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Dear Friends

NATIONAL PLAN FOR GAELIC

I regret that I am doing the unforgivable of writing in English about a Gaelic subject but I feel that there is hope that any comments will be read by some who do not have any Gaelic. If not, what is the point? For too long a lot of people have complained about the decline of the language but, unlike you, have done nothing about it.

Much of my own thoughts have been raised by others and so I will add only my thanks to Clì Gàidhlig for their report and a few personal opinions that may have been put by only a few.

Those who want to keep Gaelic must do their part. For instance there is a weekly Gaelic service at 12:30pm in Greyfriars Tolbooth and Highland Kirk, Edinburgh that has been kept going since the death of Rev Ewan MacLean. As there is a scarcity of clergy, forby Gaelic speaking ones, there is a different preacher each week with a lay reader from Falkirk Presbytery often fortnightly. How much better it would be if we had to say to any public body concerned that we have a full congregation in Edinburgh. I will not mention any names but I was told that the service was doomed in the early 1990s. If only that Minister could spare one Sunday a year to come through to Edinburgh.

I am grateful to the wonderful efforts made by CNSA and others dealing with older children through to the Fèisan movement and beyond. It is so important to get the children as young as possible and then to keep them. We must not hear again the phrase "My granny had the Gaelic but I have never learned it". It is important to keep social contact among those interested and again I find it so frustrating to work with others in putting on ceilidhs, "oraidean" and a coversation group to get a poor audience.

The main thing is to keep the language alive by meeting and speaking to others and that could best be done by Gaels and learners with help from "Public Bodies" who should back up their "Plans" by providing affordable accommodation.

With best wishes,

Joe Wright
Secretary and Treasurer of numerous organisations