

Educators

Response rate: 100% (4 out of 4)

Methodology: On-line survey

Comments are organized and summarized. Individual names have been removed.

Q1. How successful was the Na Gaisgich Òga Pilot Program in meeting the following goals?

(Highest rating possible 5.00)

	Not successful (1)	Somewhat Successful (2)	Neutral (3)	Successful (4)	Very Successful (5)	Total	Average Rating
Create Gaelic speakers who are motivated to learn, enjoy, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia		25.00% 1	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	50.00% 2	4	4.00
Provide young learners with an opportunity to be immersed in Gaelic language and culture	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	50.00% 2	4	4.50
Cultivate a sense of identity as young Gaels living in Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	75.00% 3	4	4.75
Enlighten youth to become aware of and to respect inter-generational opportunities in regards to Gaelic cultural acquisition	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	25.00% 1	4	3.75
Develop awareness in youth of the responsibility they have to contribute to the sustainability of the language	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3	2.67

1b. Comments on Na Gaisgich Òga Pilot Program Goals

(4 responses)

OPPORTUNITY --Great chance for youth to learn, meet Gaelic speakers, visit Gaelic communities, and form Gaelic bonds with peers. (All respondents mentioned the tremendous opportunity this offered this group.) Gaisgich has also been made aware of language learning opportunities and how importance of our native speaking elders.

IMMERSION – this could be improved on. There was too much English spoken throughout the sessions. (All respondents remarked on this.) One felt it was easier to keep immersion going outside of homes i.e in community centres or Gaelic College.

ASSESSMENT – Participants language skills should be assessed before and after program.

OBSERVATIONS ON PROGRESS – Given the time, progress was made. Learning a language take a lot of time. One respondent: *“Their understanding/compression came along nicely, as did there reflexes in answering questions with 'yes' or 'no' in the various verbs and tenses. They were understanding the patterns and putting them to use. This, of course, varied from child to child.”*

- “Their pronunciation was coming along very well and indicates how important it is for learners, especially young learners, to begin their learning through immersion and through oral learning.
- It’s important to teach them the skills to keep learning on their own, what things to watch out for in the language and to teach the importance of teaching grammar, not THROUGH grammar, and the structures of the language - showing students how the language goes together and what to expect when thrown curve-balls.”

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT – Sometimes they needed to be reminded to stay in Gaelic, they didn’t ask enough questions. Well behaved most of the time. Attentiveness and engagement varied from student to student. Fatigue from late night sessions may have impacted their attentiveness and engagement. Also this may have something to do with their age. They were focused on the “fun” and social aspects of the program rather than the work of language learning.

GAELIC IDENTITY – We did a lot to grow their identity as Gaels. With the mixture of generations, Na Gaisgich understood their place in the continuum of people. Their history will inspire them.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF LANGUAGE – On educator felt this is important to reinforce with youth. “Many more issues could have been tackled with them, like the issue of cultural diversity in the world and the importance of language in the formation, strengthening of identity, and of the correlation between strong identity with confidence and spiritual and economic health. It's important to plant seeds on these issues, even if they really only start to ponder these things years from now.” Another educator remarked: “I have always felt uncomfortable with the “duty” aspect of outcomes. Even in the name of the program. The pressure created by this role/responsibility can be crippling and heavy.”

Q2. What did you value most about Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

(4 responses)

OPPORTUNITY – This word was used often, both in that they appreciated the opportunity it provided for this young group of learners and also to them as they felt fortunate to be able to teach *“ten amazing young people.”* Opportunities like this are scarce in Nova Scotia.

That they received *“fairly solid foundations in a number of important things: language, history, folklore, culture, the bonding of the group, and sense of identity.”*

“Time with elders, history, language lessons, storytelling, songs, community events, fun and bonding in a residential experience, preparing foods – all in the context of language.”

Q3. What did you find most rewarding as an educator in Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

(4 responses)

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT – All educators found it rewarding to hear the Gaisgich speak Gaelic without prompting, when they were seriously engaged, interested and asking questions. When they wanted to learn.

OPPORTUNITY – For them as educators to have such focused time with such a great group of learners. To be able to expose them to so many things that will help them to develop their perspective on life. This is all easier when you have motivated students. *“Teaching learners who are interested and want to learn. To deepen, support and encourage the kids’ learning on all fronts – language and culture,”* said one educator.

“I would love to have the opportunity to do this type of work full-time with youth in focused learning sessions, where you don’t have to deal with too many learning levels at the same time and you don’t have to ‘sell’ this self to the students or have to babysit individuals who are not really interested in this stuff,” said another educator.

Q4. What did you find most challenging?

(4 Responses)

COMMUNICATION – Not always great.

SCHEDULING -- Fitting everything in three days. So hard, things naturally got cut from the agenda (mentioned several times.). Not enough time with them. Keeping everyone on schedule: kids, parents, volunteer and guests. Sometimes sessions couldn’t start on time because people arrived late, Time was lost during breaks. Snack in session worked well. Weather and other factors affected the schedule and plans had to be changed at the last minute.

KEEPING AN ALL GAELIC ENVIRONMENT – This was mentioned several times by educators. Challenging because some of the most dedicated volunteers were not Gaelic speakers and interaction in the kitchen often happened in English.

CONTINUING MOMENTUM BETWEEN SESSIONS

INAPPROPRIATE LEARNING PREMISES – While the homes offered many benefits, the layout was not always conducive for group learning. Rooms were too small or in close proximity to areas where English was spoken in the house. There was a problem with allergens in one home that caused a change of schedule. There was limited access to Internet in some homes. Spaces available in homes sometimes limit the types of activities that can be delivered.

NOT MATURE ENOUGH TO DIRECT THEIR OWN STUDY – Na Gaisgich did not always do the work assigned to them and they often had to be “made to not speak English to one another and to anyone.”

DIFFERENT LANGUAGE LEVELS – Some had more Gaelic than others, especially those who had Gaelic in their home, and some had limited access to Gaelic before Na Gaisgich Òga.

Q5 What did you learn from teaching in this program?

(4 Responses)

GOOD AGE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING – Mentioned by two educators.

PREFERENCES – I like working with kids. I like working with kids who want to learn Gaelic. Not all learners have the same dedication. Ensure you have the motivated learners in program.

I liked teaching in the home, especially GAB.

CHILDREN NEED REST TIME TO LEARN

REINFORCEMENT – Educators were encouraged that methods they read about or tried with other learners worked well with this group. They are in agreement that it is “important to teach through immersion at the beginning stages of learning.” “This kind of learning really works,” said another educator, “There should be more programs like this.” It is helpful if the kids have had Gaelic in school before beginning a program like this. Extended immersion program before program begins to get kids going would be good. Language support outside the program is a very important component.

SCOPE OF PROGRAM – It is a tremendous undertaking to deliver a program like this.

Q 6. What improvements would you suggest to make this program more rewarding for you as an educator?

(4 Responses)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- No English at all or a clear policy on when/what/if there is going to be a Gaelic only time.
- Stricter bedtimes
- Teaching in small groups (dividing the group into two groups) facilitated better participation from Na Gaisgich. Pairing off Gaisgich with speakers, (one or two Gaisgich with a Gaelic speaker), from time to time was valuable.
- Re-evaluation of activities to determine their value for language transmission.
- Get kids outside more, weather permitting.
- Encourage small, local Gaisgich groups.
- Ensure there is structured planning and time to debrief, evaluate and plan among educators.
- Ensure clarity of roles/responsibilities.
- It would be ideal to have longer periods of time with the students.
- Important to keep cultural experiences in the program.
- Ensure instructors are fluent, so are not teaching mistakes.
- Accept only strongly motivated applicants in the program.

SUPPORTS

- Instructors could spend a training day with Gaelic educators from schools to learn games and activities that they use with youth.
- A brief training session with Gaisgich and parents on use of email/YouTube, Google calendar and homework expectations.
- Gaelic speaking staff/volunteers. Rotating volunteers.
- Support person to record sessions/portions of sessions to share with kids via audio/video.
- A place to sleep away from the programming location.
- Mileage for instructors.
- Reliable internet connection and TV with HDMI capability.

LOCATION

- I could see how different environments each month was distracting for youth, so perhaps the same location for the duration of the program.
- Ensure homes are big enough and have appropriate layout and rooms for teaching, or have all sessions at Colaisde na Gàidhlig or community venue.

MENTORS

- More supports for program in between sessions.
- Encourage mentors to come to the weekends. This would inspire the kids and allow for small conversation groups with youth.
- Training session or gathering for mentors before the program starts would be important.
- Regular contact between mentors and educators.

Q7. What improvements would you suggest to make this program more successful for youth in acquiring Gaelic language and cultural skills?

(4 responses)

PROGRAMMING

- Less time spent on history lectures, more GAB style sessions
- More time together, less time between sessions.
- Make the program more challenging with outcomes for language learning.
- Face to face meetings among instructors to discuss the schedule, well in advance of the weekend.
- It would be good to have a more coordinated effort between NGO instructors and school instructors as to what language the students get.
- Have more volunteers/mentors on site for small group coaching/free flow conversation
- Lessons in smaller groups with targeted teaching, video summary, reinforcement through homework
- Gaelic only 9-5
- Extended immersion at beginning of program
- Language support in home community, in addition to working with their mentor
- more connection between teams
- Storytelling through drama
- An outline of the history to be shared - notes given to kids after lessons, reinforcement of this somehow.
- Discussion of history more relevant to NS Gaels i.e. Clearances, chain migration, regional dialects, etc.
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Q8. Would you teach again in a program like Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

Yes – 100%

Q 9. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(1 response)

Hope that Na Gaisgich Òga to grow and spread. Keep them local to make them more do-able but ensure groups come together.

Parents

Response rate: 89% (8 out of a possible 9 parents responded)

Methodology: On-line survey

Comments are organized and summarized. Individual names have been removed.

Q1. How successful was the Na Gaisgich Òga Pilot Program in meeting the following goals?

	Not successful (1)	Somewhat successful (2)	Neutral (3)	Successful (4)	Very successful (5)	Total	Average Rating
Create Gaelic speakers who are motivated to learn, enjoy, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	8	4.00
Provide young learners with an opportunity to be immersed in Gaelic language and culture	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	25.00% 2	8	3.75
Cultivate a sense of identity as young Gaels living in Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	37.50% 3	50.00% 4	8	4.25
Enlighten youth to become aware of and to respect inter-generational opportunities in regards to Gaelic cultural acquisition	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 4	50.00% 4	8	4.50
Develop awareness in youth of the responsibility they have to contribute to the sustainability of the language	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	62.50% 5	25.00% 2	8	3.88

1b. Comments on Na Gaisgich Òga Pilot Program Goals

(4 responses)

- More energy at the beginning than in the end.
- Goals seemed to get sidetracked. Performance and showcasing the children became a focus toward the end of the program. Political intentions seem to override the priority of Gaelic immersion.
- More native speakers should have been brought into the program as they were in the early months.
- Because I don't speak Gaelic, I am not entirely equipped to evaluate my child's success as a speaker. She most certainly has fallen completely in love with the culture.

Q2. Please rate your level of satisfaction with these components or outcomes for the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program.

	Very Dissatisfied (1)	Dissatisfied (2)	Neutral (3)	Satisfied (4)	Very Satisfied (5)	Total	Average Rating
Level of supervision and safety provided	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	37.50% 3	50.00% 4	8	4.25
Variety of enriching and enjoyable activities offered	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	37.50% 3	50.00% 4	8	4.38
Improvement of your child's Gaelic language skills	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	8	4.25
Improvement of your child's Gaelic cultural skills	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	8	4.25
Quality of communication offered by educational staff	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	37.50% 3	37.50% 3	8	4.13
Quality of communication offered by program management	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	62.50% 5	0.00% 0	37.50% 3	8	3.75
The overnight component of the program	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	0.00% 0	37.50% 3	37.50% 3	8	3.88
Program organization	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	25.00% 2	8	3.88
Movement of the sessions from community to community	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	12.50% 1	62.50% 5	8	4.38

Value of the program for registration fee paid	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 4	25.00% 2	25.00% 2	8	3.75
Thursday to Saturday schedule for sessions	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	75.00% 6	0.00% 0	8	3.75
Community events	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	37.50% 3	12.50% 1	37.50% 3	8	3.75
Quality of the teaching	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	37.50% 3	50.00% 4	8	4.38
Involvement of Gaelic speaking elders and community Gaelic speakers.	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	50.00% 4	8	4.00

(5 responses)

COMMUNIICATION: Confusing. Not as good in end as in beginning

MISSING SCHOOL: Two parents said this was difficult.

PROGRAMMING:

- The program needs to be held in an area where the language is alive and easily accessible.
- The community events were not all the time, only in a few places.
- Some community events good, some were questionable.
- Native speakers not used effectively as possible. I would have liked to have had more elders and Gaelic speakers interact with the children.
- Overnight component is not necessary.
- Two very responsible and consistent house parents (volunteers) did a fantastic job.
- We paid for 10 full sessions and only got eight weekend sessions and one day session.

OTHER

- I can't think of anything to say other than it exceeded my expectations and I was very happy with the program.

Q3. What did you value most about the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

(8 responses)

BELONGING

- The children and the family ties that they have created. They are truly bonded in a friendship that will last a lifetime. I like that my child has made so many great friends who share the passion for Gaelic.
- My child's great sense of belonging to the group and to see how much Gaelic my child actually learned this year has been amazing.

MENTORING

- I like the one on one tutor sessions which were completely kept in Gaelic by my daughter's tutor.

PROGRAMMING

- The goals as originally stated in the program.
- The immersion experience---most effective method of learning
- Quality instruction in a house setting – natural.
- I like that my child had the opportunity to visit so many different Gaelic communities and got to take part in many cultural events.
- The development of her appreciation of the culture and desire to learn about it.

Q4. What did you find most challenging.

(7 responses)

LOCATION

- Overnight stays---especially two consecutive nights and a far distance from home.
- Getting her to the sites for 9:00 am on a work-day morning.
- Travelling to the different locations. I would prefer a home base at the Gaelic College.
- It is very difficult to travel early Thursday mornings to the locations that are difficult to find.

CHILD MISSING SCHOOL – Two parents mentioned this.

OTHER

- Catching up with missed homework and finding time to complete Gaisgich homework
- My child felt overlooked sometimes and that certain children were given more attention and positive feedback.
- I wish I had been able to help out with the program more.

Q5. How could this program could be improved?

(7 responses)

PROGRAMMING

- Intensive Gaelic immersion programming, sticking to immersion: No English.
- A curriculum set out for the whole year with the expected outcomes.
- Letting the children take the lead in planning some of the cultural events.
- The expectations of the homework should be clearer and relevant to what was learned in the session.
- Homework should have been given out at the end of each session not one week before it was due.

- It could be longer than ten months to provide more time to learn. Gaelic is hard!
- Next step program for participants!

LOCATION

- For us, having sessions closer to home.
- It would also be helpful to know from the start where and when the sessions will take place.

OTHER

- A full evaluation by program creators and analysis of Gaelic immersion programming.

Q6. Would you enroll your child again in a program like Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

Yes -- 4 (57.14%)

No – 1 (14.29%)

I don't know – 2 (28.57%)

If No or I don't know, what conditions would need to change before you would enroll your child again in a program like Na Gaisgich Òga?

MORE GAELIC

- I think there needs to be much more Gaelic in the program as much as 90%.
- The cultural component should be done in Gaelic.
- We are interested in intensive immersion; we have no need for extra-curricular activities, an intensive immersion program in community and run by community
- There are a lot of missed opportunities where Gaelic could be used like during meal time.
- The two volunteers were not given any Gaelic instruction despite expressing a great deal of interest in speaking in Gaelic to the students.
- The kids were missing school and other lessons they are involved in. I have no problem with this as long as they are learning Gaelic language. If they are away and speaking mostly English or too much English it doesn't justify the work put into the program by the teachers, volunteers and students in my opinion.

MISSING SCHOOL/TRAVELLING

- It was very difficult travelling back and forth to these sessions.
- The overnight stays, especially farther away from home---the closer to home that a program is, the better.
- I would want to know what the educational plan for the year was. I don't think I would want it to take up so much of their school time maybe a one day/ overnight program.
- I would do it again. I would do it for another of my children. I must mention again, that I don't like them to be absent from school.

OTHER

- I would like to see the children have a lead role in the next program as they have this first year experience already.

Q7. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(6 responses)

- We are very thankful for the hard work of the teachers and volunteers who organized Na Gaisgich Oga!
- Thank you for giving my child this unique experience.
- My only concern is where will the group go from here? They have come so far and I'm afraid without the support and challenges of a program, much of what they have learned will be lost. I hope that there will be something offered to help support these kids in their learning.
- I would also like to say thank you to the teachers and mentors, organizers and chaperones who are all exceptionally giving, gifted and patient teachers and my child loves you all!
- I am very impressed with the teachers and the organizers of this program who have the skills and ability to create an immersion environment but I have to say other than the one on one totally Gaelic tutoring sessions, I am disappointed with the amount of Gaelic used.
- Leadership changes made it difficult for this program to achieve come closer to achieving the outlined goals of the program

Mentors

Response rate: 88% (7 out of a 8 responded)

Methodology: On-line survey

Comments are organized. Individual names have been removed.

Q1. How successful was the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program in meeting the following goals?

	Not successful (1)	Somewhat successful (2)	Neutral (3)	Successful (4)	Very successful (5)	Total	Average Rating
Create Gaelic speakers who are motivated to learn, enjoy, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	7	3.14
Provide young learners with an opportunity to be immersed in Gaelic language and culture	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	0.00% 0	57.14% 4	0.00% 0	7	3.14
Cultivate a sense of identity as young Gaels living in Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	42.86% 3	7	4.14
Enlighten youth to become aware of and to respect inter-generational opportunities in regards to Gaelic cultural acquisition	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	71.43% 5	14.29% 1	7	3.86
Develop awareness in youth of the responsibility they have to contribute to the sustainability of the language	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	7	3.29

Q1b: Comments on Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program goals:

(3 responses)

- I have little knowledge on which to base my goal ratings as I didn't attend Gaisgich Òga weekend or spend time with participants other than my mentor partner.
- More intense and prolonged immersions are needed to create fluency.
- Far too much English was spoken when Gaelic could have been used.
- The program is exactly what Gaels in Nova Scotia need.
- It would be good to do programming on more local levels.
- Apprentices and mentors should live close together to allow for more natural gatherings.

Q2. Please rate your level of satisfaction with these components or outcomes pertaining to your role as mentor in the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program.

	Very Dissatisfied (1)	Dissatisfied (2)	Neutral (3)	Satisfied (4)	Very Satisfied (5)	Total	Average Rating
The support and training you received in this program	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	57.14% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7	2.57
The quality of the time you spent with the young person you mentored.	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	28.57% 2	7	3.71
Your experience mentoring in the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program.	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	42.86% 3	0.00% 0	7	3.14
How easy it was for you to think of ideas for activities to do with the young person you mentored.	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	57.14% 4	0.00% 0	7	3.29
Quality of communication offered by educational staff in the pilot program.	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	71.43% 5	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	7	3.00

Quality of communication offered by program management	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	0.00% 0	7	2.71
Program organization.	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	57.14% 4	28.57% 2	0.00% 0	7	3.14
How prepared you were to be a mentor	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	42.86% 3	42.86% 3	0.00% 0	7	3.29
Level of language progress made by the young person you mentored	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	57.14% 4	28.57% 2	7	4.00
The initiative taken by the young person you mentored to plan meetings with you.	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	42.86% 3	14.29% 1	7	3.29
How engaged the young person you mentored was in the mentoring sessions	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	57.14% 4	42.86% 3	7	4.43
Community events or any other aspects of the program in which you participated.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	71.43% 5	0.00% 0	7	3.71
The number of hours per month required of you to volunteer in the program.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	71.43% 5	0.00% 0	7	3.71
– Involvement of Gaelic speaking elders and community Gaelic speakers.	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	57.14% 4	0.00% 0	7	3.43

Q2b Comments on mentoring components or outcomes of the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program

(6 responses)

- Good pilot. Needs planning for outcomes
- Communication was not good, but improved later in program.
- I could use some added direction with activities, goals as a mentor, orientation session to start, etc.
- I had difficulties getting to the weekend Gaisgich sessions, which would have helped.
- Was never really clear on whether I or the young person was to arrange meetings, or both.
- My experience as a mentor involved little guidance or communication from those more closely involved in the program.
- It often seemed that challenges with the administration of the program were evident.
- It would have been helpful if tutors could have met at some point, with or without the Gaisgich.
- I was confident in my ability to provide linguistic support to my mentor partner through our weekly meetings, but greater communication as to what was happening in the program as a whole would have been very valuable.
- I would not have been able to provide more time as a mentor than I had.
- There was some difficulty getting together with my apprentice, sometimes due to lack of communication on the part of the apprentice.
- I didn't get a chance to meet up with a lot of native speakers and wish I had more.
- I found it really hard to find the time to meet with my apprentices just because of my busy life.
- I felt there should have been an initial weekend of everyone together. I didn't feel like there was a lot of info or communication at the beginning to kick start things off with momentum.
- Youth were asked to be responsible for setting up monthly mentoring sessions. My apprentice did not do this, so I did it in the beginning. I spoke to her/him about this but he/she did not follow up.

Q3. What did you value most about the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

(6 Responses)

- Its sincerity
- Spending time with young people with a true interest in culture and values
- I think the idea of developing a group of young people who are working towards fluency in Gaelic and are expanding their knowledge of Gaelic culture in Nova Scotia is excellent, and that the creation of this group has been achieved.
- I think the program gives hope for the future of Gaelic language and culture in NS.
- The Gaelic instruction and time with elders.
- The natural learning environment.
- The enthusiasm of the youth!
- Having the opportunity to share my language and experiences with a young person who is learning the language.

Q4 What did you find most challenging?

(7 responses)

- Lack of long-range planning.
- Making up the hours
- Finding common free time for us to meet regularly.
- Not having much direction in what we were supposed to do
- The lack of communication and organized administration of the program.
- Lack of involvement of mentors in the immersion weekends.
- It was often also challenging to make the time to meet with my mentor partner on a regular basis, due to work commitments and my living circumstances.
- Arranging meeting times.
- Finding the time to meet and organize meetings with all our busy schedules.
- Not having my apprentice books sessions, therefore not getting together enough.

Q5 How could this program be improved?

(6 responses)

- Needs a blueprint
- An orientation session with all mentors and participants.
- A greater emphasis on complete Gaelic immersion and a challenge to develop a higher level of fluency would also be excellent.
- I don't see the need for the history lessons, especially if offered in English. Gaisgich could be offered simplified historical and cultural context in Gaelic.
- The program could be better structured as a unified whole, with everything in Gaelic.
- Adhere to the goals. Those who started the program need to stay committed. All parents need to do their part.
- People who live closer together, i.e. within 10 minutes of each other or better still neighbours.
- I think there could be a separate session at the beginning of the program, daylong, to initiate the relationship between mentor/apprentice and to clearly outline everyone's expectations.

Q6 Would you volunteer to mentor in a youth program like this again?

(6 responses)

Yes – 3 or 50%

No – 1 or 16.67%

I don't know -- 2 or 33.33%

6b. If you answered no, or I don't know, what conditions would need to change in order for you to mentor again?

(3 responses)

- There needs to be more pre-scheduling and more check-in from instructors/leaders about how everything is going.
- This program has so much potential, and it did succeed in some areas, but it seemed to suffer from direction from leadership due to people dropping out.
- Not right now, too busy.
- I think the program is just wonderful. Or I'd consider mentoring for one session a month if there were other mentors who'd share that.
- More of a stipend would be nice if it were the four hours or more. Or some pay.

Q7. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(4 responses)

- Develop an infrastructure with on-going and adjunct programming.
- The stipend for expenses was definitely helpful. My mentor partner did a wonderful job and I am very proud of her!
- This is a learning opportunity that needs to be continued. 'm a bit afraid that, in being politically correct by not allowing more than one Gaisgeach per family, that we did not always get the best group of would be Gaelic learners. Worry less about geography and get the best learners into the program. These children are the future of Gaelic.
- I have no problem with at least part of the future sessions being held at the Gaelic College as long as the principles are adhered to. The community still needs to be the base however.
- Probably the best part about this program is the awareness that it created in the minds of the learners and in the eyes of the community and in the meeting with tradition bearers.
- I was a bit disappointed about how this last session ended in that there was not a 'public' celebration to end the program. I am proud to have been involved in the program, but found it a bit of a challenge to put the hours in or to attend the all functions.
- I understand that a lot of planning went into this program, and that there was a lot volunteer hours given.
- Future planning will be key to this programs success.

Youth

Response rate: 90% (9 out of 10 responded. Only 8 out of 10 responded to question 3)

Methodology: Seven youth completed the survey individually and as a group during the May Na Gaisgich Oga session. Two completed it on their own as home since they were not at the May session.

Comments provided in full.

Q1. How strongly do you agree that this program met the following goals:

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree(4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total	Average Rating
Create Gaelic speakers who are motivated to learn, enjoy, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	14.29% 1	11.11% 1	77.78% 7	9	4.6
Provide young learners with an opportunity to be immersed in Gaelic language and culture	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	77.78% 7	9	4.6
Cultivate a sense of identity as young Gaels living in Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	77.78% 7	9	4.6
Enlighten youth to become aware of and to respect inter-generational opportunities in regards to Gaelic cultural acquisition	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	77.78% 7	9	4.7

	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	44.44%	33.33%		
Develop awareness in youth of the responsibility they have to contribute to the sustainability of the language	0	0	2	4	3	9	4.11

Q1b: Comments on Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program goals:

- All the goals were met, I think. They all we met really well. They were all great goals, too. But the last one is kind of big. I am aware of my responsibility, but I don't think can keep the culture and communities right now, maybe when I am older. And there are other people, that can keep the culture and communities. It's also quite a bit of pressure.
- There's a bit of stress and expectation that comes along with the responsibility of keeping Gaelic alive. When I'm at home, there is zero Gaelic. I don't know what I want to do for a living, and it may or may not include Gaelic on a daily basis. I definitely am going to speak Gaelic, but there is pressure on needing to change the world.
- A big responsibility/stress on us. We're only young. Scared because I might fail at keeping Gaelic alive. Gaelic is a huge responsibility that quite hard to keep alive.
- It's a lot of pressure to keep Gaelic alive. It makes me feel guilty if I don't. My life in Gaelic and my English life are separate.
- The last one is too much stress and responsibility. It makes me feel "the Gaelic language is lying in your hands." That's a lot of pressure.
- There is a lot of pressure on the Gaisgich's because we are the future of Gaelic. I am the only person in my school that knows Gaelic.
- I have a lot more opportunities to speak the language than other people in the program.
- I would have liked more real instead of technology and 2014 stuff.
- I didn't like having to perform
- We've seen many native Gaelic speakers and I love hearing their stories
- I am really proud of my identity
- WE had so many great opportunities!
- I've improved a lot (Gaelic)
- I'm way more passionate now
- I love the elders. I learned a lot
- They wanted us to perform and performance is not part of the goals!

Q2. Please check off what applies most strongly to you

		Not Improved (1')	Stayed the same (2)	Improved a little (3)	Improved a lot (4)	Total	Average Rating
1	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my Gaelic speaking skills have			33.33% 3	66.67% 6	9	3.67
2	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my Gaelic comprehension skills have		11.11% 1	22.22% 2	66.67% 6	9	3.44
3	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my awareness of Gaelic history has				100% 9	9	4
4	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my ability to participate in Gaelic culture has		22.22% 2	44.44% 4	33.33% 3	9	3.11
5	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my ability to communicate in Gaelic with my peers has		11.11% 1	22.22% 2	66.67% 6	9	3.56
6	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my ability to communicate in English with my peers has		33.33% 3		66.67% 6	9	3.33
7	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my ability to communicate in Gaelic with adults has		11.11% 1	44.44% 4	44.44% 4	9	3.33
8	As a result of Na Gaisgich Òga my ability to communicate in English with adults has	11.11 1	33.33% 3	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	9	3

Comments on above question:

- It would be neat to have much more opportunity to speak Gaelic.
- (Regarding #1), I don't like being put on the spot. When put on the spot, everything leaves my mind. When I am listening to someone speaking, I understand.
- (Regarding #1), But I don't enjoy being put on the spot
- (Regarding #1), where I live, there aren't much Gaelic activities so Na Gaisgich Òga is pretty much the only place where I can participate.
- (Regarding #4),: Because I was always performing on stage and things for Gaelic, so it didn't improve very much.
- (Regarding #5), But in Gaelic Class, I kind of know most things.
- (Regarding #5), My Gaisgich Peers (mentioned several times)
- Also made me more confident to talk to other Gaisgich (in English). Made me more of an extrovert.
- Made us close friends
- I made fantastic friends
- I went in public speaking sing NGO.
- I was interviewed, too (on the radio)

Q3. Please rate your level of satisfaction with these specific aspects of the Na Gaisgich Òga Program. Check only one column.

	Very Dissatisfied 1)	Dissatisfied (2)	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied (3)	Satisfied (4)	Very Satisfied (5)	Total	Average Rating
Moving the program from community to community				37.5% 3	62.5% 5	8	4.625
The community ceilidhs and events			12.5% 1	25% 2	63.5% 5	8	4.5
The chance to visit older Gaelic speakers				12.5% 1	87.5% 7	8	4.875
Making food in Gaelic				37.5% 3	62.5% 5	8	4.625
Playing Games in Gaelic				25% 2	75% 6	8	4.75
Making crafts in Gaelic		12.5% 1	25% 2		62.5% 5	8	4.125
Outdoor activities		12.5% 1	12.5% 1		75% 6	8	4.375
Dancing		12.5% 1		12.5% 1	75% 6	8	4.5
Learning and singing songs			12.5% 1	25% 2	62.5% 5	8	5.125
Storytelling sessions		12.5% 1	12.5% 1	12.5% 1	62.5% 5	8	4.875
Learning about the Gaels History				12.5% 1	87.5% 7	8	5.5
Doing homework in between sessions	12.5% 1		62.5% 5	25% 2		8	3.125
Making videos and sharing on YouTube	12.5% 1	25% 2	37.5% 2	25% 2		8	2.75
Our Gaelic Teachers				12.5% 1	87.5% 7	8	4.875
The sessions held in the homes				12.5% 1	87.5% 7	8	4.875
The session held at Taigh an t-Sagairt, Glendale.			25% 2	12.5% 1	5 62.5%	8	4.375
The sessions held at the Gaelic College			12.5% 1	12.5% 1	62.5% 6	8	4.625

Q. 4 Imagine you are designing the ultimate Gaelic Youth Program. Which of the following elements would have the *greatest impact* on your Gaelic language and culture learning? Rate your top 5, with 5 being the most important and 1 being least important. There will be some that don't make your list which would not be very important.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 28 | Hands-on Gaelic immersion learning activities |
| 6 | Grammar lessons |
| 14 | History lessons on the Gaels |
| 11 | Working with mentors in between sessions |
| 2 | More use of technology in the lessons (i.e. audio/video/picture texting, Skype, YouTube) |
| 6 | Opportunities to learn songs |
| 8 | Opportunities to learn to tell Gaelic stories |
| 13 | Community events that include music and dance and Gaelic supporters and/or learners |
| 3 | Phone/Skype/Instagram/Voxer buddies |
| 5 | Gaelic only policy for certain activities/time-periods |
| 0 | Homework |
| 23 | Inclusion of and visits with Gaelic elders |
| 17 | Field trips |
| 5 | Gaelic lessons in the home |
| 0 | Other, Please list: |

Top 5, with 5 being most important.

1. Community events that include music and dance and Gaelic supporters and/or learners
2. History lessons on the Gaels
3. Field Trips
4. Inclusion of and visits with Gaelic elders
5. **Hands on Gaelic-immersion activities**

The youth found it very hard to pick just five. One youth divided the choices given into Language and Culture. Answers she/he provided for language are provided here. Her/His choices for Culture are as follows, **with 5 being most important:**

1. Field Trips
2. Community Events that include music and dance and Gaelic supporters and/or learners
3. Opportunities to learn to tell Gaelic stories
4. Opportunities to learn Gaelic songs
5. **History lessons on the Gaels.**

Others that some said they would include if they could include more than 5 were: History lessons, working with mentors, hand on immersion, visits with elders, Gaelic only policy, songs and stories. It is clear the Gaisgich do not like homework, some when out of their way to give it a 0. Technology is also not a priority for this group of Gaisgich.

Q5. What are the most important components of Na Gaisgich Òga that should be maintained for future programming?

- A huge thing is our commitment to each other and the bond which is huge in this program. I think trips and moving from community to community is great.
- This year has been so fun and exciting! My favorite parts are the Gaisgichs, native speakers, travelling. I liked pretty much everything.
- Learning Gaelic songs, history, grammar lessons, outdoor activities, fun games, going to native speakers.
- Visiting native Gaelic speakers, ceilidhs, baking, history, little bit of homework, going to see mentors in between sessions, lots of games, yoga.
- Games, horse-back riding, ceilidh, trips, talking to elders.
- Field trips, elders, history, hands on activities, mentoring, baking/cooking, the food, YOGA, road trips, Halifax.
- I love the discussions and hand-on activities. The history is fun. Love the field trips. You know I love most of it.
- Immersion, Games that make learning fun, visiting elders, history, field trips/musical gathering.
- History, breaks for English release, ceilidhs, visiting older people, going to different places, stories, songs, dance, making food, meeting Gaelic speakers, doing fun stuff, games, going outside, music, crafts, field trips – other stuff I didn't remember. Oaths for all Gaelic, mentor sessions, pretty much everything.

Q6. What components could be discontinued?

- Maybe homework assignments because it can be really hard to do those things while maintaining mentor sessions and other school work and some activities.
- Making videos, SOME field trips, phone buddies, speaking English
- Making videos, having the same food every session, being put on the spot, too much homework (we're all busy).

- Moods (?), time getting up (should be 10:00 a.m.), homework, videos that we make, videos that we have to watch at night.
- Journals, in the house lessons, too early (start?), videos
- I don't like when (instructor) holds up a poster and talks about it for a long time. I don't like the homework or documentaries. They should respect our English time more.
- Making videos
- Videos. Late sessions during English breaks, possibly journals.

Q7. What elements (aspects, components) could be changed?

- More crafts and activities outside
- I think the year was awesome. One thing I would change is the documentaries. Also to change the food every session.
- I think we should change the phone calls. I find them really stressful.
- This program should be more focused on Gaelic instead of going to non-Gaelic related activities.
- Where the sessions are at.
- More interesting subjects
- Different foods, more artistic things, more physical activity (outside), more fun, kids need fun to learn.

Q8. How would you change them?

- Re. phone calls. I don't know, just discontinue it. You could probably just talk Gaelic when you see each other or have an optional choice for it if you want to call a friend or not.
- Re. more Gaelic: We could be immersive and have more time for only speaking Gaelic.
- Re. Where sessions are at: By having more common sense to choose a Gaelic related area.
- Re. More interesting subjects: more relatable (?)

Chaperones/Volunteers

Response rate: 29% (2 out of 7 responded)

Methodology: On-line survey

Comments are edited/ summarized. Individual names have been removed.

Q1. How successful was the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program in meeting the following goals?

	Not successful (1)	Somewhat successful (2)	Neutral (3)	Successful (4)	Very successful (5)	Total	Average Rating
Create Gaelic speakers who are motivated to learn, enjoy, share and champion Gaelic Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	2	3.50
Provide young learners with an opportunity to be immersed in Gaelic language and culture	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	2	3.00
Cultivate a sense of identity as young Gaels living in Nova Scotia	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	0.00% 0	2	3.00
Enlighten youth to become aware of and to respect inter-generational opportunities in regards to Gaelic cultural acquisition	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	50.00% 1	2	4.50

Develop awareness in youth of the responsibility they have to contribute to the sustainability of the language	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 2	0.00% 0	2	4.00
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Q2.What did you value most about the Na Gaisgich Oga Pilot Program.

(2 responses)

- The children's enthusiasm
- I love that the children got to be part of a group of children who have similar cultural values and goals.
- It was a great experience for these children to meet and get to know the elders in our communities.
- It created a learning experience you can't re-create in any classroom.

Q3. What did you find most rewarding about being a volunteer/chaperone in the Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program

(2 responses)

- Being with the kids.
- The opportunity to bond with each of these children. They are a very special group of young people.
- The children were always very respectful and appreciative of everything we did for them. They are the reason I continued to volunteer every month with this program. They will go on to do great things in the Gaelic community.

Q4. What did you find most challenging?

(1 responses)

- Not having much Gaelic was very challenging as I was not able to communicate as effectively as I should have during the in home sessions.
- It would have been great for the chaperones to have some time with the instructors to learn some basic Gaelic phrases.

Q5 How could this program be improved?

(2 responses)

- A list of tasks, responsibilities for chaperones/volunteers
- Support for tutors and organizers and repercussions for those students who do not do their work, are disrespectful to their tutors or dismissive to the program.

- Having the students involved in food preparation, chores, clean up and/or cooking. This can all be incorporated into the GAB method.
- More Gaelic in these activities for the chaperones. Make these weekends a true immersion experience for EVERYONE.
- Someone should be hired to buy groceries, prepare meals and cleanup as it is very labor intensive.
- The duty of the chaperone should be to ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

Q6. Would you volunteer/chaperone again in a program like Na Gaisgich Òga pilot program?

Yes – 0

No – 0

I don't know – 100% (2 out of 2)

6b. If you answered No or I don't know, what conditions would need to change in order for you to volunteer/chaperone again?

(2 responses)

- Availability
- People involved
- It would depend on how the program was going to be run, the cost and who was instructing.

Q7. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(2 responses)

- I often found I did not have enough to do nor had no clear purpose.
- Although there were many bumps and growing pains along the way I still believe this was a good program and I commend the original team who had the vision to create such a program.