

Press Release - Office of Gaelic Affairs and acting CEO position announced

December 7, 2006

Angus MacIsaac, Minister Responsible for Gaelic Affairs today announced the establishment of an Office for Gaelic Affairs to be situated in Antigonish. Minister MacIsaac also announced the appointment of Lewis MacKinnon as acting CEO of the newly created Office.

Minister MacIsaac acknowledged the efforts of members of the Gaelic Community, those of Scottish Highland and Island descent and the broader Community who have advocated for the establishment of this Office.

Minister MacIsaac noted that Premier Rodney MacDonald responded to the Community's efforts by creating the first ever Ministry for Gaelic Initiatives in the Province, thus paving the way for the creation of an Office for Gaelic Affairs.

The mission of the Office of Gaelic Affairs will be to work with the Gaelic Community and the broader Community to develop and promote Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia.

The Office of Gaelic Affairs will offer advice and support to departments, agencies, and Crown corporations so they can develop and adapt policies, programs, and services that reflect the needs of the Gaelic community of Nova Scotia. The Office of Gaelic Affairs supports the mission of Comhairle na Gàidhlig;

Àrainneachd a chur air bhonn an Albainn Nuaidh far an soirbhich a' Ghàidhlig agus a dualchas.

To create the environment that makes Nova Scotia a place where Gaelic language and culture thrive.

Minister MacIsaac stated that Mr. MacKinnon was chosen to be the acting CEO for this Office because of his fluency in Gaelic, his extensive background and experience in working with others on team projects and his strong communication skills.

Minister MacIsaac stated, "The continuation of Gaelic language and its attendant culture in the Province presents some very clear challenges. By working together, identifying opportunities and building upon the language and culture that is still present in the Province today, I am confident that these challenges can be met so that the Mission of the Gaelic Community as articulated by the Gaelic Council can be realized. I know that Lewis MacKinnon with his experience and skill set, in his capacity as CEO, will take a key leadership role in responding to these challenges.

Born in Inverness, Cape Breton and raised in Antigonish County, Mr. MacKinnon has worked in Gaelic Development Initiatives in the Province for many years. He is a Gaelic speaker and has taught Gaelic language in a number of communities throughout the Province. He is presently in the process of completing a Master's Degree in Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University. From 1996 to 2005, MacKinnon served in both an Executive and Committee capacity on the Board of the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia. He has developed numerous contacts in the Gaelic speaking communities of both Ireland and Scotland. Lewis MacKinnon carries 11 years of management and business background, serving as both Branch and General Manager of the Atlantic Canadian Region for an international cleaning product corporation. He is also a Gaelic singer and recording artist.

Lewis MacKinnon  
Policy Advisor & Executive Assistant  
Gaelic Initiatives  
Transportation and Public Works

Cell: (902) 483-6508  
Office: (902) 424-4298

Lodaidh MacFhionghain  
Comhairleach & Oifigear Gnìomha  
Iomairtean na Gàidhlig  
A' Chòmhdhail is Obraichean Poblach

Sail: (902) 483-6508  
Oifis: (902) 424-4298