



COMUNN NA GÀIDHLIG

Annual Report 2001-2002

CNAG aims to achieve Secure Status for Gaelic and to promote and establish the conditions for Gaelic to grow and flourish, by working in partnership with others, particularly through Gaelic Medium Education, cultural enrichment and community development.

"The Scottish Executive is committed to securing a vibrant and vital future for Gaelic for generations to come"

Alasdair Moireasdan BPA, MSP, Minister for Gaelic, October 2001

"By adopting the recommendation of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Gaelic's Report "Cothrom Ur Don Ghàidhlig -A Fresh Start for Gaelic" and the planning strategies detailed in Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Executive will be giving the Gaelic language a real chance for survival and revival. It will be empowering the Gaelic community to act out its belief in its own language and culture, but it will also be serving the Scottish Executive's responsibility to protect and preserve a unique part of the national heritage of Scotland"

"...by implementing this Plan, Scotland could become an international model of good practice in a task that faces the many smaller minority language communities across Europe."

MAGOG Report - May 2002

"I do not think that it would surprise anyone to learn that the Report (MAGOG) seeks additional resources for Gaelic. It also makes other proposals, which I will factor into my negotiations on the spending review. There may be a means of accommodating some of Professor Meek's proposals by reconfiguring existing resources."

Mike Watson, Minister for Gaelic - April 2002

Development Community and Culture

- Funding for 47 Gaelic development projects amounting to £125,000 including Taigh Dhonnchaidh, Ness; Gearrannan, Carloway; Cearcall a' Tuath, Sutherland; Grimsay, North Uist; Ionad He, Islay; Am Baile, Highland; Highland Festival; Hebridean Celtic Festival, Glasgow West End Festival, Renfrew, Greenock and Paisley Summer Schools and Edinburgh Drama Club.
- Preparation of updated version of the Fàilte Cultural Tourism publication.
- Encouraging and promoting Bilingual Signage Scheme including the new development at Stornoway Airport, Caledonian McBrayne fleet and Scotrail.
- Promoting the newly established Gaelic Students' Placement Scheme for Summer 2002, involving ten placements.
- Various submissions to a number of Government Departments including the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on Gaelic Broadcasting, General Registrar's Office on the Gaelic Report for the Census 2001 and the Arts, Culture and Heritage Department on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the New Opportunities Fund on its policy for Gaelic pre-school projects.
- Setting up the pan-Highlands and Islands Gaelic in the Community Scheme involving 3 local authorities, 8 LEC's and HISTP and securing funding for £797,000 for Gaelic community projects, over a three year period.
- Representation on Baile Failte; Millennium Awards Scheme; LEADER + local advisory committees (Western Isles & Skye) and Highland; Am Baile; Ionad He and Ionad Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

Youth

- Three year Sradagan Development Plan 2002-2005 completed.
- Supported setting up of new Sradagan Groups in Oban, Newtonmore, Islay, Glasgow and Kilmamock.
- 11 Sradagan Inter-Group activity days organised.
- Participated in 32 group activity sessions.
- Arranged 15 Leader Training Sessions and inter-group training.
- Two Sradagan Summer Schools and one regular summer programme held.
- Four issues of An t-Sradag Newsletter published.
- In conjunction with TOSG, assistance and support provided for the
- Christmas Pantomime which visited 25 venues.
- Arranged attendance of pupils from Lewis and Dingwall at Iurosgoil 2001 in the Ladin community in Italy.

In last year's Annual Report, I welcomed the Executive's commitment "*that the year 2001 will see a new approach to Gaelic*", as reported by the then Minister for Gaelic, Alasdair

Morrison MSP, when he announced the setting up of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Gaelic under the Chairmanship of Professor Donald Meek. Along with everyone else concerned with the future of Gaelic, I welcome the Group's Report and I hope that the new Minister for Gaelic, Mike Watson MSP, will soon announce his decisions on the recommendations of the Report. Time is no longer on our side, if the language is not to be one of the 6,000 languages experts reckon will die by the end of the century. I hope that the Minister will take immediate steps to ensure that the next official publication on Gaelic will be the long awaited Gaelic Language Bill which we all agree, is so essential in achieving secure status for the language.

**Mairi Bremner Chair,
Comunn na Gàidhlig**

- Between 60-65 of people globally use at least 2 languages in their everyday lives.
- 50m people in the EU use a language which is different from the official language of the country in which they live.
- About 6,000 languages will die during this century.
- Annual intake of pupils to GME was to be increased to 1,500 by the year 2012 - approximately 2 of the total annual intake to education in Scotland, compared to 0.35 at present, if the current decline in Gaelic speakers is to be arrested.

Strategy and Promotion

- Providing support and advisory consultancy for the Ministerial Advisory Group on Gaelic.
- Commissioning Review of Gaelic Publishing and arranging Seminar to consider recommendations of the Report by EKOS.
- Providing support in servicing the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Gaelic.
- Monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- Organising Annual Congress 2001 in Edinburgh.
- Meetings with George Foulkes, Minister of State Scotland Office, Peter Peacock MSP Depute Minister for Finance and Mike Watson MSP Minister for Gaelic.
- Attendance and participation at Minority Languages Seminars in Cardiff, The Netherlands and Glasgow.

Education

- Continue to consolidate Gaelic Medium Education through the production and distribution of promotional materials, support for parents and teacher recruitment initiatives.
- Attended 6 Careers Conventions at different locations throughout Scotland.

- Support and assist with the BT National Debate for Secondary pupils.
- Gaelic and Bilingual School Planners for secondary and primary pupils produced.
- In conjunction with Historic Scotland organised Gaelic events for Primary pupils throughout Scotland at Stirling Castle.
- Co-ordinated the National Parental Conference, held in Glasgow on Gaelic Medium Secondary provision.
- Created and continue to update new website for parents.
- Organised a residential experience in Sutherland for students throughout Scotland attending Gaelic immersion courses.
- Attended specific Gaelic days organised in certain Secondary and Primary schools and localities.
- Continue support for College and University students through work experience, financial assistance and information services.

Despite another year of uncertainty, while we await the outcome of the MAGOG Report, I am pleased to record another successful year in terms of our targets, budgets and overall performance.

Our involvement with funding partners such as the eight local enterprise companies and the three local authorities resulted in the pan-Highlands & Islands Gaelic in the Community Scheme being approved by HSIP for European funding.

We now have in place a Scheme with £790,000, over the next three years, for funding Gaelic community-initiatives.

Development officers have recently taken up posts in the Western Isles, Highland and Argyll and Bute and Gaelic community bodies can now access funds under the Scheme for a variety of projects.

We look forward to the challenges of the year ahead and playing whatever role may be decided by our Board in ensuring that the new opportunities for Gaelic are grasped and followed through, in a way that will result in positive benefits for the language and culture.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff at CNAG for their continuing commitment and dedication in ensuring the effective delivery our activities over the past year - all of which was achieved against a background of staff reductions and uncertainty about the future of Gaelic developments, generally.

I also acknowledge the support and advice of our Board members, whose contribution to the work of CNAG, on a purely voluntary basis, is often unrecognised. We all hope that 2003 will be the year that will, at last, give us the promised "*new approach to Gaelic*".

Donald Martin
Acting Chief Executive

Comunn na Gaidhlig (CNAG) is the Gaelic development and co-ordinating agency established in 1984 following recommendations made in the HIDB report Cor na Gaidhlig (1982).

All Gaelic revival interest groups are represented on CNAG's Board of Directors, including HIE, local authorities and An Comunn Gaidhealach, making it the main forum through which the Gaelic community reflects its views. CNAG's overall strategy and policy is directed by the Board of Directors which meets twice annually.

The Chairman's Executive Group, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive and at least four Board members meets bi-monthly (or as necessary) to oversee the activities of the organisation and to discuss detailed aspects of policy and administration.

CNAG Board of Directors 2001-2002 (*Executive Group)

Corporate Members

Mrs Mairi Bremner (Chair)*	Comhairle nan Eilean Star
Mr Boyd Robertson* (Vice Chair)	Board of Celtic Studies
Mr Allan Beaton*	Highland Council
Mr John MacLeod*	Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)
Dr Farquhar Macintosh CBE	Chair, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Trustees
	North Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Bemie M. Scott OBE*	
Mr Peter MacIntyre	President, An Comunn Gaidhealach
Mr Matthew MacIver	Chair, Gaelic Broadcasting Committee (until Dec 2001)
Mr John A MacAskill	Chair, Gaelic Broadcasting Committee (from Jan 2002)
Dr Alasdair Meams	Chair, Gaelic Pre-School Council (CNSA)
Mr John MacLeod	Scottish Crofters' Union
Miss Ishbel MacLennan	Editor, Craoladh nan Gaidheal
Mr John MacDonald	Chair, Fèisean nan Gaidheal
Mr Stuart Black*	Highlands & Islands Enterprise (from Jan 2001)
Mr David Smillie	Highlands & Islands Enterprise (from Oct 2001)
Mr Richard Watson	Chair, Clì

Co-opted Members

Mr Donald MacDonald*

Dr George Hendry*

Mr Rob Dunbar*

Prof. Donald Meek

Senior Staff

Allan Campbell

Donald Martin

Margaret MacIver

Kristine Kennedy

Aros Visitor Centre, Skye

Comann nam Pàrant

University of Glasgow

University of Aberdeen

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Acting Chief Executive

Education Officer

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