

“Let’s Learn Some Gaelic” (Part 5)

The Gaels are an ethnolinguistic group native to north-western Europe that spoke old Welsh, Norse and a Proto-Celtic tongue that is now understood as Gaelic. They are associated with both Scottish and Irish Gaels. Historically, the ethnonyms Irish and Scots referred to the Gaels in general, but the scope of those nationalities today are much more complex.

The Gaelic culture originated in Ireland, and was influenced by the Normans, the Vikings, and the English. It was most likely around the 4th and 5th centuries that the Gaels that became the Scots founded the first Scottish Gaelic Kingdom of Dál Riata on present-day Scotland’s west coast near Argyll. From the 5th Century onward, the first Gaels of Scotland continued to spread through the land that is now the Highlands, from whom our Pictou Settlers descended, referred to themselves as Albannaich in their own tongue and later called the entire realm that makes up present-day Scotland, the Kingdom of Alba around 7th Century. Alba in Scots Gaelic means Scotland.

In the last article, we learned:

Mòran taing!	[moh-ran taeeng]	Many Thanks!
‘S e do bheatha.	[sheh doh veh-uh]	You’re Welcome.

Here are some more fun and basic phrases in Scots Gaelic.

Slàinte mhath!	[slahncha vah]	Good Health/Cheers!
Obh obh!	[ohv ohv]	Oh no!

To learn more about Scots Gaelic and the Gaelic Society and Culture in Nova Scotia, visit: <https://www.novascotia.com/explore/culture/celtic-gaelic-culture>. It is up to YOU to keep the interest of the Scots Gaelic language alive! Nach bruidhinn sinn Gàidhlig! (Let’s speak Gaelic!)