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NEWS RELEASE
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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG APPOINTS KEY STAFF

The Gaelic development agency, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, today announced the appointment of four key members of staff who will be taking up their respective posts with the Bòrd in the next few weeks.

Dr Michelle Macleod, has been appointed as Language Planning Manager. Michelle (31) was founding Manager and Head of Studies of Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, (The Columba Centre, Islay), and more recently Director of the Centre. She taught and lectured for three years each at the University of Aberdeen and National University of Ireland, Galway.

Donald W. Morrison has been named as Development Manager. Donald (44) has been Arts and Culture development officer in Uist and Barra with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the past 6 years, prior to which he was assistant director of the Gaelic Arts Agency, Pròiseact nan Ealain. He has worked as a professional actor on stage, television and radio and as a teacher of drama.

Alex Graham takes up the post of Finance and Administration Manager. As a self-employed Chartered Accountant for the past 9 years, Alex (51) has worked with a variety of clients with major involvement in the Gaelic development sector. Prior to that he had 15 years experience in public and private sector finance and management.

Chrissie Macrae has been appointed as Personal Assistant / Secretary. Chrissie (28) joined Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a short contract earlier this summer and is now promoted to this permanent position. Following university, Chrissie acquired experience in a variety of administrative posts chiefly in the broadcasting and television production sectors.

The chairman of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Duncan Ferguson, welcomed the appointments.

"I am delighted with these key appointments which will enable the Bòrd's work to move forward. We have a huge and exciting challenge in the preparation and delivery of the National Plan for Gaelic and we now have a strong team who will support our chief executive in realising the Bòrd's mission".

Bòrd Chief Executive, Allan Campbell, added: "This is a major stride forward for the Bòrd. We have had a considerable amount of preparatory administration in the setting up of the Bòrd, but these appointments will provide some real momentum in our work. It will be some weeks before all my new colleagues are in post, but I look forward to getting the team together and operational."

For any further information, please contact the Chief Executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Allan Campbell: Tel: 01463 723 570

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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG (ALBA)
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28 Queensgate, Inverness IV1 1YN
Registered in Scotland No. 245087

Background information:

Bòrd na Gàidhlig (Alba) is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and the Bòrd is appointed by, and accountable to, Scottish Ministers. The Bòrd aims to promote and celebrate Gaelic's contribution to Scottish cultural life; to assist and promote the creation of new opportunities to use Gaelic in Scotland; to encourage and support wider use of Gaelic in all aspects of life in Scotland; and strengthen Gaelic as a family and community language and so increase the numbers of speakers and users of Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has existed as a legal entity since March 2003 and was set up in response to the Gaelic Taskforce (Macpherson) Report of September 2000 which recommended the establishment of a statutory Gaelic development agency. This recommendation was developed to what is now Bòrd na Gàidhlig by the Ministerial Advisory Group (Meek) Report, which was published on 22 May 2002.

The Minister with responsibility for Gaelic at the time, Mike Watson MSP, announced the creation of Bòrd na Gàidhlig at Comunn na Gàidhlig's annual Congress in Nairn on 14 June 2002. The establishment of Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been widely recognised as a key milestone in the fight to revitalise and develop Gaelic.

The Bòrd Chairman took up office on 1st December 2002 and the other five Bòrd members took office on 1st January 2003. The membership of the Bòrd is as follows:

Mr Duncan Ferguson (Chairman)

Mrs Agnes Rennie

Mr Boyd Robertson

Mr Arthur Cormack

Mrs Rosemary Ward

Miss Ceit Anna MacLeod

