

## **Beachdan bho Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) air Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig**

Tha CnP(N) a' cur fàilte air foillseachadh Dreachd Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig mar cheum a tha fìor chudromach anns an iomairt gus a' Ghàidhlig a neartachadh mar chànan beò.

Tha sinn gu sònraichte toilichte gu bheil 'Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta Foghlam Gàidhlig' ann leis gun robh sinn a' strì airson seo fad iomadach bliadhna. **Ge-tà, tha sinn airson moladh a chur air adhart gum biodh an ro-innleachd nas èifeachdaiche mar phàirt den 'Stiùireadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig'.** 'S ann a-rèir seo a bhitheamaid an dùil gun rachadh planadh a thoirt air adhart, gum biodh ro-innleachd foghlaim air a ghabhail a-staigh mar làn phàirt de na planaichean a bhitheas diofar bhuidhnean a deasachadh, nuair a tha uallach orra a thaobh foghlam. Mar a tha cuisean an dràsta tha e a' coimhead mar gu bheil sgaradh eadar an dà rud, agus dh'fhaodadh gum biodh e feumail nan robh iad air an cheangal nas dlùithe ri chèile.

Tha sinn cuideachd toilichte gu bheil am plana a' sonrachadh cho chudromach 's a tha e Gàidhlig a' cleachdadh anns an dachaigh agus barrachd chothroman a chruthachadh airson an cànan a chur gu feum ann an caochladh shuidhichidhean.

Tha sinn den bheachd, ge-tà, gu bheil earranan àraidh anns a' phlana a tha feumach air neartachadh le barrachd fiosrachaidh air dè dh'fheumar airson na h-amasan a choilionadh agus cò air a bhios an t-uallach airson na h-amasan sin a chuir an gnìomh.

Tha Comann nam Pàrant toilichte a bhith air an ainmeachadh mar aon de na prìomh bhuidhnean anns na roinnean foghlam agus ann a' Gàidhlig anns an Dachaigh agus gu bheil Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' gabhail ris cho cudromach 's a tha e gum biodh pàrantan an sàs ann an leasachaidhean Gàidhlig. Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri co-obrachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig air pròiseactan a bhios a' toirt air adhart amasan a' phlana.

- **Targaidean**

Tha feum air targaidean a tha dùbhlanaich ach so-ruigsinn anns a' phlana. Tha an aon targaid airson foghlam air t.d.24 agus 's e *'1.2% dhiubhsan ann an Alba aois eadar 15-24 comasach air Gàidhlig a bruidhinn, mar chomharradh air foghlam èifeachdach a dh'ionnsaigh meudachadh anns an àireamh de phàrantan le Gàidhlig'*. Bhon a tha an aois seo air fad ann an siostam foghlam mar-thà chan eil sinn a' faicinn ciamar is urrainn dha seo a bhith na mheasadh air leasachaidhean ann am foghlam thairis air an ath 5 bliadhna.

Tha sinn den bheachd gum biodh e feumail earrann air staitistearachd a bhith mar phàipear-taice don phlana le fiosrachadh air an % de sgoilearan a tha an dràsta ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig gach ìre air feadh Alba air fad agus bhiodh targaidean airson leasachadh a-rèir na figearan sin. Bu chòir iomradh a bhith air a thoirt air na figearan seo air feadh na h-aithisg.

- ‘Àrdachadh ann a cothrom air foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus air an eòlas bharrachd foghlaim a tha ri fhaotainn ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa leth.’(t.d.25)

Tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air an amas cothrom air foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ leasachadh agus bu chaomh leinn barrachd cuideam a bhith air sgoiltean Gàidhlig anns a’ phlana mar phrìomhachas riatanach ann an leasachadh air FTMG a tha ri thighinn.

Tha sinn den bheachd gum bi buannachd ann a bhith a’ miannachadh ciamar a bhitheas sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa leth ri fhaotainn. Tha trì dòighean air a bhith ann, mar a tha sinn a’ tuigsinn:

- A’ cleachdadh sgoil a bha dùinte / falamh (mar a thachair dà thuras ann an Glaschu)
- Togalach ùr (mar a tha a’ tachairt an dràsta ann an Inbhir Nis)
- A’ comharrachadh sgoil a tha ann cheana mar mheadhan Gàidhlig a-mhàin (Staoinebrig ann an Uibhist a Deas)

Cha bhiodh cothrom air na roghainnean seo air fad an còmhnaidh, agus aig amannan dh’fhaodadh nach bi gin a’ coimhead comasach. Bhiodh stiùireadh, targaidean agus na paraimeatairean coitcheann airson sgoiltean a leasachadh feumail leis an obair a tha co-cheangailte ris an iarrtas airson sgoiltean FTMG fa leth a’ coileanadh. Ach cuideachd, dh’fhaodadh gum biodh e feumail targaidean agus dòchas a stèidheachadh a’ dh’ aon ghnòthach gus an àrd-amas seo a choilionadh.

Feumaidh sinn a bhith cinnteach gu bheil plana gnìomh ann airson dèiligeadh ri cùisean ann an FTMG a tha a’ dèanamh dragh do phàrantan agus mar sin ag adhbharachadh dìth misneachd anns an t-siostam. Tha na draghan seo co-cheangailte ri duilgheadasan anns an t-siostam aig gach ìre m.e.

- Ro-sgoile

Chan eil gu leòr ghoireasan ann airson cùram chloinne do chlann fo aois sgoile neo cothrom ceart air sgoiltean àraich reachdail

- Bun-sgoil

Duilgheadasan a thaobh gainne luchd-teagaisg agus seirbheisean eile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig

- Àrd-sgoil

Tha cion sochairean ceart aig an ìre seo aig amannan a’ ciallachadh gum bi chlann FTMG a’ call an ìre fileantachd a tha iad a’ ruighinn anns a’ bhun-sgoil an àite a bhith a leudachadh na comasan cànan aca.

Gus an tèid dèiligeadh ris na cùisean sin a tha a’ bualadh air maitheas foghlaim bi e duilich meudachadh làidir fhaighinn ann an FTMG.

- **Taic do Phàrantan**

Tha am plana a' toirt iomradh aig grunnan àiteachan air taic do phàrantan le chlann nas òige na 5 ann an FTMG. Bu chaomh leinn barrachd taic fhaicinn do phàrantan le chlann aig a h-uile ìre de FTMG. Ma tha sinn airson gum fàs FTMG bi e deatamach gun toir sinn an taic seo do phàrantan tro mheasgachadh de mheadhain.

- **Gàidhlig anns an Dachaigh agus Coimhearsnachd (t.d. 12)**

Tha sinn ag aontachadh gu mòr gum bu chòir dhuinn pàrantan a mhisneachadh airson Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn anns an dachaigh. Tha sinn a' moladh, ge-tà, gum bu chòir iomradh a bhith anns an earrann seo air cho cudromach 's a tha FTMG ann a bhith a' toirt taic do Ghàidhlig 's an dachaigh (eadhon nuair a tha dithis phàrant fileanta sa Ghàidhlig) agus a' toirt cothrom don chlann a bhith comasach air a' chànan a sgrìobhadh agus a leughadh. Tha e fìor cuideachd gur e gu tric na pàrantan a bhitheas a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig anns an dachaigh, an fheadhainn aig am bheil clann ann an FTMG.

Chan eil mòran 'choimhearsnachdan' Gàidhlig air fhàgail, mar sin bu chòir iomradh a thoirt air na cothroman a tha againn le sgoiltean Gàidhlig ann a bhith a' cruthachadh coimhearsnachdan ùra Gàidhlig.

- **Adhartachadh air buannachdan dà-chànanais air dhòigh 's gum bi gu leòr sgoilearan a' gabhail Gàidhlig is a nì cinnteach gun seas Gàidhlig mar chànan beò (t.d.46)**

Ciamar a bhitheas an ìre seo air a meas? Tha dragh a-measg phàrantan gum bi leudachadh den sgeama Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig sa Bhun-sgoil a' cur bacadh air leudachadh FTMG agus feumaidh sinn beachdachadh air cùisean a thaobh maitheas foghlaim an àite dìreach àireamhan. Bu chaomh leinn measadh fhaicinn air ìre fileantachd gach neach-cloinne ann am foghlam Gàidhlig.

### **Beachdan bho Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) air Stiùireadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig**

- **Dleastanasan Foghlaim (t.d. 19)**

Mas tha Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig ag amas air stiùireadh air planaichean ionadail a thoirt do na h-Ùghdarrasan Ionadail bu chòir dhaibhsan a bhith a' mìneachadh anns na Planaichean Cànain aca mar a tha iad am beachd 'Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta Foghlam Gàidhlig' a chuir an gnìomh anns na sgìrean aca. Mar sin bhiodh e nas ciallaiche nam biodh an 'Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta Foghlam Gàidhlig' mar phàirt den 'Stiùireadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig' an àite a bhith ann an 'Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig'.

*Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig mar sholarachadh àbhaisteach ga thoirt a-staigh far a bheil sgil-cànain Gàidhlig aig 40% sa pharaiste catharra, no aig àireamh nach beag sa cheàrnaidh, a rèir a' Chunntais mu dheireadh (t.d.19)*

Tha uallach oirnn gum biodh e comasach diofar mìneachadh a chur air an aithris seo (m.e. nach biodh feum air FTMG ann an sgìrean eile).

Mar sin, bhiodh barrachd stiùireadh feumail.

- **Stuth Gàidhlig / Dà-chànanach**

Tha e cudromach gu bheil beachdachadh cùramach ann don cheist air dè a tha nas freagarraiche stuth anns a' Ghàidhlig a-mhàin neo dà-chànanach.

Anns an fharsaingeachd tha sinn a' creidsinn gu bheil feum air an dà chuid agus mar eisimpleir bu chòir stuth sam bith a bhitheas dèante airson chlann anns na sgoiltean anns a' Ghàidhlig a-mhàin ach bu chòir stuth mar foirmean oifigeil a bhith dà-chànanach.

- **Measadh**

Tha eagal air Comann nam Pàrant nach eil gu leòr cumhachd aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a nì cinnteach gum bi na Planaichean Gàidhlig air an cur an gnìomh mar bu chòir.

*Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)*

*Samhain 2006*

## **Beachdan bho Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) air Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig**

CnP(N) welcomes the publication of the Draft National Plan for Gaelic as a hugely important step in the effort to promote Gaelic as a living language. We are especially pleased with the inclusion of the 'National Gaelic Education Strategy' for which we have campaigned over a number of years. **However we would like to suggest that this strategy would be more effective if it was included as part of the 'Guidance on Language Plans'**. This will reflect what we should expect as the way that planning takes place, namely that the Education Strategy is an integral part of the plans that different organisations prepare, where they have an education responsibility. As currently drafted they appear to be somewhat disjointed, and could helpfully link together more closely.

We are also pleased that there is an emphasis throughout the plan on the importance of the use of Gaelic in the Home and on increasing the opportunities to use the language in a variety of situations.

We do, however, feel that there is a need to strengthen certain aspects of the plan with more detail on what action will be taken in order to achieve the aims of the plan and who will be responsible for these actions.

Comann nam Pàrant is pleased to be named as primary players in areas of education and Gaelic in the Home and the recognition by Bòrd na Gàidhlig of the importance of parental involvement in Gaelic development. We look forward to working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on projects that will take forward the aims of the plan.

- **Targets**

There is a need for challenging but achievable targets in the Plan. The only target for education is on P.24 and states '*1.2% of those aged 15-24 in Scotland able to speak Gaelic, as an indication of effective education leading to an increase in the number of parents with Gaelic*'. As this age group are all currently in the education system we do not see how this can be an assessment of the developments in education over the next 5 years.

We feel that it would be useful to have a section on statistics as an appendix to the plan which would detail current % of pupils in Gaelic medium education at all levels throughout Scotland and then base targets for improvement on this information. These figures should be referenced throughout the document.

- ***'Increase access to Gaelic-medium education, and to the enhanced education experience of dedicated Gaelic schools' (P25)***

We welcome the aim to improve access to GME and would like to see greater emphasis in the plan on the prioritising of Gaelic-medium schools as essential to the future development of GME.

We consider that there may be benefit in setting out how dedicated Gaelic Schools may come about. Three routes have been used, as we understand:

- Use of redundant / vacant school facility (as has happened twice in Glasgow)
- New-build (currently in construction for Inverness)
- Designation of an existing school as being exclusively Gaelic-medium (Stoneybridge in South Uist).

Not all of these options will always be available, and in some circumstances none may appear to be feasible. Guidance, targets and the general parameters for the development of schools would assist the process of achieving this stand-alone GME school aspiration. Likewise, it may be helpful to set an expectation or set of targets for this ambition.

We must also ensure that there is an action plan to deal with issues within GME that are causing concern to parents and therefore a lack of confidence in the system. These concerns relate to failures within the system at all levels e.g.

- Pre-school

Lack of childcare provision for pre-school children and limited access to statutory nursery provision

- Primary

Problems with teacher supply and other Gaelic-medium services

- Secondary

Extremely poor provision at this level which often results in GME pupils losing the level of fluency they achieve in primary rather than progressing their language skills.

Until these issues which affect quality of provision are properly dealt with it will be difficult to achieve any substantial increase in GME provision.

- **Support for Parents**

There are several references in the Plan to increasing support for parents of pre-fives in GME. We would like to see an increase in support for parents with children at all levels of GME. In order to achieve growth in GME it will be essential that we provide this support for parents through a variety of mediums.

- **Gaelic in the Home and Community (P12)**

We agree that it is essential that parents are provided with every encouragement to use Gaelic in the Home. We think that this section however should contain some reference to the importance of GME in supporting the use of Gaelic in the home (even when both parents are fluent Gaelic speakers) and enabling children to be fully literate in the language. It is also a fact that many parents who use Gaelic in the home do so because they have children in GME.

Given that there are very few surviving Gaelic ‘communities’ there should be a reference here to the opportunities offered by Gaelic-medium schools to create new Gaelic speaking ‘communities’.

- *‘To promote the advantages of bilingualism so that enough pupils study Gaelic to a standard that will ensure the future sustainability of Gaelic as a living language’ (P46)*

How will this standard be assessed? There is some concern amongst parents that expansion in provision for Gaelic Learners in the Primary School will be detrimental to expansion in GME and there are issues of quality in provision rather than quantity that need to be considered. We would like to see assessment of fluency for all children in Gaelic education.

### **Beachdan bho Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) air Stiùireadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig**

- **Education Functions (P19)**

If the purpose of the National Plan for Gaelic is to inform local plans Local Authorities should be required to indicate in their Language Plans what actions they are taking in their area to implement the ‘National Gaelic Education Strategy’. It would therefore make more sense to have the ‘National Education Strategy’ as part of the ‘Guidance on Gaelic Language Plans’ rather than within the ‘National Plan for Gaelic’.

*‘Introduction of Gaelic-medium education as standard provision, where 40% of the local population by civil parish or a significant numerical concentration are shown by the latest Census to have a Gaelic language skill.’ (P19)*

We have concerns regarding the possibility of this statement being widely interpreted (e.g. no requirement for GME in other areas).

Therefore, more exhaustive parameters are likely to be more helpful.

- **Gaelic / Bilingual materials**

We feel it is important that careful consideration is given to the issue of whether Gaelic only or bilingual materials are desirable.

Generally we feel that there is a place for both and that for example any materials produced by organisations that may be used by children in schools should have a Gaelic version but that materials such as official forms should be produced bilingually.

- **Monitoring**

Comann nam Pàrant is concerned that Bòrd na Gàidhlig do not have sufficient powers to ensure proper implementation of Gaelic Language Plans.

*Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)*  
*November 2006*