



## Reply tae the makkin o Plans for the Gaelic Leid

The Centre for the Scots Leid walcomes recent law-makkin that's ettles is tae gie the Gaelic leid a heize, in parteeclear whaur the leid is, or wis, no lang syne, the tradeetional and recognised leid o the community. We walcome the makkin o Gaelic plans bi sindry national an hame-aboot organisations as important for Gaelic tae haud-gaun in the lang term.

The Centre for the Scots Leid trows that in makkin Gaelic plans institutions maun tak tent tae the Scots-speakin communities that haes lang exisitit in mony pairts o the kintra. Policy ettles shuid be made in sic a wey that existin Scots communities isna hinnert in terms o proveesion o services an resources, either the noo or in time tae come.

In mony pairts o Scotland Scots is the heidmaist o the aulder hame leids. In mony regions Scots micht be regairdit as the maist spoken leid yet the'r no muckle in the wey o uphaud for its speakers. Aw throu the soothlan, central an easter regions o Scotland, an in the Norlan Isles, the'r lang-staunin an weel-kent Scots-speakin communities. The makkin o plans for tae forder Gaelic athin thae Scots communities, athoot reference tae thae hamelt communities, cuid gie fowk the idea that the promovers o thae plans is cauldribe taewards the culture an leid o existin communities. For instance, the uppittin o signs wi Gaelic place-names, in regions whaur the heidmaist community leid is Scots, an whaur lang-staunin Scots place-names is kept aff signs, wad be an instance o bad an thochtless practice.

It is the threap o the Centre for the Scots Leid that authorities shuid tak this inlat tae mak braider langage policies that conseeders at ilka stage hoo we micht can uphaud, forder an heize the staunin o Scots. In parteeclear, we wad ask authorities tae tak tent tae the data ingaithert in the 2011 census wi the ettle o stentin hoo muckle uphaud the leids spoken in thair ain airts shuid receive.

It is the strang opeenion o the Centre for the Scots Leid that policies that fails tae recognise the fact o Scots, an that seeks tae forder the idea that Scotland haes jist twa an no three leids intil't, maks for a fause picture o Scotland's langage landscape. But no jist thon, policies o that ilk aye heizes the staunin o ane leid, but dings down anither, an isna grundit on the nummer o speakers or even ony principle that's for ordnar applied tae the makkin o langage policy in society.

The Centre for the Scots Leid threaps that aw organisations an institutions braid Scotland that haes a haun in this process shuid tak tent tae the best

practice fund ithergaits in Europe. Thir practices is for ordnar biggit on the follaein principles:

**Respect on even hauns.**

**A richt til a just portion o the resources an proveesions o service stentit.**

**Takkin tent tae the nummer o speakers whaur resources is stentit conform tae the nummer o speakers fund in a gien community.**

Scots haes a lang history in mony pairts o Scotland. It is a pairt o the backdrap o the lifes o the feck o Scots an is fund in personal an place-names, in leetratur, drama an sang, an in the ilka day speech o mony hunners o thoosans o fowk. It haes tholed the ignorance o the narra-nebbit an even its staunin as a leid haes been denied bi parteeclear cheils. Communities o Scots speakers braid Scotland is the heritors o a centuries auld culture an thay are due respect an recognition. Oor threap is that ye shuid tak tent o thir facts whan makkin langage plans noo an in time tae come.

**Prestable steps that can be taen tae recognise an uphaud Scots**

In makkin plans an policies for the Gaelic leid oor threap is that public bodies an hame-aboot authorities uses this inlat tae conseeder hoo sic plans cuid be biggit on an eikit til in favour o Scots forby. We suggest that ilk institution or authority wi a haun in this wark shuid ettle at its ain hame-aboot or institutional langage policy that sets oot its poseetion on forderin aw the leids an dialects that belongs its airt.

In makkin plans for the Gaelic leid oor threap is that aw institutions an authorities conseeders hoo thay nicht mak siclike plans for tae uphaud Scots-speakin communities.

In makkin statements for use online oor threap is that authorities shuid conseeder hoo thay cuid mak siclike resources for Scots. For instance, ony institution or authority that wad like tae shaw its uphaud o Gaelic bi wey o a statement on its wab pages nicht conseeder hoo it cuid dae the like for Scots.

Whan giein shape til ony Gaelic plans that comprehends Gaelic signs oor threap is that authorities nicht conseeder hoo thay cuid recognise the uiss o Scots in the communities thay serr. For instance, Fawkirk, Glesca, Lithgae, Jethart an Aiberdeen is aw forms that's weel used but haesna ony offeecial recognition. We wad threap at authorities tae find weys tae forder an uphaud the uiss o historic names, no tae ding the Gaelic anes doun, but tae oxtar along wi them.

Oor threap is that authorities shuid tak in haun tae mak Scots signs while makkin the anes for Gaelic. Sic signs shuid tak tent tae the forms o the hame-aboot dialect.

We wad threap at authorities tae conseeder hoo thay micht uphaud an forder aw kinds o hauning in the Scots leid. We note that a when hame-aboot authorities gies sindry forms o uphaud tae Gaelic cultural an langage learning bodies an wad suggest that authorities cuid mak a fend at daein the like for Scots.

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