

Straitéis 20 Mí don Ghaeilge

le

Cumann Carad na Gaeilge

Coiste Stiúrtha 2011-2014:

Gearóid Ó hAinidh
Sorcha Baitsiléir
Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh
Maidhc Ó Ceallaigh
Máirín de Grás
Gearóid Ó Laoi
Séamas Ó Neachtain
Máiréad Perron
Máire Mhic an Phríora
Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh
Réamonn Ahearn Ritchell
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20-Month Strategy for the Irish Language

by

The Philo-Celtic Society

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Tá an leabhar seo foilsithe ag / This book is published by:

Cumann Carad na Gaeilge / The Philo-Celtic Society
agus / and
An Gael, iris oifigiúil Chumann Carad na Gaeilge
agus / and
Cló an Druaidh / The Druid Press

3957 Maplewood Drive
Seaford, New York 11783
United States of America
www.druidpress.com
516-804-2968

An Chéad Eagrán / First Edition
Copyright (c) 2013-2014 by Gerald A. John Kelly

1 Feabhra 2014 / February 1, 2014

ISBN-13: 978-1496105912

ISBN-10: 1496105915

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Clóbhuailte sna S.A.M.
Printed in the U.S.A.

Straitéis 20 Mí don Ghaeilge

Do laochra na Gaeilge ar fud an domhain

Straitéis 20 Mí don Ghaeilge

Gan Gaeilge gan Gaelach
Gan Gaelach gan Éireannach
Gan Éireannach gan Éire

- Cumann Carad na Gaeilge

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I. RÉAMHRÁ

Bíonn baill de Chumann Carad na Gaeilge ag obair an an dtaighde seo ó 2011. Foilsíodh an chuid is mó den taighde seo in AN GAEL, iris oifigiúil ár gCumainn, i 2013. D'éirigh an taighde seo a lán ceisteanna. Ina measc:

- Cad í saoirse cainte? An ceart a rá an méad go ndeireann duine éigin eile go gcaithfidh tú a rá i dteanga an duine eile sin? Nó an ceart a rá an méad a ba mhaith leat a rá i do theanga féin?
- An gcreideann Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuil cearta daonna mar shaoirse cainte ag gach saoránach na hÉireann? Nó acusan amháin a roghnaíonn Sacsbhéarla a labhairt?
- An gcreideann Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuil buan-chearta daonna ag lucht na Gaeilge in Éirinn? Nó an bhfuil na cearta sin sealadach, ar fail amháin ó am go ham, ag braith ar mhéad an airgid fágtha sa bhuiséad tar éis gach ruda eile?
- Cad é an fáth go smaoiníonn cuid is mó de Rialtas na hÉireann go gcaithfidh siad seirbhísí a sholáthar as Sacsbhéarla ach ní as Gaeilge?
- Cad é an fáth go smaoiníonn timpeall 7% de shaoránaigh na hÉireann go bhfuil ceart acu seirbhísí a fháil ó Rialtas na hÉireann as Sacsbhéarla ach nach bhfuil ceart ag lucht na Gaeilge in Éirinn seirbhísí a fháil ó Rialtas na hÉireann as Gaeilge?
- An mbíonn ranna mar an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna ag séanadh agus ag sárú dhlíthe na hÉireann, mar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 agus Bunreacht na hÉireann, d'aon ghnó?
- Cad é an fáth go mbíonn cuid is mó de ranna an Rialtais agus a n-airí ag sárú dhlíthe na hÉireann gan aon phionóis?
- An gcreideann Rialtas na hÉireann nach bhfuil sé tábhachtach cearta daonna a chosaint do gach saoránach?
- Nó an smaoiníonn Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuil sé tábhachtach cearta daonna a chosaint don mhóramh amháin?
- An bhfuil Rialtas na hÉireann ag obair chun pobail na Gaeilge in Éirinn a neartú, nó chun iad a scriosadh?

I léamh na leathanach seo, beidh tú in ann socrú ar do chonclúidí féin.

I. INTRODUCTION

Members of The Philo-Celtic Society have been working on this research steadily since 2011. Most of this research was published in AN GAEL, the official magazine of our society, in 2013. This research raised many questions, including:

- What is freedom of speech? The right to say what someone else says you have to say in the language of that other person? Or the right to say what you want in your own language?
- Does the Irish Government believe that every citizen of Ireland possesses human rights like freedom of speech? Or only those who choose to speak English?
- Does the Irish Government believe that the Irish-speaking people of Ireland have human rights on an ongoing basis? Or are those rights only provisional, only available from time to time depending upon the amount of money left in the budget after everything else?
- What is the reason that most of the Irish Government thinks that it must provide services in English but not in Irish?
- What is the reason that approximately 7% of Irish citizens believe that they have the right to receive services from the Irish Government in English, but believe that the Irish-speaking people of Ireland do not have the right to receive services from the Irish Government in Irish?
- Are departments like the Department of Education and Skills purposefully ignoring and breaking the laws of Ireland like the Official Languages Act of 2003 and the Constitution of Ireland?
- What is the reason that the majority of departments of the Irish Government, and their ministers, are breaking the laws of Ireland without penalty?
- Does the Irish Government believe that it is important to protect the human rights of all citizens?
- Or does the Irish Government think that it is only important to protect the human rights of the majority?
- Is the Irish Government working to strengthen Ireland's Irish Language communities, or to destroy them?

In reading these pages, you will be able to come to your own conclusions.

II. AN COMHTHÉACS

A. Tá an Ghaeilge agus na Gaeltachtaí i ngéarchéim. Níl fiche bliain fágtha acu chun iad a chur ar bhóthar a leasa.

Insan “Meabhrúchán Miniúcháin Agus Airgeadais”, thuairiscigh Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuil Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 bunaithe ar mholtaí faighte sa Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht (2007) ina dtaispeánadh go bhfuil “aistriú suntasach teanga ó Ghaeilge go Béarla tar éis tarlú sa Ghaeltacht” (1) agus:

“Is é tátal lom shuirbhé na ndaoine óga nach bhfuil ach idir 15 bliana agus scór blianta fágtha mar shaolré ag an nGaeilge mar theanga theaghlaigh agus phobail sa chuid is láidre den Ghaeltacht, is é sin le rá an chuid den Ghaeltacht a bhaineann le Catagóir A, mura féidir an patrún seo a chur ar mhalairt treo. Faoin am a dtagann clann ghlúin na ndaoine óga seo chun cinn ní bheidh dlús na gcainteoirí gníomhacha Gaeilge ina measc sách ard le pobal cainteoirí Gaeilge a bhuanú, gan trácht ar é a athchruthú, mura féidir cúinsí nua sochtheangeolaíocha a chruthú san idirlinn.” (2)

I staidéar níos luaithe i 2005, thuairiscigh Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (an chomhairle oideachais do scoileanna Gaeltachta agus lán-Ghaeilge a bunaíodh i 2002 faoin Acht Oideachais 1998) go raibh scoileanna Gaeltachta i ngéarchéim agus, gan breis tacaíochta, ní bheadh ach beagán acu ag múineadh trí Ghaeilge i gceann 20 bliain. Bhraith tuismitheoirí gur loit an córas oideachais a n-iarrachtaí chun Gaeilge a bhronnadh mar theanga bheo ar a gcuid leanaí. Thuairiscigh an staidéar freisin go raibh líon suntasach de scoileanna Gaeltachta tar éis aistriú chuig theagasc trí Sacsbhéarla, agus go raibh scoileanna eile ar tí an rud céanna a dhéanamh freisin. (3)

B. Is gluaiseacht mhór do chearta daonna agus sibhialta í athbheochan na Gaeilge.

“Léiríonn na torthaí tacaíocht ollmhór do chaomhnú na Gaeilge: tá 52.5% ag iarraidh go gcaomhnófaí an Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus go ndéanfaí í a athbheochan lena húsáid sna healaíona agus sa chultúr lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht, agus tá 40.9% (eile) ag iarraidh go ndéanfaí an teanga a athbheochan chun críocha poiblí ar fud an Stáit.” (4)

I bhfocail eile, tá breis agus 93% sa Phoblacht i bhfách le hathbheochan na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí ina iomláine agus i réimsí ealíne agus cultúir ar fud an stáit. Tá níos lú ná 7% i gcoinne athbheochan na Gaeilge. Mar sin, ní imeall éigin radaiceach beag bídeach í gluaiseacht na Gaeilge. Más féidir “lobby” a chur ar shaoránaigh atá ag ardú a nguthanna ar son a gcearta féin agus ar son cearta lucht na Gaeilge, tuig go seasann an “lobby” seo le tacaíocht ó thiomlach millteanach na ndaoine.

II. THE CONTEXT

A. The Irish Language and the Gaeltachtaí are in crisis. They don't have twenty years left to put them on the road to their recovery.

In the "Gaeltacht Bill 2012 - Explanatory and Financial Memorandum", the Irish government reported that the Gaeltacht Act of 2012 is based on recommendations found in the Comprehensive Linguistic Study of the Use of Irish in the Gaeltacht (2007) in which it was demonstrated that "a significant language shift from Irish to English has happened in the Gaeltacht" (1) and:

The unambiguous conclusion of the survey on young people is that, without a major change to language-use patterns, Irish is unlikely to remain the predominant community and family language in those areas with the most widespread and inclusive Irish-speaking networks (i.e. Category A Gaeltacht districts) for more than another fifteen to twenty years. By the time the young people surveyed for this study become parents, the networks of active speakers will not be widespread enough to reproduce another generation of Irish speakers unless a supportive sociolinguistic environment can be established in the interim. (2)

In a study in 2005, the Comhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (the educational council for Gaeltacht and Irish-medium schools established in 2002 under the Education Act of 1998) that Gaeltacht schools were in crisis and, without additional support, only a few of them would be teaching through Irish in 20 years. Parents felt that the educational system cancelled their efforts to bestow Irish as a living language on their children. The study also reported that a significant number of Gaeltacht schools had already switched to teaching through English, and that other schools were also on the brink of doing that. (3)

B. The Irish Language revival is a large popular movement for human and civil rights.

The results show overwhelming support for preservation of Irish: 52.5% want Irish preserved in the Gaeltacht and revived for use in arts and culture outside the Gaeltacht, while another 40.9% want Irish revived and used for public purposes throughout the State. (4)

In other words, more than 93% in the Republic are in favor of complete revival of Irish in the Gaeltachtaí and in the areas of art and culture throughout the state. Less than 7% are against the revival of Irish. Therefore, the Irish Language movement is not some tiny radical fringe. If "lobby" can be applied to citizens who are raising their voices for the sake of their own rights and for the sake of the rights of Irish-speaking people, understand that this "lobby" stands with the support of the overwhelming majority of the people.

C. Tá éileamh mór ann do scolaíocht lán-Ghaeilge.

I 2001, roimh an am gur éirigh leis an Roinn Oideachais an Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (ITÉ) a leachtú “go deonach” le tarraingt siar a maoiniú, (5)(6) rinne ITÉ taighde neamhspleách cuimsitheach a thaispeáin gur mhaith le mórán tuismitheoirí sa Phoblacht a bpáistí a chur i nGaelscoileanna. Aistrithe ón Sacsbhéarla: “I dtaighde déanta le hITÉ (Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann), léirigh 30% de thuismitheoirí go roghnóidís oideachas Gaelscoile dá mbeadh sé ar fáil dóibh ag an mbunleibhéal agus léirigh 25% go roghnóidís oideachas Gaelscoile dá mbeadh sé ar fáil dóibh ag leibhéal iar-bhunscoile ina gceantar. ” (7)

Tá gach dealramh ar an scéal go mbíonn éileamh do Ghaelscoileanna ag neartú ó 2001, ach sa scoilbhliain 2012-2013, ní raibh ach 5.9% de dhaltáí bunscoile sna 26 contae lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht i ngaelscoileanna, agus 2.2% de dhaltáí iar-bhunscoile sna 26 contae lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht ag foghlaim trí Ghaeilge. (8)

D. Tá an eacnamaíocht sár-thábhachtach do neart na Gaeilge agus a pobal.

Thréig muintir na hÉireann iad féin an Ghaeilge go deonach. Roghnaigh muintir na hÉireann Sacsbhéarla a labhairt go príomha de bharr fáthanna eacnamaíochta. Tá an próiséas céanna ag tarlú fós. (9)

E. Chun Gaeilge a neartú mar theanga eacnamaíochta...

Caithfear líon na gcainteoirí laethúla a mhéadú, iad a idircheangailt le chéile mar phobal agus mhargadh, agus seirbhísí agus táirgí as Gaeilge a éileamh chun jabanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge a chruthú. Conas? Ní ní casta é seo. Tá a fhios agaibh, agus tá a fhios ag an domhan go léir conas teangacha a mhúineadh go feidhmiúil, conas daoine a nascadh le chéile ar fud an domhain, agus conas seirbhísí agus táirgí a éileamh. Agus tá cuid mhaith desna rudaí seo an-fhurasta a dhéanamh gan breis-chostas ar bith.

C. There is great demand for education through the medium of Irish.

In 2001, before the Department of Education succeeded in “voluntarily” liquidating the Linguistic Institute of Ireland (ITÉ) by withdrawing their funding, (5)(6) the ITÉ did independent, comprehensive research which demonstrated that many parents in the Republic would like to place their children in Gaelscoileanna (schools which teach through the medium of Irish). Translated from English: “In research by the ITÉ 30% of parents showed that they would choose Gaelscoil education if it were available to them at primary level and 25% that they would choose Gaelscoil education if it were available to them at post primary level in their area.” (7)

There is every indication that demand for schools teaching through the medium of Irish has continued to increase since 2001, but in the school year 2012-2013, only 5.9% of primary school students in the 26 counties outside the Gaeltacht were in Irish-medium schools, and 2.2% of post-primary school students in the 26 counties outside the Gaeltacht were learning through the medium of Irish. (8)

D. Economics are extremely important for the strength of the Irish Language and its community.

The people of Ireland themselves abandoned Irish. They chose to speak English primarily for economic reasons. The same process is still happening. (9)

E. to strengthen Irish as an economic language ...

The number of people who speak Irish daily must increase, they must be linked together as a community and as a market, and services and products in Irish must be demanded in order to create jobs which are done through Irish. How? This isn't rocket science. You know, and the whole world knows, how to teach languages effectively, how to link people together throughout the world, and how to demand services and products. Many of these things are easy to do without any additional cost.

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III. AN FÁTH GUR MHEATHLAIGH AN GHAELGE

Foilsithe in AN GAEL
Earrach 2013

Is é an geilleagar é, a amadáin. – James Carville, 1992

Is é an easpa jabanna as Gaeilge é, a chara. – Cumann Carad na Gaeilge, 2013

A. An Daonra Gaelach, 17ú haois go dtí an 19ú haois

Meastar go raibh líon daoine na hÉireann timpeall 2,000,000 ag deireadh réimeis Charles II (1685) agus go raibh trí cheathrú den daonra ina gCaitlicigh. (1) Meastar go raibh líon daoine na hÉireann ag deireadh na 18ú haoise timpeall 5,000,000. (2) "Ó dheireadh na 18ú haoise thosaigh daonra na hÉireann a mhéadú go suntasach. Tharla an méadú seo go príomha i measc na n-aicmí is boichte faoin tuath agus, ós rud é go raibh cuid mhór na ndaoine sin fós ag labhairt na Gaeilge, tháinig méadú díreach ar líon na gcainteoirí Gaeilge. Níl aon fhigiúirí cruinne ar fáil, ach meastar go raibh líon na gcainteoirí Gaeilge timpeall 3,500,000 i 1820 agus timpeall 4,000,000 i 1835." (3)

B. Cumhacht, Foréigean agus Comhéigean

Sa 17ú haois go dtí luath na 19ú haoise, baineadh an Ghaeilge le foréigean nó comhéigean mar an phríomhtheanga ó na ceithre réimse scothaicmeach na tréimhse sin: reiligiún, rialtas, úinéireacht agus bainistíocht san earnáil tráchtála, agus oideachas.

1. reiligiún

I 1785, thréig an t-Ordlathas Caitliceach Rómhánach in Éirinn an Ghaeilge, an cultúr Gaelach, agus náisiúnachas na hÉireann ionas gurbh fhéidir leo cead a fháil ó Rialtas na Breataine chun séipéil a oscailt agus chun sagairt a oiliúint (trí mheán an tSacsbhéarla amháin) i gCeatharlach agus i Maigh Nuad. (4) Buartha chun 'An Conradh Mhaigh Nuad' seo a chaomhnú, d'áirithigh an t-ordlathas Caitliceach nach dtiocfadh aon sagairt eile, go rúnda nó go hoscailte, ón Mór Roinn toisc go raibh saoirse na hÉireann beagnach i gcónaí ina smaointe agus Gaeilge ar a dteangacha. Ón am sin anuas, do mhilliúin na gCaitliceach Rómhánach in Éirinn a raibh an Ghaeilge acu, ní raibh bóthar go Neamh ach trí Shacsbhéarla.

Bhí gné eacnamaíoch ag an gConradh Mhaigh Nuad seo chomh maith. Chun a bheith i do shagart, bhí gá le Sacsbhéarla agat.

III. WHY THE IRISH LANGUAGE DECLINED

Published in AN GAEL
Spring 2013

It's the economy, stupid. – James Carville, 1992

It's the lack of jobs in Irish, my friend. – Cumann Carad na Gaeilge, 2013

A. The Gaelic Population, 17th to the 19th Centuries

It is estimated that Ireland's population at the end of the reign of Charles II (1685) was about 2,000,000 of whom roughly three-quarters were Catholic. (1) It is estimated that the Irish population at the end of the 18th century was roughly 5,000,000. (2) “From the late 18th century the population of Ireland began to increase substantially. This increase occurred primarily among the poorer rural classes and, since a large proportion of that sector was still Irish-speaking, there was a disproportionate increase in the number of Irish speakers. There are no exact figures available, but in 1820 the number of Irish speakers was estimated at 3,500,000 and in 1835 was estimated at 4,000,000.” (3)

B. Power, Violence and Coercion

In the 17th-early 19th centuries, Irish was removed by violence or coercion as the primary language from the four elite domains of that period: religion, government, ownership & management in the commercial sector, and education.

1. religion

In 1785, the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland abandoned the Irish Language, Irish culture, and Irish nationalism so that they could get permission from the British Government to open chapels and to train priests (through English only) at Carlow and Maynooth. (4) Anxious to preserve this ‘Treaty of Maynooth’, the Catholic hierarchy made sure that no more priests would come, secretly or openly, from the Continent because Ireland's freedom was almost always in their thoughts and Irish on their tongues. Henceforth, for Ireland’s millions of Irish-speaking Roman Catholics, the road to Heaven required English.

This Treaty of Maynooth had an economic aspect as well. To make a living as a priest, you needed to speak English.

2. rialtas

Baineadh Gaeilge ón rialtas in Éirinn le Cath Chionn tSáile (1601), Conradh na Mainistire Móire .i. an Conradh 'Mellifont' (1603), Imeacht na nIarlaí (1607), Concas Chromail (1649-1653), Eachdhroim an Áir (1691), agus Conradh Luimnigh (1692). Díbríodh Féineachas agus an Ghaeilge ó chúirteanna in Éirinn le cáis i gcoinne Fhéineachais idir 1605 agus 1607. (5) I ndiaidh sin, chun slí bheatha i rialtas nó sna cúirteanna a bhaint amach in Éirinn, bhí Sacsbhéarla riachtanach.

3. úinéireacht agus bainistíocht san earnáil tráchtála

I sochaí thalmhaíochta, is ionann saibhreas agus talamh. Chuaigh coigistiú an talún le Rialtas na Breataine ar aghaidh gan sos ó 1603. Ag deireadh na 17ú haoise, bhí thart ar trí cheathrú den daonra ina gCaitlicigh (6) agus an mhórchuid díobh ina nGaeilgeoirí. Chuir na Péindlíthe (1692) urchosc ar Chaitlicigh talamh a cheannach, léas ar thalamh níos faide ná 30 bliain a fháil, aon oifig rialtais a fháil, aon choimisiúin san Arm Ríoga nó san Chabhlach Ríoga a fháil, aon chapall níos mó ná £5 i bhfiú a fháil, slí bheatha a bhaint amach mar dhlíodóir, scoil a bhunú nó slí bheatha a bhaint amach mar mhúinteoir, agus oideachas thar lear a fháil.

Is pionóis eacnamaíocha iad seo go príomha. Faoi Mharsantachas (.i. 'Mercantilism'), ba é an trádáil an cosán amháin fágtha do Chaitliceach Éireannach chun saibhreas a thuilleamh. Agus bhí an trádáil le bheith le Sasana amháin agus a lucht Béarla, ní leis an Mór-Roinn nó le tíortha eile thar lear.

Um 1778, "ba ar éigean go raibh níos mó ná 5% de thalamh na hÉireann fágtha i lámha Caitliceacha." (7) I bhfocail eile, bhí saibhreas na hÉireann coigistithe ó Ghaeilgeoirí agus tugtha dosna tiarnaí talún nua (.i. an Chinsealacht) a raibh Béarla acu. Freisin, ní raibh cead ag Caitlicigh a vótáil nó a shuí i bParlaimint i mBaile Átha Cliath nó i Londain. (8) Mar sin, bhí sé beagnach cinnte go bhfanfadh saibhreas na hÉireann i lámha lucht an Bhéarla chomh fada agus a ba mhaith leis an gCinsealacht an saibhreas sin a choimeád.

4. oideachas

Tar éis bhunú an Bhoird Náisiúnta Oideachais i 1832, "chonaic siad deireadh na sean-scoileanna cois claí, ag géilleadh go mall roimh na scoileanna faoin mBord Náisiúnta. Bhí túismitheoirí ag seoladh a bpáistí chuig na 'Scoileanna Náisiúnta', toisc go raibh a dtáillí ní ba lú ná táillí na scoileanna cois claí." (9) I bhfocail eile, chuir praghasanna na Scoileanna Náisiúnta (ina labhraíodh Sacsbhéarla amháin) na scoileanna cois claí (ina labhraíodh an Ghaeilge de ghnáth) as gnó.

Ní raibh sé de thaisme go raibh na Scoileanna Náisiúnta ina dtarchuradóirí don teanga agus don chultúr Sasanach. Chuir Pádraig Mac Piarais "An Meaisín Dúnmharaithe" orthu. Scríobh Nic Éinrí:

2. government

Irish was removed from government in Ireland by the Battle of Kinsale (1601), the Treaty of Mellifont (1603), the Flight of the Earls (1607), the Cromwellian Conquest (1649-1653), Aughrim's Great Disaster (1691), and the Treaty of Limerick (1692). Irish was removed from the Irish courts by the outlawing of Brehon Law (1605-1607). (5) Thereafter, making a living in government or the courts required English.

3. ownership & management in the commercial sector

In an agrarian society, land is wealth. The confiscation of land by the British Government went forward without pause since 1603. At the end of the 17th century, roughly three-quarters of the population were Catholic (6) and typically Irish-speaking. The Penal Laws (1692) barred Catholics from buying land, from obtaining use of land by lease longer than 30 years, from any government office, from holding commissions in the army and navy, from owning a horse worth more than £5, from earning a living as a lawyer, from establishing a school or earning a living as a teacher, and from receiving education overseas.

These are primarily economic penalties. Under Mercantilism, trade was the only path left to the Irish Catholic to earn wealth. And trade was to be only with England and its English-speakers, not with the Continent or other countries overseas.

By 1778, "scarcely 5% of Irish land was left in Catholic hands." (7) In other words, Ireland's wealth had been confiscated from Irish-speakers and transferred to the new English-speaking landlords (i.e., the Ascendancy). Also, Catholics were not permitted to vote or sit either Parliament, in Dublin or London. (8) Therefore, it was almost certain that Ireland's wealth would remain in English-speaking hands for as long as the Ascendancy wanted to keep that wealth.

4. education

After the establishment of the National Board of Education in 1832, "they witnessed the passing of the old Hedge Schools, slowly giving way to the schools under the National Board. Parents were sending their children to them, because the fees were lower than in the Hedge Schools." (9) In other words, the prices of the National Schools (in which only English was spoken) put the hedge schools (in which Irish was typically spoken) out of business.

It was not by accident that the National Schools were transmitters of English language and culture. Pádraig Mac Piarais called them "the Murder Machine." Nic Éinrí wrote:

"Ba é marú na Gaeilge a gcuspóir. Cruthaíonn an véarsa seo a leanas é sin:"

"Gabhaim buíochas leis an maitheas agus an ngrásta
a rinne miongháire ar mo bhreith,
Agus a rinne díom sna laethanta Críostaí seo
leanbh sona Sasanach." (10)

Bhí an cineál meoin seo fós le fáil i dtéacsleabhair Éireannacha sna 1960í. (12)

C. Rogha

Mar a fheicimid, bhí an Ghaeilge curtha amach as ceithre réimse scothaicmeach an náisiúin roimh 1840. Beagnach in iomlán, rinneadh teanga na mbocht faoin tuath den Ghaeilge, labhartha ag an 'tuathánach aineolach' de réir lucht an Bhéarla, agus bhí smál agus masla curtha uirthi mar sin. (Chun an próiseas intinne seo a sholéiriú, measadh go mbaineadh feidhm aisti le daoine neamhthábhachtacha le haghaidh úsáidí neamhthábhachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm agus mar sin bhí sí neamhthábhachtach agus neamhriachtanach. I gcodarsnacht, measadh go mbaineadh feidhm as Sacsbhéarla le daoine tábhachtacha le haghaidh úsáidí tábhachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm agus mar sin bhí Sacsbhéarla tábhachtach agus riachtanach.)

D'áitigh an Gorta Mór milliúin na nGaeilgeoirí a bhí fágtha go raibh Béarla riachtanach chun todhchaí shlán a bhaint amach, nó fiú le fanacht beo. Mar a thug De Fréine faoi deara, "Chuir an ghlúin níos sine ina luí ar an óige tábhacht a bhaineann le cúrsaí eacnamaíochta." (13) As eagla, dhiúltaigh mórán tuismitheoirí an Ghaeilge a labhairt lena bpáistí, cé nach raibh ach smacht neamhfhoirfe (nó smacht ar bith) acu ar Bhéarla. Ón bhfíric seo a thagann teideal an leabhair scríofa le De Fréine agus foilsithe le Mercier Books i 1978 .i. The Great Silence. Mar a tuairiscíodh leis an Athair Tomás Ó Ceallaigh in The Catholic Bulletin, Aibreán 1911:

"Tógadh suas iad a chreidiúint gurbh é céim is uaisle na measúlachta é an Sacsbhéarla, an eochair a d'oscail Seasaman, agus bhí siad cinnte nach bhfágfaí a bpáistí gan buntáiste chomh luachmhar sin." (14)

CONCLÚID

I gcodarsnacht leis an dtuairim Ghael-Mheiriceánach gur stad dlithe Sasanacha labhairt na Gaeilge in Éirinn, thréig muintir na hÉireann iad féin go deonach an Ghaeilge. Roghnaigh siad Béarla a labhairt go príomha as fáthanna eacnamaíochta. Ar ndóigh, is féidir rogha a dhéanamh arís. Ní bheadh aon chosc ar mhuintir na hÉireann Gaeilge a roghnú arís dá mbeadh coinníolacha cearta ann.

“It was their aim to kill the Irish Language. This following verse proves that:”

“I thank the goodness and the grace
Which on my birth has smiled,
And made me in these Christian days
A happy English child.” (10)

This kind of sentiment was still included in Irish textbooks into the 1960s. (12)

C. Choice

As we see, the Irish Language had been removed from the four most elite domains of the nation by 1840. For the most part, Irish was made a language of the rural poor, spoken by the ‘ignorant peasant’ according to English-speakers, and it was stigmatized as such. (To make clear this mental process of stigmatization, it was perceived as used by unimportant people for unimportant purposes and so was unimportant and unnecessary. In contrast, English was perceived as used by important people for important purposes and so was important and necessary.)

The Great Hunger convinced millions of the remaining Irish-speakers that English was necessary for a secure future, or even to stay alive. As noted by De Fréine, “the older generation instilled the importance of economic considerations into the young.” (13) In fear, many parents refused to speak Irish to their children, even though they had only an imperfect command or no command of English. (From this fact comes the title of De Fréine’s book, *The Great Silence*). As reported by Father Tomás Ó Ceallaigh in *The Catholic Bulletin*, April 1911:

“They had been brought up to believe that English was the top-notch of respectability, the key that opened Sesame, and they were determined that their children should not be left without a boon so precious.” (14)

CONCLUSION

In contrast to the prevailing Irish-American opinion that English law stopped the speaking of Irish in Ireland, the Irish people themselves voluntarily abandoned the Irish Language primarily for economic reasons. Of course, a choice can be made again. There wouldn't be anything to stop the people of Ireland from choosing Irish again if the conditions were right.

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IV. AN T-ÉILEAMH AR GHAEILGE (TUISCINT AR 'ATHBHEOCHAN NA GAEILGE' INNIU)

Foilsithe in AN GAEL
Samhradh 2013

ACHOIMRE

Deireann cuid desna saineolaithe is fearr sa réimse "nach bhfuil ach idir 15 bliana agus scór blianta fágtha mar shaolré ag an nGaeilge mar theanga theaghlaigh agus phobail sa chuid is láidre den Ghaeltacht." Mar sin, caithfidh daoine a thugann tacaíocht don Ghaeilge agus a pobal a ghníomhú anois, ní thar na 20 bliain seo chugainn, chun an teanga a athbheochan.

Is gluaiseacht do chearta daonna agus sibhialta í athbheochan na Gaeilge.

Tá breis agus 93% sa Phoblacht i bhfách le hathbheochan na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí in iomlán agus i réimsí ealíne agus cultúir ar fud an stáit. Tá breis agus 40% i bhfách le athbheochan na Gaeilge i ngach réimse poiblí agus i ngach ceantar ar fud an stáit.

Tá níos lú ná 7% i gcoinne athbheochan na Gaeilge.

I 2002 sa Phoblacht, bhí timpeall 62,000 Gaeilgeoir ina gcónaí fós sna Gaeltachtaí oifigiúla agus timpeall 340,000 cainteoir líofa na Gaeilge sa Phoblacht lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí agus ag éileamh úsáid laethúil na Gaeilge.

Seasann gluaiseacht na Gaeilge le tacaíocht ó thromlach millteanach na ndaoine.

Bunaithe ar chosaint amháin, bhí teip in ann don bhun-straitéis Ghaeltachta ó thús. Fás nó básaigh.

CÚLRA

Mar a luíodh i gCaibidil III, a mhalairt leis an dtuairim Mheiriceánach gur chuir dlíthe Sasanacha deireadh le labhairt na Gaeilge i mórchuid na hÉireann, thréig muintir na hÉireann féin an Ghaeilge go deonach. Roghnaigh siad Sacsbhéarla a labhairt go príomha as cúinsí eacnamaíochta. Bhí jabanna agus slándáil dá bpáistí le fáil trí Shacsbhéarla.

Ar ndóigh, is féidir le muintir na hÉireann rogha a dhéanamh arís más maith leo. Agus is féidir linn na straitéisí is feidhmiúla a fhoghlaim ó eiseamláirí rathúla, mar athbheochan na hIoruaise sa 19ú haois tar éis breis agus 300 bliain gan a labhairt, agus athbheochan na hEabhraise sa 20ú haois tar éis breis agus 2000 bliana gan a labhairt, agus na hathbheochaintí atá ar siúl anois i dtíortha éagsúla mar an Bhreatain Bheag, an Chatalóin, an Liotuáin, Tír na mBascach, agus áiteanna go leor eile.

Straitéis 20 Mí don Ghaeilge

IV. THE DEMAND FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE (UNDERSTANDING THE IRISH LANGUAGE REVIVAL TODAY)

Published in AN GAEL
Summer 2013

SUMMARY

Some of the best experts in the field say that "the Irish Language has only between 15 and 20 years left as the language of home and community in the strongest parts of the Gaeltacht." Therefore, people who support the Irish Language and its community must act now, not over the next 20 years, to revive the language.

The revival of Irish is a human and civil rights movement.

More than 93% in the Republic are in favor of the revival of Irish in the Gaeltachtaí in full and in the domains of art and culture throughout the state. More than 40% are in favor of the revival of Irish in every public domain and in every locality throughout the state.

Less than 7% are against the revival of Irish.

In 2002 in the Republic, approximately 62,000 Irish speakers were still left in the official Gaeltachtaí and about 340,000 fluent Irish speakers in the Republic outside the Gaeltachtaí claiming daily usage of the language.

The Irish Language movement has the support of the overwhelming majority of the people.

Based solely on defence, the original Gaeltacht strategy was doomed to failure from the beginning. Grow or die.

BACKGROUND

As we saw in Chapter III, in contrast to the American opinion that English law put an end to the speaking of Irish in most of Ireland, the people of Ireland themselves voluntarily abandoned the Irish Language. They chose to speak English primarily for economic reasons. Jobs and security for their children were to be found through English.

Of course, the people of Ireland can make another choice if they want. And we can learn the most effective strategies from successful examples like the revival of Norwegian in the 19th century after more than 300 years without it being spoken, and the revival of Hebrew in the 20th century after more than 2000 years without it being spoken, and the revivals which are going on now in various countries like Wales, Catalonia, Lithuania, the Basque country, and plenty of other places.

Ach is í Éire féin an eiseamláir is fearr do Éirinn. Ní fada ó shin a tharla malartú na teanga ó Ghaeilge go Sacsbhéarla. Tá a fhios againn go beacht conas a tharla sé sin, agus is féidir linn é a fheiceáil ag tarlú fós. Cén fáth, mar sin, nach féidir le muintir na hÉireann áis a bhaint as cuid desna fórsaí céanna agus modhanna daonlathacha chun an Ghaeilge agus a pobal a neartú?

Is féidir leo, cinnte. Mar sin, moltar go dtosaítear le tuiscint:

TOSAIGH LE TUISCINT

1. Cé gur rud breá tábhachtach é go bhfuil Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge ann anois agus go bhfuil na chéad chéimeanna tógtha ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta de réir na straitéise fadtréimhsiúla sin, níl sé cóir ná cothrom iarraidh ar lucht na Gaeilge a fhanacht bliain eile, nó dhó, nó fiche lena gcearta daonna agus sibhialta, cearta a bheadh cóir a bheith acu agus i bhfeidhm ó bhunú an Stáit.

Seo é an chéad fáth go bhfuil gníomh láithreach á mholadh againn. Anois, an bhliain seo, seachas am éigin eile amach anseo.

2. Níl an t-am ag pobail na Gaeltachta atá fágtha agus ag lucht na Gaeilge lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí a fhanacht a thuilleadh. Insan “Meabhrúchán Miniúcháin agus Airgeadais”, thuiriscigh Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuil Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 bunaithe ar mholtaí faighte sa Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht (2007) ina dtaispeánadh go bhfuil “aistriú suntasach teanga ó Ghaeilge go Béarla tar éis tarlú sa Ghaeltacht” (1) agus:

“Is é tátal lom shuirbhé na ndaoine óga nach bhfuil ach idir 15 bliana agus scór bliain fágtha mar shaolré ag an nGaeilge mar theanga theaghlaigh agus phobail sa chuid is láidre den Ghaeltacht, is é sin le rá an chuid den Ghaeltacht a bhaineann le Catagóir A, murab fhéidir an patrún seo a chur ar mhalairt treo. Faoin am a dtagann clann ghlúin na ndaoine óga seo chun cinn ní bheidh dlús na gcainteoirí gníomhacha Gaeilge ina measc sách ard le pobal cainteoirí Gaeilge a bhuanú, gan trácht ar é a athchruthú, mura féidir cúinsí nua sochtheangeolaíocha a chruthú san idirlinn.” (2)

Sin é an dara fáth go bhfuil gníomh láithreach á mholadh againn.

3. Tuigtear gur gluaiseacht do chearta daonna agus sibhialta í athbheochan na Gaeilge.

Is ceart Saoirse Labhartha é aon rud atá uait a rá i do theanga féin. Ní hé an ceart é an rud atá ag teastáil ó dhuine éigin eile a rá i dteanga an duine eile.

But Ireland herself is the best paradigm for Ireland. It's not long ago that the language switched from Irish to English. We know precisely how that happened, and we can see it happening still. Why then, therefore, can't the people of Ireland use the same forces and democratic methods to strengthen the Irish Language and its people?

Certainly they can. Therefore, we recommend:

START WITH UNDERSTANDING

1. Although it is a fine and important thing that the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language now exists and that the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has taken the first steps according to that long-term Strategy, it is not right or fair to ask the Irish-speaking people to wait another year, or two, or twenty for their human and civil rights, rights which should have been theirs and in effect since the founding of the State.

This is the first reason that we are recommending immediate action. Now, this year, not at some other time in the future.

2. The Gaeltacht communities which are left and the Irish-speaking people outside the Gaeltachtaí do not have any more time to wait. In its "Explanatory and Financial Memorandum", the Irish Government reported that the Gaeltacht Act of 2012 is based on the recommendations found in the Comprehensive Linguistic Study on the Usage of Irish in the Gaeltacht (2007) in which it is demonstrated that "a significant shift from Irish to English has taken place in the Gaeltacht" (1) and:

"The unambiguous conclusion of the survey on young people is that, without a major change to language-use patterns, Irish is unlikely to remain the predominant community and family language in those areas with the most widespread and inclusive Irish-speaking networks (i.e. Category A Gaeltacht districts) for more than another fifteen to twenty years. By the time the young people surveyed for this study become parents, the networks of active speakers will not be widespread enough to reproduce another generation of Irish speakers unless a supportive sociolinguistic environment can be established in the interim." (2)

That is the second reason that we are recommending immediate action.

3. Understand that the revival of Irish is a human and civil rights movement.

Freedom of Speech is the right to say anything you want in your own language. It is not the right to say what someone else wants in that person's language.

Tá ceart ag daoine Gaeilge a labhairt in Éirinn agus tá an ceart sin á chleachtadh acu in ainneoin constaicí curtha rompu.

4. Tuigtear gur gluaiseacht an-mhór í athbheochan na Gaeilge, atá ag dul i neart.

a. I 1975, dúirt timpeall 65% de dhaoine fásta sa Phoblacht “gur chóir todhchaí na teanga a áirithiú agus gur chóir tacaíocht phoiblí a thabhairt don teanga.” (3)

Na laethanta seo, mar a fheictear sa staidéir *The Irish Language and the Irish People* a rinne Micheál Mac Gréil agus Fergal Rhatigan ag Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad i 2007-2008 (4) agus sa Straitéis 20 Bliain Don Ghaeilge:

“Léiríonn na torthaí tacaíocht ollmhór do chaomhnú na Gaeilge: tá 52.5% ag iarraidh go gcaomhnófaí an Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus go ndéanfaí í a athbheochan lena húsáid sna healaíona agus sa chultúr lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht, agus tá 40.9% (eile) ag iarraidh go ndéanfaí an teanga a athbheochan chun críocha poiblí ar fud an Stáit.” (5)

I bhfocail eile, tá breis agus 93% sa Phoblacht i bhfách le hathbheochan na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí ina n-iomlán agus i réimsí ealaíne agus cultúir ar fud an stáit. Tá breis agus 40% i bhfách le hathbheochan na Gaeilge sna healaíona, sa chultúr, agus i ngach réimse poiblí agus i ngach ceantar ar fud an stáit.

b. I 1975, bhí 20-25% de dhaoine fásta sa Phoblacht “go gníomhach agus go seasta” i gcoinne na teanga. (6)

Ach i 2007 / 2008 (aistrithe ó Shacsbhéarla): “Ba 7% san iomlán iad siúd a bhí ag iarraidh Gaeilge a fheiceáil ‘caite i dtraipisí agus dearmadta’. Mar gheall ar na dearcthaí diúltacha a bhítear á n-eisiúint gan staonadh i mórchuid de mheáin chumarsáide mhóréilimh, is fíor-shuntasach neart na ndearcthaí dearfacha agus laghad an lín ar mhaith leo deireadh na Gaeilge a fheiceáil.” (7)

c. I 1975, ní raibh cumas comhrá fiú go páirteach ag ach 23% den daonra lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht. Móide de Ghaeilgeoirí sa Ghaeltacht, bhí cumas comhrá ag leibhéal éigin ag timpeall 25% de mhuintir na hÉireann. (8)

I 2006, dúirt 1.6 milliún, 41% de mhuintir na hÉireann go bhfuil siad in ann Gaeilge a labhairt ag leibhéal éigin (Daonáireamh 2006). I 2002, dúirt timpeall 339,000 nó 8% sa Phoblacht go raibh siad líofa. (9)

People have the right to speak Irish in Ireland and they are practicing that right despite obstacles placed in their way.

4. Understand that the revival of Irish is a very large movement which is growing in strength.

a. In 1975, approximately 65% of adults in the Republic said “that it is right to ensure the future of the language and to give public support to the language.” (3)

These days, as we see in in the study *The Irish Language and the Irish People* done by Micheál Mac Gréil and Fergal Rhatigan at NUI Maynooth in 2007-2008 (4) and in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language:

(translated from Irish) “The results show overwhelming support for preservation of Irish: 52.5% say that Irish should be preserved in the Gaeltacht and that outside the Gaeltacht its revival should be accomplished by its use in the arts and in culture, while 40.9% (more) say that the language should be revived for public purposes throughout the State.” (5)

In other words, more than 93% in the Republic are in favor of the revival of the Irish Language in the Gaeltachtaí in full and in the domains of art and culture throughout the state. More than 40% are in favor of the revival of Irish in the arts, in culture, and in every public domain and in every locality throughout the state.

b. In 1975, 20-25% of adults in the Republic were “actively and steadfastly” against the language. (6)

In 2007 / 2008: “Those who wished to see Irish ‘discarded and forgotten’ amounted to 7%. Given the relentless expression of negative attitudes in much of the popular mass media, the consistency and strength of positive attitudes and the paucity of numbers of those who would wish to see the end of Irish, are truly remarkable.” (7)

c. In 1975, only 23% of the population outside the Gaeltacht was able to carry on a conversation even partially in Irish. Increased by Gaeilgeoirí in the Gaeltacht, conversational ability at some level was possessed by about 25% of the Irish people. (8)

In 2006, 1.6 milliún (41% of the people of the Republic of Ireland) said that they were able to speak Irish at some level. (2006 census) In 2002, about 339,000 (8%) in the Republic said they were fluent. (9)

d. “Tá cumas éigin sa Ghaeilge ag 184,898 duine i sé chontae an tuaiscirt, dar le réamhthorthaí Dhaonáireamh 2011. Is ionann sin agus 10.65% den daonra agus is ardú é ó 167,490 duine in 2001.... D’fhreagair 4,164 duine os cionn 3 bliana d’aois go raibh an Ghaeilge mar phríomhtheanga acu...” (10)

I 2002 i sé chontae an tuaiscirt, d’éiligh 75,125 (4.5%) de 1,685,267 go raibh siad líofa san iomlán, a bheag nó a mhór, as Gaeilge. (11)

e. I 2001, sular éirigh leo Roinn Oideachais Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (ITÉ) a leachtú “go deonach” le tarraingt siar a maoiniú, (12)(13) rinne ITÉ taighde neamhspleách cuimsitheach a thaispeáin gur mhaith le mórán tuismitheoirí sa Phoblacht a bpáistí a chur i nGaelscoileanna. Sholáthair Gaelscoileanna Teoranta an achoimre seo i 2011 (aistrithe ó Shacsbhéarla):

“I dtaighde a rinne hITÉ, léirigh 30% de thuismitheoirí go roghnóidís oideachas Gaelscoile dá mbeadh sé ar fáil dóibh ar an mbunleibhéal agus léirigh 25% go roghnóidís oideachas Gaelscoile dá mbeadh sé ar fáil dóibh ar leibhéal iar-bhunscoile ina gceantar.” (14)

Tá gach dealramh air go mbíonn éileamh ar Ghaelscoileanna ag neartú ó 2001.

f. Is léir, mar sin, nach gluaiseacht éigin imeallach radacach bheag bhídeach í gluaiseacht na Gaeilge. Más féidir “brúghrúpa” a chur ar shaoránaigh atá ag ardú a nguthanna ar son a gceart féin agus ar son ceart lucht na Gaeilge, tuig go seasann an “brúghrúpa” seo le tacaíocht ó thromlach millteanach na ndaoine.

5. Tuigtear go bhfuil an teanga sár-thábhachtach do Éirinn an lae amárach.

a. Traidisiúin seanchais is mó agus is ársa na hEorpa. An dara traidisiún ginealais is ársa ar domhan; níl ach ginealaigh na Síne níos sine. Ceann desna traidisiúin scéalaíochta is ársa agus is iontaí ar an domhan. Fuinneog ar an Aois Iarainn. Teanga liteartha is ársa na hEorpa atá fós á labhairt. Ceann desna traidisiúin filíochta is ársa agus is iontaí ar domhan. Seod i litríocht an domhain le meas mór uirthi timpeall an domhain.

b. Ní leor sin? Ag breathnú siar, seachas ar aghaidh? Tá go maith, ach smaoinigh air seo leanas.

Maireann an Bhreatain Bheag fós mar náisiún, agus an Chatalóin, agus Tír na mBascach, agus a lán náisiún eile cé go bhfuil siad faoi smacht tíortha eile atá níos mó, agus tá tuiscint agus meas ag daoine ar fud an domhain gur náisiúin iad fós, toisc go bhfuil teangacha ar leith acu fós.

d. (translated from Irish) “184,898 people in the six counties of the north have some ability in Irish, according to preliminary results of the 2011 Census. That’s the same as 10.65% of the population and it is an increase from 167,490 people in 2001 4,164 people above the age of 3 answered that Irish was their primary language ...” (10)

In 2002 in the six counties of the north, 75,125 (4.5%) out of 1,685,267 claimed that they were more or less completely fluent in Irish. (11)

e. In 2001, before the Department of Education and Skills succeeded in “voluntarily” liquidating the Linguistic Institute of Ireland (ITÉ) by withdrawing their funding, (12) (13) the ITÉ did independent, comprehensive research which demonstrated that many parents in the Republic would like to place their children in Gaelscoileanna. Gaelscoileanna Teoranta provided this summary in 2011:

“In research by the ITÉ 30% of parents showed that they would choose Gaelscoil education if it were available to them at primary level and 25% that they would choose Gaelscoil education if it were available to them at post primary level in their area.” (14)

There is every indication that the demand for Gaelscoileanna has strengthened since 2001.

f. As you can see, the Irish Language movement is not some tiny radical fringe. If the citizens who are raising their voices for their own rights and for the rights of other Irish-speaking people can be called a “lobby”, understand that this “lobby” stands with support from the overwhelming majority of the people.

5. Understand that the language is overwhelmingly important for the future of Ireland.

a. The largest and oldest tradition of law, history, and genealogy in Europe. The second most ancient genealogical tradition on the planet, only the genealogies of China are older. One of the most ancient and most wonderful storytelling traditions in the world. A window on the Iron Age. The oldest literary language in Europe which is still spoken. One of the most ancient and wonderful poetic traditions in the world. A jewel in the literature of the world with great respect around the world.

b. Not enough? Looking backward, not forward? All right, think about this.

Wales still survives as a nation, and Catalonia, and the Basque Country, and many other nations even though they are under the control of other, larger countries, and people throughout the world have understanding and respect that they are still nations because they still have their own languages.

Cad a tharlaíonn nuair a bhfaigheann teanga bás? Mar shampla amháin, féach ar Chorn na Breataine, a raibh meas uirthi mar thír ar leith ach cúpla céad bliana ó shin. Inniu, ní ach contae Sasanach í ina greideann mórchuid na ndaoine gur Sasanaigh iad agus go raibh a sinsir riamh ina Sasanaigh.

Níl teorainneacha náisiúnta ag Éirinn a thuilleadh (.i. “Eoraip gan teorainneacha inmheánacha”); níl flaithiúnas dlí ag Éirinn a thuilleadh, níl an punt ag Éirinn a thuilleadh; níl flaithiúnas eacnamaíochta ag Éirinn a thuilleadh. Níl aon chomharthaí eile fágtha de fhéiniúlacht náisiúnta na hÉireann ach an bratach agus an teanga. Tá bratach ag Corn na Breataine agus ag gach contae Sasanach nó Eorpach eile. Ní leor sin.

6. Cuirfeá an cheist: “Cad faoi litríocht Shacsbhéarlach na hÉireann, agus ceol agus rince iontach na hÉireann? Nach ndéanfaidís an gnó mar chomharthaí, siombailí nó tréithe féiniúlachta chun náisiúntacht na hÉireann a éileamh agus a chaomhnú?” Seo leanas fíricí a thacaíonn liom nach leor a leithéid sin.

Níor bhuaigh agus níor choimeád aon phobal riamh aithint mar náisiún as a gceol agus rince. Maidir le litríocht, níor rún é go raibh daoine ag teacht le chéile i gcumainn mar The Ossianic Society (1853), Cumann Carad na Gaeilge / The Philo-Celtic Society (a thosaíodh le ranganna i mBrúiclinn, Nua-Eabhrac i 1872), agus Conradh na Gaeilge (1893) chun Gaeilge agus a litríocht a chur chun cinn. Ach, ag an am céanna, scríobh dream eile as Sacsbhéarla amháin, cé go raibh Gaeilge acu, agus d’oibrigh siad chun Éire a chur ar an mbóthar go Corn na Breataine. D’éirigh go mór leo. B’fhéidir gurb é seo an fáth go smaoiníonn mórchuid an domhain gur cuid de Shasana í Éire agus gur Briotánach iad na hÉireannaigh.

Mar sin, seachas an teanga, níl comhartha, siombail nó tréith ar bith eile fágtha arb fhéidir leis féiniúlacht náisiúnta na hÉireann a chruthú, ná náisiúntacht na hÉireann a éileamh as seo amach.

Déantar an rogha.

200 bliain ón am seo, an mbeidh Éire ina contae Sasanach nó Eorpach, nó an mbeidh Éire ina náisiún fós?

7. Is minic go gcloisimid nó go léimid ráitis mar seo: “Níl gá againn le teanga ar leith. Níl teanga ar leith ag tíortha mar SAM agus an Astráil.”

Úlla agus oráistí. Foirbríodh SAM, mar shampla, ar thaobh eile den domhain gan smacht feidhmiúil ag Sasana i mbeagnach gach réimse, cé go raibh a mhalairt ag teastáil ó Shasana. Inniu i SAM, ní chloistear go minic faoi Shasana nó faoin Ríocht Aontaithe. Abair “Manchester” agus smaoinítear go bhfuil tú ag caint faoi chathair i New Hampshire. Abair “Birmingham” agus smaoinítear go bhfuil tú ag caint faoi chathair in Alabama.

What happens when a language dies? As a single example, two or three hundred years ago it was understood that Cornwall was a distinct nation although it was under the control of England. Today, it's just an English county in which most of the people believe they're English and that their ancestors were always English.

Ireland no longer has national borders (i.e., "Europe without internal borders"); Ireland no longer has legal sovereignty; Ireland no longer has the punt; Ireland no longer has economic sovereignty. Cornwall has a flag as does every other European or English county. A flag is not enough.

6. We can ask: "What about the English literature of Ireland, and the wonderful music and dance of Ireland? Wouldn't they do the job as characteristics, symbols, or traits of identity by which to demand and keep Ireland's nationhood in the future?" Well, think about these facts.

No people ever won or kept recognition as a nation by means of their music and dance. As for literature, it was no secret that people were coming together in societies like The Ossianic Society (1853), Cumann Carad na Gaeilge / The Philo-Celtic Society (which began with classes in Brooklyn, New York, in 1872), and Conradh na Gaeilge (1893) to promote the Irish Language and its literature. However, at the same time, another group wrote only in English, although they had Irish, and they worked to put Ireland on the road to Cornwall. They succeeded greatly. Maybe that's the reason that most of the world still (or already) thinks that Ireland belongs to England and that the Irish are British.

In other words, except for the language, no other characteristic, symbol or trait exists which is both effective and remaining to prove the national identity of Ireland and to demand the nationhood of Ireland in the future.

Choose.

200 years from now, will Ireland be just another European or English county like Cornwall, or will Ireland still be a nation?

7. We often hear or read statements like this: "We don't need a distinct language. Countries like the U.S. and Australia don't have a distinct language."

Apples and oranges. The United States, for example, developed on the other side of the world without effective control from England in almost every domain, although England wanted the opposite. Today in the U.S., we don't often hear about England or the United Kingdom. Say "Manchester" and we think you're talking about a city in New Hampshire. Say "Birmingham" and we think you're talking about a city in Alabama.

Níl aon tionchar suntasach ag an Ríocht Aontaithe ar pholasaithe SAM, ar mheáin chumarsáide SAM, nó ar dhearcadh i SAM i gcoitinne. Ó 1169 anuas agus go háirithe ó na 1580í anuas go dtí inniu, ní hé sin cás na hÉireann.

8. Tuigtear go bhfuil dlí Éireannach anois ar thaobh an Ghaeilgeora.

Faoi dheireadh, faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, is féidir le Gaeilgeoirí a gcearta daonna agus sibhialta a éileamh agus a fháil.

9. Tuigtear nach féidir leis an athbheochan dul chun cinn a dhéanamh gan bunsraith mhaith eacnamaíochta.

Díreach mar a tharla sa 19ú haois, aistríonn daoine go teanga eile más féidir leo slí bheatha mhaith a dhéanamh tríthí dóibh féin agus dá bpáistí. Munab fhéidir le daoine slí bheatha a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge, leanfar le meath na teanga go bhfaighidh sí bás.

10. Tuigtear go bhfuil gá stádais ag an teanga.

Fuair Sacsbhéarla meas, ómós, agus stádas lena úsáid ar fud an rialtais, ar fud na n-eaglaisí, ag barr na hearnála eacnamaíochta, agus ar fud an chórais nua oideachais ón 17ú haois anuas agus go háirithe ón 19ú haois anuas. In áiteanna agus réimsí nach raibh meas don teanga iontu, bhí náire ar dhaoine í a labhairt. Is fadhb choitianta í seo fós.

Conas a bhainfeadh teanga stádas amach?

Díreach mar a chonacthas in Éirinn ón 17ú haois go dtí inniu, má bhaintear áis as teanga le haghaidh na feidhmeanna is tábhachtaí i ngach réimse, is teanga sár-thábhachtach í. Muna mbaintear áis as an teanga le haghaidh na bhfeidhmeanna tábhachtacha, ní teanga thábhachtach í.

Tá an cinneadh soiléir. Baintear áis aistí, ní seachtain amháin gach bliain (cé gur forbairt iontach í Seachtain na Gaeilge), ach an bhliain go léir gan stad ag barr an rialtais, ag barr gach eaglaise, ag barr na hearnála eacnamaíochta, ag barr gach comhlachta, ag barr gach forais agus eagraíochta eile, agus ar fud an chórais oideachais ó bhun go barr.

Agus níl aon mhodh nó acmhainn chomh héifeachtach sin chun stádas a thabhairt ná mórán jabanna déanta trí Ghaeilge a sholáthair ag gach leibhéal i ngach réimse i ngach ceantar.

The United Kingdom has no significant influence on our policies, our media, or on our worldview. Since 1169 and especially since the 1580s down to today, that's not the case for Ireland.

8. Understand that Irish law is now on the side of the Irish speaker.

At last, under the Official Languages Act of 2003, it is possible for Irish speakers to demand and get their human and civil rights.

9. Understand that the revival can't advance without a good economic foundation.

Exactly as happened in the 19th century, people will move to another language if they can make a good living through it for themselves and their children. If people can't make a living through Irish, the decline of the Irish Language will continue until its death.

10. Understand that the language needs status.

English received respect, honor and status by its usage throughout the government, throughout the churches, at the top of the economic sector, and throughout the new educational system since the 17th century and especially since the 19th century. In places and domains where the Irish Language was not respected, people were ashamed to speak it. This is still a common problem.

How can a language gain status?

Exactly as we saw in Ireland from the 17th century until today, if a language is used for the most important purposes in every domain, it is an extremely important language. If it's not used for important purposes, it is not an important language.

The decision is clear. Use it, not one week a year (although Irish Language Week is a great development), but the whole year at the top of the government, at the top of every church, at the top of the economic sector, at the top of every company, at the top of every foundation and other organization, and throughout the educational system from top to bottom.

And no method or resource bestows status as effectively as lots of jobs done through Irish at every level in every domain in every locality.

11. Tuigtear nach bhfuil an teanga le fáil sna Gaeltachtaí amháin.

Tá a fhios ag gach duine go mbíonn Gaeilgeoirí ag aistriú in uimhreacha móra ón nGaeltacht go cathracha agus bailte móra in Éirinn agus thar lear chun jabanna a fháil le breis agus 160 bliain.

I 2002 sa Phoblacht, bhí timpeall 62,000 Gaeilgeoir ina gcónaí fós sna Gaeltachtaí oifigiúla agus timpeall 340,000 cainteoir líofa na Gaeilge sa Phoblacht lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí agus ag éileamh úsáid laethúil na Gaeilge. (15) Sa bhreis, tá Gaeilgeoirí eile ina gcónaí timpeall an domhain, idir 18,000 agus 25,000 sna SAM amháin. (2000 Census: 25,661. 2005 Census: 18,815) Agus líon na nGaeilgeoirí sna Gaeltachtaí ag éirí níos lú, bíonn líon na nGaeilgeoirí lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí ag dul i méid.

Is é an dea-ionsaí an chosaint is fearr.

Is léir nach ndearna an 'Gaeltacht Strategy' an gnó. Tosaíodh i 1926 é, agus bhí agus tá an straitéis sin bunaithe go príomha ar chosaint amháin. Mar sin, ón dtosach, ghéill an straitéis sin buntáiste, cainteoirí, agus talamh do Shacsbhéarla. Ní féidir le haon teanga fanacht mar atá, gan dul i léig, agus a céile comhraic nó hiomaitheoir ag buaileadh ar na geataí agus ag brú isteach de ló is d'oíche, bliain i ndiaidh bliana.

Tá sé riachtanach rogha a dhéanamh. Fás nó bás. Níl aon rogha eile ann. Chun fás, ní mór Gaeilgeoirí sa Ghalltacht in Éirinn agus timpeall an domhain a nascadh le chéile i nGaeltachtaí samhalta (mar atá ag tarlú tríd an idirlíon anois), agus mar Ghaeltachtaí uirbeacha (mar a tharla i mBéal Feirste cheana féin as stuaim na ndaoine féin), agus leis na Gaeltachtaí oifigiúla. Is léir go dtuigeann údair Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge é seo, ach caithfear an fás seo a chur i bhfeidhm láithreach bonn, anois, inniu, mar beagnach gach moladh eile sa Straitéis.

ÉIST LEIS NA GEARÁIN I gCOINNE NA TEANGA, AGUS TABHAIR FREAGRAÍ MAITHE.

12. Is rí-mhinic go léimid i nuachtáin Éireannacha nó ar an idirlíon gearáin ó mhórán Éireannach mar seo leanas: “Ní féidir liom focal di a labhairt tar éis 14 bliana ag déanamh staidéir uirthi ar scoil. Tá an teanga sin gan mhaith gan feidhm gan bhuntáiste. Is am curtha amú aon am caite ag foghlaim na Gaeilge.”

Cé nach maith linn an ráiteas seo, tá cuid mhaith den fhírinne ann.

11. Understand that the language is not found only in the Gaeltachtaí.

Everyone knows Irish speakers have been moving in large numbers from the Gaeltacht to cities and large towns in Ireland and overseas to get jobs for more than 160 years.

In 2002 in the Republic, approximately 62,000 Irish speakers were still left in the official Gaeltachtaí and about 340,000 fluent Irish speakers in the Republic outside the Gaeltachtaí claiming daily usage of the language. (15) In addition, other Irish speakers live around the world, between 18,000 and 25,000 in the U.S. alone. (2000 Census: 25,661. 2005 Census: 18,815) As the number of Irish speakers in the Gaeltachtaí has been decreasing, the number of Irish speakers outside the Gaeltachtaí has been increasing.

‘The best defense is a good offense.’ It’s apparent that the ‘Gaeltacht Strategy’ didn’t do the job. Begun in 1926, that strategy was and is primarily based on defense alone. Therefore, from the beginning, that strategy yielded advantage, speakers, and ground to English. No language can stay as it is, without weakening, without changing, while its adversary or competitor is banging on the gates and pushing in every day every night year after year.

It’s necessary to make a choice. Grow or die. There’s no other choice. To grow, Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht (English-speaking area) in Ireland and around the world have to link together in virtual Gaeltachts (as is happening through the internet now), and as urban Gaeltachts (as has happened in Belfast already by the will of the people themselves), and with the official Gaeltachts. It’s apparent that the authors of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language understand this, but this growth has to be accomplished immediately, like almost every other recommendation in the Strategy.

LISTEN TO THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE LANGUAGE AND GIVE A GOOD ANSWER.

12. It is extremely often that we read in Irish newspapers or on the internet complaints from many Irish like this: “I can’t speak a word of it after 14 years studying it in school. That language is without use, function, or benefit. Any time spent learning Irish is time wasted.”

Although we don’t like this statement, there’s a good amount of truth in it.

Tá ionadh, fiú díchreideamh, ar dhaoine timpeall an domhain nach bhfuil a fhios fós ag An Roinn Oideachais conas Gaeilge a mhúineadh 91 bliain tar éis bhunú an Stáit. Bíonn mic léinn ar fud an domhain líofa tar éis staidéar a dhéanamh ar theanga ar bith tar éis 6 bliana amháin. Cinnte, munab fhéidir le daltaí Gaeilge a labhairt tar éis 14 bliana, nó aon teanga a labhairt tar éis 14 bliana, cinnte gur chuir An Roinn Oideachais am na ndaltaí seo amú, is cuma cén teanga a bhí á foghlaim acu.

Munab fhéidir le duine feidhm a bhaint as uirlis, uirlis chumarsáide mar theanga san áireamh, is cinnte go bhfuil an uirlis sin gan feidhm don duine sin. Do mhórán daoine, tá Sínis gan mhaith gan feidhm gan bhuntáiste as an bhfáth amháin nach labhraíonn siad í. Ach tá Sínis an-úsáideach do 1.3 billiún daoine eile. Caithfidh tú a bheith in ann teanga a labhairt sular féidir leat feidhm a bhaint aisti.

An bhfuil an Ghaeilge gan mhaith gan feidhm gan bhuntáiste fiú do mhórán Gaeilgeoirí? Sin an fhadhb, nach ea? Mar a fheictear ón 17ú haois ar aghaidh, agus go háirithe ón 19ú haois, munab fhéidir le daoine slí mhaireachtála a bhaint amach dóibh féin nó dá bpáistí trí Ghaeilge, caithfidh siad an teanga a thréigean.

Dúirt James Carville i 1991 (as Béarla), “Is é an gilleagar é, a amadain.” (16) Is féidir linn é seo a athinsint maidir le Gaeilge mar seo: “Is é an easpa jabanna déanta trí mheán na Gaeilge é, a chara.”

13. Is minic go gcloisimid nó go bhfeicimid i gcló ráitis mar seo: “Ní maith liom Gaeilge a labhairt toisc go labhraíonn an grúpa paraimíleatach sin í.”

Bhuel, i gcodarsnacht leis an ráiteas a phléigh mé i bparagraf eile thuas, ní ach ceann amaideach an ceann seo. Ar dhiúltaigh George Washington Sacsbhéarla a labhairt toisc go raibh Sacsbhéarla ag Seoirse III? Ar thréig na hIodálaigh Iodáilis toisc gur labhair Mussolini í? Nó ar thréig na Síinigh Sínis toisc gur labhair na himpirí í? Cinnte níor thréig. Samhlaigh nach maith leat duine éigin, agus tá do thalamh, a thug do shinsir duit, ag teastáil ón duine sin. An dtugann tú dó é agus an imíonn tú gan focal a rá?

14. Is minic go gcloisimid nó go bhfeicimid i gcló ráitis eile mar seo: “Ní daonlathach é go gcaithfidh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim ar scoil. An bhfuil sé ceart gur éigean dúinn Gaeilge a fhoghlaim?”

Is cinnte gur ceist chasta í seo. Ach “Deir 65% de dhaoine (aois 15 - 24) gur chóir go mbeadh an Ghaeilge éigeantach don Ardeist. (Ipsos MRBI 2010)” (17) I ndaonlathas, is minic go nglacaimid cinneadh an thromlaigh, cé nach maith linn é.

People around the world are amazed, even disbelieving, that the Education Department still doesn't know how to teach Irish 91 years after the founding of the State. Students around the world are fluent after studying any language for only 6 years. Certainly, if students can't speak Irish after 14 years, or can't speak any language after 14 years, the Education Department has wasted the time of these students, no matter what language they were learning.

If a person can't use a tool, including a communication tool like a language, certainly that tool is useless for that person. For many people, Chinese is useless, without function or benefit for the single reason that they don't speak it. But Chinese is very useful for 1.3 billion other people. You have to be able to speak a language before you can use it.

Is Irish useless, without function or benefit even for many Irish speakers? That's the problem, isn't it? As we have seen since the 17th century, and especially since the 19th century, if people can't make a living for themselves and for their children through Irish, they have to abandon the language.

James Carville said in 1991, "It's the economy, stupid." (16) We can rephrase this with regard to Irish as: "It's the lack of jobs done through the medium of Irish, a chara."

13. It's often that we hear or see in print statements like this: "I don't want to speak Irish because that militant group speaks it."

Well, in contrast to the statement we discussed in paragraph 11 above, this one is just ridiculous. Did George Washington refuse to speak English because George III spoke English? Did the Italians abandon Italian because Mussolini spoke it? Did the Chinese abandon Chinese because the emperors spoke it? Certainly they did not. Imagine that you don't like someone, and that person wants your land, which your ancestors gave to you. Do you give it to him and go away without a word?

14. It's often that we hear or see in print statements like this: "It's not democratic that we have to learn Irish in school. Is it right that we are compelled to learn Irish?"

Certainly this is a complicated question. But (translated from Irish) "65% of people (aged 15-27) say that Irish should be compulsory for the Ardeist. [Ipsos MRBI 2010]" (17) In a democracy, it's often we have to accept the decision of the majority, even though we don't like it.

Agus in aon tír eile ina bhfuil dhá theanga oifigiúla, an ndeireann aon rialtas daonlathach nár chóir do shaoránach foghlaim conas a labhairt le lucht na teanga eile? Cad a dhéanadh sé sin do thodhchaí na tíre sin?

Nó, in aon tír eile ina bhfuil dhá theanga oifigiúla, an ndeireann aon rialtas daonlathach go gcaithfidh an mionlach amháin a bheith freagrach as cumarsáid a dhéanamh leis an dtromlach, agus ní chaithfidh an tromlach a bheith freagrach as cumarsáid leis an mionlach? Ar dhaonlathas é sin, nó leatrom?

15. Ó am go ham cloisimid nó feicimid i gcló ráitis eile mar seo: “Is Éireannach mé, ní maith liom Gaeilge a labhairt, agus diúltaím Gaeilge a labhairt.”

Is cinnte go bhfuil ceart ag daoine gan Gaeilge a labhairt, agus is cinnte gur cóir meas a thabhairt don seasamh sin gan bac, cáineadh, masla, nó magadh. Ach más ceann desna daoine sin thú, agus má tá meas uait do do sheasamh, cuimhnigh nach cóir duit bac, cáineadh, masla, nó magadh a chur ar dhaoine eile ar mhaith leo scolaíocht a fháil dá bpáistí as Gaeilge, seirbhísí a fháil trí mheán na Gaeilge ó chomhlachtaí stáit agus ó chomhlachtaí státurraithe agus ó ranna an Stáit, nó jabanna a fháil i soláthar na seirbhísí sin trí mheán na Gaeilge, nó seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a sholáthar ina ngnóthaí féin, nó jabanna a fháil i soláthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge i ngnóthaí príobháideacha, nó Gaeilge a labhairt gach lá gach áit ag gach leibhéal i rialtas, i ngnó, in oideachas, agus i ngach réimse eile ar fud na tíre.

And in any other country in which there are two official languages, does any democratic government say that a citizen doesn't have to learn how to speak with the people of the other language? What would that do to the future of that country?

Or, in any other country in which there are two official languages, does any democratic government say that the minority has to be responsible for communicating with the majority, and the majority doesn't have to be responsible for communicating with the minority? Would that be democracy, or discrimination?

15. From time to time we hear or see in print statements like this: "I'm Irish, I don't want to speak Irish, and I refuse to speak Irish."

Certainly people have the right not to speak Irish, and certainly it's right to respect that stance without hindrance, criticism, insult, or ridicule. But if you're one of those people, and if you want respect for your stance, remember that it's right to hinder, criticize, insult, or ridicule those who want to get schooling for their children through Irish, services in Irish from government-owned companies and semi-state bodies and government departments, jobs providing those services through Irish, or who want to provide services through Irish in their own companies, or who want to get jobs providing those services in private companies, or who want to speak Irish every day everywhere at every level in government, in business, in education, and in every other domain throughout the country.

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V. CONAS GAEILGE A NEARTÚ GO LÁITHREACH

Foilsithe in AN GAEL
Geimhreadh 2013

Is iad na modhanna is cinnte na hoibríochtaí ionsaithe, munab iad an t-aon-mhodh amháin iad, chun cosaint a dhéanamh. - George Washington, 1799

Fás nó básaigh. – George Land, 1973

RÉIMSÍ GNÍMH

Leanann na réimsí seo na réimsí luaite i Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge.

1. An t-Oideachas agus An Eacnamaíocht

Baineann sé seo i bpáirt leis an mír ar a dtugtar "Oideachas" sa Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge.

A. tábhacht an oideachais mar chabhair eacnamaíoch

Muna féidir le duine feidhm a bhaint as uirlis, agus uirlis chumarsáide mar theanga san áireamh, bíodh cinnte de gur úirlis gan mhaith is ea a leithéid. Do mhórán daoine, tá Sínis gan mhaith gan feidhm gan buntáiste mar níl sí acu. Ach tá Sínis an-úsáideach do 1.3 billiún daoine eile. Caithfidh an Ghaeilge a bheith ag daoine ionas gur féidir leo feidhm a bhaint aisti mar uirlis eacnamaíochta. Agus, ar ndóigh, bíonn oideachas riachtanach chun líon na nGaeilgeoirí a mhéadú agus Gaeilge a neartú mar theanga eacnamaíochta.

B. comharthaí naimhdis agus neafaise

I Mí na Nollag 2011, bhagair Ruairí Quinn, an t-Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna, go ndúnfadh sé 90% de scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí. (1)(2)(3)(4)(5) Faoi bhrú, chéim Quinn ar gcúl ón mbagairt seo i 2012 ach is léir óna ghníomhartha agus bhriathra i 2013 nár thréig sé an beartas seo agus go bhfuil na scoileanna seo faoi bhagairt fós. (6)(7)(8)(9)

Cad é an fáth gur féidir leis an Aire Oideachais pobail sna Gaeltachtaí a scéimhliú nó a scriosadh gan cur ina choinnibh ó Airí na Gaeltachta?

V. HOW TO STRENGTHEN IRISH IMMEDIATELY

Published in AN GAEL
Winter 2013

Offensive operations ... are the surest, if not the only means of defence. – George Washington, 1799

Grow or die. – George Land, 1973

AREAS FOR ACTION

These areas follow the areas mentioned in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language.

1. Education and Economics

This deals in part with the section called "Education" in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language.

A. the importance of education as an economic aid

If a person can't use a tool, including a communication tool like language, certainly that tool is useless to that person. For many people, Chinese is without worth, use, or advantage for the single reason that they don't speak it. But Chinese is very useful for 1.3 billion other people. People have to be able to speak Irish before they can use it as an economic tool.

And, of course, education is necessary as a means by which to increase the number of Irish-speakers and to strengthen Irish as an economic language.

B. signs of hostility and indifference

In December 2011, Ruairí Quinn, the Minister for Education and Skills, threatened to close 90% of schools in the Gaeltachtaí. (1)(2)(3)(4)(5) Under pressure, Mr. Quinn stepped back from this threat in 2012 but it is apparent from his actions and words in 2013 that he has not abandoned this policy and that these schools are still under threat. (6)(7)(8)(9)

Why can the Education Minister destroy Gaeltacht communities, or threaten to destroy Gaeltacht communities, without a word to or from the Gaeltacht ministers?

I Mí na Samhna 2012, tháinig sé chun solais go raibh Gaelscoil Bharra i gCabrach, Baile Átha Cliath, ag múineadh i dteach tábhairne toisc, de réir na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna, gur scoil nár tharraing aird uirhi féin ab ea í. Ghabh an Roinn a leithscéal “mar gheall ar iarratas ón scoil ar fhoirgneamh a bheith imithe ar strae ar feadh cúig bliana.” (10)

I Mí Aibreáin 2013, mhol an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna 22 bhunscoil nua a bhunú, ceann amháin acu ina scoil lán-Ghaeilge. (11) Cén fáth nach raibh ar a laghad 30% nó 7 desna scoileanna seo ina scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge?

Más maith leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna a chur ina luí ar dhaoine laistigh agus lamuigh desna Gaeltachtaí gurb é seo an t-am chun an Ghaeilge a thréigean mar theanga phobail, theaglaigh, agus eacnamaíochta, níl aon chaoi níos fearr chun é a dhéanamh.

C. teip teagaisc

Is léir nach bhfuil a fhios ag an Roinn Oideachais conas Gaeilge a mhúineadh, breis agus 90 bliain tar éis bhunú an Stáit. Féach ar an athfhríotal seo as an “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge”:

“Léirigh tuarascáil Harris (Iúil 2007) go raibh titim de 36.1% agus 40.5% i mbunscoileanna a bhfuil an Béarla mar mheán iontu agus i mbunscoileanna Gaeltachta faoi seach ar an líon daltaí a raibh máistreacht acu ar fhorbairt scileanna éisteachta, scileanna foclóra agus tuisceana idir 1985 agus 2002. Siúd is gur éirigh le beagán os cionn leath na ndaltaí líofacht a bhaint amach i dtuairisciú agus i gcumarsáid béil in 1985 i scoileanna a bhfuil an Béarla mar mheán iontu, ba lú ná an tríú cuid a bhain an líofacht sin amach in 2002. Aimsíodh sa staidéar freisin gur tháinig meath mór ar mhuintir múinteoirí; dúirt beagnach 25% de na múinteoirí i scoileanna a bhfuil an Béarla mar mheán iontu go raibh a gcaighdeán Gaeilge féin lag ...” (12)

D. Gaeilge éigeantach?

I Mí Eanáir 2011, d’fhógair an t-iarrthóir Enda Kenny gur mhaith leis agus lena pháirtí deireadh a chur le Gaeilge éigeantach, gníomh a mharódh cuid mhór den earnáil eacnamaíochta Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí, go háirithe na coláistí samhraidh.

Is rogha do mhuintir na hÉireann é ar chóir dul ar aghaidh le Gaeilge éigeantach sna scoileanna. Ach anseo, thar lear, is deacair a shamhlú nach mbeadh sé riachtanach teanga oifigiúil a fhoghlaim i scoil in aon tír eile. Má bhíonn sé ar an mionlach amháin dhá theanga a fhoghlaim chun páirt a ghlacadh sa Stát, nach leathcheal é sin?

In November 2012, it came to light that Gaelscoil Bharra in Cabrach, Dublin, was teaching in a bar because, according to the Department of Education and Skills, it “had fallen between the cracks”. The Department apologized “because the request from the school for a building had been lost for five years.” (10)

In April 2013, the Department of Education and Skills recommended the establishment of 22 new primary schools, only one of them an Irish-medium school. (11) Why weren't at least 30% or 7 of these Irish-medium schools?

If the Department of Education and Skills wants to convince people inside and outside the Gaeltachtaí that it's time to abandon Irish as a language of community, household, and economics, there's no better way to do it.

C. collapse of instruction

It's apparent that the Department of Education does not know how to teach Irish, more than 90 years after the foundation of the State. Look at this quote from the “20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language”:

The Harris report (July 2007) indicated that in English-medium and Gaeltacht primary schools, there was a fall of 36.1% and 40.5% respectively in the numbers of pupils achieving mastery in the development of listening, vocabulary and comprehension skills between 1985 and 2002. While a little over half of pupils mastered fluency of oral description and communication in 1985 in English-medium schools, less than one third mastered them in 2002. The study also found a marked decline in teachers' confidence, with almost 25% of teachers in English-medium schools rating their own standards of spoken Irish as weak ... (12)

D. compulsory Irish?

In January 2011, the candidate Enda Kenny announced that he and his party would like to put an end to compulsory Irish, an action which would kill off a large part of the Irish Language economic sector in the Gaeltachtaí, especially the summer colleges.

It's up to the people of Ireland whether they should go forward with compulsory Irish in the schools. But here, overseas, it's difficult to imagine that it would be required to teach an official language in school in any other country. If only the minority are required to learn two languages in order to take part in the state, isn't that discrimination?

E. ag séanadh do cheart daonna, sibhialta, dlíthiúil, agus bunreachtúil

Ar ndóigh is ceart bunúsach dosháraithe é oideachas a fháil dod' pháistí i dteanga atá uait. Níl aon cheart ag Roinn an Oideachais cosc a chur ar an gceart seo, is cuma cén leithscéal atá acu.

F. ag séanadh do cheart atá ráthaithe faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann

Dé Mairt, 11 Bealtaine 2010, d'fhiafraigh Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin den Tánaiste agus den Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna (.i. Mary Coughlan ag an am sin) "cén fáth nár tugadh aitheantas do Ghaelscoil Ráth Tó i Meán Fómhair 2010 nuair nach bhfuil sé de chumas ag na scoileanna atá sa cheantar cheana féin ... freastal a dhéanamh ar mhian Bhunreachtúil na dtuismitheoirí mar phríomhoideachasóirí a bpáistí, chun oideachas lánGhaeilge a sholáthar dá bpáistí...?" (13)

Bhí an tUasal Ó Caoláin ag caint faoi Airteagal 42 i mBunreacht na hÉireann: (14)

(1) Admhaíonn an Stát gurb é an Teaghlach is múinteoir príomha dúchasach don leanbh, agus ráthaíonn gan cur isteach ar cheart doshannta ná ar dhualgas doshannta tuistí chun oideachas de réir a n-acmhainne a chur ar fáil dá gclainn i gcúrsaí creidimh, moráltachta, intleachta, coirp agus comhdhaonnachta.

(2) Tig le tuistí an t-oideachas sin a chur ar fáil dá gclainn ag baile nó i scoileanna príobháideacha nó i scoileanna a admhaítear nó a bhunaítear ag an Stát.

(3) Ní cead don Stát a chur d'fhiacha ar thuistí, in aghaidh a gcoinsiasa nó a rogha dleathaí, a gclann a chur ar scoileanna a bhunaítear ag an Stát nó ar aon chineál áirithe scoile a ainmnítear ag an Stát ...

(4) Ní foláir don Stát socrú a dhéanamh chun bunoidreachas a bheith ar fáil in aisce, agus iarracht a dhéanamh chun cabhrú go réasúnta agus chun cur le tionscnamh oideachais idir phríobháideach agus chumannnta agus, nuair is riachtanas chun leasa an phobail é, áiseanna nó fundúireachtaí eile oideachais a chur ar fáil, ag féachaint go cuí, áfach, do chearta tuistí ...

I bhfocail eile, is fíor don Uasal Ó Caoláin, bíonn ceart ag tuismitheoirí scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge a éileamh agus a fháil faoin mBunreacht.

G. ag séanadh do cheart ata ráthaithe faoin Acht Oideachais 1998

De réir chéad línte an Achta Oideachais 1998, caithfidh an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna oideachas a sholáthar atá freagrach do tuismitheoirí, a thugann meas do éagsúlacht na dteangacha, agus a stiúrtar le meon comhpháirtíochta le tuismitheoirí. (15)(16)

E. denial of human, civil, legal, and Constitutional rights

Getting an education for your child in the language of your choice is a fundamental inalienable right. The Department of Education does not have any right to interfere with this, no matter what their excuse.

F. denying your rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Ireland

In 2010, Deputy Caoimhín Ó Caoláin asked the Tánaiste and Minister of Education and Skills, i.e., Mary Coughlan at that time: (translated from Irish) “Why wasn’t recognition give to Gaelscoil Ráth Tó in September 2010 when schools already in the district are not able to comply with the Constitutional wish of the parents as primary educators of their children, to provide Irish-medium education to their children ...?” (13)

Mr. Ó Caolán was talking about Article 42 in the Constitution of Ireland: (14)

(1) The State acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the Family and guarantees to respect the inalienable right and duty of parents to provide, according to their means, for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children.

(2) Parents shall be free to provide this education in their homes or in private schools or in schools recognised or established by the State.

(3.1) The State shall not oblige parents in violation of their conscience and lawful preference to send their children to schools established by the State, or to any particular type of school designated by the State.

(4) The State shall provide for free primary education and shall endeavour to supplement and give reasonable aid to private and corporate educational initiative, and, when the public good requires it, provide other educational facilities or institutions with due regard, however, for the rights of parents ...

In other words, Mr. Ó Caoláin is right, parents have the right to demand and get Irish-medium schools under the Constitution.

G. denying your rights guaranteed by the Education Act of 1998

According to the first lines of the Education Act of 1998, the Department of Education and Skills must provide education which is accountable to parents, which respects the diversity of languages, and which is conducted in a spirit of partnership with parents. (15) (16)

I bhfocail eile, má tá oideachas trí Ghaeilge ag teastáil ó thuismitheoirí dá bpáistí, caithfidh an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna an t-oideachas sin a sholáthar. B'fhéidir gur deacair é seo a chreidiúint nuair a fhéachaimid ar ghníomhaíocht (nó easpa gníomhaíochta) na Roinne Oideachais go dtí anois, ach seo duit na focail féin:

Acht do dhéanamh socrú ar mhaithe le leas an phobail maidir le hoideachas gach duine sa stát ... ; dá áirithiú go bhfuil an córas oideachais cuntasach do mhic léinn, dá dtuismitheoirí agus don stát as an oideachas a sholáthraítear, go n-urramaíonn sé an éagsúlacht luachanna, creideamh, teangacha agus traidisiún i sochaí na héireann agus go stiúrtar é le meon comhpháirtíochta idir scoileanna, pátrúin, mic léinn, tuismitheoirí, múinteoirí agus foireann eile scoile, an pobal dá bhfónann an scoil agus an stát ... (17)

Freisin, faoi Alt 9 den Acht:

9. —Cuirfidh scoil aitheanta oideachas ar fáil do mhic léinn ar oideachas é is cuí dá gcumais agus dá riachtanais agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht an mhéid sin roimhe seo, úsáidfidh sí na hacmhainní a bheidh ar fáil di—

[In ainneoin an ailt seo den Acht, agus in ainneoin tuismitheoirí ag rá go bhfuil oideachas lán-Ghaeilge cuí do chumais agus riachtanais a bpáistí, is iondúil go ndiúltaíonn an Roinn Oideachais a éisteacht.]

(c) chun a chinntiú go mbeidh rochtain ag mic léinn ar threoir chuí chun cabhrú leo i dtaca lena roghanna oideachais agus gairme,

[An treoir chuí agus taca lena roghanna oideachais agus gairme í nuair a dhiúltaíonn an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna oideachas lán-Ghaeilge a thabhairt do dhaltá a bhfuil suim acu a oibriú ag RnaG, TG4, i scoileanna agus ollscoileanna áirithe agus i rannóga ar leith sa rialtas ina bhfuil gá Gaeilge iontu?]

(d) chun forbairt mhorálta, spioradálta, shóisialta agus phearsanta mac léinn a chur chun cinn ... i gcomhairle lena dtuismitheoirí, ag féachaint do spiorad sainiúil na scoile,

[Nach féidir forbairt mhorálta, spioradálta, shóisialta agus phearsanta mac léinn a chur chun cinn, ag féachaint do spiorad sainiúil na scoile, trí Ghaeilge?]

(f) chun forbairt na Gaeilge agus thraidisiúin na hÉireann, litríocht na hÉireann, na healaíona agus nithe cultúrtha eile, a chur chun cinn ...

[Ní deir an paragraf seo go gcaithfidh scoileanna agus an Roinn Oideachais é seo a dhéanamh ag baint áis as na modhanna is measa nach n-oibríonn, nó nach féidir leo áis a bhaint as na modhanna is fearr a oibríonn is fearr.]

In other words, if parents want education through Irish for their children, the Department of Education and Skills has to provide it. Perhaps this is difficult to believe when we look at the actions (lack of action) of the Education Department up to now. Here are the exact words:

An act to make provision in the interests of the common good for the education of every person in the state ...; to ensure that the education system is accountable to students, their parents and the state for the education provided, respects the diversity of values, beliefs, languages and traditions in Irish society and is conducted in a spirit of partnership between schools, patrons, students, parents, teachers and other school staff, the community served by the school and the state ... (17)

Also, under Article 9 of the Act:

(9).—A recognised school shall provide education to students which is appropriate to their abilities and needs and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, it shall use its available resources ...

[Despite this article of the Act, and despite parents saying that Irish-medium education is appropriate for the abilities and needs of their children, the Department of Education usually refuses to listen.]

(c) to ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices,

[Is it appropriate guidance and assistance in their educational and career choices when the Department of Education and Skills refuses to provide Irish-medium education to students who are interested in working at RnG, TG4, in certain schools and universities and in specific departments of the government in which Irish is needed?]

(d) to promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students ... in consultation with their parents, having regard to the characteristic spirit of the school ...

[Can't moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students be advanced, having regard for the characteristic spirit of a school, through Irish?]

(f) promote the development of the Irish language and traditions, Irish literature, the arts and other cultural matters ...

[This paragraph does not say that schools and the Department of Education have to use the worst methods which don't work, or that they can't use the best methods which work best.]

h) i gcás scoileanna atá lonnaithe i limistéar Gaeltachta, chun cuidiú leis an nGaeilge a choinneáil mar phríomhtheanga an phobail ...

[Ós rud é gur bhagair an t-Aire Quinn dúnadh ar 90% desna scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí, an féidir é nár léigh príomh-oifigigh na Roinne Oideachais, agus an t-aire ina measc, an t-Acht seo? Ní hea.]

H. An dtuigeann an Roinn Oideachais an dlí?

Tuigeann an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, go mbíonn an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna freagracht faoin mBunreacht agus faoin nDlí. Seo duit cuid den mhéad a adúirt an Coimisiúin um Chóiríocht Scoile, cuid den Roinn, i 2011:

Deirtear in Airteagal 8 de Bhunreacht na hÉireann: “Ós í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta is í an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil í”. Tá cur chun cinn na Gaeilge tar éis a bheith mar aidhm thábhachtach ag Rialtais i ndiaidh a chéile sa tír seo, agus cosnaíodh áit na Gaeilge inár gcóras oideachais go seasta. Ba chóir go leanfaí leis seo. Tá tábhacht na Gaeilge léirithe arís sa straitéis 20 bliain don teanga a foilsíodh le déanaí, “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030” ... Is fiú a thabhairt faoi deara freisin go bhfuil méadú os cionn 85,000 duine tagtha ar an líon daoine a labhraíonn Gaeilge sa tréimhse idir daonáirimh 2002 agus 2006. Tá an tsuim láidir leanúnach atá ag grúpaí tuismitheoirí i mbunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge a bhunú ag tacú leis seo, agus is léir nach mór d’aon chóras maidir le bunú bunscoileanna nua a bheith leochaileach do sheasamh ar leith na Gaeilge inár gcultúr. Dá bharr sin, ba chóir freastal ar scoileanna Gaeilge sa chóras nua trí fhorbairtí campais le scoileanna eile, nó, nuair is cuí, ar a suíomhanna féin Ní mór tábhacht na Gaeilge a thabhairt faoi deara, ní hamháin i scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ach i scoileanna a fheidhmíonn trí mheán an Bhéarla agus a thabhairt faoi deara gur feidhm de chuid gach scoile é an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Tá sé seo leagtha síos san Acht Oideachais, 1998 (alt 9). (18)(19)

I. An bhfuil an Roinn Oideachais ag sárú an dlí d’aon ghnó?

Tugann an Roinn Oideachais gach dealramh go bhfuil an Roinn ag cumadh a rialacha féin chun an dlí a bhriseadh. Mar shampla, seo duit an méad a deir an Roinn faoi bhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge sa “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge” i 2010:

(h) in the case of schools located in a Gaeltacht area, contribute to the maintenance of Irish as the primary community language ...

[Given that Minister Quinn threatened 90% of the schools in the Gaeltachtaí with closure, is it possible that the primary officers of the Department of Education, including the minister, have not read this Act? No.]

H. Does the Department of Education understand the law?

The Department of Education and Skills understands its obligations under the Constitution and the Law. Here's part of what was said by the Coimisiún um Chóiríocht Scoile, part of the Department, in 2011:

The Irish language Article 8 of Bunreacht na hÉireann states that: "The Irish language as the national language is the first official language". The promotion of the Irish language has been an important aim of successive Irish Governments and its place in our education system has been consistently protected. This should continue to be the case. The importance of Irish has been re-affirmed in the recently published 20 year strategy for the Irish language, "Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030"... It is also of note that the number of people who speak Irish has increased by in excess of 85,000 in the inter-censal period between 2002 and 2006. A continued strong interest from parent groups in setting up Irish language primary schools backs this up and makes it clear that any system for setting up new primary schools must be sensitive to the special place of the Irish language in our culture. Therefore Irish language schools should be accommodated in the new system whether by means of campus developments with other schools or where appropriate on their own sites ... It is important to note the importance of the Irish language, not just in Irish- medium schools, but also in English-medium schools and that it is a function of all schools to promote the Irish language. This is set out in the Education Act, 1998 (section 9). (18)(19)

I. Is the Department of Education breaking the law on purpose?

The Department of Education gives every indication that it is simply making up its own rules in order to break the law. For example, here is what the Department said about Irish-medium primary schools in "The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language" in 2010:

Tá éileamh níos mó ann ar éagsúlacht ó thaobh cineálacha scoileanna, lena n-áirítear oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge, ar fud na tíre in áiteanna a bhfuil an daonra ag fás iontu agus áiteanna nach bhfuil. Fágann na héilimh sin atá ag dul i neart go gcaithfear leasú a dhéanamh ar na nósanna imeachta ó thaobh aitheantais a thabhairt do bhunscoileanna nua. Go dtí go mbeidh an t-athbhreithniú sin déanta, bhí (sic) ar an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna glacadh le straitéis eatramhach faoina gceadaítear bunscoileanna nua a bhunú chun freastal a dhéanamh ar fhás déimeagrafach agus sin amháin, chun go mbainfí amach an tosaíocht fhoriomlán go mbeidh áit scoile ar fáil do gach leanbh. Is é an Coimisiún um Chóiríocht Scoile atá i mbun an athbhreithnithe (20)(21)

Dóibh siúd a bheadh ag súil le feabhas ar an mbeart seo ó Choimisiún um Chóiríocht Scoile, cuid den Roinn Oideachais, seo daoibh an méad a dúradar an bhliain i ndiaidh sin ina dtuarascáil:

Bhíothas in ann cuid den éileamh ar rogha níos mó ó thaobh soláthair a shásamh trí scoileanna nua a bhunú agus a thógáil sna ceantair sin inar tharla fás déimeagrafach suntasach. (22)(23)

agus

Ar an gcéad dul síos, tugtar faoi deara na socrúithe atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair laistigh den Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna chun an gá le scoileanna nua a aithint. (24)(25)

Agus sin é. Ní raibh focal eile maidir le hoideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge. I bhfocail eile, ní raibh aon athrú sa bheartas seo. Gan “fás déimeagrafach suntasach” agus “fás déimeagrafach agus sin amháin”, ní bhfaighidh lucht na Gaeilge scoil, fiú má tá cónaí orthu i bpobal slán seasmhach a bhíonn ag fanacht le gaelscoil le breis agus 90 bliain.

An bhfuil aon trácht sa Bhunreacht nó san Acht Oideachais 1998 nó in aon dlí eile go gcuirtear cearta daonna, sibhialta, dlíthiúla, agus bunreachtúla ar ceal i bpobail nach bhfuil “fás déimeagrafach suntasach” acu?

Leanann ráiteas na Roinne sa Straitéis 20 Bliain mar seo faoi ghaelcholáistí:

There are increasing demands for diversity of provision of school type, including Irish-medium education, distributed throughout the country in areas of both static and growing population. These growing demands have required a revision of the procedures for the recognition of new primary schools. Pending the outcome of the review, the Department of Education and Skills has had to adopt an interim strategy whereby it is only allowing new primary schools to be established to cater for demographic growth in order to deliver on the overall priority that every child has a school place available to them. The review, which is well advanced, is being undertaken by the Commission on School Accommodation ... (20)(21)

For those who would expect improvement on this policy from the Coimisiún um Chóiríocht Scoile, part of the Department of Education, here is what they said the following year (i.e., in 2011) in their report:

In areas of significant demographic growth it has been possible to meet much of the demand for increased choice of provision through the establishment and construction of new schools. (22)(23)

and

- *In the first instance, the arrangements now in place within the Department of Education and Skills for the identification of the need for the establishment of new schools are noted. (24)(25)*

And that's it. There was not another word about education through the medium of Irish. In other words, there was not any change in this policy. Without “significant demographic growth” and “demographic growth and that only”, Irish-speaking people will not get a school, even if they live in a healthy, stable community which has been waiting for an Irish-medium school for more than 90 years.

Is there any mention in the Constitution or in the Education Act of 1998 or in any other law which cancels human, civil, legal, and Constitutional rights in communities which don't have “significant demographic growth”?

The statement of the Department in the 20 Year Strategy continues as follows about Gaelcholáistí (Irish-medium secondary schools):

“Ag an iar-bhunleibhéal, bunaíodh socrúithe nua d’aitheantas scoileanna dara leibhéal i mí Iúil 2010. Tá soláthar iontu sin do chreat nua ina leagtar amach critéir shoiléire faoina ndéanfar iarratais ar scoileanna nua dara leibhéal a mheas. Samhlaíonn na critéir nua sin nach mbunófar scoileanna nua ach in áiteanna ina mbeidh éileamh déimeagrafach agus gur idir 800 agus 1000 dalta ar an meán a bheidh sna scoileanna nua. Leag na critéir amach freisin gur 400 an bhonntairseach do ghaelcholáistí, ag féachaint don rogha ar aonad a bhunú laistigh de scoil.” (26)(27)

An bhfuil aon trácht sa Bhunreacht nó san Acht Oideachais 1998 nó in aon dlí eile go gcuirtear cearta daonna, sibhialta, dlíthiúla, agus bunreachtúla ar ceal in aon phobal nach bhfuil 400 dalta acu chun gaelcholáiste a bhunú?

J. moltaí don réimse oideachais

* Gach uair go séanann an Roinn Oideachais (nó aon Chomhlacht Poiblí eile) do chearta mar thuismitheoir nó mar dhalta nó mar shaoránach, cearta atá agat faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, an tAcht Oideachais 1998, Acht na dTeagacha Oifigiúla 2003, nó aon dlí eile, is sárú an dlí é sin. Tuairiscigh an sárú sin do Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ag

An Coimisinéir Teanga
An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Fón: (091) 504006 | Facs: (091) 504036
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http://www.coimisineir.ie/index.php?page=sonrai_tagmhala&tid=3

Tá siad cairdiúil agus profisiúnta araon, ba mhaith leo cabhrú leat, agus gheobhaidh tú freagra uathu go láithreach.

* Éiligh breis-reachtaíocht go bhfaighidh gach dalta oideachas lán-Ghaeilge láithreach má tá sé sin ag teastáil óna t(h)uismitheoirí, díreach mar go bhfaighidh aon dalta oideachas trí Shacsbhéarla láithreach má tá sé sin ag teastáil óna t(h)uismitheoirí.

* Toisc gur léir é gurb é an beartas ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna dúnadh a bhagairt ar gaelscoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí; ag cur imní, eagla, agus meath ar phobail na Gaeilge; agus gan gaelscolaíocht a fhorbhairt nó a thacú go gníomhach (nó beagnach ar bith); agus gan Gaeilge a mhúineadh go ceart nó go maith ar fud na tíre; agus rialacha a tharrac as an aeir chun cearta mhuintir na hÉireann a shéanadh; an bhfuil sé riachtanach múineadh na Gaeilge, gaelscolaíocht, agus scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí a bhaint in iomlán ón Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna?

At post-primary level, new arrangements for the recognition of second-level schools were established in July 2010. These provide for a new framework involving the setting out of clear criteria against which new second-level school applications are to be assessed. These criteria envisage that new schools will only be established where there is demographic demand and that new schools will typically be in a size range of 800 to 1000 pupils. The criteria also set out that a lower threshold of 400 will apply for Gaelcholáistí having regard to the alternative of establishing an aonad within a school. (26)(27)

Is there any mention in the Constitution or in the Education Act of 1998 or in any other law which cancels human, civil, legal, and Constitutional rights in communities which don't have 400 students to establish a Gaelcholáiste?

J. recommendations in the area of education

* Every time the Department of Education (or any other Public Company) denies your rights as a parent or as a student or as a citizen which you have under the Constitution of Ireland, the Education Act of 1998, the Official Languages Act of 2003, or any other law, that's a breach of the law. Report that breach to the Office of the Language Commissioner at

An Coimisinéir Teanga
 An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
 Fón: (091) 504006 | Facs: (091) 504036
eolas@coimisineir.ie
http://www.coimisineir.ie/index.php?page=sonrai_tagmhala&tid=3

They are both friendly and professional, they want to help, and you will get an answer from them immediately.

* Demand additional legislation that every student will get Irish-medium education if that's what his/her parents want, just as any student immediately gets education through English if that's what his/her parents want.

* Because the Department of Education and Skills is still threatening to close 90% of the Irish-medium schools in the Gaeltachtaí; causing worry, fear, and decline in Irish-Language communities; and it is a policy of the Department not to develop or support Irish-medium schooling actively (or almost at all); and the Department is not able to teach Irish well or effectively; and the Department is composing rules to deny the rights of the people of Ireland; evaluate whether it is necessary to remove the teaching of Irish, Irish-medium schooling, and schools in the Gaeltachtaí in full from the Department of Education and Skills.

* Measúnaigh an bhfuil sé riachtanach roinn nó rannóg nua a chruthú a bheadh freagrach as Gaeilge, múineadh na Gaeilge, lucht na Gaeilge, forbairt na nGaeltachtaí, agus leathadh na Gaeilge ar fud na tíre, ní sna Gaeltachtaí amháin, ach gan bainte aige le haon rud eile nach mbaineann leis na feidhmeanna agus cuspóirí seo.

* Idir an dá linn, éiligh breis-reachtaíocht nach féidir leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna aon rud a dhéanamh nó a fhógairt maidir le scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí gan chead ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.

* Toisc gur dóchúil é go mbeidh sé riachtanach scoil lán-Ghaeilge agus scoil Sacsbhéarlach a lonnú le chéile i bhfoirgneamh amháin i bpobail áirithe, ba chóir neamhspleáchas na gaelscoile a chinntiú de réir treoireacha cuimsitheach^{2a} mar na treoireacha seo ó Ghaelscoileanna Teo. Féach ar

<http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie/assets/Gaelscoileanna-Teo.-Policy-on-Irish-medium-Units.pdf>

* Toisc nach bhfuil múinteoirí líofa go leor le fáil sna scoileanna Sacsbhéarlacha, éiligh reachtaíocht go bhfostaífead breis-mhúinteoirí líofa, go háirithe cainteoirí dúchasacha. Déanfaidh san cosaint ar ard-chaighdeán na Gaeilge agus ísleoidh sé sin dífhiostaíocht agus eisimirce lucht na Gaeilge.

* Toisc nach bhfuil staitisticí foilsithe le breis agus 10 mbliain faoi éileamh gaelscolaíochta, éiligh reachtaíocht go mbaileoidh an Phríomh-Oifig Staidreamh na staitisticí seo agus staitisticí faoi fhreastail i ngaelscoileanna agus i ngaelcholaáistí ionas gur féidir dul chun cinn a mheasúnú sa réimse seo.

2. Lucht na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí, sa Ghalltacht, sa Ghaeltacht Samhalta, agus an Eacnamaíocht

Baineann sé seo i bpáirt leis an mír ar a dtugtar "An Ghaeltacht" sa Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge.

A. Bunaithe ar chosaint amháin, bhí teip in ndán don bhun-straitéis Ghaeltachta ó thús.

Ní raibh sé riamh cóir nó cothrom caomhnú na teanga náisiúnta a chur ar mhionlach beag i gcuid desna ceantair is boichte sa tír.

“Is dea-ionsaí an chosaint is fearr.” Is léir nach ndearna an 'Gaeltacht Strategy', tosaithe i 1926, an gnó. Bhí agus tá an straitéis sin bunaithe go príomha ar chosaint amháin. Mar sin, ón dtosú, ghéill an straitéis sin buntáiste, cainteoirí, agus talamh do Shacsbhéarla. Ní féidir le haon teanga fanacht mar atá, gan laghdú, agus a céile comhraic nó iomraitheoir ag buaileadh ar na geataí agus ag brú isteach gach lá is oíche bliain i ndiaidh bliana.

* Evaluate whether it is necessary to create a new department or unit which would be responsible for Irish, the teaching of Irish, the people of Irish, the development of the Gaeltachtaí, and the spread of Irish throughout the country, not just in the Gaeltachtaí, and not anything else that does not relate to Irish.

* Meanwhile, demand additional legislation that the Department of Education and Skills cannot do or announce anything about schools in the Gaeltachtaí without permission from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

* Because it is likely that it will be necessary to place an Irish-medium school and an English-medium school together in a single building in certain communities, it is right to make certain of the Gaelscoil's independence according to comprehensive guidelines like those which Gaelscoileanna Teo. publishes. See <http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie/assets/Gaelscoileanna-Teo.-Policy-on-Irish-medium-Units.pdf>

* Because there are not enough fluent teachers in the English-medium schools, demand legislation that additional fluent teachers will be employed, especially native speakers. That will protect the high standard of Irish and lower unemployment and emigration of the Irish-speaking people.

* Because statistics about the demand for Irish-medium schooling have not been published for more than 10 years, demand legislation that the Central Statistics Office will collect and publish these statistics and statistics about attendance in Irish-medium primary schools and Irish-medium secondary schools so that progress and changes can be evaluated in this area.

2. Irish-speakers in the Gaeltachtaí, in the Galltacht, in the Virtual Gaeltacht, and Economics

This deals in part with the section called "An Ghaeltacht" in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language.

A. Based solely on defense, the original Gaeltacht strategy was doomed to failure from the beginning.

It was never just or fair to put responsibility for the national language on a small minority in some of the poorest districts of the country.

“The best defense is a good offense.” It’s apparent that the “Gaeltacht Strategy”, begun in 1926, has not done the job. That strategy was and is based solely on defense. Therefore, from the beginning, that strategy yielded advantage, speakers, and ground to English. No language can stay as it is, without weakening, while its adversary or competitor is banging on the gates and pushing in every day every night year after year.

Tá sé riachtanach rogha a dhéanamh. Fás nó an bás. Níl aon rogha eile ann.

B. Tá mórchuid de lucht na Gaeilge sa Ghalltacht, seachas sna Gaeltachtaí. Is mithid iad a nascadh le chéile.

Chun fás, caithfear Gaeilgeoirí san Ghalltacht in Éirinn agus timpeall an domhain a nascadh le chéile leis na Gaeltachtaí oifigiúla. Is léir go dtuigeann údair Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge é seo, ach caithfear an fás seo a chur i bhfeidhm láithreach bonn, anois, inniu, mar beagnach gach moladh eile sa Straitéis.

Tá a fhios ag gach duine go mbíonn Gaeilgeoirí ag aistriú in uimhreacha móra ón nGaeltacht go cathracha agus bailte móra in Éirinn agus thar lear chun jabanna a fháil le breis agus 160 bliana. Agus líon na nGaeilgeoirí sna Gaeltachtaí ag laghdú, bíonn líon na nGaeilgeoirí lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí ag méadú.

I 2002 sa Phoblacht, ní raibh ach timpeall 62,000 Gaeilgeoir ina gcónaí fós sna Gaeltachtaí oifigiúla agus timpeall 340,000 Gaeilgeoir líofa, a bheag nó a mhór sa Phoblacht lasmuigh desna Gaeltachtaí agus ag éileamh úsáid laethúil na Gaeilge. (28) Sa bhreis, tá Gaeilgeoirí eile ina gcónaí timpeall an domhain, idir 18,000 agus 25,000 sna S.A.M. amháin. (2000 Census: 25,661. 2005 Census: 18,815) I 2006, dúirt 1.6 milliún (41% de mhuintir Phoblacht na hÉireann) go bhfuil siad in ann Gaeilge a labhairt ag leibhéal éigin. (Daonáireamh 2006) I 2002, dúirt timpeall 339,000 nó 8% sa Phoblacht go raibh siad líofa. (29) Agus, “Tá cumas éigin sa Ghaeilge ag 184,898 duine i sé chontae an tuaiscirt, dar le réamhthorthaí Dhaonáireamh 2011..... “ (30) I 2002 i sé chontae an tuaisceart, mhaígh 75,125 (4.5%) de 1,685,267 go raibh siad líofa, a bheag nó a mhór, i nGaeilge. (31)

I bhfocail eile, tá timpeall 415,000 líofa sa Ghaeilge ar oileán na hÉirinn gan Gaeilgeoirí thar lear a chomháireamh

C. Moltaí maidir le Lucht na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí, sa Ghalltacht, sa Ghaeltacht Samhalta, agus an Eacnamaíocht

An féidir iad a nascadh le chéile? Cinnte. Is féidir é seo a dhéanamh i nGaeltachtaí samhalta (mar atá ag tarlú tríd an idirlíon agus a mheáin shóisialta anois), aghaidh ar aghaidh i nGaeltachtaí uirbeacha (mar atá forbartha i mBéal Féirste cheana féin as stuaim na ndaoine féin), trí úsáid níos éifeachtaí na meán poiblí cumarsáide (e.g., TG4) mar a fheicfear i bparagraf a 5 thíos, agus níos mó ná sin.

Mar shampla, más maith le cathair aon áit ar an domhan níos mó gnó a dhéanamh le haon chathair eile, feicimid feachtais, cruinnithe, agus nascadh oifigiúil. Cad faoi nascadh as Gaeilge idir pobail sna Gaeltachtaí agus pobail fo-uirbeacha agus uirbeacha sa Ghalltacht ar mhaith leo Gaeilge a chur chun cinn?

It is necessary to make a choice. Grow or die. There's no other choice.

B. The majority of Irish-speaking people are in the Galltacht, not in the Gaeltachtaí. It's high time to link them together.

To grow, Irish-speakers in the Galltacht in Ireland and around the world must link together with the official Gaeltachtaí. It's apparent that the authors of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language understand this, but this growth must be put into effect immediately, now, today, like almost every other recommendation in the Strategy.

Everyone knows that Irish-speakers have been moving in large numbers from the Gaeltacht to cities and large towns in Ireland and overseas to get jobs for more than 160 years. As the number of Irish-speakers in the Gaeltachtaí have been decreasing, the number of Irish-speakers outside the Gaeltachtaí have been increasing.

In 2002 in the Republic, there were only 62,000 Irish-speakers still living in the official Gaeltachtaí and approximately 340,000 fluent speakers in the Republic outside the Gaeltachtaí and many of them claiming daily usage of Irish. (28) In addition, other Irish-speakers live around the world, between 18,000 and 25,000 in the U.S.A. alone. (2000 Census: 25,661. 2005 Census: 18,815) In 2006, 1.6 million (41%) of the people of the Republic of Ireland said that they are able to speak Irish at some level. (Census 2006) In 2002, approximately 339,000 or 8% in the Republic said that they were fluent. (29) And, "184,898 people have some ability in Irish in the six counties of the north, according to preliminary results of the 2011 Census ..." (30) In 2002 in the six counties of the north, 75,125 (4.5%) of 1,685,267 claimed that they were more or less fully fluent in Irish. (31)

In other words, there are approximately 415,000 people fluent in Irish on the island of Ireland without counting Irish-speakers overseas.

C. recommendations related to Irish-speakers in the Gaeltachtaí, in the Galltacht, in the virtual Gaeltacht, and economics

Can they be linked together? Certainly. This can be done in virtual Gaeltachtaí (as is now happening on the internet and in social media), face to face in urban Gaeltachtaí (as already developed in Belfast by the will of the people themselves), through more effective usage of public media (e.g., TG4) as will be seen in paragraph 5 below, and more.

For example, if a city anywhere in the world wants to do more business with another city, we see campaigns, meetings, and twinnings. What about twinnings of communities in the Gaeltachtaí and suburban and urban communities in the Galltacht who would like to advance Irish, business through Irish, and cooperation through Irish?

Agus níl aon ghá fanacht leis an rialtas chun é seo a dhéanamh. Mar shampla, gan aon mhaoiniú agus ag obair le hoibrithe deonacha amháin, nascann Cumann Carad na Gaeilge breis agus 1400 daltaí na Gaeilge timpeall an domhain ar an idirlíon. (32) Clóbhuaile an focal ‘Gaeilge’ isteach in aon inneal cuardaigh agus féach ar an méad buillí a ngeobhaidh tú. (Cad faoi 25,000,000 - 42,000,000?) Féach freisin orthu seo:

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www.angaelmagazine.com
 agus a leithéid.

Ní raibh ach timpeall 400,000 Iúdach in bPalaistín i 1947, agus ní raibh Eabhrais ag gach ceann acu. Inniu, tá breis agus 415,000 in Éirinn amháin atá líofa, a bheag nó a mhór, i nGaeilge. An leor an uimhir sin chun teanga láidir eacnamaíochta a chruthú arís den Ghaeilge? Cinnte gur féidir leis na hÉireannaigh tógáil ar an mbunchloch maith sin.

Ach ná fan leis an rialtas. Déan tú féin agus sibh féin é.

3. “An Teaghlach ag Cur na Teanga ar Aghaidh – Idirghabháil go Luath” (.i. an fotheidil sa Staitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge)

A. spreagadh ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Fuairamar an pácaiste a sheolann an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta chuig tuimitheoirí chun labhairt na Gaeilge a spreagadh i dteaghlaigh. Tá sé go deas go leor. Ina litir cumhdaigh, scríobhann siad

Má roghnaíonn tú Gaeilge mar theanga do chlainne, tá tú ag tabhairt buntáiste luachmhar do do pháiste a d’fhéadfadh cabhrú leis/léi:

- 1. foghlaim conas léamh agus comhaireamh*
- 2. teangacha eile a fhoghlaim*
- 3. scileanna cumarsáide a fhorbairt*
- 4. post a fháil amach anseo*
- 5. cairde nua a dhéanamh*
- 6. a bheith páirteach i nglúin nua cainteoirí Gaeilge*
- 7. féiniúlacht a threisiú.*

And there's no need to wait for the government to do this. For example, without any funding and working solely with volunteers, the Philo-Celtic Society links more than 1400 Irish Language students around the world on the internet. (32) Type the word 'Gaeilge' into any search engine and see how many hits you'll get. (How about 25,000,000 - 42,000,000?) Also look at these:

www.beo.ie/
www.feasta.ie/
www.foinse.ie/
www.gaelpport.com/
www.nuacht24.com
<http://antuairisceoir.com/>
www.angaelmagazine.com
 and their like.

There were only about 400,000 Jews in Palestine in 1947, and not every one of them spoke Hebrew. Today, there are more than 415,000 in Ireland alone who are basically fluent in Irish. Is that enough to again make an economic language out of Irish? Certainly the Irish can build on that good foundation.

But don't wait for the government. Do it yourself and do it yourselves.

3. "Family Transmission of the Language – Early Intervention" (i.e., the sub-title in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language)

A. encouragement from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

We received the package which the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht sends to parents to encourage the speaking of Irish in the home. It is nice enough. In their cover letter, they write:

If you choose Irish as the language of your family, you are giving to your child a valuable advantage which could help him/her:

- 1. learn how to read and count*
- 2. learn other languages*
- 3. develop communication skills*
- 4. get a job in the future*
- 5. make new friends*
- 6. take part in a new generation of Irish-speakers*
- 7. strengthen identity*

Cinnte gur ceart tacaíocht a thabhairt do Ghaeilge sa teaghlach. Leanann an smaoinemh sin na teoiricí teangeolaíochta is fearr agus is déanaí. Ach má bhíonn fíor-bhuntaíste eacnamaíochta ag an nGaeilge, cuirfidh mórchuid na dtuismitheoirí béim ar Ghaeilge gan aon spreagadh ón Rialtas, díreach mar ar chuir mórchuid na dtuismitheoirí béim ar Shacsbhéarla gan aon spreagadh ón Rialtas ón 19ú haois go dtí inniu.

Aistroidh daoine go teanga eile más féidir leo saol maith a dhéanamh tríthí dóibh féin agus dá bpáistí. Muna bhféidir le daoine saol maith a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge, leanfaidh meath na Gaeilge go dtí a bás.

B. moladh maidir leis An Teaghlach ag Cur na Teanga ar Aghaidh

An chaoi is fearr chun an teanga a chur ar aghaidh i dteaghlaigh ná an teanga a athbhunú mar theanga eacnamaíochta.

4. An Rialtas, an Ghaeilge, agus an Eacnamaíocht

Baineann sé seo i bpáirt leis an mír ar a dtugtar "Riarachán, Seirbhísí agus Pobal" sa Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge.

A. ag tarraingt i malairt treo

Ar dtús, caithfimid an cheist a chur: “Cé tá i gceannas?”

I bhFeabhra 2011, d’admhaigh Donnchadh Mac Fhionnlaoidh, T.D agus Aire Stáit le freagracht as an nGaeltacht agus na hOileáin, nach ndeachaigh éinne i gcomhairle leis ar cheapadh beartas an rialtais um Ghaeilge agus ní raibh a fhios ar bith aige cén taighde a mbaineadh áis as chun beartas a pháirtí a cheapadh. (33)

Tá sé seo amaideach.

I Mí na Nollag 2011, bhagair Ruairí Quinn, an t-Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna, dúnadh ar 90% de scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí. (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) Níor bhog Quinn ar gcúl ón mbagairt seo go dtí am éigin i 2012 ach is léir óna ghníomhartha agus bhriathra i 2013 nár thréig sé an beartas seo agus go bhfuil na scoileanna seo faoi bhagairt fós. (39) (40) (41) (42)

Tá sé seo amaideach.

I Márta 2013, tháinig sé seo chun solais:

Certainly it's right to give support to Irish in the family. That thought follows the best and most recent linguistic theories. But if we re-build economic advantages related to speaking Irish, most parents will put emphasis on Irish without any encouragement from the government, exactly as most parents put emphasis on speaking English without any encouragement from the government from the 19th century on.

People switch to another language if they're able to make a good living through it for themselves and for their children. If people are not able to make a good living through Irish, the decline of the Irish Language will continue until it is dead.

B. recommendation related to family transmission of the language

The best way to advance the language in families is to re-establish the language as a strong economic language.

4. The Government, the Irish Language, and Economics

This deals in part with the section called "Administration, Services and Community" in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language.

A. pulling in opposite directions

Right up front, we have to ask: "Who is in charge?"

In February 2011, Donnchadh Mac Fhionnlaoidh, T.D. and Minister of State with responsibility for the Gaeltacht and the Islands, admitted that nobody consulted him in creating government policy about the Irish Language and he did not have any knowledge of what research was used to create his party's policy. (33)

This is ridiculous.

In December 2011, Ruairí Quinn, the Minister for Education and Skills, threatened to close 90% of schools in the Gaeltachtaí. (34)(35)(36)(37)(38) Under pressure, Mr. Quinn stepped back from this threat in 2012 but it is apparent from his actions and words in 2013 that he has not abandoned this policy and these schools are still under threat. (39)(40)(41)(42)

This is ridiculous.

In March 2013, this came to light:

"Rinneadh gearán le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga gur gabhadh fear san éagóir de bharr gur iarr sé ar Gharda a stop é i dtaca le cion tráchtta a chuid gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge. Tugadh an fear faoi ghlais lámh go stáisiún Gardaí, áit ar coinníodh é go dtí go raibh ball den Gharda Síochána ar fáil le plé leis i nGaeilge. Dúirt an gearánach gur fhág 'an t-eispéireas ar fad náirithe agus maslaithe mé, agus dúradh liom roinnt uaireanta nach raibh ceart agam an gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge, nár chóir dom sin a dhéanamh, is nach mbeinn gafa murach an Ghaeilge a bheith á labhairt agam ...' " (43)

Tá sé seo amaideach.

Ag breathnú ar shamplaí mar an Ioruais sa 19ú haois, an Eabhrais i lár na 20ú haoise, an Bhascais, an Chatalóinis, an Bhreatnais agus a lán teangacha eile ag tosú na 21ú haoise, is féidir linn a fheiceáil gur féidir teanga a athbheochan go rathúil le bainistíocht churamach. Ach is léir nach bhfuil a leithéid de bhainistíocht ar fáil ag an am seo in Éirinn.

B. Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003

Tosaíonn Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 mar seo:

Acht chun úsáid na gaeilge a chur chun cinn chun críoch oifigiúil sa stát; chun socrú a dhéanamh maidir le dhá theanga oifigiúla an stáit a úsáid in imeachtaí parlaiminte, in achtanna an Oireachtais, i riaradh an cheartais, le linn cumarsáid a dhéanamh leis an bpobal nó seirbhísí a sholáthar don phobal agus le linn obair comhlachtaí poiblí a dhéanamh; chun dualgais comhlachtaí den sórt sin i leith theangacha oifigiúla an stáit a leagan amach; agus chun na gcríoch sin, chun socrú a dhéanamh maidir le bunú Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus chun a feidhmeanna a mhíniú; chun socrú a dhéanamh maidir leis an gCoimisinéir d'fhoilsiú faisnéis áirithe a bhaineann le críocha an agha seo; agus chun socrú a dhéanamh i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara. [14 Iúil, 2003] (44)(45)

Caithfidh Tithe an Oireachtais, na Cúirteanna, agus na Comhlachtaí Poiblí (le gach roinn an rialtais ina measc) cumarsáid a dhéanamh as Gaeilge leat má bhaineann tú áis as Gaeilge chun cumarsáid a dhéanamh leo. (46)(47) Is féidir leat liosta na gComhlachtaí Poiblí a fháil anseo: <http://acts.oireachtas.ie/ga.act.2003.0032.8.html#sched1>

C. gan tarraingt ar bith

Féach ar na habairtí seo ó *Tuarascáil Bhliantúil* an Choimisinéara Teanga:

“A complaint was made to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga that a man had been unjustly arrested, because he asked a Garda to deal with him through Irish when he was stopped in relation to a traffic offence. The man was taken in handcuffs to a Garda station where he was detained until a Garda was available who could speak with him in Irish. The complainant said that the experience left him ‘shamed and insulted and I was told several times that I did not have a right to conduct business through Irish, that I should desist and that I would not have been arrested if I hadn’t spoken in Irish.’ “ (43)

This is ridiculous.

Looking at examples like Norwegian in the 19th century, Hebrew in the 20th century, and Basque, Catalanian, Welsh, and other languages at the beginning of the 21st century, we can see that it is possible to revive a language successfully with careful management. But it is apparent that that kind of management is not to be found at this time in Ireland.

B. Official Languages Act of 2003

The Official Languages Act of 2003 begins like this:

An act to promote the use of the Irish language for official purposes in the state; to provide for the use of both official languages of the state in parliamentary proceedings, in acts of the Oireachtas, in the administration of justice, in communicating with or providing services to the public and in carrying out the work of public bodies; to set out the duties of such bodies with respect to the official languages of the state; and for those purposes, to provide for the establishment of Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla and to define its functions; to provide for the publication by the commissioner of certain information relevant to the purposes of this act; and to provide for related matters. [14th July, 2003] (44)(45)

The Houses of the Oireachtas, the Courts, and the Public Bodies (including all departments of the government) must communicate with you in Irish if you use Irish to communicate with them. (46)(47) You can find the list of Public Bodies here:

<http://acts.oireachtas.ie/ga.act.2003.0032.8.html#sched1> .

C. not pulling at all

Look at these statements from the Annual Report of the Language Commissioner:

RÉAMHRÁ

Ní sárbhliain a bhí in 2012 maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i státchóras na tíre, agus ar scáth aon choiscéim a tugadh chun tosaigh, ba chosúil go raibh péire á dtabhairt ar gcúl.

Thug figiúirí ón Daonáireamh is deireanaí a foilsíodh le linn na bliana 2012 léargas dearfach go maith maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge sa tír. Léirigh na staitisticí go raibh méadú 7% ón Daonáireamh roimhe sin ar líon na ndaoine sa tír a dúirt go raibh Gaeilge acu, méadú 7% ar líon na ndaoine lasmuigh den chóras oideachais a dúirt gur úsáid siad an teanga go laethúil, agus méadú 3% ar líon na ndaoine sa Ghaeltacht a dúirt gur úsáid siad an teanga go laethúil lasmuigh den chóras oideachais.

Claonadh dearfach agus dea-scéala atá sna staitisticí sin. Níl aon amhras orm ach go mbeadh na staitisticí ní ba shláintiúla fós dá mbeadh beart á dhéanamh ag an Stát de réir briathair fad is a bhaineann sé leis an tacaíocht a thugtar don teanga. Tá cuid mhór den phobal i gcoitinne ar son chaomhnú agus chur chun cinn na teanga agus tá sin léirithe go soiléir i dtaighde agus i suirbhéanna éagsúla in imeacht na mblianta. Tá, áfach, dar liom, bearna shuntasach idir mianta an phobail i leith na teanga agus iarracht an státchórais féin i leith na teanga.

Scéimeanna teanga

Cé gur dhaingnigh an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta naoi gcinn bhreise de scéimeanna teanga le comhlachtaí poiblí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla le linn na bliana 2012, tháinig méadú níos suntasaí fós ar líon na scéimeanna teanga a bhí imithe “in éag” gan athnuachan a bheith déanta orthu. Agus, arís eile, mhéadaigh an mheántréimhse ama a bhfuil scéimeanna teanga fágtha gan athnuachan.

Tá córas na scéimeanna teanga i gcroílár na reachtaíochta agus braitear ar an gcóras sin le forbairt a dhéanamh ar líon agus ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a sholáthraíonn comhlachtaí poiblí.

San iomlán, as na 104 scéim teanga a bhí daingnithe ó thús aimsire le comhlachtaí poiblí, bhí 79 acu sin “in éag” faoi dheireadh na bliana 2012; is ionann sin agus trí scéim as gach ceithre cinn nó 75% ar fad a bheith in éag. Bhí 11 de na scéimeanna teanga sin in éag le tréimhse ama ceithre bliana ar a laghad agus 13 eile acu in éag le breis agus trí bliana. Tá mioneolas faoi na comhlachtaí poiblí a bhfuil a gcuid scéimeanna teanga imithe in éag agus iad sin a bhfuil athnuachan déanta orthu le fáil sa Tuarascáil seo.

FOREWORD

2012 was not a vintage year for the promotion of the Irish language in the public sector and for every one step forward there appeared to have been two steps backwards.

Statistics from the most recent Census published during 2012 gave a reasonably positive picture of the use of Irish in the country. The figures revealed an increase of 7% from the last Census in the number of people in the country who said they had Irish and an increase of 7% in the number of people who said they used the language on a daily basis, outside the education system, as well as an increase of 3% in the number of people in the Gaeltacht who said they used the language on a daily basis outside the education system.

These statistics indicated a positive trend and are good news. The statistics would be even better if the State delivered on its promise in providing support for the language. A large proportion of the general public are in favour of the preservation and promotion of the language as is evident in research and surveys undertaken over the years. However, to my mind, there is a considerable gap between the wishes of the public in relation to the language and the efforts of the State on the issue.

Language schemes

While the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht confirmed an additional nine language schemes under the Official Languages Act during 2012, there was an even more significant increase in the number of language schemes that “expired” without renewal. In addition, there was a further increase in the average length of time language schemes remained without being renewed.

The language scheme system is at the very heart of the legislation and any development in the number and quality of services in the Irish language provided by public bodies is dependent on this mechanism.

Overall, of the 104 language schemes that were confirmed from the outset by public bodies, a combined total of 79 had “expired” by the end of 2012; this means that 3 out of every 4 or 75% of all schemes had expired. In the case of 11 of these language schemes, they had expired for a period of at least four years and a further 13 had expired for more than three years. Details of the public bodies whose schemes have expired and those whose schemes have been renewed are available in this Report.

Sa bhreis air sin, bhí 39 comhlacht poiblí eile ann a raibh an chéad dréachtscéim iarrtha orthu ach nach raibh siad aontaithe ná daingnithe fós mar scéimeanna ag an Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta faoi dheireadh 2012. I gcás deich gcinn acu sin, bhí breis agus sé bliana imithe ó iarradh orthu an dréachtscéim a ullmhú.

Cé go bhfuil rabhaidh rialta á dtabhairt agam ar an ábhar seo le blianta, is mór é m'inní gur cosúil go bhfuil teipthe tríd is tríd anois ar chóras daingnithe na scéimeanna teanga a bheith curtha ar aon bhonn fóna nó seasmhach. (48)

Breathnaigh ar na huimhreacha arís:

104 scéimeanna daingnithe ó thús
 +39 nach aontaithe ná daingnithe fós

 143 comhlacht poiblí

79 in éag
 39 gan scéim riamh

 118 (83%) gan scéim as 143 comhlacht poiblí

Mar sin, d'ainneoin Achta na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 is féidir linn feiceáil:

- Diúltaíonn cuid is mó an rialtais pleananna a choinneáil nó fiú amháin a chruthú faoi sholáthar seirbhísí as Gaeilge, cé go bhfuil sé sin riachtanach faoin Acht.
- Mar sin, tá sé réasúnta a mheas go ndiúltaíonn cuid is mó an rialtais seirbhísí as Gaeilge a chur ar fáil, fiú amháin sna Gaeltachtaí, cé go bhfuil na seirbhísí sin riachtanach faoin Acht ar fud na tíre.

D'ainneoin an Achta seo, cad is féidir linn a rá ach go mbíonn cuid mhór an rialtais, b'fhéidir cuid is mó an rialtais, gníomhach fós i marú na Gaeilge agus i ndiúltú cearta daonna laistigh agus lasmuigh desna nGaeltachtaí.

Cén fáth go mbíonn fíneálacha troma nó pionóis eile gearrtha ar chomhlachtaí poiblí agus oifigigh nach gcomhlíonann a ndualgais faoin dlí, ach amháin dlithe a bhaineann le Gaeilge agus le pobail na Gaeilge?

In addition, there were 39 other public bodies whose first draft scheme had been requested by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht but for whom no scheme had been agreed or confirmed by the end of 2012. In the case of ten of these, more than six years had elapsed since they were first asked to prepare a draft scheme.

Although I have issued regular warnings on this matter over a number of years, I am concerned, now more than ever, that there is no secure or stable basis to the system for confirming language schemes. (48)

Look at the numbers again:

104 language schemes confirmed from the outset

+39 not agreed or confirmed yet

143 public bodies

79 expired

+39 not agreed or confirmed yet

118 (83%) without a scheme in effect out of 143 public bodies

Therefore, despite the Official Languages Act of 2003 we can see:

- The largest part of the government refuses to maintain or even create plans for the provision of services in Irish, even though that is required under the Act.
- Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that most of the government refuses to make services available in Irish, even in the Gaeltachtaí, even though such services are required under the Act throughout the country.

Despite this Act, what can we say except that a large part of the government, perhaps most of the government, is still active in killing the Irish Language and in refusing human rights inside and outside the Gaeltachtaí.

Why are large fines or other punishments exacted from public companies and officials which or who fail to fulfill their obligations under the law, except laws which relate to the Irish language and Irish Language communities?

D. Moltaí maidir leis an rialtas, an Ghaeilge, agus an eacnamaíocht.

1) seirbhísí

Éiligh seirbhísí as Gaeilge (agus mar sin postanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge) ó gach Comhlacht Poiblí (an Roinn Oideachais, gach roinn eile an rialtais, agus na meáin chumarsáide poiblí ina measc). Tá an ceart agat mar shaoránach.

2) dóibh siúd a bhriseann an dlí

Measúnaigh ar chóir reachtaíocht nua a éileamh a ghearrfadh fíneálacha ar chomhlacht poiblí agus oifigigh nach gcomhlíonann a ndualgais faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, Acht Oideachais 1998, agus aon dlí eile a bhaineann le Gaeilge agus pobail na Gaeilge.

5. Meáin Phoiblí Chumarsáide agus an Eacnamaíocht

Baineann sé seo i bpáirt leis an mír ar a dtugtar "Na Meáin agus an Teicneolaíocht" sa Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge.

A. Tá obair iontach á déanamh ag RnG agus TG4

Bíonn sár-obair á déanamh ag TG4 agus Raidió na Gaeltachta gach lá agus tá siad ag forbairt clár agus meán nua digiteach chun a lucht féachana agus éisteacha a mhéadú. Níl ach cúpla moltaí eile againn.

B. moltaí maidir leis na Meáin Phoiblí Chumarsáide agus an Eacnamaíocht

1) fógraí áitiúla

Is cosúil le stáisiúnacha áitiúla iad TG4 agus Raidió na Gaeltachta, ag cúngchraoladh chuig lucht féachana agus éisteacha áirithe ar leith. Coimisiníonn siad cláir iontacha as Gaeilge, ach ní oibríonn siad mar stáisiúnacha áitiúla sa réimse fógraíochta, ceann desna príomhmhodhanna a nascaíonn stáisiúnacha lena bpobail ar bhonn eacnamaíoch.

Mar shampla, anseo thar lear, bheadh súil againn fógraí áitiúla a fheiceáil ar TG4 as Gaeilge déanta le comhlachtaí beaga sna Gaeltachtaí nó sa Ghalltacht ar son comhlachtaí beaga áitiúla ag díol táirgí agus seirbhísí as Gaeilge. In ionad sin, feicimid ar TG4 fógraí idirnáisiúnta déanta thar lear (agus ní le Gaeilgeoirí) ag díol táirgí mar Febreze as Sacsbhéarla.

D. recommendations related to the government, the Irish Language, and economics

1) services

Demand services in Irish (and therefore jobs which are done through Irish) from every Public Body (including the Department of Education, every other department of the government, and the public media). You have the right as a citizen.

2) for those who break the law

Evaluate whether new legislation should be demanded which would impose fines on public bodies and officials which or who do not full their obligations under the Constitution of Ireland, the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act of 1998, and any other laws which relate to the Irish Language and Irish Language communities.

5. Public Media and Economics

This deals in part with the section called "Media and Technology" in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language.

A. RnG and TG4 are doing wonderful work.

TG4 and Raidió na Gaeltachta are doing excellent work every day and they are developing programs and new digital media to increase their viewing and listening audience. We have only a couple of other recommendations.

B. recommendations related to public media and economics

1. local advertisements

TG4 and Raidió na Gaeltachta are similar to local stations, narrow-broadcasting to specific viewing and listening audiences. They commission wonderful programs in Irish, but they don't act like local stations in the area of advertising, one of the most important methods used to link people and communities together on an economic basis.

For example, here overseas, we would expect to see on TG4 local advertisements in Irish made by companies in the Gaeltachtaí or in the Galltacht on behalf of local companies selling products and services in Irish. Instead, we see international advertisements made overseas (and not by Irish-speakers) selling products like Febreze in English.

2) cláir

Bheadh súil againn sceideal déanta as Gaeilge in iomlán le comhlachtaí beaga ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge lonnaithe sna Gaeltachtaí nó sa Ghalltacht. In ionad sin, feicimid ar TG4 cláir mar Bonanza, Little House on the Prairie, Pimp My Ride, agus a leithéid. Cinnte gur féidir le TG4 ceadúnais na gclár seo a cheannach gan chostas mór toisc gur tír bheag í Éire. Ach is cinnte é freisin gur féidir le TG4, leis an airgead céanna, níos mó clár as Gaeilge a choimisíniú ó léiritheoirí áitiúla a bheadh ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Deiseanna caillte. Má bhíonn na tionscail dúchasacha fhógraíochta agus scannánaíochta lag in Éirinn, muna bhfuil mórán fostaithe ó lá go lá i léiriú fógraíochta agus scannán, is é ceann desna fáthanna é seo.

6. “Foclóirí” (.i. an fo-theidil sa Staitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge)

A. foclóirí nua

Mar a luaítear sa Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge, tá sár-obair á déanamh sa réimse seo. Bíonn sé an-tábhachtach fóclóirí maithe suas-go-dáta lán le téarmaíocht nua-aimseartha a bheith againn, go háirithe do ghnó agus do fhoghlaimoirí nach bhfuil cónaí orthu sna Gaeltachtaí.

B. moladh maidir le foclóirí

Ach is coir dúinn cuimhniú go bhfuilimid i mbaol go mbeadh ár bhfoclóirí go luath ina n-iarsmí mar “Zeisberger’s Indian Dictionary” do Onandaga agus Delaware (.i. Leni Lenape). Tá sé riachtanach straitéis agus modhanna a athrú go láithreach chun ár dteanga agus ár bpobal a neartú.

7. “Reachtaíocht agus Stádas” (.i. an fo-theidil sa Staitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge)

Mar a chonaiceamar i gCaibidil III, más féidir le daoine postanna maithe a fháil ag obair i dteanga áirithe, bíonn ard-stádas neamhoifigiúil (.i. ard-mheas) ag an dteanga sin. Caithfidh níos mó postanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge a chruthú i ngach earnáil - an t-oideachas, an rialtas, agus an earnáil phríobháideach ina measc. Is bealach tábhachtach chun na postanna sin a chruthú an stádas oifigiúil. Mar sin, is bealach chun stádas neamhoifigiúil na teanga a ardú an stádas oifigiúil.

2) programs

We would expect to see a schedule made completely in Irish by small companies working in Irish based in the Gaeltachtaí or the Galltacht. Instead, we see on TG4 programs like Bonanza, Little House on the Prairie, Pimp My Ride, and their like. Certainly TG4 can buy licenses for these programs without great cost because Ireland is a small country. But it is also certain that TG4, with the same money, can commission additional programs in Irish from local producers who would be working through Irish.

Lost opportunities. If the native advertising and film industries are weak in Ireland, if there are not many working in Irish from day to day in the production of advertising and films, this is one of the reasons.

6. Dictionaries

A. new dictionaries

As mentioned in the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language, excellent work is being done in this area. It is always important to have good up-to-date dictionaries full of modern terminology, especially for business and for learners who do not live in the Gaeltachtaí.

B. recommendation related to dictionaries

But it is important to remember that the danger exists that our dictionaries could soon be relics like “Zeisberger’s Indian Dictionary” for Onandaga and Delaware (i.e., Lenni Lenape). It is necessary to change strategies and methods immediately in order to strengthen our language and our communities.

7. Legislation and Status

As we saw in Chapter III, if people can get good jobs working in a certain language, that language has high unofficial status (i.e., high respect). More jobs which are done through Irish must be created in every sector - including education, government, and the private sector. Official status is an important avenue to create those jobs. Therefore, official status is an important avenue by which to raise the unofficial status of the language.

Moltaí

A. seirbhísí

Éiligh seirbhísí as Gaeilge (agus mar sin postanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge) ó gach Comhlacht Poiblí (an Roinn Oideachais, gach roinn eile an rialtais, agus na meáin chumarsáide poiblí ina measc). Tá an ceart agat mar shaoránach.

B. dóibh siúd a bhriseann an dlí

Measúnaigh ar chóir reachtaíocht nua a éileamh a ghearrfadh fíneálacha ar chomhlacht poiblí agus oifigigh nach gcomhlíonann a ndualgais faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, Acht Oideachais 1998, agus aon dlí eile a bhaineann le Gaeilge agus pobail na Gaeilge.

8. Eacnamaíocht na Gaeilge san Earnáil Phríobháideach

A. easpa tuisceana?

Cuireann an rialtas “Saol Eacnamaíochta” ar an mír seo sa Straitéis 20 Bliain. An dtaispeánann sé seo nach dtuigeann an rialtas go mbíonn tionchar ag gach mír sa “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge” ar eacnamaíocht phobail na Gaeilge laistigh agus lamuigh na nGaeltachtaí?

B. moladh maidir le hEacnamaíocht na Gaeilge san Earnáil Phríobháideach

Ná fan leis an rialtas. Ní leis an rialtas do theanga. Agus trí bhliain tar éis “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge”, deirtear go bhfuil beagnach faic déanta ag an Rialtas ach cíorruithe. (49)(50)

An bhfuil gnólacht agat? An bhfuil tú i mbun siopa, roinn i siopa, nó oifig? An bhfuil daoine a oibríonn leat líofa as Gaeilge? Sna S.A.M., is minic go bhfeicimid fógraí as teangacha éagsúla. Is an-choitianta é (nó b’fhéidir an riail na laethanta seo) go gcloisimid “Chun seirbhís a fháil as [teanga X] brúigh uimhir a dó.” Ar line, is minic gur féidir linn Spáinnis nó teanga eile a roghnú. Tarraingíonn modhanna mar seo custaiméirí a bheidh dílseach sa todhchaí agus ardaíonn modhanna mar seo dílseacht na gcustaiméirí atá ag gnólacht cheana féin. Spreag gnólachtaí eile seirbhísí agus táirgí a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge, agus ceannaigh uatha go rialta nuair a ndéanann siad é sin.

Recommendations

A. services

Demand services in Irish (and therefore jobs which are done through Irish) from every Public Body (including the Department of Education, every other department of the government, and the public media). You have the right as a citizen.

B. for those who break the law

Evaluate whether new legislation should be demanded which would impose fines on public bodies and officials which or who do not full their obligations under the Constitution of Ireland, the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act of 1998, and any other laws which relate to the Irish Language and Irish Language communities.

8. Economics of the Irish Language in the Private Sector

A. a lack of understanding?

The government calls this section “Economic Life” in the 20 Year Strategy. Does this demonstrate that the government does not understand that every section of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language has an economic effect on Irish speakers and Irish-speaking communities inside and outside the Gaeltachtaí?

B. recommendation related to economics of the Irish Language in the private sector

Don't wait for the government. The government does not own your language. And three years after “The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language”, it is being said that hardly anything has been done by the government except budget cuts. (49)(50)

Do you have a business? Are you in charge of a shop, a department in a store, or an office? Are people who work with you fluent in Irish? In the U.S., we often see advertisements in various languages. It's very common (or perhaps the rule these days) that we hear “For service in [language X] press 2.” On line (i.e., on the internet), we can often choose Spanish or some other language. Methods like this draw customers who will be loyal in the future and methods like this increase the loyalty of customers that a business has already. Encourage other companies to make services and products available in Irish, and buy from them regularly when they do.

An ndéanann tú táirge éigin? Cuir “Déanta in Éirinn” air, le treoireacha as Gaeilge taobh ar thaobh le Fraincis, Spáinnis, Sacsbhéarla, 7rl. An gcuireann tú litir nuachta chuig do chustaiméirí? Faigh amach cén acu ar mhaith leo í a fháil as Gaeilge. Nasc leo ar abairleat.com, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, r-phost, agus aghaidh ar aghaidh. Samhlaigh modhanna chun daoine a mhealladh chuig do ghnó le Gaeilge.

Má bhíonn deis ag daoine Gaeilge a labhairt go nádúrtha go compordach, labhróidh siad í. Gan amhras gur féidir leat smaointe níos fearr a cheapadh agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm. Déan anois é.

Do you make a product? Put “Déanta in Éirinn” on it, with directions in Irish side by side with French, Spanish, English, etc. Do you send a newsletter to your customers? Find out which of them would like to get it in Irish. Link with them on abairlet.com, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, email, and face to face.

If people have the opportunity to speak Irish naturally and comfortably, they will. No doubt you can come up with better ideas and put them into effect. Do it now.

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VI. ACHOIMRE – DÉAN ANOIS IAD SEO!

1. moltaí don réimse oideachais

A. Gach uair go séanann an Roinn Oideachais (nó aon Chomhlacht Poiblí eile) do chearta mar thuismitheoir nó mar dhalta nó mar shaoránach, cearta atá agat faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, an tAcht Oideachais 1998, Acht na dTeagacha Oifigiúla 2003, nó aon dlí eile, is sárú an dlí é sin. Tuairiscigh an sárú sin do Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ag

An Coimisinéir Teanga
 An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
 Fón: (091) 504006 | Facs: (091) 504036
eolas@coimisineir.ie
http://www.coimisineir.ie/index.php?page=sonrai_tagmhala&tid=3

B. Éiligh breis-reachtaíocht go bhfaighidh gach dalta oideachas lán-Ghaeilge láithreach má tá sé sin ag teastáil óna t(h)uismitheoirí, díreach mar go bhfaighidh aon dalta oideachas trí Shacsbhéarla láithreach má tá sé sin ag teastáil óna t(h)uismitheoirí.

C. Toisc gur léir é gurb é an beartas ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna dúnadh a bhagairt ar gaelscoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí; ag cur inní, eagla, agus meath ar phobail na Gaeilge; agus gan gaelscolaíocht a fhorbhairt nó a thacú go gníomhach (nó beagnach ar bith); agus gan Gaeilge a mhúineadh go ceart nó go maith ar fud na tíre; agus rialacha a chumadh as an aeir chun cearta mhuintir na hÉireann a shéanadh; measúnaigh an bhfuil sé riachtanach múineadh na Gaeilge, gaelscolaíocht, agus scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí a bhaint in iomlán ón Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.

D. Measúnaigh an bhfuil sé riachtanach roinn nó rannóg nua a chruthú a bheadh freagrach as Gaeilge, múineadh na Gaeilge, lucht na Gaeilge, forbairt na nGaeltachtaí, agus leathadh na Gaeilge ar fud na tíre, ní sna Gaeltachtaí amháin, ní ar aon rud eile nach mbaineann leis na feidhmeanna agus cuspóirí seo.

E. Idir an dá linn, éiligh breis-reachtaíocht nach féidir leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna aon rud a dhéanamh nó a fhógairt maidir le scoileanna sna Gaeltachtaí gan cead ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.

F. Toisc gur dóchúil é go mbeidh sé riachtanach scoil lán-Ghaeilge agus scoil Sacsbhéarlach a lonnú le chéile i bhfoirgneamh amháin i bpobail áirithe, ba chóir neamhspleáchas na gaelscoile a chinntiú de réir treoireacha cuimsitheacha mar iad a bhfoilsíonn Gaelscoileanna Teo. Féach ar <http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie/assets/Gaelscoileanna-Teo.-Policy-on-Irish-medium-Units.pdf>

VI. SUMMARY – DO THIS NOW!

1. recommendations in the area of education

A. Every time the Department of Education (or any other Public Company) denies your rights as a parent or as a student or as a citizen which you have under the Constitution of Ireland, the Education Act of 1998, the Official Languages Act of 2003, or any other law, that's a breach of the law. Report that breach to the Office of the Language Commissioner at

An Coimisinéir Teanga

An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Fón: (091) 504006 | Facs: (091) 504036

eolas@coimisineir.ie

http://www.coimisineir.ie/index.php?page=sonrai_tagmhala&tid=3

B. Demand additional legislation that every student will get Irish-medium education if that's what his/her parents want, just as any student immediately gets education through English if that's what his/her parents want.

C. Because the Department of Education and Skills threatened to close 90% of the Irish-medium schools in the Gaeltachtaí; causing worry, fear, and decline in Irish-Language communities; and it is a policy of the Department not to develop or support Irish-medium schooling actively (or almost at all); and the Department is not able to teach Irish well or effectively; and the Department is composing rules to deny the rights of the people of Ireland; evaluate whether it is necessary to remove the teaching of Irish, Irish-medium schooling, and schools in the Gaeltachtaí in full from the Department of Education and Skills.

D. Evaluate whether it is necessary to create a new department or unit which would be responsible for Irish, the teaching of Irish, the people of Irish, the development of the Gaeltachtaí, and the spread of Irish throughout the country, not just in the Gaeltachtaí, and not anything else that does not relate to Irish.

E. Meanwhile, demand additional legislation that the Department of Education and Skills cannot do or announce anything about schools in the Gaeltachtaí without permission from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

F. Because it is likely that it will be necessary to place an Irish-medium school and an English-medium school together in a single building in certain communities, it is right to make certain of the Gaelscoil's independence according to comprehensive guidelines like those which Gaelscoileanna Teo. publishes.

See <http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie/assets/Gaelscoileanna-Teo.-Policy-on-Irish-medium-Units.pdf>

G. Toisc nach bhfuil múinteoirí líofa go leor le fáil sna scoileanna Sacsbhéarlacha, éiligh reachtaíocht go bhfostaífead breis-mhúinteoirí líofa, go háirithe cainteoirí dúchasacha. Cosnóidh sé sin ard-chaighdeán na Gaeilge agus ísleoidh sé sin dífhiostaíocht agus eisimirce lucht na Gaeilge.

H. Toisc nach bhfuil staitisticí foilsithe le breis agus 10 mbliain faoi éileamh gaelscolaíochta, éiligh reachtaíocht go mbaileoidh an Phríomh-Oifig Staidreamh na staitisticí seo agus staitisticí faoi fhreastail i ngaelscoileanna agus ngaelcholaáistí ionas gur féidir dul chun cinn a mheasúnú sa réimse seo.

2. Moltaí maidir le Lucht na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí, sa Ghalltacht, sa Ghaeltacht Samhalta, agus an Eacnamaíocht

An féidir na daoine seo a nascadh le chéile? Cinnte. Is féidir é seo a dhéanamh i nGaeltachtaí samhalta (mar atá ag tarlú tríd an idirlíon agus a mheáin shóisialta anois), aghaidh ar aghaidh i nGaeltachtaí uirbeacha (mar atá forbartha i mBéal Féirste cheana féin as stuaim na ndaoine féin), trí úsáid níos éifeachtaí na meán poiblí cumarsáide (e.g., TG4) mar a fheicfead i bparagraf a 5 thíos, agus níos mó ná sin.

Mar shampla, más maith le cathair aon áit ar an domhan níos mó gnó a dhéanamh le haon chathair eile, feicimid feachtais, cruinnithe, agus cúplálacha ('twinning'). Cad faoi chúplálacha idir pobail sna Gaeltachtaí agus pobail fo-uirbeacha agus uirbeacha sa Ghalltacht ar mhaith leo Gaeilge, gnó trí Ghaeilge, agus comh-oibriú trí Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn?

Agus níl aon ghá fanacht leis an rialtas chun é seo a dhéanamh. Mar shampla, gan aon mhaoiniú agus ag obair le hoibrithe deonacha amháin, nascann Cumann Carad na Gaeilge breis agus 1400 daltaí na Gaeilge timpeall an domhain ar an idirlíon. (41) Clóbhuail an focal 'Gaeilge' isteach in aon bhrabhsur agus féach ar an méad buillí a bhfaighidh tú. (Cad faoi breis agus 42,000,000?) Féach freisin orthu seo:

www.beo.ie/
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www.foinse.ie/
www.gaelpport.com/
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 agus a leithéid.

Ní raibh ach timpeall 400,000 Iúdach in bPalaistín i 1947, agus ní raibh Eabhrais ag gach ceann acu. Inniu, tá breis agus 415,000 in Éirinn amháin atá líofa, a bheag nó a mhór i nGaeilge. An leor an uimhir sin chun teanga láidir eacnamaíochta a chruthú arís den Ghaeilge? Cinnte gur féidir leis na hÉireannaigh tógáil ar an mbunchloch maith sin.

G. Because there are not enough fluent teachers in the English-medium schools, demand legislation that additional fluent teachers will be employed, especially native speakers. That will protect the high standard of Irish and lower unemployment and emigration of the Irish-speaking people.

H. Because statistics about the demand for Irish-medium schooling have not been published for more than 10 years, demand legislation that the Central Statistics Office will collect and publish these statistics and statistics about attendance in Irish-medium primary schools and Irish-medium secondary schools so that progress and changes can be evaluated in this area.

2. recommendations related to Irish-speakers in the Gaeltachtaí, in the Galltacht, in the virtual Gaeltacht, and economics

Can they be linked together? Certainly. This can be done in virtual Gaeltachtaí (as is now happening on the internet and in social media), face to face in urban Gaeltachtaí (as already developed in Belfast by the will of the people themselves), through more effective usage of public media (e.g., TG4) as will be seen in paragraph 5 below, and more.

For example, if a city anywhere in the world wants to do more business with another city, we see campaigns, meetings, and twinings. What about twinings of communities in the Gaeltachtaí and suburban and urban communities in the Galltacht who would like to advance Irish, business through Irish, and cooperation through Irish?

And there's no need to wait for the government to do this. For example, without any funding and working solely with volunteers, the Philo-Celtic Society links more than 1400 Irish Language students around the world on the internet. (41) Type the word 'Gaeilge' into any browser and see how many hits you'll get. (How about 42,000,000?) Also look at these:

www.beo.ie/
www.feasta.ie/
www.foinse.ie/
www.gaelpport.com/
www.nuacht24.com
<http://antuairisceoir.com/>
www.angaelmagazine.com
 and similar sites.

There were only about 400,000 Jews in Palestine in 1947, and not every one of them spoke Hebrew. Today, there are more than 415,000 in Ireland alone who are basically fluent in Irish. Is that enough to again make an economic language out of Irish? Certainly the Irish can build on that good foundation.

Ach ná fan leis an rialtas. Déan tú féin agus sibh féin é.

3. moladh maidir leis An Teaghlach ag Cur na Teanga ar Aghaidh

An chaoi is fearr chun an teanga a chur ar aghaidh i dteaghlaigh ná an teanga a athbhunú mar theanga eacnamaíochta.

4. Moltaí maidir leis An rialtas, an Ghaeilge, agus an eacnamaíocht.

A. seirbhísí

Éiligh seirbhísí as Gaeilge (agus mar sin postanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge) ó gach Comhlacht Poiblí (an Roinn Oideachais, gach roinn eile an rialtais, agus na meáin chumarsáide poiblí ina measc). Tá an ceart agat mar shaoránach.

B. dóibh siúd a bhriseann an dlí

Measúnaigh ar chóir reachtaíocht nua a éileamh a ghearrfadh fíneálacha ar chomhlacht poiblí agus oifigigh nach gcomhlíonann a ndualgais faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, Acht Oideachais 1998, agus aon dlí eile a bhaineann le Gaeilge agus pobail na Gaeilge.

5. moltaí maidir leis na Meáin Phoiblí Chumarsáide agus an Eacnamaíocht

A. fógraí áitiúla

Is cosúil le stáisiúnacha áitiúla iad TG4 agus Raidió na Gaeltachta, ag cúngchraoladh chuig lucht féachana agus éisteacha áirithe ar leith. Coimisiníonn siad cláir iontacha as Gaeilge, ach ní oibríonn siad mar stáisiúnacha áitiúla sa réimse fógraíochta, ceann desna príomhmhodhanna a nascaíonn stáisiúnacha lena bpobail ar bhonn eacnamaíoch.

Mar shampla, anseo thar lear, bheadh súil againn fógraí áitiúla a fheiceáil ar TG4 as Gaeilge déanta le comhlachtaí beaga sna Gaeltachtaí nó sa Ghalltacht ar son comhlachtaí beaga áitiúla ag díol táirgí agus seirbhísí as Gaeilge. In ionad sin, feicimid ar TG4 fógraí idirnáisiúnta déanta thar lear (agus ní le Gaeilgeoirí) ag díol táirgí mar Febreze as Sacsbhéarla.

But don't wait for the government. Do it yourself and do it yourselves.

3. recommendation related to family transmission of the language

The best way to advance the language in families is to re-establish the language as a strong economic language.

4. recommendations related to the government, the Irish Language, and economics

A. services

Demand services in Irish (and therefore jobs which are done through Irish) from every Public Body (including the Department of Education, every other department of the government, and the public media). You have the right as a citizen.

B. for those who break the law

Evaluate whether new legislation should be demanded which would impose fines on public bodies and officials which or who do not full their obligations under the Constitution of Ireland, the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act of 1998, and any other laws which relate to the Irish Language and Irish Language communities.

5. recommendations related to public media and economics

A. local advertisements

TG4 and Raidió na Gaeltachta are similar to local stations, narrow-broadcasting to specific viewing and listening audiences. They commission wonderful programs in Irish, but they don't act like local stations in the area of advertising, one of the most important methods used to link people and communities together on an economic basis.

For example, here overseas, we would expect to see on TG4 local advertisements in Irish made by companies in the Gaeltachtaí or in the Galltacht on behalf of local companies selling products and services in Irish. Instead, we see international advertisements made overseas (and not by Irish-speakers) selling products like Febreze in English.

B. cláir

Bheadh súil againn sceideal déanta as Gaeilge in iomlán le comhlachtaí beaga ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge lonnaithe sna Gaeltachtaí nó sa Ghalltacht. In ionad sin, feicimid ar TG4 cláir mar *Bonanza*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Pimp My Ride*, agus a leithéid. Cinnte gur féidir le TG4 ceadúnais na gclár seo a cheannach gan chostas mór toisc gur tír bheag í Éire. Ach is cinnte é freisin gur féidir le TG4, leis an airgead céanna, níos mó clár as Gaeilge a choimisíniú ó léiritheoirí áitiúla a bheadh ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Deiseanna caillte. Má bhíonn na tionscail dúchasacha fhógraíochta agus scannánaíochta lag in Éirinn, muna bhfuil mórán fostaithe ó lá go lá i léiriú fógraíochta agus scannán, is é ceann desna fáthanna é seo.

6. moladh maidir le “Foclóirí”

Is coir dúinn cuimhniú go bhfuilimid i mbaol go mbeadh ár bhfoclóirí go luath ina n-iarsmí mar “Zeisberger’s Indian Dictionary” do Onandaga agus Delaware (.i. Leni Lenape). Tá sé riachtanach straitéis agus modhanna a athrú go láithreach chun ár dteanga agus ár bpobal a neartú.

7. moltaí maidir le “Reachtaíocht agus Stádas”

A. seirbhísí

Éiligh seirbhísí as Gaeilge (agus mar sin postanna a dhéantar trí Ghaeilge) ó gach Comhlacht Poiblí (an Roinn Oideachais, gach roinn eile an rialtais, agus na meáin chumarsáide poiblí ina measc). Tá an ceart agat mar shaoránach.

B. dóibh siúd a bhriseann an dlí

Measúnaigh ar chóir reachtaíocht nua a éileamh a ghearrfadh fíneálacha ar chomhlacht poiblí agus oifigigh nach gcomhlíonann a ndualgais faoi Bhunreacht na hÉireann, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, Acht Oideachais 1998, agus aon dlí eile a bhaineann le Gaeilge agus pobail na Gaeilge.

B. programs

We would expect to see a schedule made completely in Irish by small companies working in Irish based in the Gaeltachtaí or the Galltacht. Instead, we see on TG4 programs like Bonanza, Little House on the Prairie, Pimp My Ride, and their like. Certainly TG4 can buy licenses for these programs without great cost because Ireland is a small country. But it is also certain that TG4, with the same money, can commission additional programs in Irish from local producers who would be working through Irish.

Lost opportunities. If the native advertising and film industries are weak in Ireland, if there are not many working in Irish from day to day in the production of advertising and films, this is one of the reasons.

6. recommendation related to dictionaries

It is important to remember that the danger exists that our dictionaries could soon be relics like “Zeisberger’s Indian Dictionary” for Onandaga and Delaware (i.e., Lenni Lenape). It is necessary to change strategies and methods immediately in order to strengthen our language and our Irish Language communities.

7. recommendation related to legislation and status

A. services

Demand services in Irish (and therefore jobs which are done through Irish) from every Public Body (including the Department of Education, every other department of the government, and the public media). You have the right as a citizen.

B. for those who break the law

Evaluate whether new legislation should be demanded which would impose fines on public bodies and officials which or who do not full their obligations under the Constitution of Ireland, the Official Languages Act 2003, the Education Act of 1998, and any other laws which relate to the Irish Language and Irish Language communities.

8. moladh maidir le hEacnamaíocht na Gaeilge san Earnáil Phríobháideach

Ná fan leis an rialtas. Ní leis an rialtas do theanga. Agus trí bhliain tar éis “Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge”, tá beagnach faic déanta ag an Rialtas ach cíorruithe. (58)(59)

An bhfuil gnólacht agat? An bhfuil tú i mbun siopa, roinn i siopa, nó oifig? An bhfuil daoine a oibríonn leat líofa as Gaeilge? Sna S.A.M., is minic go bhfeicimid fógraí as teangacha éagsúla. Is an-choitianta é (nó b’fhéidir an riail na laethanta seo) go gcloisimid “Chun seirbhís a fháil as [teanga X] brúigh uimhir a dó.” Ar line, is minic gur féidir linn Spáinnis nó teanga eile a roghnú. Tarraingíonn modhanna mar seo custaiméirí a bheidh dílseach sa todhchaí agus ardaíonn modhanna mar seo dílseacht na gcustaiméirí atá ag gnólacht cheana féin. Spreag gnólachtaí eile seirbhísí agus táirgí a chur ar fáil as Gaeilge, agus ceannaigh uatha go rialta nuair a ndéanann siad é sin. An ndéanann tú táirge éigin? Cuir “Déanta in Éirinn” air, le treoireacha as Gaeilge taobh ar thaobh le Fraincis, Spáinnis, Sacsbhéarla, 7rl. An gcuireann tú litir nuachta chuig do chustaiméirí? Faigh amach cén acu ar mhaith leo í a fháil as Gaeilge. Samhlaigh modhanna chun daoine a mhealladh chuig do ghnó le Gaeilge. Má bhíonn deis ag daoine Gaeilge a labhairt go nádúrtha go compordach, labhróidh siad í. Nasc leo ar abairleat.com, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, r-phost, agus aghaidh ar aghaidh. Gan amhras gur féidir leat smaointe níos fearr a cheapadh agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm. Déan anois é. Ná fan leis an rialtas. Ní leis an rialtas do theanga. Is leatsa do theanga.

8. recommendation related to economics of the Irish Language in the private sector

Don't wait for the government. The government does not own your language. And three years after "The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language", it is being said that hardly anything has been done by the government except budget cuts. (58)(59)

Do you have a business? Are you in charge of a shop, a department in a store, or an office? Are people who work with you fluent in Irish? In the U.S., we often see advertisements in various languages. It's very common (or perhaps the rule these days) that we hear "For service in [language X] press 2." On line (i.e., on the internet), we can often choose Spanish or some other language. Methods like this draw customers who will be loyal in the future and methods like this increase the loyalty of customers that a business has already. Encourage other companies to make services and products available in Irish, and buy from them regularly when they do. Do you make a product? Put "Déanta in Éirinn" on it, with directions in Irish side by side with French, Spanish, English, etc. Do you send a newsletter to your customers? Find out which of them would like to get it in Irish. If people have the opportunity to speak Irish naturally and comfortably, they will. Link with them on abairlet.com, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, email, and face to face.

No doubt you can come up with better ideas and put them into effect. Do that now.

Ó FOILSÍODH NA hAILT SEO IN AN GAEL

Ó foilsíodh na hailt seo in AN GAEL, an scéala is mó ná go n-éireoidh an Coimisinéir Teanga, an t-uasal Seán Ó Cuirreáin, as a phost 23 Feabhra 2014 as déistin le faillí leanúnacha an rialtais i gcomhlíonadh a fhreagrachtaí maidir leis an nGaeilge, pobail na Gaeilge, cainteoirí na Gaeilge, agus dlíthe na hÉireann. Is féidir leat a ráiteas a léamh anseo: <http://www.coimisineir.ie/downloads/NotaicainteAnCoimisineirTeanga04122013.pdf>

Ba chóir duit a ráiteas a léamh in iomlán. Idir an dá linn, seo duit cuid de:

Gníomhaireacht Ghéilliúlachta

Mar ghníomhaireacht ghéilliúlachta, is trua liom a thuairisciú go raibh trí cheathrú de na scéimeanna teanga – pleananna reachtúla teanga – a bhí comhaontaithe ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta le heagraíochtaí éagsúla stáit ligthe in éag gan athnuachan a bheith déanta orthu faoi dheireadh 2012 agus an ceathrú cuid acu as dáta le breis agus 3 bliana. I 10 gcinn de chásanna eile, bhí breis agus 6 bliana imithe ó d'iarr an tAire Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta ar eagrais stáit dréachtscéimeanna teanga a ullmhú ach bhí siad fós le haontú. Tá an teip an ghné seo den reachtaíocht teanga a chur chun cinn go stuama aitheanta ag an choiste iniúchta neamhspleách i m'Oifig mar riosca suntasach. Bhí na scéimeanna teanga sin le bheith mar chrann taca i gcroílár na reachtaíochta agus mar bhunús le líon agus le caighdeán na seirbhísí stáit trí Ghaeilge a mhéadú

An bhliain reatha

Tá méadú beag sa bhliain reatha ar líon na scéimeanna teanga – tá 15 daingnithe go dáta ach 20 imithe in éag sa tréimhse chéanna – ach is mó de chúis inní agam é an caighdeán atá i gcuid de na scéimeanna sin. Tá barraíocht acu ann a bhfuil na gealltanais faoi sholáthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge coinníollach ar 'acmhainní a bheith ar fáil', rud a thugann le tuiscint go bhfeictear na seirbhísí sin mar rudaí roghnacha breise seachas mar chearta bunúsacha. I scéim amháin acu seo, agus gealltanais i leith soláthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge á leagan amach, tá coinníoll luaite 11 uair in imeacht 3 leathanach go mbeidh na seirbhísí sin ar fáil 'mar a chheadaíonn acmhainní'. I scéim eile, gealltar leagan Gaeilge a eisiúint d'aicme theoranta de phreasráitis ach I bhfonóta deirtear nach gá go gciallódh sin go n-eiseofar na preasráitis Ghaeilge agus Bhéarla ag an am chéanna – is masla é d'aighe nó d'intleacht an iriseora Gaeilge go gcuirfí bonn reachtúil faoi ghealltanais den chineál sin

Inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge

Go ginearálta, tá an easpa foirne le hinniúlacht in dhá theanga oifigiúla an Stáit ar cheann de na cúiseanna is mó go mbíonn deacrachtaí ag eagraíochtaí stáit a gcuid seirbhísí a sholáthar don phobal i nGaeilge chomh maith le Béarla. Tá córas nua le cur ar bun mar scéim phiolótach in áit an chórais faoinar gealladh marcanna bónais le linn earcaíochta nó i gcás arduithe céime sa Státseirbhís do dhaoine le hinniúlacht i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla araon. Theip ar chóras na marcanna bónais a tháinig in áit na 'Gaeilge éigeantaí' de bharr nár cuireadh i bhfeidhm mar is ceart riamh é. Creidim go dteipfidh fosta ar an chóras úrnua,

SINCE THESE ARTICLES WERE PUBLISHED IN AN GAEL

Since these articles were published in AN GAEL, the biggest news is that the Irish Language Commissioner, Mr. Seán Ó Curreáin, will be stepping down from his position on February 23, 2014 due to disgust with the continuing failure of the Irish Government to fulfill its responsibilities related to the Irish Language, Irish Language communities, Irish Language speakers, and Irish law. You can read his statement here:

<http://www.coimisineir.ie/downloads/SpeakingnotesAnCoimisineirTeanga04122013.pdf>

You should read his statement in full. In the meantime, here is some of it:

Compliance agency

As regards functioning as a compliance agency, it is with regret that I report that three quarters of language schemes statutory language plans agreed by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with various state bodies had expired without renewal by the end of 2012 with a quarter of them out of date for three years or more. In 10 other cases, more than 6 years have elapsed since the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht requested state bodies to prepare draft language schemes but they remain to be agreed. The failure to promote this element of language legislation in a meaningful way has been identified by the independent audit committee in my Office as a significant risk. Such language schemes were to be the fundamental pillars of the legislation on which an increase in quantity and quality of services through Irish were to be based.

Current year

The current year has seen a limited increase in the quantity of language schemes – 15 have been confirmed to date, yet 20 have expired in the same timeframe – but I am more concerned by the quality of some of those schemes. In too many instances the provision of services through Irish is conditional on “available resources”, which suggests that such services may be perceived as optional extras rather than fundamental rights. In one such scheme, commitment to the provision of services through Irish, detailed over 3 pages, has the condition ‘subject to available resources’ listed 11 times. In another scheme, a commitment to issue Irish versions of a limited category of press releases has the footnote that this will not require the Irish and English versions to be issued simultaneously: putting such a commitment on a statutory basis is an affront to the intelligence of any journalist working through Irish

Competence in Irish

In general, the absence of staff with competence in both official languages of the State remains one of the main factors restricting state bodies in their delivery of services to the public in Irish as well as in English. The system of awarding bonus marks for competence in both Irish and English at recruitment and promotional competitions in the Civil Service which replaced ‘compulsory Irish’ in 1975 is currently being replaced by a new system on a pilot basis. The old system – of bonus marks – failed because it was never properly implemented. I firmly believe that the new system, which I consider to be ill-conceived, will

atá lochtach ó thaobh an choincheapa de, agus go leanfar d'imeallú na teanga sa chóras riaracháin phoiblí. Mar shampla amháin, léiríonn taighde atá déanta dúinn ar fhigiúirí oifigiúla ón Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna go dtógfadh an córas nua, dá gcuirfí i bhfeidhm go hiomlán agus ar an bhealach is dearfaí é, thart ar 28 mbliana le líon na foirne riaracháin sa Roinn sin le líofacht i nGaeilge a mhéadú ón 1½% atá ann faoi láthair go dtí 3%. Déanaim achainí inniu ar na húdaráis athchuir a thabhairt ar an bheartas seo ar bhealach a mbeidh brí leis nuair a bheas athbhreithniú agus leasú á dhéanamh ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

An Ghaeltacht

Tá molta fosta agam agus an tAcht á leasú gur cheart foráil shoiléir a chur ann a thabharfadh ar gach eagras stáit a chinntiú go raibh Gaeilge líofa ag a mbaill foirne a bheadh ag soláthar seirbhíse do phobal na Gaeltachta, gan cheist gan choinníoll. Léirigh taighde a rinne m'Oifig ar na mallaibh gur socraíodh seo a dhéanamh ar bhonn reachtúil sa bhliain 1928 ach gur cuireadh dáta tosaithe na rialachán seo ar athló le hionstraim reachtúil ar 54 ócáid difriúil go dtí gur caitheadh in aer go ciúin é sa bhliain 1966. Ní rogha a thuilleadh é leanúint de bheith ag cur na gcaorach thar an abhainn ar an ábhar seo mar a bhí á dhéanamh mar ghnáthchleachtas leis na scórtha bliain

Athbhreithniú

Cé gur fógraíodh athbhreithniú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla i mí na Samhna 2011 – breis agus 2 bhliain ó shin - agus gur mhair próiseas suntasach comhairliúcháin phoiblí go dtí deireadh mhí Eanáir 2012 – is beag atá cloiste go poiblí go dtí seo faoi thorthaí an phróisis seo. Níor chuidiú ar bith é an folús seo.

Rinneadh cinneadh Rialtais i mí na Samhna 2011 m'Oifig a chónascadh le hOifig an Ombudsman faoi Phlean Athchóirithe an Rialtais don tSeirbhís Phoiblí. Rinneadh an cinneadh sin i ngan fhios dom féin agus don Ombudsman ag an am. Níl aon mhionsonraí ar fáil go poiblí faoina bhfuil molta nó faoin bhealach a cheaptar a n-oibreodh sé agus bheadh inní orm faoi inmhharthanacht na hOifige amach anseo, agus na himpleachtaí foirne a ghabhann leis sin. Tá an Oifig ar cheann de na heagrais stáit is lú dá bhfuil ann – agus buiséad againn atá níos lú ná rúnseirbhís na tíre, fiú! Tá foireann reatha de 4.4 státseirbhíseach ag obair inti. Tá 3 cinn d'fholúntais foirne againn faoi láthair agus ár mbuiséad tite 45% ón bhliain 2008. Níor tugadh don Oifig riamh na hacmhainní riachtanacha lena cúraimí reachtúla a chomhlíonadh go cuí agus go hiomlán.

Conclúid

Go ginearálta, dóibh siúd atá gafa go gairmiúil nó go deonach le cosaint nó cur chun cinn na teanga, is tréimhse í seo atá lán le héiginnteacht. Ní fhaca mé in imeacht 30 bliain mar iriseoir nó mar Choimisinéir Teanga an oiread ísle brí agus lagmhisnigh. D'ainneoin tacaíocht ollmhór ag tromlach an phobail i gcoitinne sa tír don teanga, tá sí á ruaigeadh go leanúnach chuig imeall na sochaí, agus áirím anseo cuid mhaith den riarachán phoiblí; ní

also fail and that consequently the Irish language will be continue to be marginalised in public administration. For example, research we have to hand using official figures from the Department of Education and Skills suggests that if the new system were to be fully implemented in the most positive way, it would take in the region of 28 years to raise the current level of fluency in Irish in that department from 1½% to 3%. I would appeal today to the authorities to revisit the proposed system in a meaningful way when the Official Languages Act is being reviewed and amended.

Gaeltacht

I have also suggested that in amending the Act a clear provision should be added requiring the staff members of all state agencies assigned to providing services to Gaeltacht communities to be fluent in Irish without terms or conditions applying. Research by my Office recently revealed that such a statutory provision was in fact enacted in 1928 but its introduction was regularly postponed by statutory instruments on 54 occasions until it was quietly shelved in 1966. It is time to deal with this issue for once and for all: requiring the people of the Gaeltacht to conduct their business in English with state agencies flies in the face of any policy which suggests that the survival of the Gaeltacht is on the State's agenda. The idea of continuously 'kicking the can down the road' on this matter, as has been the norm for decades, is no longer an option

Review

While a review of the Official Languages Act was announced in November 2011 – more than two years ago – and a substantial public consultation process ensued which ended in January 2012, little or nothing has been heard publicly of the results of that process since then. This vacuum simply has not been helpful.

A Government decision was made in November 2011 to merge the functions of my Office with the Office of the Ombudsman as part of the Public Service Reform Plan. This decision was made without reference to me or to the then Ombudsman. No details are available publicly of the proposed arrangement or how it is thought it ought to work and I would be concerned about the future viability of the Office itself, including the implications for its staffing. The Office is one of the smallest agencies of the State – with a budget smaller even than the Irish secret service! We have a current staff level of 4.4 civil servants. We have 3 unfilled vacancies at present and our budget has shrunk by 45% since 2008. The Office was never given adequate resources to fully perform its statutory obligations in a satisfactory manner.

Conclusion

For those generally involved with the protection or promotion of the Irish language, either professionally or voluntarily, we are in a time of great uncertainty. Never before have I seen in over 30 years' experience - as a journalist or language commissioner - morale and confidence so low. Despite the enormous goodwill of the vast majority of the people of this country, the language continues to drift further to the margins of society including within

bheidh sé furasta í a thabhairt ar ais go háit níos lárnaí.

Mar bhunchéim riachtanach agus Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla á leasú mar chuid de chlár an Rialtais, creidim go láidir go gcaithfear foráil shoiléir a chur ann a chinnteoidh go mbeidh Gaeilge ag fostaithe an Stáit a bheidh ag freastal ar phobal na Gaeltachta, gan cheist, gan choinníoll – ní féidir leanúint ag tabhairt ar chainteoirí dúchais Gaeilge an Béarla a úsáid agus iad ag déileáil le heagraíochtaí stáit. Agus comhthreomhar leis seo, caithfear athchuid a thabhairt láithreach ar cheist na teanga san earcaíocht agus i gcomórtais arduithe céime sa Státseirbhís agus sa tSeirbhís Phoiblí i gcoitinne – go simplí, níl bealach ar bith go n-oibreoidh na beartais is deireanaí atá fógartha ina leith seo. Mura féidir leis an Stát aghaidh a thabhairt ar an dá ghné sin – úsáid na Gaeilge i mbun cumarsáide le pobal na Gaeltachta agus cinntiú go mbeadh dóthain foirne le cumas sa Ghaeilge sa chóras riaracháin phoiblí – nuair a bheidh an tAcht á leasú, creidim go dtuigfear ansin gur mugadh magadh, briolla brealla nó bréaga a bheas i gceist.

Tráth a bhfuil muid ag teannadh lenár bhflaitheas eacnamaíoch a fháil ar ais, ba mhór an feall é dá gcaillfimis ár bhflaitheas teanga – bunchloch dár bhféiniúlacht chultúrtha, dár n-oidhreacht agus dár n-anam mar náisiún. Creidim gur measa mar bhaol é sin anois ná riamh.

Beidh 10 mbliana caite agam i mbun oibre mar Choimisinéir Teanga i ndeireadh mhí Feabhra seo chugainn. Cé go bhfuil 2 bhliain eile fágtha i mo thréimhse ceapacháin, creidim i mo chroí istigh i bhfianaise na faisnéise atá curtha in bhur láthair agam anseo inniu gur beag eile a d'fhéadfainn a bhaint amach go pearsanta sa tréimhse ama sin i dtaca le cearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta. Is trua liom a rá, mar sin, go bhfuil cinneadh déanta agam seasamh siar ó mo cheapachán mar Choimisinéir Teanga ar an 23 Feabhra seo chugainn.

much of the public sector; bringing it back to the mainstream is no simple procedure.

An essential first step would require that in amending the Official Languages Act as part of the programme for Government, that a clear provision be made to ensure that state employees serving the Gaeltacht communities are Irish speaking without question or conditions – forcing native Irish speakers to use English in dealing with the agencies of the State must not be allowed to continue. And in parallel, it is essential that the issue of the Irish language in recruitment and promotion in the Civil and Public Service in general be revisited immediately – there is absolutely no way that the most recent proposal in relation to the Civil Service will work. If those two elements – the use of Irish in dealing with Gaeltacht communities and ensuring an adequate Irish language capacity in public administration – are not addressed by the State when the legislation is being amended, I fear that the exercise will be seen as a fudge, a farce or a falsehood.

As we begin to regain our economic sovereignty, it would be a travesty if we were to lose our linguistic sovereignty – a cornerstone of our cultural identity, heritage and soul as a nation. I believe this to be a clear and present danger.

By the end of February next I will have held the position of Coimisinéir Teanga for 10 years. Although my term of office runs for a further 2 years my heartfelt belief is, in view of the information I have presented to you today, that there is little else I can personally achieve in that timeframe in relation to language rights for Irish speakers and Gaeltacht communities. It is therefore with regret that I announce that I have decided to resign from my position as Coimisinéir Teanga on 23rd February next.

VIII. CUMANN CARAD NA GAEILGE

Thosaigh Mícheál Ó Lócháin ár ngníomhaíochtaí le ranganna Gaeilge i mBrúiclinn i 1872 agus ár n-iris "An Gaodhal" i 1881, agus sa dóigh sin bhunaigh sé an ghluaiseacht Ghaeilge i Meiriceá. Idir 1872 agus 1893, d'fhás ár n-eagraíocht, ár gcrabhadh, agus cumann neamhspleácha le "Philo-Celtic" orthu ar fud Mheiriceá. Tugadh "The Gaelic League" ar ár ranganna. Tháinig Dubhghlas de hÍde go Nua Eabhrac chun ár n-eagraíocht agus ár ranganna a fheiceáil i 1891. I 1893, bhain sé áis as ár gcumann mar a shamhail chun Conradh na Gaeilge a bhunú in Éirinn. An ghlúin ar mhúin Conradh na Gaeilge dóibh idir 1893 agus 1916, is í an ghlúin í sin a chuaigh chun tosaigh i dtionscnamh stáit nuaimseartha na hÉireann.

Fuair Mícheál Ó Lócháin bás i 1899. Scoir foilsitheoireacht "An Gaodhal" i 1904. Mheathlaigh ár n-eagraíocht tríd an fichiú haois. Ach táimid ar ais anois, ag obair do athbheochan na Gaeilge ar fud an domhain. Chun eolas sa bhreis a fháil fúinn, téigh go www.philo-celtic.com . Má's maith leat oibriú linn, tar i dteagmháil linn ag <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/philo-celticsociety/> .

VIII. THE PHILO-CELTIC SOCIETY

Mícheál Ó Lócháin started our activities with Irish language classes in Brooklyn in 1872 and our magazine "An Gaodhal" in 1881, and in that way he founded the Irish Language movement in America. Between 1872 and 1893, our organization, our branches, and independent "Philo-Celtic" societies grew throughout America. Our classes were called "The Gaelic League." Douglas Hyde came to New York to see our organization and our classes in 1891. In 1893, he used our organization and our classes as his model to found The Gaelic League in Ireland. The generation which The Gaelic League taught between 1893 and 1916 - that is the generation which led in the establishment of the modern state of Ireland.

Mícheál Ó Lócháin died in 1899. "An Gaodhal" ceased publication in 1904. Our organization declined through the 20th century. But we're back, working for the renaissance of the Irish language throughout the world. To learn more about us, go to www.philo-celtic.com . If you would like to work with us, contact us at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/philo-celticsociety/> .