

Nuachtlitir #2: Cumann na Gaeltachta

Nollaig 2002

A Chairde,

Beannachtaí an tséasúir agaibh. Tá súil agam go raibh sos maith agaibh i rith laethanta saoire na Nollag. Chuala mé go raibh moilliú mór ag San Nioclás ag dul trasna an teorann idir Ceanada agus S.A.M. Agus níl aon ionadh é sin; tá a fhéasóg bhán fhada an amhrasach.

Imeachtaí

Tá sé in am linn a bheith ag smaoineamh faoi cúpla imeacht atá romhainn:

- Ollchruinniú Bliantiúl, 4 – 6 Aibreán 2003 i gKingston
- Seachtain Gaeilge Samhraidh (11 – 17 Lúnasa 2003)?

Beidh fáilte romhaibh ag an Ollchruinniú. Beidh sé ceangailte leis an Gaeltacht Deireadh Seachtaine i gKingston arís i mbliana. Seolfar an fhoirm iarratais faoi clúdach eile go luath. Beidh na cruinnithe (ollchruinniú agus cruinnithe an coiste stiúrtha) níos oscailte i mbliana. Beidh aistriúchán comhuaineach (simultaneous) le fáil, agus an cumas barúlacha a léiriú as Béarla. Is é sin mar aitheantas go bhfuil cuid de na daoine is díograisí gan Gaeilge líofa acu go fóill.

Tá súil agam go rachaimid ar aghaidh go bríomar le hábhair seo a leanas:

- an bunreacht
- scéim chun stádas carthanach a fáil
- imeachtaí i mBaile an Fhuaráin (Caladh Bogaidh) a chur in eagar

Friends,

Blessings of the season to you. I hope that you had a nice rest over the Christmas holidays. I heard that St Nicholas was delayed considerably crossing the border between Canada and the U.S. That is no surprise; the long white beard makes him look very suspicious.

Events

It is time that we were thinking about a couple upcoming events:

- Annual General Meeting, 4 – 6 April 2003 in Kingston
- Irish Language Week (11 – 17 August 2003)?

We hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting. It will be associated with the Irish Language Weekend in Kingston again this year. The application form will be sent shortly under a separate cover. The meetings (AGM and Steering Committee Meetings) will be more open this year. Simultaneous translation will be available, and people may express their ideas in English. This change is in recognition that some of the most zealous supporters of the project do not yet have fluent Irish.

I hope that we will make good progress at the meetings upon the following matters

- the constitution
- obtaining charitable status
- organizing events in Springtown (Calabogie)

Ba chóir dúinn socrú a dhéanamh roimh i bhfad faoi dáta an tSeachtain Samhraidh. Cuir in iúl mé, le bhur dtoil, má tá tosaíocht (preference) agaibh (kenny-h@rmc.ca). Fanfaimid go socrófar dáta agus láthair ag Daltaí na Gaeilge dá n-imeacht samhraidh ionas nach mbeidh comhraic ann.

Creidim gur chóir dúinn rudaí a réiteach mar a bhí siad anuraidh le seachtain neamhfhoirmiúla chun:

- obair a dhéanamh ar áiseanna an suíomh
- sult a bhaint as an ceantair turasóireachta máguaird

Ach ag an deireadh seachtaine, bheadh sé go deas más féidir linn puball mór (mar a úsáidtear ag bainiseacha) a fáil ar chíos chun cúrsa gearr Gaeilge a reachtáil, le céilí mór oíche Sathairn.

Fealsúnacht

Socraíodh aidhm na heagraíochta ó dtús barra: Gaeltacht a bhunadh agus a chothú. Ach níl "cruth" an Gaeltacht comh soiléir. Tá a lán toghadh againn i dtaobh an múnla forbartha. Ceanglaítear faisnéis leis an nuachtlitr seo faoi ceithre patrún a leanann eagraíochta eile i Meiriceá Thuaidh:

- a. Madonna House, Combermere, Ontario
- b. Christian Family Holidays, Perry Sound, Ontario
- c. Colaisde Na Gaidhlig, Baddeck, Albain Nua
- d. Dúnáras Bundúchasaigh Meiriceánach

I ngach cás, cuireadh tionscadal ar bun le "grúpa suime" le haidhmeanna gaolta dár n-aidhm féin (oideachas, chomhphobal,

We should decide before long about a date for the Summer Week. Please inform me of preferences (kenny-h@rmc.ca). We will wait until the date and place of the Daltaí summer event is decided in order to avoid conflict.

I believe we should organize things informally, as they were last year, with an informal week for:

- working on improvements to the facilities on location
- enjoying the tourism in the surrounding area

But on the weekend, it would be nice if we could rent a large tent (as used for weddings) in order to run a short Irish course, and hold a céilí dance on Saturday night.

Philosophy

The aim of the organization has been decided from the outset: to establish and maintain a Gaeltacht. But the "shape" that the Gaeltacht will take is less clear. We have many choices of development model. Information is attached to this newsletter concerning 4 patterns that are followed by organizations in North America.

- a. Madonna House, Combermere, Ontario.
- b. Christian Family Holidays, Perry Sound, Ontario
- c. Gaelic College, Baddeck, Nova Scotia
- d. Indian Reservation

In each case, a project was established by an interest group with aims similar to ours (education, community, language). What

teanga). Cén tairbhe an féidir linn a bhaint as a dtaití? Cad é an cur chuige is fearr dúinn?

Bunreacht

Ba mhaith liom dhá mholadh a dhéanamh i dtaobh na bunreacht, chun smaointe a spreagadh roimh an t-ollchruinniú mí Aibreáin.

1. Go mbeadh dhá chorp treorach ann
 - a. **Coiste Stiúrtha**: chun gnáth-ghnó na heagraíochta a dhéanamh. Chumfaí an coiste seo den daoine tofa ón bhallraíocht gach bliain.
 - b. **Seanad**: chun comhairle oifigiúla a thabhairt don Coiste Stiúrtha. Chumfaí an Seanad le daoine a thug a lán fuinneamh don eagraíocht/teanga. Cé nach bhfuil sé ar a chumas acu "gnáth-ghnó" na heagraíochta a dhéanamh anois, tá siad toilteanach obair a dhéanamh mar chomhairleoirí. Tagann ainm "Séamus Mac Con Charraigh" chun chuimhneamh mar sampla.
2. Go mbeadh struchtúir an Coiste Stiúrtha solúbtha

Molaim nach gcuirfí struchtúir daingean ("múnla corparáideach": Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Rúnaí is araile), mar tréith éigeantach ag an coiste. Ina áit molaim go dtoghfaí ball an choiste go ginearálta agus ina dhiaidh sin go socrófaí, idir na baill iad féin, cén chaoi is fearr chun cúrsaí a réiteach. Dá mbeadh Cathaoirleach/Taoiseach aonánach de dhíth, bheadh sin mar rogha acu. Mura mbeadh

benefit can we draw from their experience? What approach is best for us?

Constitution

I would like to make two recommendations concerning the constitution, in order to stimulate thought before the general meeting in April.

1. That there be two directing bodies
 - a. **Steering Committee**: to do the normal business of the organization. The committee would consist of people elected by the membership each year.
 - b. **Senate**: to provide official advice to the Steering Committee. The Senate would be composed of people who have made substantial contributions to the Irish language and/or the organization. Although they are not now able to participate in the normal business of the organization, they are willing to act as advisors. The name of Séamus Mac Con Charraige comes to mind as an example.
2. That the structure of the Steering Committee be flexible

I recommend that a rigid structure ("corporate model": President, Vice president, Secretary etc) not be made a compulsory feature of the committee. Instead I recommend that committee members be elected in a general sense, and that the elected members subsequently decide how things are best organized. If an individual chairperson/president is required, they can choose one. If that type of

"ceannaireacht" den saghas sin de dhíth, ní bheadh aon riachtanas cliarlathas (hierarchy) a bhunadh.

"leadership" is not required, there would be no obligation to establish such a hierarchy.

Ceird Tógála

Caithfimid glacadh leis an nithiúlacht (reality). Ní foláir dúinn sainmhíniú (definition) a chur ar ár mbuanna de réir ár gcumas. Mar a deirtear

- Tá gach tús lág
- Is i ndiaidh a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin

Thosaigh muid anuraidh gan dídean, gan leithris. Thug muid ár ndídean féin linn (pubaill). Thóg muid cró mar leithreas; ba fheabhas mór é sin!! Bua a bhí ann!!

Mar chéad chéim eile, ba chóir dúinn dídean seasmhach a thógáil. Cad é an acmhainn atá againn? An acmhainn is mó na ár obair féin. Ach is obair in aisce é mura bhfuil ceird againn chun an obair a dhíriú. "Is namhaid an ceird gan í a fhoghlaim". Tá cúrsa oiriúnach le fáil i Lanark, 50 ciliméadar as Caladh Bogaidh. Maireann sé ar feadh 4 seachtaine, 7 Aibreán – 2 May 2003. Is cúrsa tógail teachíní pollaí giúise é. Socraíodh agam freastail air. Is féidir liom eolas a sheoladh go duine ar bith eile a bhfuil suim aige ann – nó féachaigí ar

<http://www.igs.net/~pwolfe/>.

Stór Focal

Go raibh maith ag Séamus Mac Con Charraigh as ucht aistriúchán na focail a bhí muid a lorg insan nuacht litir deireanach:

coping saw: sábh cóipeála

blade: lann

handle: doirnín

saw horse: trinstéal sáfa

water repellent: uiscédhíonach (adjective), éarthach uisce (noun)

yellow rod (golden rod): slat óir Séamus

Building Skills

We have to accept reality, and define success by our reasonable possibilities. As the old sayings go:

- Every beginning is weak
- Rome wasn't built in a day

We started last year with no shelter or toilet. We brought our own shelters (tents). We built an outhouse; that was a big improvement!! That's success!!

In addition to planning our financial strategy, we need to consider building permanent shelters. What resources do we have? Our greatest resource is our own labour. But that labour is worthless if we don't have the skill to direct it. "The skill unlearned is an enemy". There is an appropriate course available in Lanark, 50 kilometers from Calabogie. It lasts for 4 weeks, 7 April – 2 May 2003. It is a course to build log cabins. I will be attending myself. I can send information to anyone else who is interested. Else see:

<http://www.igs.net/~pwolfe/>.

