



Celebrating 12 years of mentorship in Gaelic Nova Scotia
Deadline – September 15, 2021

“Agus bheir mi fhathast gu robh an céilidh math airson aonachadh nan daoine airson an cumail ann an toileachadh agus gu robh e ’gan cumail dlùth dha chéile ann an càirdeas agus ’nam feòil agus ’nan spioraid.” -- Eòs Nìll Bhig, Sgeul gu Latha

“And I still maintain that the house-visits were good for bringing people together and keeping them happy and they kept them close to each other and in harmony physically and spiritually.” -- Joe Neil MacNeil, Tales Until Dawn.

Overview

Bun is Bàrr (Root and Branch) is a Mentoring Program managed by the Office of Gaelic Affairs, which provides Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia with the opportunity to work with Gaelic mentors and elders as they develop their language and cultural skills. The goal of Bun is Bàrr is to help create a new generation of Gaelic tradition bearers: those who are knowledgeable of and steeped in Nova Scotia’s Gaelic tradition.

Bun is Bàrr seeks to achieve three objectives concurrently:

- Continued transmission of Gaelic language through culture
- Re-integration of Nova Scotia Gaelic expression, such as song, music, story, tradition, custom, dance into the social life of Gaels
- Restore collective Gaelic memory and identity

The Program

This year Bun is Bàrr will focus on advanced learners who would like greater practice, guidance and exposure to idiomatic speech, thereby increasing their confidence, fluency and cultural skills. Apprentices will work with Gaelic mentors who are exceptional teachers of Nova Scotia's Gaelic language and tradition. The mentor/apprentice teams will work together in person and on Zoom and will visit, if possible, an elder/elders who grew up in a Gaelic-speaking home and community. This intensive and specialized mentorship will be done one-on-one and in special circumstances teams can include two or more apprentices. If visiting an elder is not possible, mentors are encouraged to work with material available in on-line archives such as Sruth nan Gàidheal, Cainnt mo Mhàthar or An Drochaid Eadarainn. Both mentors and apprentices will be required to check in regularly with the Office of Gaelic Affairs on their progress.

The Office is seeking applications from apprentices for this year's Bun is Bàrr program.

Criteria for Apprentices

- Apprentices must be Nova Scotia residents.
- Apprentices must have the time to devote to language and cultural learning.
- Apprentices must demonstrate a high level of independence and motivation concerning their language learning.
- Apprentices must demonstrate a strong interest in the Nova Scotia's Gaelic oral tradition and cultural expression.
- Preference will be given to candidates who will be active speakers of Gaelic in their family and community, or those who plan to teach Gaelic in Nova Scotia.
- Apprentices should have a recording device for the purposes of taping Gaelic sessions and playback at home and Internet access.
- Apprentices who have already participated in previous Bun is Bàrr programming can apply to be part of this program.
- Apprentices should spend 8 hours per week on their Gaelic, this includes time not spent with mentors. Apprentices should work with their mentors a minimum of 5 hours per week.
- Apprentices should be able to attend the on-line Stòras air Astar sessions.

Requirements

- Apprentices must attend a two-hour orientation team planning session with their apprentice to map out dates, activities and a learning path for the 10 weeks of the program.

- A meeting with Bun is Bàrr Program Manager to review their plan for the 10 weeks.
- Five hours per week engaged with the apprentice in a Gaelic-only situation.
- Apprentices, with their mentor, will visit an elder in his/her home.
- Apprentices must track their progress and provide a report to Gaelic Affairs at the end of the program.

Application Process

Interested Mentors should send a resumé and/or letter to the Office of Gaelic Affairs Kelly.Schlay@novascotia.ca and answers to the following questions

Explain how you meet the **Criteria for Apprentices** mentioned above. Please address each of the points specifically.

Other Program Details

Starting this fall, Bun is Bàrr will run for 10 weeks. If teams are working very well together, depending upon budget, we will consider extending the program.

Apprentices will be compensated for travel-related costs specific to this program.

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