



**Tourism, Culture and Heritage**

**Culture Division**

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## **Gaelic Activities Program**

### **Introduction**

Nova Scotia's Gaelic language and vibrant cultural expressions are a distinguished part of the province's cultural mosaic, contributing significantly to the province's diversity, social well being, cohesiveness, creativity and economy.

The Gaelic Activities Program is designed to help Nova Scotians learn from, work with and share resources with other Gaelic communities. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed between the Province of Nova Scotia and Highland Council, Scotland, is a mechanism to facilitate sharing of resources, ideas, skills and experience for the benefit of both areas. Community-based educational and cultural projects that support the goals of the MOU will be considered under the Gaelic Activities Program.

### **Goals for Gaelic Development**

Successful projects under the Gaelic Activities Program will support goals that have been drawn from our MOU and the Gaelic strategy, *Developing and Preserving Gaelic in Nova Scotia*, available at [www.gov.ns.ca/dtc/culture\\_gaelic.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/dtc/culture_gaelic.asp). These goals include:

#### ***Increase Gaelic language opportunities***

Nova Scotia's Cultural Policy recognizes language as an important foundation for cultural expression and that Nova Scotia's cultural diversity enriches our lives and is an essential aspect of our identity. This program will support projects that:

- Increase the number of Gaelic speakers of all ages through community-based learning opportunities;
- Improve the quality, co-ordination and effectiveness of Gaelic learning opportunities in Nova Scotia;
- Strengthen Gaelic as a family language and promote inter-generational transmission of Gaelic, thus preserving the knowledge of Nova Scotia's Gaelic tradition-bearers.

This can include Gaelic classes and workshops, projects that involve the preservation of local Gaelic language and idiom, language planning and community-based teacher training and skills development.

### ***Encourage and promote all forms of Nova Scotia's Gaelic cultural expression***

Gaels in Nova Scotia have welcomed visitors in their communities to enjoy and participate in Gaelic culture. For many, events and products featuring Gaelic arts and culture are their first introduction to Gaelic, inspiring some to begin learning the language.

The program will support projects that:

- Preserve and develop the traditional arts that reflect Nova Scotia's distinct Gaelic legacy, such as music, dance, Gaelic song and story telling;
- Interpret and/or create awareness of Gaelic language and culture through new media, drama, visual arts, literature, film and other art forms;
- Enhance pride, appreciation and visibility of Gaelic language, tradition, arts and culture in Nova Scotia.

This can include projects that reconnect the language with its traditional art forms and also new artistic and cultural expressions that connect with the Gaelic language.

### ***Strengthen Gaelic organizational and community capacity***

Language and culture cannot be separated from the communities in which they exist. They grow and thrive based on interaction among people who have similar knowledge, beliefs, and values. Strengthening communities that still hold these values will provide an environment conducive to maintaining and growing the language and culture. Important to community development are capable, accountable and representative organizations.

The Gaelic Activities Program will support projects that:

- Develop skills of Gaelic organization and community members in areas such as leadership, fundraising, communication and planning;
- Demonstrate the organization's commitment to long term planning and sustainability of Gaelic projects;
- Enhance co-operation, communication and sharing of resources with other community groups or Gaelic organizations, institutions and communities both inside and outside of Nova Scotia.

Projects can include workshops, conferences, strategic planning, board training, consultations and other educational opportunities.

### **Eligibility**

An eligible applicant is a community, voluntary or non-governmental organization.

## **Level of Funding**

The Gaelic Activities Program will not normally exceed 75 per cent of eligible costs and normally will not exceed \$5,000 per project. The organization's contribution of 25 per cent can include approved in-kind costs, but must include at least a 10 per cent cash contribution. The community's 25 percent contribution cannot include funding from other provincial or federal government departments.

## **Application Procedure**

It is strongly recommended that an application be submitted to a deadline, which is at least 6 weeks prior to the start date of the proposed activity.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Gaelic Cultural Officer directly to discuss their proposed activity and the requirements for application before completing the application form.

Completed application forms must be signed and dated by the organization's chair (or authorised designate).

## **Application Assessment**

Applications are reviewed by staff in the Culture Division for completeness and eligibility. They then are assessed and scored by an *External Assessment Panel*, consisting of the Gaelic Activities Program Officer and two community representatives. The panel's recommendations are forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage for review and final decisions.

Applications will be assessed against program goals and objectives outlined above. Some consideration will be given as to the applicant's knowledge and experience and their ability to successfully complete the project. It is expected that submissions to this program will further advance the implementation of the Gaelic Strategy, *Developing and Preserving Gaelic in Nova Scotia*.

## **Program Evaluation**

The Gaelic Office will measure the success of the Gaelic Activities Program and the activities it supports through review of evaluation forms completed by funded organizations following the conclusion of their activities. The Gaelic Activities Program should achieve the following outcomes:

- increased number, co-ordination and quality of Gaelic language learning opportunities in Nova Scotia;
- raised visibility, profile and appreciation of Gaelic language, arts and culture in Nova

- Scotia;
- increased Gaelic organizational and community infrastructure;
  - improved co-ordination, co-operation and communication between Gaelic communities, institutions and organizations.

### **Application Deadlines and Activity Start Dates**

Activities can start no earlier than the deadline date, with the exception of the February 15 deadline for which activity can start no earlier than April 1.

**Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15.**

Applications must be postmarked on or prior to the deadline date to be eligible. If the deadline date should fall on a weekend or holiday, applications that are received or postmarked for the following business day will be accepted. Send applications to: Gaelic Cultural Officer, Culture Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, P.O Box 456, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2R5. For more information, call (902) 945-2114.