



Request for Proposals -- Cultural Apprentices

Deadline – November 18, 2016

1. Overview

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH) was created in 2011 with a mandate to preserve, promote and grow culture, heritage, identity and languages in Nova Scotia.

As a division of CCH, Gaelic Affairs contributes to the development of Gaelic language, culture and identity in Nova Scotia, so the wisdom, heritage and traditions of Gaels are valued, practiced, and passed on to future generations in order to strengthen and support community development and capacity.

Bun is Bàrr (root and branch) is a Mentoring Program managed by Gaelic Affairs, which provides Gaelic learners in Nova Scotia the opportunity to work with mentors as they develop their language and cultural skills. The goal of Bun is Bàrr is to help create fluent Gaelic speakers who are knowledgeable of Nova Scotia's Gaelic tradition and motivated to learn, live, teach, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia. Bun is Bàrr seeks to achieve two objectives concurrently:

- Continued transmission of Gaelic language through culture.
- Re-integration of Nova Scotia Gaelic expression, such as song and story, into the social life of Gaels.

Since 2009 participant feedback has informed program needs and enhancement. The program has supported linguistic and cultural fluency of apprentices, which is confirmed by the number of apprentices who have served as mentors in the program. Bun is Bàrr has also played a significant role in engaging older Gaels by connecting them with young learners, invigorating them to use their language again and pass on their traditions and culture.

In Nova Scotia we are seeing the aging and passing of our native Nova Scotian Gaelic speakers, who were rooted in families and communities where Gaelic was widely spoken and cultural traditions shared.

This year's program we will focus on two recommendations: fluent speakers working as cultural apprentices with our older Gaelic speakers and greater community outreach.

2 Scope of Work and Project Deliverables

Gaelic Affairs is seeking proposals from qualified Gaelic speakers (Cultural Apprentices) who will serve in cultural apprenticeships with our senior Gaels (Cultural Mentors). They will learn and record the mentors language, life experiences and culture, for the purpose of contributing transcribed material that could be used in a publication and/or educational materials. This project continues the transmission of language and culture from generation to generation, ensuring a new generation of Gaelic tradition bearers. It will also reduce senior isolation, and support and recognize our senior Gaels. Cultural apprentices will also organize community gatherings, or *céilidhean*, which will allow the broader community to witness and share local Gaelic culture, stories, music and dance. Cultural apprentices can work with one cultural mentor or more than one mentor. There is room in the program for more than one cultural apprentice.

2.1 Time-Frame

Cultural Apprentices will have five months to complete their project (December 1 to May 1)

2.2 Project Deliverables for Cultural Apprentices

- 2.2.1** Spend time with the cultural mentor(s) to audio record, when appropriate, the mentor's memories, stories, culture and language.
- 2.2.2** Keep a diary to provide context to visits.
- 2.2.3** Transcribe at least 8 items they recorded from their Cultural mentor(s), which documents important elements¹ in the life of the mentor(s). Transcriptions can be worked on with other apprentices during the program mid-term gathering.
- 2.2.4** Reflect on recordings, transcriptions and diary entries and do an outline for an article that tells the story of the mentor(s) and his/her/their community.
- 2.2.5** Provide at least two lessons that can be done with learners, based on *seanchas* (oral material) from the mentor(s).
- 2.2.6** Organize two Gaelic gatherings in the mentor's community during their six month period.
- 2.2.7** Participate in an orientation, one mid-term apprentice gathering and a debriefing.
- 2.2.8** Participate in a public gathering the end of the program, with the mentor (s) (if mentor(s) can attend), where they will introduce the mentor(s) they worked with and speak a bit about their time together. This is to raise awareness of Gaelic Nova Scotia, the Bun is Bàrr Program and celebrate the work they have done together.

¹ To be determined at orientation.

3 Cultural Apprentice / Gaelic Affairs Responsibilities

3.1 Cultural Apprentice

- Provide regular feedback, to be agreed upon at the program orientation meeting, to the Bun is Bàrr project manager.
- Identify and recruit the mentor(s) you will work with and provide compensation in return for their contribution to the project.
- Meet the Project Deliverables mentioned in 2.2

3.2 Gaelic Affairs

- Selection of Participants
- Program management, promotion and planning.
- Organize and support the program orientation, mid-term gathering and debriefing.
- Organize and support a public gathering and closing.

Gaelic Affairs Contact: Frances MacEachen

4 Proposed Project Plan

Applicants must submit the following in his/her proposal:

- Resumé
- Description of your skills, and experience as it relates to this project and similar projects completed.
- Name of and background information on the mentor(s) you will work with and information on your friendship and connection with the cultural mentor(s). Apprentices and Mentors must know each other.
- Project description – What approach will you take to learning, collecting maintaining and socially transmitting the knowledge passed on to you by your mentor(s). Provide a timeline with proposed topics and activities and how you plan to meet to the project deliverables in 2.2.
- An estimate of project costs. This will include the number of days estimated to complete the project, your rate per day as well as any expenses projected. A project day is 8 hours. Also include, if required, any amount needed to compensate mentor(s). Include only the costs associated with working with mentor(s) and individual work on collating material, transcriptions, lessons and community céilidhean. Support to attend the orientation, mid-term gathering, debriefing and public gathering will be provided by Gaelic Affairs, including mileage and a stipend.

5 Submission Package/ Contact Information

Applicants are asked to submit their proposals no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 31, 2016. Frances.maceachen@novascotia.ca

Gaelic Affairs will hold an information session for serious applicants prior to the application deadline, if necessary. Please contact Frances MacEachen before October 24, if you are interested in attending this session.

6.0 Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight (pts)
Demonstrated Expertise and Skillset of the cultural apprentice/mentor(s) team	50
Proposed Approach (including tangible outcome - 15 points).	30
Cost	20
Maximum Score Possible	100

Please contact Frances MacEachen if you have any questions at (902) 945-2114 or Frances.MacEachen@novascotia.ca.