of Gaelic Affairs**

**Aithisg na Cunntachalachd  
Accountability Report**

**A' toirt iomraidh air a' Bhliadhna Ionmhasail  
Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009**

An 30 amh dhen Òg Mhios  
June 30<sup>th</sup>

2009

## **An Clàr**

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**Aithris na Cunntachalachd**  
**Accountability Statement**

The accountability report of the Office of Gaelic Affairs (OGA) for the year ended March 31, 2009 is prepared pursuant to the Provincial Finance Act and government policies and guidelines.

These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the OGA business plan information for the fiscal year 2008 - 2009.

The reporting of the OGA outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions made by the OGA.

The OGA acknowledges that this accountability report is the responsibility of the OGA management.

The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the OGA business plan for the year.

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Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister

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Lewis MacKinnon, Chief Executive Officer

## **Teachdaireachd o'n Bhana-Mhinistear**

### **Message from the Minister**

As recently appointed Minister for the Office of Gaelic Affairs (OGA), it is my pleasure to present the 2008 - 2009 Accountability Report for the OGA. This document highlights the work undertaken to further the objectives of the OGA which tie in directly with those of the province.

Gaelic language and its attendant culture make numerous contributions socially, educationally and economically to our province. Gaelic has been spoken and its rich culture has been expressed in Nova Scotia for over 230 years. It is part of the Nova Scotia experience.

The OGA's Mission is to work with Nova Scotians in the development of the province's Gaelic resource. This resource is a true asset for all Nova Scotians to be proud of, take part in and share with others. Through its work, the OGA has recognized that community can be reinvigorated and built via language learning and bringing groups together to learn, share, further develop initiatives and projects that involve Nova Scotians living, working and staying in our communities.

The OGA's work to date is rooted in the belief that sustainable development and self reliance for Gaelic in Nova Scotia and their communities is accomplished through partnerships – between and among communities and governments. Innovative and practical solutions are best achieved through collaborative strategies and action, which require properly developed and maintained relationships.

During the 2008 - 2009 fiscal year, the OGA undertook a number of key initiatives with the Gaelic community of the province and government partners. The following highlight the OGA's work:

- ✓ Response to Our Celtic Culture – Department of Education Curriculum
- ✓ Bun is Bàrr – Mentorship Pilot Project supported by funding from the Department of Seniors
- ✓ Ceilidh House Meetings
- ✓ Media Monitoring Report
- ✓ OGA website educational updates
- ✓ Gaelic Awareness Month
- ✓ Lunch and Learn Series
- ✓ Poster of Gaelic Map of Province

The activities detailed in this 2008 – 2009 Accountability Report are the result of significant effort and dedication on the part of the Gaelic community and numerous government partners, as well as the OGA's staff.

I encourage you to take the time to read through this report.

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Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister

## **Roi-Ràdh**

### **Introduction**

The 2008 - 2009 fiscal year marks the first accountability report submitted by the Office of Gaelic Affairs (OGA).

This fiscal year, the OGA continues to work with Gaelic Nova Scotia communities, all levels of government and Gaelic stakeholders to coordinate sustainable strategies to improve support for Gaelic and the development and sustainability of Gaelic communities to the betterment of the province.

This accountability report is based upon the OGA's strategic goals and priorities as described in the OGA's 2008 - 2009 business plan. It is intended to inform and update both government and the public of the OGA's achievements and progress as well as those areas where work continues.

It is suggested that this report be read in conjunction with the OGA's 2008 - 2009 Business Plan, which may be found at [www.gov.ns.ca/oga](http://www.gov.ns.ca/oga)

**Earrainn a' Phrìomh Ghnìomhachais**  
**Core Business Areas**

**Fiosrachadh na Gàidhlig**  
**Gaelic Awareness**

To support community based projects and activities that increase learning opportunities, create awareness and appreciation of Gaelic language and culture. This Core Business Area was achieved through:

*GAP (Gaelic Activities Program) funding*

**Iomairtean 's a' Choimhearsnachd**  
**Community Initiatives**

To assist Nova Scotia Gaelic organizations, societies and institutions to develop greater self-reliance and develop policies and program initiatives and focuses that assist Gaelic development at the community level. This was achieved through:

*Facilitation, consultation, communication and awareness and support*

**Compàirtichean 's a' Riaghaltas**  
**Government Partnerships**

To partner with other government departments and agencies for the purpose of developing programs and creating initiatives that serve to further Gaelic language and cultural development in the community. This was achieved through:

*Communication, dialogue and active participation interdepartmental committees and panels*

**Compàirtichean Eadarnàiseanta**  
**International Partnerships**

To facilitate sharing of resources, ideas, skills and experience between Nova Scotia and Highland Council, Scotland under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This was achieved through:

*Communication, dialogue, information exchange and the active pursuing of mutually beneficial and manageable agreements such as the MOU with Highland Council, Scotland*

**Compàirtichean Eile**  
**Other Partnerships**

To further strengthen and enhance relationships with other Gaelic regions. This is achieved through:

*the request for associate membership in Colm Chille (The Columba Initiative) and further contact and exchange with Ireland*

## **Amasan Roi-innleachdail agus Toradh Strategic Goals and Outcomes**

### **A. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**

**Strategic Goal** To enhance the linguistic, cultural and economic development of the Gaelic community in the province

### **A. Toradh**

**Outcomes** A number of initiatives undertaken in the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year tie into this strategic goal and have helped the OGA created a focused approach to planning. Two of the key areas that are critical to the OGA’s work is programming at the community level that can have the greatest impact are:

- A.1. Bun is Bàrr – a Gaelic language and culture expression mentorship program in the fall of 2008
- A.2. Better directed and specific funding through the Gaelic Activities Program (GAP) fund towards Gaelic language acquisition and usage at the community level.

### **B. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**

**Strategic Goal** To increase level of research and planning to achieve realistic, achievable strategy approach for Gaelic language and culture within government

### **B. Toradh**

**Outcomes** Paipear Comhairleachaidh do dh’Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig (Refining and Growing a Community-based Gaelic Immersion Methodology for Nova Scotia). Acknowledging Nova Scotia as a *Gàidhealtachd* having regional differences brings recognition of the rich opportunities its diversity contains for Gaelic renewal through immersion. Drawing on the past to plan for the future, language renewal can foster legitimate local identity, not just by learning Gaelic, but through validating that which communities know as their own.

Factors distinguishing the Nova Scotia *Gàidhealtachd* by region:

1. Geographic origins in Gaelic Scotland
2. Kinship network
3. Religious adherence
4. Local economy
5. Social customs
6. History of settlement
7. Dialect
8. Musical expression
9. Story corpuses
10. Song corpuses
11. Food specialties

**C. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**  
**Strategic Goal**

To enhance ongoing awareness programs that assist in developing greater awareness, appreciation, understanding and prestige for Gaelic through the following:

**C. Toradh**  
**Outcomes**

- Gaelic Awareness Month (May)
- Media Monitoring Report
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Translation
- Gaelic signage
- Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage VIC (Visitor Information Centre) Staff training presentation
- Gaelic language and culture workshop – presentation to teachers on language learning methodologies
- Louise Stewart – BBC Scotland
- Gaelic Awareness Month – Lunch and Learn
- US Consulate meeting
- Presentation to RDAs - Department of Economic Development
- Presentation to management teams in the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, Tourism and Culture divisions

**D. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**  
**Strategic Goal**

To maintain and better develop funding and services that directly support community initiatives

**D. Toradh**  
**Outcomes**

**Bun is Bàrr** – a Gaelic mentorship program designed to bring advanced Gaelic speakers to high levels of fluency by way of working with a mentor and native Gaelic speakers – focus is on

creating immersion learning situation and strong focus on local Gaelic cultural expression and use of primary sources of expression

**Gàidhlig aig Baile** – support for Gaelic language and cultural programs in the community that focus on language acquisition and usage. Use of immersion to transmit language supported through the Gàidhlig aig Baile programs.

### **Gaelic Activity Program (GAP) funding**

52 programs/initiatives held throughout the province, supported via GAP funding

### **Other Programs Assisted**

- Gaelic Council program and administrative funding support
- Cruinneachadh nan Gaidheal (Gathering of the Gaels) a festival designed to showcase Nova Scotia Gaelic culture
- Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig (Gaelic language Research Conference) St.F.X. University, Celtic Studies
- Gaelic language teacher practicum training (Scotland)
- Support for Irish Cultural Community initiatives
- Support for Gaelic language film series
- Bun is Bàrr (Root and Branch) a pilot Gaelic mentorship Program
- Stóras a' Bhaile (The Village Treasure) and Gàidhlig 's a' Choimhearsnachd (Gaelic in The Community) Conference (Scotland) – Nova Scotia Highland Village

**E. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**  
**Strategic Goal**

To further strengthen partnership with other government departments and agencies

**E. Toradh**  
**Outcomes**

Strengthened links and relationships with the following Departments:

- Department of Seniors – through the Bun is Bàrr program, supporting Gaelic speaking seniors and engaging them in mentoring Gaelic learners
- Department of Education (DoE) – reviewing “Our Celtic Culture” DRAFT document, supporting the DoE’s Gaelic Language Program Grants, workshop on language methods and instruction at Inservice for Gaelic Language and Culture Workshop
- Department of Economic and Rural Development (DoERD) – developing the Céilidh House Meeting approach to engage Gaelic Community and partners out of the DoERD’s Collaborative Strategies initiative
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal - additional bilingual (English – Gaelic) boundary signs erected in eastern districts of province

**F. Amas Roi-Innleachdail**  
**Strategic Goal**

To strengthen and enhance existing international partnerships in other Gaelic regions

**F. Toradh**  
**Outcomes**

Trip to Ireland to present DRAFT MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to Éa món Ó Cúiv, Minister responsible for Irish language in Ireland.

During this visit a funding program was introduced to the OGA which allows for universities outside of Ireland that teach Irish language to access funding support. St.F.X. University applied to this fund and was successful in attaining funding in the 2008 – 2009 academic school year.

MOU Address at the Falkirk Mòd:

The main challenge going forward is to ensure that the direction we take as an Office is one based upon proven research and experience pertaining to language revitalization. Your experience here in Scotland will prove to be of value in terms of assessing what works and what

doesn't and determining the best paths forward. The Province of Nova Scotia is very grateful for its relationship with Highland Council through the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Recent MOU initiatives have involved a craft residency exchange, Nova Scotia students studying at the Gaelic College on the Isle of Skye, support for Gaelic film festivals and most recently support for visiting Gaelic representatives from Scotland at the Gaelic Research Conference and the Gathering of the Gaels. Exchange between our respective regions is ongoing and holds promise in terms of information sharing, supporting and further developing ongoing language initiatives.

– Minister for Gaelic Affairs

### **Prìomh-amasan airson 2008 – 2009** **Priorities for 2008-2009**

1. Hold a Gaelic planning conference in 2008 which will encompass ongoing Gaelic language and cultural activity in the province as well as research and planning. Focus will be on effective use of expertise on language renewal and opportunity for widespread community input. Direction from this conference will assist strategic policy planning and development initiatives

Based on the Department of Economic and Rural Development's Collaborative Strategies community meeting approach, stylized Ceilidh House meetings designed with the Gaelic community in mind were held with members of the Gaelic community and key stakeholders in May 2008, November 2008 and January 2009. These meetings were designed to have constructive discussion and help build shared ownership between stakeholders on topics relating to:

2. Develop a bilingual placename map of Nova Scotia, highlighting key Gaelic resources, i.e. well known tradition bearers, facilities, institutions, etc.

This project was completed and included a timeline on Gaelic in Nova Scotia, inclusion of placenames in both English and Gaelic and sites of interest in the province

3. Work and consult with key Gaelic organizations

The OGA supported the work of Comhairle na Gàidhlig (CnG). Through initiatives such as Caint Mo Mhàthar (My Mother's Speech) and Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal (The Gathering of the Gaels) the OGA has been able to partner with CnG and assist CnG in achieving its organizational objectives.

4. Explore the viability of a Gaelic broadcast service in the province

Preliminary meetings were held to discuss what would be involved in this initiative. A site visit to OGA's Antigonish Office location to determine viability and equipment requirements, etc. was done.

5. Build consensus to have Gaelic designated as a customary language in the Heritage Strategy document

Consensus was reached on the term customary language, but it was not included in the Heritage Strategy document. The term "early" language was used as a clearer term in publications

6. Consult and discuss policy initiatives with Department of Education and assess Gaelic Language Program grants

The process of consulting with the Department of Education is ongoing. The OGA has a very positive working relationship with the DoE and has had input in the DoE's document "Celebrating our Celtic Culture" and more recently the Grade 3 Curriculum development.

7. Re-inforce MOU relationship with Highland Council, Scotland through discussions during Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig, Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal, the National Gaelic Mòd in Scotland

September 2008 meeting with Highland Council representatives – A Progress Report ensued of initiatives that have been undertaken through the MOU. Initiatives included support for Gaelic Language Teachers Practicum exchange program, cost-sharing to assist international Gaelic resource persons participation in initiatives such as Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig and Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal.

## **Roi-Innleachd an Luchd-Obrach** **Human Resource Strategy**

The OGA meets the objectives of the Corporate Human Resource Strategy of government in the following ways:

1. A talent management approach is used within the OGA to manage such areas as absences to due travel, sickness, cross training and support for initiatives
2. Orientation, support and training for employees is determined at fiscal year outset and a plan and budget for this is developed
3. Community being served by the OGA is reflected in the requirement that office hires promote and use Gaelic language during and throughout their work

**Suidheachadh a' Bhuidseid**  
**Budget Context**

**A' Bhliadhna Ionmhasail 2008-09**  
**Fiscal Year 2008-09**

<b>Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig</b>			
<b>Office of Gaelic Affairs</b>			
	<b>2008-2009 Estimate</b>	<b>2008-2009 Actuals</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	562	549	(13)
<b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)</b>	4.5	3.3	(1.2)

No sufficient variances.