



Requests for  
Expressions of Interest  
**Mentors**



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

*“Agus bheir mi fhathast gur 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(s) who grew 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 Gaelic Affairs on their progress.

## **Mentor Qualifications**

1. Mentors must have a high level of Gaelic language and cultural fluency and demonstrate strong commitment to and knowledge of Nova Scotia's Gaelic language, culture and tradition.
2. Mentors must have experience in matching the learner's needs with the Gaelic learning program design. They should have proven success in increasing the language and cultural ability of learners.
3. Mentors must have an appreciation of the diversity of Nova Scotia Gaelic language and culture and a high comfort level in visiting and conversing with elders in subjects that interest the Gaelic elder.
4. Preference will be given to mentors who live near a Gaelic-speaking elder who is comfortable speaking Gaelic and is able to welcome visitors. Mentors are responsible for following all Covid-19 protocols.
5. Mentors must be practitioners of the Nova Scotia Gaelic oral tradition and familiar with on-line collections. They transcribe, teach and transmit oral tradition as they live their language and culture at home and/or in community.
6. Mentors must be comfortable working with apprentices in a home environment and doing activities with the apprentice including preparing meals and household and outdoor activities.
7. Mentors should have experience with on-line communication tools such as Skype or Zoom.

## Requirements

- Mentors must plan and organize a two-hour orientation team planning session with the 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.
- Mentor will take the apprentices with them to visit the elder in his/her home.
- Mentors must track the progress of their apprentice 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 Gaelic Affairs ([Kelly.Schlay@novascotia.ca](mailto:Kelly.Schlay@novascotia.ca)) and answers to the following questions

1. Explain how you meet the seven **Mentor Qualifications** mentioned above. Please address each of the seven points specifically, and number your answers to correspond with each of the qualifications.

When addressing the points, you may wish to share a story that connects with the moments below, which will take us to the heart of your practice:

- Take us to a moment of shared cultural experience in Gaelic community, which strongly impacted your own language learning. Who was there with you? Where were you? What did you feel at the time? How did you carry this moment forward in your own teaching?
- Take us to a moment when you taught Gaelic language or culture, when you realized that you had exceptional skills to inspire and pass on this language and culture. Who was there with you? Where were you? What did you feel at the time?
- Take me to a moment when you encountered a challenge when teaching or mentoring. How did you overcome it?
- How do you see your role in and contribution to the future of Gaelic Nova Scotia?

In your application we encourage mentors to identify potential apprentices for this year's program. Who do you know that would have the time, willingness and diligence to complete every hour and all that is required of them in this program? Keep in mind that we want to create mentors for future Bun is Bàrr programs.

### **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.

Mentors will be paid \$2,640 which includes five hours of intensive language immersion with apprentice for 10 weeks, one hour of preparation per week, and a two-hour planning session with their apprentice(s) at the beginning of the program, two hours to review collaborative planning session and create learning approach for apprentice, and a report on the work done with the apprentice (template will be provided).

Applicants should have completed a vulnerable sector check: [Vulnerable Sector Check Information](#)

**Deadline, September 15, 2021.**