

Cumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga

International Association of Language Commissioners

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FÁILTE AGUS TÚS SCÉIL

Séamas Ó Concheanainn

An Coimisinéir Teanga agus Cathaoirleach Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga (IALC)

Cuirim fáilte chroíúil roimh chách chuig Cathair na dTreabh don naoú comhdháil de chuid Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga. Mar chathaoirleach an IALC agus mar Choimisinéir Teanga, tá ríméad orm go bhfuil Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ag óstáil an tionóil thábhachtaigh idirnáisiúnta seo.

Tugann an chomhdháil coimisinéirí teanga agus gníomhaithe cearta teanga ó gach cearn den domhan le chéile chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheistanna atá ag dó na geiribe dúinn maidir le cur chun cinn agus neartú cearta teanga laistigh dár ndlínsí faoi seach. I gcroílár chosaint na gcearta teanga tá tuiscint agus aitheantas sochaíoch ar an mbuncheart daonna go bhfuil pobail teanga i dteideal seirbhísí poiblí ar ardchaighdeán a fháil ina rogha teanga oifigiúil. Beidh cainteanna ó Choimisinéirí Teanga agus ó ghníomhaithe cearta teanga ó Thuaisceart Éireann, ó Cheanada, ón mBreatain Bheag, ó Thír na mBascach, ón gCatalóin, ó Navarra, ón gCosaiv, ón Iodáil agus ón bhFreaslainn san Ísiltír mar chuid den chomhdháil.

Tá bunú an chumainn idirnáisiúnta seo fréamhaithe in Éirinn. Bhí ról ceannais ag an gcéad Choimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, i síolrú an Chumainn in 2013 agus thacaigh mo réamhtheachta Rónán Ó Domhnaill, le forbairt leanúnach an Chumainn freisin i gcaitheamh na mblianta. Tá sé tráthúil gurb é an t-iar-Aire Rialtais, Gaeltachta agus iar-Theachta Dála Ghaillimh Thiar, Éamon Ó Cuív, a sheolfaidh comhdháil na bliana seo. Léirigh Éamon ceannaireacht thar na bearta lena chinntiú gur tugadh an tAcht bunaidh teanga, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, i bhfeidhm i dtús aimsire ar mhaithe le cearta teanga phobail na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta a láidriú.

Chuir Acht 2003 bonn riachtanach faoi fheabhsú seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Mar sin féin, níos mó ná fiche bliain i ndiaidh a achtaithe, tá dushlúin mhóra fós roimh phobal na Gaeilge freastal cothrom agus cóir a fháil ón Stát maidir le soláthar seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Is céim an-dearfach é teacht i bhfeidhm Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021 le tuilleadh feabhais a chur ar sheirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Foráil shuntasach a d'eascair as an Acht leasaithe 2021 ab ea foilsiú an chéad Phlean Náisiúnta reachtúil do Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge i stair an stáit seo in 2024.

Dá réir sin, tá an Chomhdháil seo á reachtáil ag am cinniúnach le cearta teanga a threisiú laistigh dár ndlínsí. Príomhthéama a chlúdaítear ag an gcomhdháil is ea an tábhacht a bhaineann le soláthar seirbhíse poiblí a oiriúnú agus a ailíniú chun freastal ar riachtanais athraitheacha teangeolaíocha agus sochaíocha ár bpobal teanga. Ina theannta sin, leagann an chomhdháil béim ar a thábhachtaí atá pleanáil straitéiseach fórsa saothair d'fhonn fórsa saothair leordhóthanach a chinntiú atá inniúil inár sprioctheangacha

chun seirbhísí poiblí ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar. Díreoidh an chomhdháil freisin ar chomhroinnt eolais ar fud ár ndlínsí ar phríomhfhorálacha reachtacha chun feabhas a chur ar sheirbhísí poiblí do phobail teanga, lena n-áirítear an rath atá ar Chóras na gCaighdeán Teanga (an Bhreatain Bheag) agus ar an Tairiscint Ghníomhach (Ceanada).

Is mian liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl do Dara Calleary TD, an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, agus d'fhoireann bainistíochta a roinne as a dtacaíocht agus a maoiniú don Chomhdháil seo. Ina theannta sin, tá an Chomhdháil seo san áireamh sa chlár imeachtaí d'Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh, atá ar siúl ag an am céanna.

Gabhaim buíochas ó chroí le Feidhmeannas IALC agus leis an Ollamh Comhlach an Dr. John Walsh ó Ollscoil na Gaillimhe as an am agus an tacaíocht a thug siad chun an chomhdháil seo a eagrú le bliain anuas. Cuirim mo bhuíochas in iúl freisin as seirbhís Mháire Ní Neachtain mar rapóirtéir comhdhála.

Ina theannta sin, is mian liom cuimhneamh ar an Ollamh Colin Williams, dlúthchara de chuid Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga agus Chumann IALC a d'imigh ar shlí na fírinne i mí Aibreáin na bliana seo. Tá alt ómóis dó le fáil mar pháirt den leabhrán seo.

Láthair chaoithiúil í Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe do sheoladh oifigiúil na Comhdhála seo i bhfianaise stair na hamharclainne náisiúnta sin maidir le saothrú ár dteanga agus ár dtaibhealaíona dúchasacha le céad bliain anuas. Táim buíoch d'Ollscoil na Gaillimhe as ucht a cuid saoráidí sármhaithe a chur ar fáil do léachtaí na Comhdhála agus d'Oifigeach Gaeilge na hOllscoile Caroline Ní Fhlatharta as ucht a cuid tacaíochta.

Mar fhocal scoir, caithfidh mé buíochas a ghabháil le mo chomhghleacaithe go léir in Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga as a n-obair dhian dhícheallach chun a chinntiú go mbeidh rath ar an gComhdháil thábhachtach seo. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach duine taitneamh agus tairbhe as imeachtaí na comhdhála. Guím gach rath ar na rannpháirtithe uile ina n-iarrachtaí amach anseo lenár dteangacha lómhara agus cearta teanga ár bpobal teanga faoi seach a chosaint agus a threisiú.

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís!



An Coimisinéir Teanga, Cathaoirleach IALC

BALLRAÍOCHT IALC

- Coimisinéir Teanga na Breataine Bige / Comisiynydd y Gymraeg (An Bhreatain Bheag) – **Efa Gruffudd Jones**
<https://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/>
- Coimisinéir Teangacha Oifigiúla Ceanada / Commissaire aux langues officielles du Canada (Ceanada) – **Kelly Burke**
<https://www.clo-ocol.gc.ca>
- Coimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla New Brunswick / Commissaire aux langues officielles du Nouveau-Brunswick (Ceanada) – **Shirley C. MacLean**, Abhcóide an Rí, (Leas-Chathaoirleach IALC)
<https://www.officiallanguages.nb.ca>
- Coimisinéir Sheirbhísí Theanga na Fraincise – Ontario / Commissaire aux services en français de l'Ontario (Ceanada) – **Carl Bouchard**
<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca>
- An Coimisinéir do Theanga na Fraincise / Le Commissaire à la langue française (Ceanada) – **An Dr. Benoît Dubreuil**
<https://www.commissairelanguefrancaise.quebec>
- Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Dúchais (eatramhach) / Commissaire aux langues autochtones par intérim (Ceanada) – **Candice St-Aubin**
<https://commissionforindigenousslanguages.ca>
- Coimisinéir Teanga Nunavut / Uqauhinut Kamisinaup Havakvia Nunavunmi (Ceanada) – **Karliin Aariak**
<https://www.langcom.nu.ca>
- Coimisinéir Teangacha Chríocha an Iarthuaiscirt / Commissaire aux langues territoires du Nord-Ouest (Ceanada) – **Krista Carnogursky**
<https://www.olc-nt.ca>
- Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga (Éire) – **Séamas Ó Concheanainn** (Cathaoirleach IALC)
<https://www.coimisineir.ie>
- Oifig Ombodúra Phobal Navarra / Nafarroako Arartekoaren (An Spáinn) – **Patxi Vera Donazar**
<https://www.defensornavarra.es/eu>

- Coimisinéir Teanga na Cosaive/ Zyra e Komisionerit për gjuhët (An Chosaiv) – *Gan Coimisinéir ceaptha faoi láthair*
- Ombudóir na Catalóine / Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya (An Spáinn) – **An Dr. Esther Giménez-Salinas i Colomer**
<https://www.sindic.cat>
- Ombudóir Thír na mBascach / Ararteko (An Spáinn) – **An Dr. Mikel Mancisidor**
<https://ararteko.eus.eu>
- An Coimisinéir Gaeilge, (Tuaisceart Éireann) – **An Dr. Pól Deeds**
<https://www.coimisineir.org/en>
- An Coimisinéir don Traidisiún Albanach Ultach agus don Traidisiún Briotanach Ultach, Commissary o tha Ulstèr-Scotch and Ulstèr-Bìtisch Heirski (Tuaisceart Éireann) – **Lee Reynolds**
- Stiúrthóir ar Ghníomhaireacht Chur i bhFeidhm na Teanga, Poblacht na Macadóine Thuaidh / Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut Agjencia për Zbatimin e Gjuhës që e Flasin së Paku 20% e Qytetarëve të Republikës së Maqedonisë së Veriut – **Granit Osmani**
<https://www.apj.gov.mk/>

Feidhmeannas IALC:

- **Séamas Ó Concheanainn**
Ball Feidhmeannais agus Cathaoirleach
- **Shirley C. MacLean**
Ball Feidhmeannais agus Leas-Chathaoirleach
- **Efa Gruffudd Jones**
Ball Feidhmeannais
- **Carl Bouchard**
Ball Feidhmeannais

CLÁR

Dé Máirt, an 8 Meán Fómhair 2026

Ionad: Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe (Amharclann Náisiúnta na Gaeilge)

8:00pm Seoladh Oifigiúil - Éamon Ó Cuív, (An tIar-Aire Rialtais a thionscain Acht bunaidh na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003)

Áirneán na dtaibhealaíon traidisiúnta - amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós, damhsa ar an sean-nós agus ceol.

Dé Céadaoin, an 9 Meán Fómhair 2026

Ionad: Áras ILAS, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe,
(An Caisleán Nua Uachtarach, Gaillimh, H91 C7DK)

9:15am Clárú

9:30am Fáiltiú – Cathaoirleach an Chumainn (IALC), Séamas Ó Concheanainn, An Coimisinéir Teanga.

9:45 –
11:00am

Seisiún 1: 'Cearta Teanga a Threisiú - Ceachtanna ón Lá Inné, Straitéisí don Lá Inniu'

- Osian Llywelyn – Leas-Choimisinéir na Breatnaise, An Bhreatain Bheag (Caighdeáin Teanga)
- Séamas Ó Concheanainn, An Coimisinéir Teanga, Éire (Pleanáil Fórsa Saothair Náisiúnta)
- Pól Deeds – An Coimisinéir Gaeilge, Tuaisceart Éireann (An tírdhreach teangeolaíoch)

Áisitheoir an tSeisiúin: An Dr John Walsh, Ollamh Comhlach, Roinn na Gaeilge, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, Éire

11:00 –
11:30am

Sos Caife / Tae

11:30am – 1:00pm	Seisiún 2: ‘Rochtain ar sheirbhísí poiblí a fheabhsú – samhlacha seachadta seirbhíse poiblí a ailíniú le riachtanais na bpobal mionteanga’ Plé ar: • Seirbhísí Poiblí a Dhílárú/Múnlaí Seirbhíse Poiblí Dáilte: Tomás Ó Síocháin, Príomhfheidhmeannach, Údarás na Gaeltachta • Muinín an Phobail a Chothú - ‘An Tairiscint Ghníomhach’ Léargais ó Ceanada • Kelly Burke: Coimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, Ceanada • Shirley C. MacLean (KC): Coimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla do New Brunswick • Carl Bouchard: Coimisinéir Seirbhísí Teanga Francise Ombudsman - Ontario
1:00 – 2:00pm	<i>Lón – Áras ILAS, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe</i>
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Seisiún an Tráthnóna Aitheasc ón Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, Dara Calleary TD Seisiún 3: ‘Cearta Teanga sa Réimse Eorpach: ó Aitheantas Náisiúnta go Rannpháirtíocht ar Leibhéal AE’ I gcomhar leis an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta agus leis an nGréasán chun Éagsúlacht Teanga a Chur Chun Cinn (NPLD) Plé painéil le: • Roger Serra: Leas-Chathaoirleach NPLD agus Ard-Stiúrthóir um Polasaí Teanga Earnálacha na Teicneolaíochta agus an Chlosamhairc, Rialtas na Catalóine (An Spáinn) • Marco Torresin: Oifigeach Chaidreamh Idirnáisiúnta Gníomhaireacht Réigiúnach na Friúilise (ARLeF) (An Iodáil) • Hasier Morras: Ceannasaí na Seirbhíse Forbartha Bascaise i Riarachán Poiblí, Euskarabidea – Rialtas Navarra (An Spáinn) • Eke Folkerts: Teachta Teanga agus Oideachais Teanga, Proibhinse na Freaslainne (An Ísiltír) Áisitheoir: Eoin Ó Droighneáin, Príomhoifigeach, An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta

3:30pm – 3:40pm	<i>Sos Caife / Tae</i>
3:40pm – 4:20pm	Seisiún 4: 'Reachtaíocht um Chearta an Dátheangachais a Dhréachtú: Deiseanna agus Dúshláin - Léargais na Cosaive Mentor Borovci, Stiúrthóir na hOifige Dlí in Oifig an Phríomh-Aire, An Chosaiv
4:20pm – 5:00pm	Seisiún 5: 'Cearta Gaeilge a Threisiú trí Fhógraíocht Tráchtála' Páidí Ó Lionáird, Bainisteoir Cumarsáide, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, Éire
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Focal Scoir na Comhdhála - príomhdhíola suntais agus na chéad ghníomhartha eile (Rapóirtéir - Máire Ní Neachtain)
8:00pm	<i>Dinnéar na Comhdhála – Óstán Galmont</i>

Déardaoin, an 10 Meán Fómhair 2026

9:30am	Comhaltaí ag taisteal ar bhus ó Chathair na Gaillimhe chun an Spidéil, Co. na Gaillimhe
10:30am – 12:30pm	Cruinniú Cinn Bhliana IALC 2026 Ionad: Stiúideo Cuan, An Spidéal
12:30 – 1:30pm	<i>Lón - Stiúideo Cuan</i>
	Deireadh le hImeachtaí Chomhdháil IALC 2026
Turas bus ar ais go Cathair na Gaillimhe chuig córais taistil	



Éamon Ó Cuív

Iar-Theachta Dála agus Aire Rialtais is ea é Éamon Ó Cuív a toghadh den chéad uair in olltoghchán 1992. Toghadh i ngach toghchán é go dtí gur éirigh sé as an bpolaitíocht náisiúnta roimh olltoghchán 2024.

Ba é an tAire Gaeltachta é a chuir a lámh le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 – an tAcht faoinár bunaíodh Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga bliain níos déanaí.

Ó 1989 go dtí 2024, bhí Éamon i lár aonaigh na polaitíochta in Éirinn:

1989-1992 – ball de Sheanad Éireann

1992-2024 – Teachta Dála i nDáil Éireann

1997-2000 – Aire Stáit sa Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gaeltachta agus Oileán

2002-2010 – Aire sa Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

2010-2011 – Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí

As Baile Átha Cliath ó dhúchas, áit a bhfuair sé a chuid bun agus meán oideachais. Bhain sé céim san Eolaíocht amach sa gColáiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

Chuir sé spéis sa nGaeilge ainneoin nach raibh sé á staidéar - ag plé go deonach leis na heagrais Ghaeilge, go mórmhór Conradh na Gaeilge. Chaith sé seal ag an am sin ar Choiste Gnó an Chonartha.

Nuair a bhain sé an chéim amach chaith sé tréimhse ghearr ag obair le Conradh na Gaeilge agus ansin le Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge.

Ag deireadh 1973 d'fhág sé Baile Átha Cliath agus bhog sé go dtí Gaeltacht Dhúiche Sheoigheach áit a raibh sé ina bhainisteoir ar an gcomharchumann forbartha pobail nua-bhunaithe ann – Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach.

Bhí dhá aidhm ag an gComharchumann, ba iad sin leas eacnamaíochta an cheantair a chur chun cinn agus an Ghaeilge a láidriú sa gceantar.

D'fhan sé ansin go ndeachaigh sé ag plé leis an bpolaitíocht go lánaimseartha ag deireadh na bliana 1991.

Tá sé fós gníomhach le coistí deonacha, mar bhall den Choiste Comhairleach Cuimhneacháin agus mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle na Tuaithe.



Is iad na saothair is déanaí de chuid **Louis de Paor** ná *Cé a Mharaigh Emma Mhic Mhathúna* (Éabhlóid 2024) agus *Grá fiar* (Bloodaxe 2022) a áiríonn taifeadadh dá chomhshaothar le Dana Lyn, *Lá dá raibh*, léiriú dátheangach a úsáideann filíocht agus ceol le lá i saol sráidbhaile samhalta in Iarthar na hÉireann a chur i láthair. Craoladh an taifeadadh ar Lyric FM agus ar Raidió na Gaeltachta in 2021 agus bronnadh Bonn Óir air ag Duaiseanna Raidió Fhéilte Nua-Eabhrac in 2022. Beidh cnuasach nua dá chuid *Scáil an Chaorthainn* á fhoilsiú ag Éabhlóid níos moille i mbliana.

‘Cé gur chóir don fhilíocht a bheith rómánsúil i gcónaí (ní bhíonn aon chúis phraiticiúil leis an stuif riamh), sheachain sé rómánsachas na líne maoithní agus an friotal doiléir i gcónaí. Bhí rud éigin breá teann faoina chuid saothar i dtólamh. Níl sé ar bhealach ar bith iomarcach.’ Alan Titley (The Irish Times)

Bunaíodh an grúpa **Ceoltóirí Óga Chois Fharraige** sa

mbliain 2012 chun deis a thabhairt do chúigear nó seisear gasúr áitiúil ceol a chasadh le chéile. De réir a chéile thosaigh tuilleadh gasúr ag triall ar na seisiúin agus anois tá thart ar 70 duine óg ar fad cláraithe leo. Ní foláir a rá go bhfuil fonnadóirí breátha sa ngrúpa freisin! Is eagraíocht an-scaoilte iad agus is iad na tuismitheoirí is mó a bhreathnaíonn i ndiaidh na seisiún agus aon ócáid a bhíonn ar bun acu agus, dar ndóigh, is trí Ghaeilge amháin a fheidhmíonn siad.



Is píobaire, fliúiteadóir agus amhránaí ar an sean-nós í **Síofra Ní Mhóráin**. Rugadh agus tógadh í i dTuaisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath agus tá sí sa tríú bliain in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe agus í ag déanamh staidéir ar an nGaeilge agus Léann na Cumarsáide. Tá aitheantas bainte amach ag Síofra trí dhuaiseanna a bhuacaint i gcomórtais éagsúla ar nós Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann agus Oireachtas na Samhna.

SEISIÚN 1

Ceartha Teanga a Threisiú: Ceachtanna ón Lá Inné, Straitéisí don Lá Inniu



Áisitheoir:
An Dr. John Walsh
*Ollamh Comhlach,
Roinn na Gaeilge,
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe*

Tá an Dr John Walsh
ina Ollamh Comhlach
le Gaeilge i Scoil
na dTeangacha, na

Litríochtaí agus na gCultúr, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. I measc a chuid réimsí saineolais tá 'nuachaintoírí' teangacha mionlaithe, beartas teanga, meáin teangacha mionlaigh, an t-ilteangachas, teanga agus gnéasacht, teanga agus forbairt shocheacnamaíoch agus cartlanna na Gaeilge. Dhein an Dr Walsh PhD in Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath (OCBÁC) faoi thionchar na Gaeilge ar fhorbairt shocheacnamaíoch na hÉireann (2006). Tá MA sa Chaidreamh Idirnáisiúnta (Socheolaíocht, Dlí, Eacnamaíocht Pholaitiúil) aige ó OCBÁC chomh maith (1999), agus BA sa Ghaeilge agus sa Bhreatainis (1992) ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

Ó 2023-2025, d'oibrigh an Dr Walsh ag leibhéal sinsearach le Foras na Gaeilge, an eagraíocht uile-oileáin chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Roimhe sin, chaith sé dhá thréimhse ina Leas-Déan i gColáiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta agus an Léinn Cheiltigh in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. Sular tháinig sé go Gaillimh, d'oibrigh an Dr Walsh mar léachtóir Gaeilge in Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, mar eagarthóir nuachta leis an mBiúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana sa Bhruiséil agus roimhe sin mar iriseoir Gaeilge, Béarla agus Breatainise le craoltóirí éagsúla in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain Bheag.



Séamas Ó Concheanainn
*An Coimisinéir
Teanga, Éire
Chathaoirleach an
IALC*

Cheap Iar-Uachtarán
na hÉireann Mícheál
D. Ó hUigín Séamas

Ó Concheanainn ina Choimisinéir Teanga i mí na Nollag 2023.

Feidhmíonn Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga mar Oifig Ombudsman Náisiúnta agus mar Ghníomhaireacht um Chomhlíonadh chun seasamh le ceartha teanga mar atá forordaithe faoi Achtanna na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003, arna leasú. Tá sí neamhspleách ar aon tríú páirtí i gcomhlíonadh a cuid dualgas reachtúil. Déanann OCT monatóireacht ar chomhlíonadh fhorálacha an Achta ag comhlachtaí poiblí. Fiosraíonn an Oifig gearáin freisin sa chás go gcreidtear gur theip ar chomhlachtaí poiblí cloí leis an Acht nó le haon achtachán reachtúil eile ina bhfuil forálacha a bhaineann le stádas nó le húsáid na Gaeilge, i soláthar seirbhísí poiblí i nGaeilge. Leasaíonn Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021 an Príomh-Acht 2003, ag tabhairt forálacha nua isteach chun ceartha phobail na Gaeilge a neartú agus a chosaint. Sampla de thionchar an achta leasaithe 2021 is ea an fás as cuimse atá tagtha ar fhógraíocht i nGaeilge ar na meáin chumarsáide éagsúla.

Sular ceapadh ina Choimisinéir Teanga é, bhí Séamas ina Stiúrthóir ar Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ó 2020 go 2023. Roimhe sin, bhí ról cheannaireachta éagsúla aige san ardoideachas, sa phleanáil teanga agus i bhforbairt pobail, lena n-áirítear poist bhainistíochta in Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe.

Ainmníodh Séamas mar Chathaoirleach ar an IALC i mí an Mheithimh 2025.



An Dr. Pól Deeds
*An Coimisinéir
Gaeilge, Tuaisceart
Éireann*

Cheap an Chéad-Aire agus an Leas Chéad-Aire an Dr. Pól Deeds mar an Chéad Choimisinéir Gaeilge do Thuaisceart Éireann in 2025.

Is as Béal Feirste do Phól agus tá cónaí air in iarthar na cathrach lena chlann. D'fhreastail sé ar Scoil Mhuire na mBráithre Críostaí agus ar Ollscoil Uladh, Cúil Raithin, ina dhiaidh sin. Ba ansin in 2000 a fuair sé céim onóracha sna Daonnachtaí, agus an Ghaeilge mar phríomhábhar, chomh maith le PhD sa Léann Éireannach in 2005.

D'oibrigh Pól roimhe seo mar PF ag an Droichead, eagraíocht Ghaeilge a chuireann teanga agus cultúr na Gaeilge chun cinn i ndeisceart Bhéal Feirste, agus níos moille, mar leas-POF ar Fhoras na Gaeilge, an comhlacht trasteorann atá freagrach as cur chun cinn na Gaeilge ar fud oileán na hÉireann.



Osian Llywelyn
*Leas-Choimisinéir
na Breatnaise &
Stiúrthóir Rialála*

Is é Osian Llywelyn an Stiúrthóir atá freagrach as treo straitéiseach a leagan amach d'obair rialála Choimisinéir Teanga na Breatnaise.

Áirítear leis an bpost dualgais a leagan síos agus a fhorfheidhmiú ar eagraíochtaí chun an Bhreatnais a úsáid.

Is as Pontypridd ó dhúchas dó agus fuair sé a chuid meánoideachais i Scoil Gyfun Rhydfelen sular bhog sé chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar an Dlí in Ollscoil Aberystwyth. Bhain sé taitneamh as taisteal timpeall Mheiriceá Theas ach tá sé lonnaithe i gCaerdydd le beagnach cúig bliana déag.

D'oibrigh Osian do Bhord na Breatnaise agus do Choimisinéir Teanga na Breatnaise, áit a raibh sé freagrach as na chéad chaighdeáin Bhreatnaise a leagan síos do chomhlachtaí poiblí siar in 2015. D'oibrigh Osian freisin mar Cheann Beartais Rialála do Cháilíochtaí na Breataine Bige, rialtóir na gcáilíochtaí a thairgeann comhlachtaí dámhachtana aitheanta sa Bhreatain Bheag.

Is breá leis cumann sacair Chathair Swansea agus foireann náisiúnta na Breataine Bige a leanúint. Ina theannta sin, is breá leis ceirníní ceoil a bhailiú.

SEISIÚN 2

Rochtain ar Sheirbhísí Poiblí a Fheabhsú: Samhlacha Seachadta Seirbhíse Poiblí a Ailíniú le Riachtanais na bPobal Mionteanga



Tomás Ó Síocháin
PF, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Gníomhaireacht Forbartha don Ghaeltacht

Tá Tomás Ó Síocháin ina

Phríomhfheidhmeannach / PF ar Údarás na Gaeltachta, an ghníomhaireacht stáit a thacaíonn leis an nGaeilge agus a dhéanann í a fhorbairt mar theanga phobail sna ceantair Ghaeltachta i seacht gcontae ar fud na hÉireann. Tacaíonn an tÚdarás le pobal na Gaeltachta trí fhiontraíocht a chothú, rud atá riachtanach chun an Ghaeltacht, an Ghaeilge agus a hoidhreacht uathúil a chaomhnú.

Go dtí an bhliain 2022, bhí Tomás ina PF ar Choimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair (CFI), an ghníomhaireacht stáit a thacaíonn le Forbairt Réigiún Iarthar na hÉireann feadh chósta an Atlantaigh. Roimhe sin bhí roinnt ról sinsearach aige in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe agus bhí sé ina iriseoir craolta, ina léiritheoir agus ina eagarthóir le craoltóirí náisiúnta na hÉireann RTÉ agus TG4 idir 1998 agus 2013. Tá céim sa Dlí aige mar aon le MBA agus Ard-Diplóma sa Chumarsáid Fheidhmeach. Ina theannta sin, is stiúrthóir neamhfheidhmiúcháin é ar GrowRemote agus Future Mobility Campus Ireland.

Tá sé ina Chathaoirleach ar Bhord Comhairleach Scoil Ghnó agus Eacnamaíochta Cairns de chuid Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, ina bhall de Ghrúpa Stiúrtha an Líonra Náisiúnta Moll agus den Ghrúpa Forfheidhmithe i leith na Straitéise Náisiúnta maidir le Cianobair. Roimhe sin, bhí sé ar an gcéad Chathaoirleach ar Fhóram Réigiúnach Scileanna an Iarthair, ina Chathaoirleach ar an Sainghrúpa maidir le Cianobair de chuid Institiúid Whitaker CFI agus ina Mheasúnóir Seachtrach le haghaidh an Chiste Fuaime agus Físe de chuid Údarás Craolacháin na hÉireann.



Kelly Burke
Coimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, Ceanada

Chuaigh Kelly Burke i mbun oifige mar an t-ochtú Coimisinéir Teangacha Oifigiúla i gCeanada ar an 30

Márta, 2026. Is as Cornwall, Ontario ó dhúchas í Kelly Burke agus ball den phobal Béarla agus den phobal Fraincise. Tá Baitsiléir Ealaíon agus céim san Oideachas aici ó Ollscoil na Banríona, céim sa Dlí ó Ollscoil Ottawa agus Máistir Dlíthe ó Ollscoil Eabhrac le speisialtóireacht i ndlí saothair agus réiteach malartach díospóidí. Tá sí ina ball de Dhlí-Chumann Ontario ó 1996. Le breis agus 25 bliain, tá an t-iar-mhúinteoir tumoideachais Fraincise tar éis a saol gairmiúil a chaitheamh ag iarraidh teangacha oifigiúla a chur chun cinn agus cearta teanga a chosaint.

Tá an-chuid taithí aici mar gheall ar a cuid ama ag obair go dátheangach mar dhlíodóir agus mar riarthóir, bhí roinnt post sinsearach aici i seirbhís phoiblí Ontario, lena n-áirítear ag Aireacht an Ard-Aighne, Aireacht na gColáistí agus na nOllscoileanna, agus an Aireacht Gnóthaí Francophone, áit a raibh sí ina comhchathaoirleach ar an gComhdháil Aireachta ar Francophonie Ceanada.

Ó 2020 go 2023, bhí sí mar Choimisinéir Seirbhísí Teanga Fraincise Ontario agus mar Leas-Chathaoirleach ar Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga sular ghlac sí ról cheannaireachta san earnáil iar-mheánscoile.

Aithnítear í dá ceannaireacht, a cumas dul i mbun idirphlé agus a tiomanta do Ceanada mar thír atá iomlán dátheangach, agus tá sí ag tabhairt aghaidh ar a ról nua le fócas ar an gcreat beartais teanga a nuachóiriú agus ar bheocht an phobail a neartú ar fud na tíre.



Shirley C. MacLean KC
Coimisinéir na
dTeangacha Oifigiúla
do New Brunswick

Is as Baddeck, Nova Scotia í Shirley C. MacLean. D'fhás sí aníos i dteaghlach nár

labhair ach Béarla amháin ach a raibh meas acu ar thábhacht an dá theanga oifigiúla i gCeanada. Tar éis di Céim Baitsiléara a ghnóthú in Ollscoil Naomh Proinsias Xavier in 1984, d'fhreastail sí ar Ollscoil Laval i gCathair Québec chun Fraincis a fhoghlaim. In 1990 fuair Shirley C. MacLean a céim dlí ó Ollscoil New Brunswick. Ina dhiaidh sin chleachtadh sí dlí le gnólacht dlí Fredericton agus in 1994 chuaigh sí isteach i nDlí-Chumann New Brunswick mar Stiúrthóir Iontrála.

Sa bhliain 2003 ceapadh í mar Leas-Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin agus Cláraitheoir Gearán an Chumainn. Le linn a blianta leis an Dlí-Chumann chuir sí go mór lena cuid eolais ar rialáil ghairmiúil agus disciplín lena n-áirítear imscrúdú agus ionchúiseamh a dhéanamh ar ghearáin iomadúla, cúrsaí smachta agus saincheisteanna rialála. I mí na Nollag 2013, ceapadh Shirley C. MacLean mar Abhcóide na Banríona, gradam a bronnadh mar aitheantas ar sheirbhís den scoth dá gairm. Tá sí ina Cathaoirleach ar an mBinse Meabhairshláinte in Fredericton ó 2017 i leith.

Tá baint mhór aici lena pobal, agus tá Shirley C. MacLean ina comhalta boird den Healing and Cancer Foundation; ina Cathaoirleach ar Choiste Oideachais Fírinne agus Athmhuintearais Dhlí-Chumann New Brunswick; ina ball de Choiste Urraíochta Dídeanaíthe na Siria; ina Peer Navigator in oinceolaíocht le húdarás Horizon Health agus ina drumadóir teanóir le Cumann Banna Píob Naomh Aindriú.

Ceapadh Shirley C. MacLean mar Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla do New Brunswick an 22 Samhain, 2019. Ag dul i mbun oifige ar an 2 Eanáir, 2020 ar feadh téarma seacht mbliana, is í an chéad chainteoir Béarla í a bhfuil an post sin acu.

Is oifigeach neamhspleách den Tionól Reachtach atá i gCoimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla do New Brunswick. Mar chuid den ról tá imscrúdú le seoladh, tuairisciú agus moltaí a dhéanamh maidir le comhlíonadh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Tá sí freagrach freisin as dul chun cinn an dá theanga oifigiúla sa chúige.



Carl Bouchard
Coimisinéir Seirbhísí
Teanga Fraincise
Ombudsman,
Ontario

Ceapadh Carl Bouchard mar Choimisinéir i mí na Nollag 2023, tar

éis dó naoi mí a chaitheamh mar Choimisinéir Eatramhach. Chuaigh sé isteach i gceannaireacht feidhmiúcháin Oifig an Ombudsman mar Stiúrthóir Oibríochtaí d'fhoireann Aonad Seirbhísí Teanga na Fraincise i mí Feabhra 2020. Ó shin i leith, tá ról lárnach aige i bhforbairt moltaí chun feabhas a chur ar sholáthar seirbhísí teanga na Fraincise in Ontario, lena n-áirítear trí Thuarascálacha Bliantúla agus tuarascálacha imscrúdaitheacha ar chiorruithe Ollscoil Laurentian ar chláir Fhraincise (2021), agus i bhfógraíocht aonteachach rialtais lasmuigh den bhaile maidir le seirbhísí sláinte (2024).

Sula ndeachaigh sé ag obair leis an Ombudsman, bhí Carl ina Stiúrthóir Beartais d'Aireacht Gnóthaí Cainteoirí Fraincise Ontario ó 2015, áit ar chabhraigh sé le reachtaíocht agus beartais a fhorbairt ar fud aireachtaí éagsúla chun seirbhísí Fraincise in Ontario a fheabhsú. Tá sé freagrach as roinnt mhaith comhaontuithe maoinithe agus comhoibrithe a dhéanamh ar bhonn cónaidhme, cúige agus críche caibidlíochta aige agus chuir sé le próifíl idirnáisiúnta phobal Fraincise Ontario a ardú.

Tá céim san Iriseoireacht aige ó Ollscoil Ottawa, d'oibrigh Carl le heagraíochtaí meán éagsúla, lena n-áirítear Groupe Média TFO agus CBC/Radio-Canada, áit ar léirigh sé agus ar sheachadadh sé ábhar nuachta in Ontario agus ar fud na tíre. Tá an-mheas aige ar fhorbairtí timpeallachtaí oibre ionchuimsitheacha agus sábháilte.



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

Is í an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta an aireacht stáit in Éirinn atá freagrach as polasaí an Stáit i leith na Gaeilge – ag tacú leis an nGaeilge, a húsáid a threisiú mar phríomhtheanga phobal na Gaeltachta agus cabhrú le forbairt inbhuanaithe phobail na n-oileán.

Cuireann an Roinn maoiniú ar fáil d’Údarás na Gaeltachta, d’Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga agus cómhaoiníonn sí Foras na Gaeilge.

Is ar an Roinn atá an fhreagracht fhoriomlán as cur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030 – cur chuige iomlánaíoch comhtháite a luíonn leis an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta.

Is ball í an Roinn, ar son na hÉireann, den Ghréasán chun Éagsúlacht Teanga a Chur Chun Cinn (NPLD). Is gréasán uile-Eorpach é NPLD a oibríonn i réimse an bheartais teanga agus na pleanála ar mhaithe le Teangacha Bunreachtúla, Réigiúnacha agus Mionstáit ar fud na hEorpa.



Aitheasc ón Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, **Dara Calleary TD**

Is é Dara Calleary an tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí agus an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta. Ceapadh chuig na ról sin é ar an 23 Eanáir 2025. Roimhe sin, bhí sé ina Aire Stáit um Chur Chun Cinn Trádála, Digiteach agus Rialáil Cuideachta sa Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta.

Is as Béal an Átha ó dhúchas é Dara Calleary agus tá sé ina Theachta Dála do Mhaigh Eo ó toghadh é den chéad uair in Olltoghchán 2007.

Roimhe sin bhí sé ina Aire Stáit sa Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta agus bhí sé freagrach as Gnóthaí Saothair ó 2009-2011 agus ina Aire Stáit i Roinn an Taoisigh agus sa Roinn Airgeadais, áit a raibh sé freagrach as Athchóiriú na Seirbhíse Poiblí ó 2009-2011. Bhí sé ina Aire Talmhaíochta agus mar Phríomh-Aoire an Rialtais in 2020.

Bhí Dara mar Leas-Cheannaire ar Fhianna Fáil ó 2018-2020 agus chomh maith leis sin bhí sé ina Urlabhraí do na Ranna seo a leanas: an Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta, an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe agus an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí.

Sula ndeachaigh sé isteach sa pholaitíocht bhí baint ag Dara leis na hearnálacha baincéireachta agus gnó. Rinne Dara staidéar ar Ghnó agus ar Pholaitíocht i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath agus d'fhreastail sé ar Choláiste Naomh Muredach, Béal an Átha agus ar Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Oilibhéar Pluincéad.

SEISIÚN 3

Ceartha Teanga sa Réimse Eorpach: ó Aitheantas Náisiúnta go Rannpháirtíocht ar Leibhéal AE

I gcomhar leis an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta agus leis an nGréasán chun Éagsúlacht Teanga a Chur Chun Cinn (NPLD)



Áisitheoir:
Eoin Ó Droighneáin
Príomhoifigeach,
an Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
agus Gaeltachta

Ón Spidéal i
nGaeltacht Chontae

na Gaillimhe ó dhúchas, is Príomhoifigeach é Eoin Ó Droighneáin sa Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta (Rialtas na hÉireann), áit a bhfuil sé freagrach as Straitéisí agus Tacaíochtaí Náisiúnta Teanga, agus as Logainmneacha.

Chaith Eoin roinnt blianta ag obair mar aistritheoir agus ateangaire gairmiúil i dtionscal na seirbhísí teanga, agus tréimhsí caite aige le Bord na Gaeilge (Foras na Gaeilge anois) (1995-1997) agus le Rannóg an Aistriúcháin in Oifig Thithe an Oireachtais (1997-2001). Chaith sé bliain is fiche (2001-2022) ansin ina Riarthóir ar an Aonad Aistriúcháin agus Ateangaireachta in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, áit a raibh róil teagaisc, taighde, riaracháin agus forbartha straitéisí aige.

Chaith Eoin roinnt blianta mar bhall den Choiste Náisiúnta Téarmaíochta agus bhí sé ina bhall freisin den Choiste Comhairleach um Athbhreithniú Chaighdeán Oifigiúil na Gaeilge, 2014-16.

Áirítear ar a chuid cúraimí sa Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta tacaíocht Rialtas na hÉireann do stádas na Gaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil san Aontas Eorpach agus d'fhorbairt na Gaeilge sa réimse digiteach/teicneolaíochta agus sna healaíona teangabhunaithe.



Roger Serra Puig
Leas-Chathaoirleach
NPLD agus Ard-
Stiúrthóir um
Polasaí Teanga
Earnálacha na
Teicneolaíochta agus
an Chlosamhairc,
Rialtas na Catalóine

Is eolaí polaitiúil é Roger Serra Puig a bhfuil a shaol gairmiúil dírithe ar pholasaí teanga, teicneolaíocht agus gnóthaí idirnáisiúnta. D'oibrigh sé mar léachtóir in Ollscoil Féinrialaitheach Barcelona, bhunaigh sé cuideachtaí forbartha bogearraí, agus chaith sé seal mar Stiúrthóir ar an .cat Foundation.

Faoi láthair tá sé ina Ard-Stiúrthóir ar an mBeartas Teanga sna hEarnálacha Teicneolaíochta agus Closamhairc de chuid Rialtas na Catalóine (Generalitat de Catalunya) agus tá sé ina Leas-Chathaoirleach ar an nGréasán chun Éagsúlacht Teanga a Chur Chun Cinn (NPLD).



Marco Torresin

*Oifigeach
Chaidreamh
Idirnáisiúnta
Gníomhaireacht
Réigiúnach na
Friúilise (ARLeF)*

Tá céim sna
hEolaíochtaí

Idirnáisiúnta agus Taidhleoireachta ó Ollscoil Trieste ag Marco Torresin agus Céim Máistir sa Léann Eorpach ó Europa-Universität Flensburg (an Ghearmáin).

Le linn a shaoil ghairmiúil, chuir sé go mór lena chuid saineolais ar chaidreamh institiúideach, ar fhorbairt tionscadal Eorpach, agus ar chomhoibriú le líonraí agus eagraíochtaí idirnáisiúnta atá tiomanta d'éagsúlacht teanga agus chultúrtha a chur chun cinn. Dírionn a chuid spéiseanna gairmiúla ar pholasaí teanga, ar chearta teanga, agus ar ról an chomhoibrithe Eorpaigh maidir le haitheantas agus cosaint teangacha réigiúnacha agus mionlaigh a neartú.



Hasier Morras

*Ceannasaí na
Seirbhíse Forbartha
Bascaise i Riarachán
Poiblí, Euskarabidea
– Rialtas Navarra*

Is státseirbhíseach
le Rialtas Navarra é
Hasier Morras, a bhfuil

saineolas aige ar ilteangachas agus ar pholasaí teanga. Tá sé freagrach as an Luath-Oideachas agus ar an Oideachas Bunscoile ó 2007 agus bhí sé ina Ollamh Comhlach i Roinn na nDaonnachtaí agus an Oideachais in Ollscoil Phoiblí Navarra ó 2016 go 2019.

Idir 2015 agus 2019, bhí sé ina Stiúrthóir ar an tSeirbhís Oideachais Ilteangachais agus Ealaíon sa Roinn Oideachais de chuid Rialtas Navarra.

Ó 2019 i leith, tá sé ina Cheann ar an tSeirbhís Forbartha Bascaise i bhForais Phoiblí ag Euskarabidea – Institiúid Bhascaise Navarra.



Eke Folkerts

*Teachta um Oideachas Teanga agus Teanga Proibhinse na Freaslainne
(An Ísiltír)*

Tá Eke Folkerts ina Teachta um Oideachas Teanga agus Teanga in Ard-Chomhairle Chúige Fryslân.

Tá sí freagrach as beartas teanga réigiúnach, oideachas ilteangach, agus tionscnaimh a chuireann úsáid agus infheictheacht na Freaslainnise chun cinn.

Ina ról, oibríonn sí go dlúth le hinstitiúidí oideachais, údaráis phoiblí agus eagraíochtaí na sochaí sibhialta chun an Fhreaslainnis a neartú laistigh den chóras oideachais agus den tsochaí i gcoitinne.

SEISIÚN 4

Reachtaíocht um Chearta an Dátheangachais a Dhréachtú: Deiseanna agus Dúshlán – Léargais na Cosaive



Mentor Borovci
Stiúrthóir na hOifige Dlí in Oifig an Phríomh-Aire, An Chosaiv

Is saineolaí dlí agus oifigeach poiblí sinsearach é an tUasal Mentor Borovci a

bhfuil taithí fhairsing aige ar na réimsí seo a leanas: dréachtú reachtaíochta, athchóiriú dlí, cearta daonna, agus lánpháirtiú na hEorpa. Tá PhD aige sna hEolaíochtaí Dlí Idirnáisiúnta ó Ollscoil Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”.

Ó 2017 i leith, tá sé ina Stiúrthóir ar an Oifig Dlí laistigh d'Oifig Phríomh-Aire Phoblacht na Cosaive, áit a ndéanann sé maoirseacht ar dhréachtú, comhchuibhiú agus rialú cáilíochta reachtaíocht an Rialtais, ag cinntiú go gcloíonn sí leis an mBunrecht, an reachtaíocht is infheidhme, na caighdeáin dhréachtaithe reachtacha, agus acquis an AE. Ina theannta sin, déanann sé comhordú ar Chlár Reachtach an Rialtais agus ar phríomhphróisis athchóirithe reachtacha.

Cuimsíonn a chuid oibre rannpháirtiú dhíreach i bhforbairt chreat institiúideach agus dlíthiúil na Cosaive le haghaidh chomhchuibhiú teangeolaíoch na reachtaíochta. Bhí sé ina bhall den ghrúpa oibre a bhí freagrach as an gCoincheap ar Nósanna Imeachta um Chomhchuibhiú Teanga a ullmhú agus bhí sé ina dhréachtóir ar an reachtaíocht thánaisteach a bhunaigh an tAonad um Chomhchuibhiú agus Rialú Teanga in Oifig an Phríomh-Aire.

Is é an tUasal Borovci tionscnóir agus ceannaire Chóras Dréachtaithe Reachtach leictreonach na Cosaive (LDS) freisin, ardán digiteach cuimsitheach a thacaíonn le pleanáil agus dréachtú reachtaíochta in Albáinis, Seirbis agus Béarla. Cuireann an córas le próiseas reachtach níos comhordaithe, níos trédhearcaí agus níos comhsheasmhaí sna trí theanga éagsúla.

SEISIÚN 5

Ceartha Gaeilge a Threisiú trí Fhógraíocht Tráchtála



Páidí Ó Lionáird
Bainisteoir Cumarsáide, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

Is é Páidí an Bainisteoir Cumarsáide le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teanga ó 2022. Tá dhá

chuaile leis an obair sin; eolas a choimeád leis an bpobal faoina gcearta teanga agus comhlachtaí poiblí a chur ar an eolas faoina gcuid dualgas.

Agus forálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003 (arna leasú) á bhfeidhmiú déantar comhairle a údarú le seachadadh i measc na gcomhlachtaí poiblí. Ina measc sin, alt 10A, fógraíocht ag comhlachtaí poiblí a tháinig i bhfeidhm i nDeireadh Fómhair 2022 agus lena raibh dlúthbhaint ag Páidí ón tús lena thabhairt chun cinn.

Roimhe sin, ba chraoltóir agus iriseoir é a bhain gradaim go leor mar aitheantas ar a chuid oibre le RTÉ agus TG4 ar feadh 25 bliana. Tá níos mó ná 4,000 uair an chloig de chraoladh beo teilifíse curtha i gcrích aige – ina measc mar an príomhláithreoir ar iliomad clár toghchán, cúrsaí reatha, siamsaíocht, ceol agus spóirt.

Bhí sé ina léachtóir le cumarsáid in Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh (OTA) - Iar-Chathaoirleach Cláir BA i nGnó & Cumarsáid. Iar-Iriseoir Cónaitheach in Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath (OCBÁC). I measc na gcáilíochtaí atá aige tá: Céim Onóracha B.Oid., Céim Máistir, MAIMS sna Meáin, Ard-Diplóma sa Chaidreamh Poiblí agus Diplóma i Reiligiúin an Domhain.

FOCAL SCOIR NA COMHDHÁLA

Príomhdhíola Suntaís agus na Chéad Ghníomhartha Eile



Rapóirtéir:

Máire Ní Neachtain

Is as Baile an tSagairt sa Spidéal i nGaeltacht Chois Fharraige do Mháire Ní Neachtain. Is Iar-Cheann Roinne ar Roinn na Gaeilge agus Iar-Dhéan Cúnta i nDámh na nDán i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál i Luimneach í.

Sochtheangeolaíocht na Gaeilge agus drámaíocht na Gaeilge is tábhachtaí di ó thaobh cúrsaí taighde de. Tá sí ar ais go buan ar a fód dúchais sa Spidéal anois agus deis aici leanacht lena cuid spéiseanna acadúla agus gníomhaíocht pobail araon.

Tá sí an-ghníomhach mar oibrí deonach i saol na Gaeilge sa nGaeltacht agus in eagrais teanga agus cultúir taobh amuigh di.

Is Stiúrthóir agus iar-Chathaoirleach í ar Fhóram Chois Fharraige um Pleanáil Teanga CTR a bhfuil cúram fheidhmiú phlean teanga Chois Fharraige leagtha air mar chuid den phróiseas náisiúnta pleanála teanga a d'éascair as Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.

Is minic a bhíonn Máire le cloisteáil ar na meáin chraolta agus físe Gaeilge mar thráchtair ar chúrsaí comhaimseartha Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta.



I nDilchuimhne

Cuimhnimis ar dhlúthchara de chuid an Chumann, an tOllamh Colin Williams atá imithe ar shlí na fírinne

Bhásaigh an tOllamh Colin Williams, duine de na saineolaithe idirnáisiúnta ab aitheanta ar athneartú teangacha mionlaithe i Mí Aibreáin 2026. Bhí an Ghaeilge i measc na dteangacha ar dhein sé taighde orthu le linn gairm fhada níos mó ná leathchéad bliain agus bhí dlúthbhaint aige leis an bpolasaí teanga thuaidh agus theas in imeacht na mblianta.

Rugadh Colin Williams in Y Barri, baile cósta gar do Caerdydd i ndeisceart na Breataine Bige in 1950. Bhí sé ar dhuine den chéad ghlúin a d'fhreastail ar oideachas trí mheán na Breatnaise sa cheantar sin sna 1950í agus chothaigh an gréasán cultúrtha agus teanga timpeall ar na scoileanna sin féiniúlacht láidir Bhreatnaise ann. Ó aois óg, bhí Colin gafa le ceisteanna sóisialta ar nós comhionannas, forbairt, réiteach coimhlinte agus caidreamh idirnáisiúnta, luachanna a bhí fréamhaithe ina chreideamh Críostaí. Tar éis dó bunchéim sa tráchtáil a dhéanamh in Ollscoil Abertawe i dtús na 1970í, thug sé faoi PhD san ollscoil sin faoin nasc idir teanga agus náisiúnachas. Chaith sé tamall i mbun staidéir san University of Western Ontario, tréimhse a chothaigh dáimh fadsaoil le Ceanada i gcaitheamh a ghairme. Ba in Ollscoil Staffordshire a fuair Colin a chéad phost léachtóireachta i Roinn na Tíreolaíochta ó 1976 agus chaith sé tréimhsí i Meiriceá Thuaidh sna 1980í, áit ar dhein sé taighde ar an bpolasaí teanga in Québec agus i gcúigí eile de Cheanada. In 1993, ceapadh é ina Ollamh le Sochtheangeolaíocht i Scoil na Breatnaise in Ollscoil Caerdydd. Bhunaigh sé ionad taighde faoi theanga, pleanáil agus polasaí ansin agus dhein sé forbairt ar mhodúil fochéime agus iarchéime faoin bpolasaí teanga sa Bhreatain Bheag agus i dtíortha eile.

Ba scoláire poiblí é Colin go smior agus chaith sé go leor dá shaol ag roinnt a shaineolais go fial ar eagraíochtaí pobail, comhlachtaí poiblí agus rialtais. Nuair a bhí Tionól na Breataine Bige á bhunú i ndeireadh na 1990í, dhein sé cathaoirleacht ar choiste a leag amach comhairle maidir le húsáid oifigiúil na Breatnaise ann. In 2000, ceapadh é ina bhall de Bhord na Breatnaise mar a bhí agus bhí baint rialta aige le heagraíochtaí idirnáisiúnta a shaothraíonn ar son cearta mionlaigh nó teanga ar nós an OSCE agus an Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity.

Ba í an pháirt a ghlac sé in obair chun coimhlintí fadbhunaithe polaitiúla a réiteach an t-údar sásaimh ba mhó a fuair sé le linn a ghairme. Ina measc, bhí an próiseas síochána sa Tuaisceart: ó na 1990í d'oibrigh Colin leis an eagraíocht trasphobail Iontaobhas Ultach agus leis an mBiúró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhfhorleathana (a raibh a cheanncheathrú i mBaile Átha Cliath) ar cheisteanna teanga agus comhionannais. Scríobh sé staidpháipéir faoi chomhionannas grúpa, cearta

teanga agus éagsúlacht chultúrtha a dhein eolas do na forálacha faoin nGaeilge agus faoin Ultais i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta. Chuir sé comhairle leanúnach ar státseirbhísigh agus ar pholaiteoirí roimh bhunú an Tionóil agus ina dhiaidh. D'oibrigh sé leis an eagraíocht Ghaeilge POBAL ar dhréachtaí d'Acht Gaeilge don Tuaisceart a foilsíodh in 2006 agus 2012 agus a leag dúshraith láidir faoin bhfeachtas bríomhar pobail a bhláthaigh ina dhiaidh sin. Ba údar mór sásaimh dó gur ritheadh acht teanga ó thuaidh ar deireadh, cé gur aithin sé go maith na laigí a bhain leis.

Ó dheireadh na 1970í, bhí Colin ina chuairoteoir rialta ar Éirinn, áit ar oibrigh sé le heagraíochtaí éagsúla Gaeilge agus é i mbun taighde. I bpáirt le Peadar Ó Flatharta, nach maireann, ghlac sé páirt i dtaighde ceannródaíoch faoin reachtaíocht teanga agus bhí caidreamh seanbhunaithe idir é agus Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga. D'eagraigh sé féin, Peadar Ó Flatharta agus Seán Ó Cuirreáin comhdháil idirnáisiúnta ar chearta teanga i mBaile Átha Cliath in 2013, ócáid a thug ann do Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na gCoimisinéirí Teanga (IALC). Bhí sé ar dhuine den fhoireann a cheap FIONTAR, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath chun comhairle a chur ar Rialtas na hÉireann faoin Straitéis 20 Bliain den Ghaeilge. Cé gur chuaigh Colin ar scor ó Ollscoil Caerdydd in 2015, lean sé air go gníomhach le taighde agus scoláireacht mar ollamh comhlach in Ollscoil Cambridge agus in institiúidí léinn eile.

Bhí saineolas domhain ag Colin ar iliomad réimsí acadúla agus d'fhéadfadh sé tarraingt ar na heolaíochtaí sóisialta ar fad chun tacú lena anailís ghéarchúiseach ar chúrsaí teanga. Bhí sé de phribhléid agamsa a bheith ar an bhfoireann a chuir eagar ar fhéilscríbhinn in ómós dó, *Language, Policy and Territory* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Bhain aistí an leabhair sin le polasaí agus pleanáil teanga sna comhthéacsanna ba mhó a raibh cur amach ag Colin orthu: An Bhreatain Bheag, Ceanada, Éire, Albain agus an Chatalóin.

Níl áireamh ar na leabhair agus na hait a scríobh sé le linn a shaoil agus níos lú ná bliain ó shin a tháinig an saothar acadúil ba dhéanaí uaidh, *Official Language Regimes* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025), ina ndéantar plé cuimsitheach ar chás na Gaeilge i measc teangacha eile. Tá leabhar eile fós le teacht uaidh ar na téamaí céanna, a críochnaíodh roimh a bhás.

Bhí an galar néarón luadrach ar Colin le cúpla bliain anuas agus is teist ar a chrógacht agus a mhisneach é gur chríochnaigh sé na leabhair dheireanacha sin nuair nach raibh sé ábalta ach scríobh le hordóg amháin. Laoch a bhí ann i ngach slí: ní raibh oiread na fríde d'éirí in airde acadúil air, chaith sé go cothrom le gach duine agus thacaigh sé go fial flaithiúil le taighdeoirí eile. Ba mhinic a chuir sé comhairle mo leasa orm féin in am an ghátair agus níl duine ar bith eile a d'fhág an oiread tionchair orm mar thaighdeoir. Go raibh suaimhneas síoraí aige, agus comhbhrón ó chroí lena bhaintreach Meryl agus lena mac Rhodri.

Cysga'n dawel Colin, gyfaill y galon gynnes.

An Dr John Walsh





WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Séamas Ó Concheanainn

An Coimisinéir Teanga and Chair of the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC)

I warmly welcome everyone to the City of the Tribes for the ninth conference of the International Association of Language Commissioners. As chairperson and Coimisinéir Teanga, I am delighted that Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga is hosting this important international gathering.

The conference brings together language commissioners and language rights activists from around the world to address issues related to promoting and strengthening language rights within our respective jurisdictions. At the core of protecting language rights is the societal understanding and recognition that language communities are entitled to and receive high-quality public services in their language of choice. The conference will feature contributions from language commissioners and language rights advocates across Northern Ireland, Canada, Wales, the Basque Country, Catalonia, Navarre, Kosovo, Italy, and Friesland in the Netherlands.

The IALC's origins are rooted in Ireland. The first Coimisinéir Teanga, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, played a leading role in founding the IALC in 2013, and my predecessor, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, supported the Association's continued development throughout his tenure. It is fitting that the former Government Minister for the Gaeltacht and former Galway West TD, Éamon Ó Cuív, will launch this year's conference. Éamon demonstrated strong leadership by spearheading the introduction of the Official Languages Act 2003, which aimed to enhance the language rights of Irish-speaking and Gaeltacht communities.

The 2003 Act laid an essential foundation for improving public services in Irish. Nevertheless, more than 20 years after its enactment, the Irish language community continues to face major challenges in accessing fair and equitable public services in Irish from the State. The introduction of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 is a very positive step towards further improving public services in Irish. A significant provision of the amended 2021 Act was the 2024 publication of Ireland's first statutory National Plan for Public Services in Irish.

This international conference takes place at a crucial time to strengthen language rights within our jurisdictions. A key theme is the need to adapt and align public service delivery to meet the changing linguistic and societal needs of our language communities. The conference also highlights the importance of strategic workforce planning to ensure sufficient staff are proficient in our target languages to deliver high-quality public services. The conference will also focus on knowledge sharing across our jurisdictions on key legislative provisions to improve public services for language communities, including the success of the Language Standards System (Wales) and the Active Offer (Canada).

I wish to express my gratitude to Minister Dara Calleary TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and to his department's management team for their support and funding for this Conference. Additionally, this Conference is included in the programme of events for the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which is taking place concurrently.

I sincerely thank the IALC's Executive and Associate Professor John Walsh of the University of Galway for their time and support in organising this conference over the past year. I also express my appreciation for Máire Ní Neachtain's service as conference rapporteur.

Additionally, I wish to remember Professor Colin Williams, a close friend of the Office of the Irish Language Commissioner and the IALC, who passed away in April this year. This booklet also includes a tribute to him.

Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe is an ideal venue for the official launch of this Conference, as the national theatre has a century-long tradition of supporting our national and first official language and indigenous performance arts. I appreciate the University of Galway making its excellent facilities available for the Conference lectures, and I thank the University's Irish Language Officer, Caroline Ní Fhlatharta, for her continued support throughout the planning process.

Finally, I must thank all my colleagues at Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga for working hard to ensure the success of this important Conference. I sincerely hope everyone derives benefit from and appreciates the conference. I extend my best wishes to all participants for success in their future endeavours to safeguard and enhance our cherished languages and the linguistic rights of our respective language communities.



An Coimisinéir Teanga, Chairperson of the IALC

IALC MEMBERSHIP

- Welsh Language Commissioner / Comisiynydd y Gymraeg (Wales) – **Efa Gruffudd Jones**
<https://www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/>
- Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada / Commissaire aux langues officielles du Canada (Canada) – **Kelly Burke**
<https://www.clo-ocol.gc.ca>
- Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick / Commissaire aux langues officielles du Nouveau-Brunswick (Canada) – **Shirley C. MacLean**, Kings Counsel (Vice-Chair IALC)
<https://www.officiallanguages.nb.ca>
- French Services Language Commissioner – Ontario / Commissaire aux services en français de l'Ontario (Canada) – **Carl Bouchard**
<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca>
- Commissioner of the French Language / Le Commissaire à la langue française (Canada) – **Dr. Benoît Dubreuil**
<https://www.commissairelanguefrancaise.quebec>
- Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (Interim) / Commissaire aux langues autochtones par intérim (Canada) – **Candice St-Aubin**
<https://commissionforindigenousslanguages.ca>
- Languages Commissioner of Nunavut / Uqauhinut Kamisinaup Havakvia Nunavunmi (Canada) – **Karliin Aariak**
<https://www.langcom.nu.ca>
- Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories / Commissaire aux langues territoires du Nord-Ouest (Canada) – **Krista Carnogursky**
<https://www.olc-nt.ca>
- Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga (Ireland) – **Séamas Ó Concheanainn** (Chair IALC)
<https://www.coimisineir.ie>
- Ombudsman of the Chartered Community of Navarra / Nafarroako Arartekoaren (Spain) – **Patxi Vera Donazar**
<https://www.defensornavarra.es/eu>

- Office of the Language Commissioner / Zyra e Komisionerit për gjuhët (Kosovo)
– *Without a commissioner at present*
- Catalan Ombudsman / Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya (Spain) –
Dr. Esther Giménez-Salinas i Colomer
<https://www.sindic.cat>
- Ombudsman of the Basque Country / Ararteko (Spain) –
Dr. Mikel Mancisidor
<https://ararteko.eus.eu>
- An Coimisinéir Gaeilge, (Northern Ireland) – **Dr. Pól Deeds**
<https://www.coimisineir.org/en>
- Commissioner for the Ulster Scots & the Ulster British Tradition / Commissary o
tha Ulstèr-Scotch and Ulstèr-Bitisch Heirskip (Northern Ireland) – **Lee Reynolds**
- Director at the Language Implementation Agency of the Republic of North
Macedonia / Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut Agjencia për Zbatimin e Gjuhës
që e Flasin së Paku 20% e Qytetarëve të Republikës së Maqedonisë së Veriut –
Granit Osmani
<https://www.apj.gov.mk/>

IALC Executive:

- **Séamas Ó Concheanainn**
Executive Member and Chair
- **Shirley C. MacLean**
Executive Member and Vice-Chair
- **Efa Gruffudd Jones**
Executive Member
- **Carl Bouchard**
Executive Member

AGENDA

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Venue: Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe (National Irish Language Theatre)

8:00pm Official Launch - Éamon Ó Cuív (The former Government Minister who championed and initiated Ireland's Official Languages Act)

Entertainment featuring traditional performing arts - Irish sean-nós singing, dancing, and music.

Wednesday 9 September 2026

Venue: ILAS Building, University of Galway,
(Upper Newcastle, Galway H91 C7DK)

9:15am Registration

9:30am Welcome - IALC Chair, Séamas Ó Concheanainn, An Coimisinéir Teanga

9:45 –
11:00am

Session 1: 'Strengthening Language Rights - Lessons from Yesterday, Strategies for Today'

- Osian Llywelyn – Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner (Language Standards), Wales
- Séamas Ó Concheanainn, An Coimisinéir Teanga, Ireland (National Workforce Planning)
- Pól Deeds – An Coimisinéir Gaeilge, Northern Ireland (The linguistic landscape)

Session Moderator: Dr. John Walsh, Associate Professor,
Department of Irish, University of Galway, Ireland

11:00 –
11:30am

Coffee / Tea Break

11:30am – 1:00pm	Session 2: ‘Improving access to public services by aligning delivery models with the needs of language communities’ Contributions on: • Decentralising Public Services / Distributed Public Service Models: Tomás Ó Siocháin, CEO, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Development Agency for An Ghaeltacht (Official Irish-Speaking Districts) • Building Public Trust – ‘The Active Offer’ Perspectives from Canada: • Kelly Burke: Commissioner of the Official Languages, Canada • Shirley C. MacLean (KC): Commissioner / Commissaire of the Official Languages for New Brunswick • Carl Bouchard: French Language Services Commissioner - Ontario Ombudsman
1:00 – 2:00pm	<i>Lunch – ILAS Building, University of Galway</i>
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Session Address by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD Session 3: ‘Language Rights in the European Sphere: From National Recognition to EU-Level Engagement’ In association with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and with the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) Panel discussion with • Roger Serra: Vice Chair of the NPLD and Director General for Language Policy in the Technological and Audiovisual Sectors, Government of Catalonia (Spain) • Marco Torresin: International Relations Officer at the Regional Agency for the Friulian Language (ARLeF) (Italy) • Hasier Morras: Head of the Basque Language Development Service in Public Administrations, Euskarabidea - Government of Navarre (Spain) • Eke Folkerts: Deputy for Language and Language Education, Province of Fryslân (The Netherlands) Moderator: Eoin Ó Droighneáin, Principal Officer, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

3:30pm – 3:40pm	Coffee / Tea Break
3:40pm – 4:20pm	Session 4: 'Drafting Bilingual Language Rights Legislation Opportunities and Challenges - Insights from Kosovo' Mentor Borovci, Director of Legal Office within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo
4:20pm – 5:00pm	Session 5: 'Strengthening Irish Language Rights through Commercial Advertising' Páidí Ó Lionáird, Communications Manager, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, Ireland
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Conference wrap-up - key takeaways and actionable next steps (Rapporteur - Máire Ní Neachtain)
8:00pm	<i>Conference Dinner – Galmont Hotel</i>

Thursday 10 September 2026

9:30am	Members travel by bus from Galway City to An Spidéal, Co. Galway
10:30am – 12:30pm	IALC 2026 AGM Venue: Stiúideo Cuan, An Spidéal
12:30 – 1:30pm	<i>Lunch - Stiúideo Cuan</i>
	Close of IALC 2026 Conference Events
Return bus trip to Galway City for onward destinations	



Éamon Ó Cuív

Éamon Ó Cuív is a former TD and Government Minister who was first elected in the 1992 general election. He was subsequently elected in every election since then until he retired from national politics before the 2024 general election.

He was the Minister for the Gaeltacht who championed the Official Languages Act, 2003 – the Act under which the Office of the Irish Language Commissioner was established a year later.

From 1989 to 2024 Éamon was very much involved in political life in Ireland:

1989-1992 – a member of Seanad Éireann

1992-2024 – a Deputy in Dáil Éireann

1997-2000 – Minister of State in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands

2002-2010 – Minister in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

2010-2011 – Minister for Social Protection

He is originally from Dublin and received his primary and secondary education there. He was awarded a BSc by University College Dublin.

He had a keen interest in the Irish language even though he was not studying it – he worked on a voluntary basis with Irish language organisations, especially Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League). During that time he was a member of the Business Committee of Conradh na Gaeilge.

When he graduated he spent a short period working with Conradh na Gaeilge and then with Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge.

At the end of 1973 he left Dublin and moved to Gaeltacht Dhúiche Sheoigheach where he worked as manager of the newly established community development cooperative - Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach.

The Cooperative had two aims: promote the economic welfare of the area and strengthen the Irish language in the area.

He stayed there until he became involved in politics fulltime at the end of 1991.

He is still active in voluntary committees, as a member of the Commemorations Advisory Committee and as Chair of Comhairle na Tuaithe.



Louis de Paor's most recent works are *Cé a Mharaigh Emma Mhic Mhathúna* (Éabhlóid 2024) and *Grá fiar/Crooked love* (Bloodaxe 2022) which includes a recording of his collaboration with Dana Lyn, *One day/Lá dá raibh*, a bilingual performance using poetry and music to present a day in the life of an imagined village in the West of Ireland. The recording was broadcast by Lyric FM and Raidió na Gaeltachta in 2021 and awarded a Gold Medal at the New York Festivals Radio Awards in 2022. A new collection *Scáil an Chaorthainn* will be published by Éabhlóid later this year.

'While poetry should always be romantic (there never is a practical reason for the stuff), he always avoided the romanticism of the mushy line and the soft tone and the fuzzy diction. There was always something wire-taut about his work. No floss here.'
Alan Titley (The Irish Times)

The group **Ceoltóirí Óga Chois Fharraige** was founded in 2012 to give five or six local children the opportunity to play music together. Gradually more children began to attend the sessions and now there are around 70 young people registered with the group. It must be said that there are also some great singers in the group! It is quite a loose organisation and the parents are the ones who look after the sessions and any events they hold and, of course, they operate only through Irish.



Síofra Ní Mhóráin is a piper, flautist and sean-nós singer. Born and raised in North Dublin, she is in her third year at Galway University studying Irish and Communication Studies. An accomplished musician, Síofra has gained recognition, winning prizes in many competitions such as Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and Oireachtas na Samhna.

SESSION 1

Strengthening Language Rights: Lessons from Yesterday, Strategies for Today



Moderator:

Dr. John Walsh

*Associate Professor,
Department of Irish,
University of Galway,
Ireland*

Dr John Walsh is an Associate Professor of Irish at the School of

Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Galway. His areas of expertise include 'new speakers' of minoritised languages, language policy, minority language media, multilingualism, language and sexuality, language and socioeconomic development and Irish language archives. Dr Walsh's PhD on the influence of the Irish language on Ireland's socio-economic development was awarded by Dublin City University (2006). He holds an MA in International Relations (Sociology, Law, Political Economy), also from DCU (1999), and a BA in Irish and Welsh (1992) from University College Dublin.

From 2023-2025, Dr Walsh worked at a senior level with Foras na Gaeilge, the all-island agency for the promotion of Irish. Previously he spent two periods as Vice-Dean in the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, University of Galway. Before coming to Galway in 2025, Dr Walsh worked as a lecturer in Irish at Dublin City University, as a news editor for the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in Brussels and as a journalist in Irish, English and Welsh with various broadcasters in Ireland and Wales.



Séamas Ó Concheanainn

*An Coimisinéir
Teanga, Ireland
Chair, IALC*

Séamas Ó Concheanainn was appointed as the Language

Commissioner by the former President of Ireland Mícheál D. Ó hUigín in December 2023.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga functions as a National Ombudsman Office and Compliance Agency to uphold language rights as prescribed under the Official Languages Acts 2003, as amended. It is independent of any third party in the performance of its statutory duties. OCT monitors public bodies' compliance with the provisions of the Act. The Office also investigates complaints where it is believed that public bodies have failed to comply with the Act or with any other statutory enactment that contains provisions relating to the status or use of Irish in the provision of public services in the Irish language. The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 amends the principal 2003 Act, introducing new provisions to strengthen and safeguard the rights of the Irish-speaking community.

Before his appointment as An Coimisinéir Teanga, Séamas was the Director of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga from 2020 to 2023. Previous to this, he held various leadership roles in higher education, language planning, and community.



Dr. Pól Deeds
*An Coimisinéir
Gaeilge, Northern
Ireland*

Dr. Pól Deeds was appointed as the first Irish Language Commissioner for Northern Ireland in

2025 by the First and Deputy First Ministers.

Pól is from Belfast and he lives in the west of the city with his family. He attended St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School and Ulster University, Coleraine. It was there in 2000 that he gained an honours degree in the Humanities, with Irish as his main subject, and then a PhD in Irish Studies in 2005.

Pól previously worked as CEO of An Droichead, an Irish language organisation that promotes the development of Irish language and culture in south Belfast, and more recently as Deputy Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge, the cross-border body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland.



Osian Llywelyn
*Deputy Welsh
Language
Commissioner
& Director of
Regulation*

Osian Llywelyn is the Director responsible for setting a strategic

direction for the Welsh Language Commissioner's regulatory work. The job includes setting and enforcing duties on organisations to use the Welsh language.

Originally from Pontypridd, he had his secondary education at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen before moving to study Law at Aberystwyth University. He enjoyed travelling around South America but has now settled in Cardiff for almost fifteen years.

Osian worked for the Welsh Language Board and the Welsh Language Commissioner where he was responsible for setting the first Welsh language standards for public bodies back in 2015. Osian has also worked as Head of Regulatory Policy for Qualifications Wales, the regulator of qualifications that are offered by recognised awarding bodies in Wales.

He enjoys following Swansea City Football Club, the Welsh national football team and loves collecting records.

SESSION 2

Improving Access to Public Services by Aligning Delivery Models with the Needs of Language Communities



Tomás Ó Síocháin
*CEO, Údarás
na Gaeltachta,
Development
Agency for An
Ghaeltacht*

Tomás Ó Síocháin is CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta, the

state agency that supports and develops Irish as the spoken language in the Gaeltacht region across seven counties of Ireland. Údarás supports communities and enterprise to sustain the region, language and its unique global heritage.

Tomás was, until 2022, CEO of the Western Development Commission, an Irish state agency supporting the development of Ireland's Western Region along the Atlantic coast. Prior to that he held a number of senior roles in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe | University of Galway and was a broadcast journalist, producer and editor with Irish national broadcasters RTÉ and TG4 between 1998 and 2013. A law graduate, he holds an MBA, a Higher Diploma in Applied Communications and is a non-executive director of GrowRemote and Future Mobility Campus Ireland.

He is Chair of the Advisory Board for the University of Galway Cairnes School of Business and Economics, a member of the National Hubs Network Steering Group and the National Remote Work Strategy Implementation Group. Formerly, he was the inaugural Chair of the Regional Skills Forum West, Chair of the WDC Whitaker Institute Remote Work Expert Group and an External Assessor for the Broadcast Authority of Ireland's Sound and Vision Fund.



Kelly Burke
*Commissioner of
Official Languages
Canada*

Kelly Burke took office as Canada's eighth Commissioner of Official Languages on March 30, 2026.

A native of Cornwall, Ontario, and a member of both the English- and French-speaking communities, Kelly Burke embodies Canada's linguistic duality. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor in Education from Queen's University, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Ottawa and a Master of Laws from York University with a specialization in labor law and alternative dispute resolution. Ms. Burke has been a member of the Law Society of Ontario since 1996.

For more than 25 years, the former French immersion teacher has dedicated her professional life to advancing official languages and defending language rights. An experienced bilingual lawyer and administrator, she has held several senior positions in Ontario's public service, including at the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and the Ministry of Francophone Affairs, where she co-chaired the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

From 2020 to 2023, Ms. Burke served as Ontario's Commissioner of French Language Services and as Vice Chair of the International Association of Language Commissioners before taking on leadership roles in the post-secondary sector.

Recognized for her leadership, her ability to engage in dialogue and her commitment to a truly bilingual Canada, Ms. Burke is approaching her new role with a focus on modernizing the language policy framework and on strengthening community vitality across the country.



Shirley C. MacLean KC
*Commissioner of
Official Languages
for New Brunswick*

Shirley C. MacLean is from Baddeck, Nova Scotia. She grew up in an Anglophone family

that valued the importance of Canada's both official languages. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Francis Xavier University in 1984 she attended Laval University in Québec City to learn French.

In 1990 Shirley C. MacLean obtained her law degree from the University of New Brunswick. Following this she practiced law with a Fredericton law firm and in 1994 joined the Law Society of New Brunswick as its Director of Admissions.

In 2003 Ms. MacLean became the Society's Deputy Executive Director and Registrar of Complaints. Throughout her years with the Law Society Ms. MacLean developed an expertise in professional regulation and discipline which included investigating and prosecuting numerous complaints, discipline matters and regulatory issues. In December 2013, Shirley C. MacLean was appointed Queen's Counsel, a distinction awarded in recognition of outstanding service to her profession. Ms. MacLean has been the Chair of the Mental Health Tribunal in Fredericton since 2017.

Very involved in her community, Shirley C. MacLean is a Board member of the Healing and Cancer Foundation, Chair of the Law Society of New Brunswick Truth and Reconciliation Education Committee, a member of a Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee, Peer Navigator in oncology with Horizon Health authority, and a tenor drummer with the Society of Saint Andrew's Pipe Band.

Shirley C. MacLean was appointed Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick on November 22, 2019. Taking office on January 2, 2020 for a seven-year term, she is the first anglophone to hold this position.

The Commissioner of Official Languages for New Brunswick is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. Her role is to investigate, report on and make recommendations with regard to compliance with the Official Languages Act. She is also responsible for the promotion of the advancement of both official languages in the province.



Carl Bouchard
*French Language
Services
Commissioner*

Carl Bouchard was appointed as Commissioner in December 2023, after serving nine months as

Interim Commissioner. He joined the Office of the Ombudsman executive leadership as Director of Operations for the French Language Services Unit team in February 2020. Since then, he has played an integral role in developing recommendations to improve the provision of French language services in Ontario, including through Annual Reports and investigative reports into Laurentian University's cuts to French-language programming (2021), and into unilingual out-of-home government advertising regarding health services (2024).

Prior to working with the Ombudsman, Carl served as Director of Policy for the Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs since 2015, where he helped develop legislation and policies across various ministries to improve French language services in Ontario. He has negotiated numerous federal, provincial and territorial funding and collaboration agreements and has contributed to raising the international profile of Ontario's Francophonie.

A graduate in journalism from the University of Ottawa, Carl has worked with various media organizations, including Groupe Média TFO and CBC/Radio-Canada, where he produced and delivered news content in Ontario and across the country. He values the development of inclusive and safe work environments.



**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Rural and Community
Development and the Gaeltacht

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht is the state ministry in Ireland responsible for the State's policy in relation to the Irish language – to support the language, to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region) and to assist the sustainable development of island communities.

The Department funds Údarás na Gaeltachta, the Office of the Language Commissioner and co-funds Foras na Gaeilge.

The Department has overarching responsibility for implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 – a holistic, integrated approach consistent with international best practice.

The Department, representing Ireland, is a member of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD). NPLD is a European wide network working in the field of language policy and planning for Constitutional, Regional and Small-State Languages (CRSS) across Europe.



Address by the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,

Dara Calleary TD

Dara Calleary is the Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. He was appointed to these roles on 23 January 2025. Before this, he served as Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

A native of Ballina, Dara Calleary has been a TD for Mayo since first being elected at the 2007 General Election.

He was previously Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with responsibility for Labour Affairs from 2009-2011 and Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Finance with responsibility for Public Service Transformation from 2009-2011. He served as Minister for Agriculture and as Government Chief Whip in 2020.

Dara served as Deputy Leader of Fianna Fáil from 2018-2020 and has also served as Spokesperson on Justice, Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Public Expenditure and Reform and Social Protection portfolios.

Prior to entering politics Dara was involved in the banking and business sectors. Dara studied Business and Politics at Trinity College Dublin and attended St Muredach's College Ballina and St. Oliver Plunkett National School.

SESSION 3

Language Rights in the European Sphere: From National Recognition to EU-Level Engagement

In association with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and with the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD)



Moderator:
Eoin Ó Droighneáin
*Principal Officer,
Department of Rural
and Community
Development and
the Gaeltacht*



Roger Serra Puig
*Vice Chair of the
NPLD and Director
General for
Language Policy in
the Technological
and Audiovisual
Sectors, Government
of Catalonia*

A native of An Spidéal in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking region) of Co. Galway in the west of Ireland, Eoin Ó Droighneáin is a Principal Officer in the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (Government of Ireland), where he has responsibility for National Language Strategies and Supports, and for Placenames.

Eoin spent several years working as a professional translator and interpreter in the language services industry, serving periods with Bord na Gaeilge (now Foras na Gaeilge) (1995-1997) and with the Translation Department in the Office of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) (1997-2001). He later spent twenty-one years (2001-2022) as Administrator of the Translation and Interpreting Unit in the University of Galway where he held teaching, research, administrative and strategic development roles.

Eoin served for many years as a member of the National Terminology Committee for Irish and was also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Review of the Official (Written) Standard for Irish, 2014-16.

The Irish Government's support for the status of Irish as an official language of the European Union and the development of Irish in the digital/technology sphere and in the language-based arts form part of his official remit.

Roger Serra Puig is a political scientist whose professional career has focused on language policy, technology and international affairs. He has worked as a lecturer at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, founded software development companies, and served as Director of the .cat Foundation.

He currently serves as Director General for Language Policy in the Technological and Audiovisual Sectors of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya) and is Vice-Chair of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).



Marco Torresin

International Relations Officer at ARLeF – the Regional Agency for the Friulian Language

Marco Torresin holds a Bachelor's degree

in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste and a Master's degree in European Studies from Europa-Universität Flensburg (Germany).

Throughout his professional career, he has developed expertise in institutional relations, European project development, and cooperation with international networks and organisations dedicated to the promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity. His professional interests focus on language policy, linguistic rights, and the role of European cooperation in strengthening the recognition and protection of regional and minority languages.



Hasier Morras

Head of the Basque Language Development Service in Public Administrations, Euskarabidea – Government of Navarra

Hasier Morras is a civil servant with the Government of Navarra, specialising in multilingualism and language policy. He has served in Early Childhood and Primary Education since 2007 and was Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Education at the Public University of Navarra from 2016 to 2019.

Between 2015 and 2019, he was Director of the Multilingualism and Arts Education Service at the Department of Education of the Government of Navarra.

Since 2019, he has been Head of the Basque Language Development Service in Public Administrations at Euskarabidea – the Navarra Institute of the Basque Language.



Eke Folkerts

Deputy for Language and Language Education, Province of Fryslân (The Netherlands)

Eke Folkerts is Deputy for Language and Language Education in the Executive Council of the Province of Fryslân. Before her appointment as deputy, Ms. Folkerts was chair of the association for young farmers in Fryslân.

She is currently responsible for the most ambitious administrative agreement on regional language policy, multilingual education, and initiatives promoting the use and visibility of the Frisian language. In her role, she works closely with educational institutions, public authorities and civil society organisations to strengthen Frisian within the education system and wider society.

SESSION 4

Drafting Bilingual Language Rights Legislation Opportunities and Challenges – Insights from Kosovo



Mentor Borovci
Director of Legal Office within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo

Mentor Borovci is a legal expert and senior public official with extensive experience

in legislative drafting, legal reform, human rights, and European integration. He holds a PhD in International Legal Sciences from the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”.

Since 2017, he has served as Director of the Legal Office within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, where he oversees the drafting, harmonisation, and quality control of Government legislation, ensuring its compliance with the Constitution, applicable legislation, legislative drafting standards, and the EU Acquis. He also coordinates the Government’s Legislative Programme and key legislative reform processes.

His work includes direct involvement in developing Kosovo’s institutional and legal framework for the linguistic harmonisation of legislation. He was a member of the working group responsible for preparing the Concept Document on Procedures for Linguistic Harmonisation and was a drafter of the secondary legislation through which the Linguistic Harmonisation and Control Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister was made operational.

Mr. Borovci is also the originator and leader of Kosovo’s electronic Legislative Drafting System (LDS), a comprehensive digital platform supporting the planning and drafting of legislation in Albanian, Serbian, and English. The system contributes to a more coordinated, transparent, and consistent legislative process across the three language versions.

SESSION 5

Strengthening Irish Language Rights through Commercial Advertising



Páidí Ó Lionáird
Communications Manager, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

Páidí Ó Lionáird is Communications Manager with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

(OCT) since 2022. There are two pillars to this work: informing the public about their rights and informing public bodies of their obligations.

As the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 2003, as amended are implemented, advice is formulated and shared with public bodies ensuring best practice. Section 10A, Advertising by public bodies being one such provision that commenced in October 2022 and with which Páidí has had a central role in its implementation and subsequent success.

Prior to joining OCT, Páidí was an award-winning broadcaster and journalist with RTÉ and TG4 for some 25 years. The corpus of his career in media extends beyond 4,000 hours of live programming and includes anchoring numerous elections, current affairs, entertainment, music and sports broadcasting.

He has taught communications and journalism at Atlantic Technology University (ATU) where he held Programme Chair for BA Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge. He was appointed Journalist in Residence at Dublin City University (DCU). He holds honours B.Ed., honours MA in media, H.Dip in PR, Dip. in World Religions.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Key Takeaways and Actionable Next Steps



Rapporteur:

Máire Ní Neachtain

Máire Ní Neachtain is from Baile an tSagairt in An Spidéal in the Cois Fharraige Gaeltacht. She is a former Head of the Irish Language Department and a former Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Arts in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick.

Her main research interests are Irish language sociolinguistics and Irish language drama. She is now permanently back in her native An Spidéal and can pursue both her academic interests and community activities.

She is very active as a volunteer in the Irish language scene in the Gaeltacht and in language and cultural organisations outside it.

She is Director and former Chairperson of the Cois Fharraige Language Planning Forum CLG that is responsible for the implementation of the Cois Fharraige language plan as part of the national language planning process that resulted from the Gaeltacht Act 2012.

Máire can often be heard on Irish language broadcast and video media as a commentator on contemporary Irish language and Gaeltacht affairs.



In Memory

Let us remember a good friend of the Association, Professor Colin Williams who has passed away

Professor Colin Williams, one of the most recognised international experts on minority language revitalisation, passed away in April 2026. Irish was one of the languages he researched during a long career of more than half a century, and he was closely involved in language policy north and south for many years.

Colin Williams was born in Barry, a coastal town near Cardiff in south Wales in 1950. He was one of the first generation to attend Welsh-medium education in the area in the 1950s and the cultural and linguistic network around these schools fostered a strong Welsh identity. From an early age, Colin was involved in social issues such as equality, development, conflict resolution and international relations, values rooted in his Christian faith. After completing an undergraduate degree in Commerce at Swansea University in the early 1970s, he undertook a PhD at that university on the link between language and nationalism. He spent some time studying at the University of Western Ontario, a period that fostered a lifelong affinity with Canada throughout his career. Colin received his first lectureship in the Department of Geography from Staffordshire University in 1976 and spent periods in North America in the 1980s, where he researched language policy in Quebec and other Canadian provinces. In 1993, he was appointed Professor of Sociolinguistics in the School of Welsh at Cardiff University. He established a research centre on language, planning and policy there and developed undergraduate and postgraduate modules on language policy in Wales and other countries.

Colin was a public scholar to the core and spent much of his life generously sharing his expertise with community organisations, public bodies and governments. When the Welsh Assembly was being established in the late 1990s, he chaired a committee that set out advice on the official use of Welsh there. In 2000, he was appointed a member of the Welsh Language Board as it was known at the time and was regularly involved with international organisations working for minority or language rights such as the OSCE and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity.

His involvement in working to resolve long-standing political conflicts was what gave him the greatest satisfaction during his career. Among them was the peace process in the North: since the 1990s Colin has worked with the cross-community organisation Iontaobhas Ultach and the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (headquartered in Dublin) on language and equality issues. He wrote position papers on group equality, language rights and cultural diversity which informed the provisions for the Irish language and Ulster Scots in the Good Friday Agreement.

He provided continuous advice to civil servants and politicians before and after the establishment of the Assembly. He worked with the Irish language organisation POBAL on drafts of an Irish Language Act for the North which was published in 2006 and 2012 and laid a strong foundation for the lively community campaign that flourished thereafter. He was very pleased that a language act was finally been passed in the north, although he was well aware of its weaknesses.

Since the late 1970s, Colin has been a regular visitor to Ireland, where he has worked with various Irish language organisations on research. Together with the late Peadar Ó Flatharta, he took part in pioneering research into language legislation and had a long-standing relationship with the Office of Irish Language Commissioner. In 2013 Peadar Ó Flatharta, Seán Ó Cuirreáin and he organised an international conference on language rights in Dublin, an event that established the International Association of Language Commissioners (IALC). He was one of the team appointed by FIONTAR, Dublin City University to advise the Irish Government on the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language. Although Colin retired from Cardiff University in 2015, he continued to be active in research and scholarship as an associate professor at the University of Cambridge and other academic institutions.

Colin had a deep expertise in a wide range of academic areas and could draw on all the social sciences to support his in-depth analysis of language matters. I had the privilege of being part of the team that edited a booklet in his honour, *Language, Policy and Territory* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). The essays in that book dealt with language policy and planning in the contexts that Colin was most familiar with: Wales, Canada, Ireland, Scotland and Catalonia. He wrote innumerable books and articles throughout his life and less than a year ago his most recent academic work was published, *Official Language Regimes* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025). It provides a comprehensive discussion on the situation of Irish among other languages. Another book by him is yet to come on the same themes, that was completed before his death.

Colin had been plagued by motor neurone disease for the last few years and it is a testament to his bravery and courage that he completed those last books when he could only write with one thumb. He was a hero in every way: he wasn't one for academic snobbery; he treated everyone equally and supported other researchers generously. He often set me on the right track in times of need and no one else has had as much influence on me as a researcher. May he rest in peace, and sincere condolences to his widow Meryl and son Rhodri.

Cysga'n dawel Colin, gyfaill y galon gynnes.

Dr John Walsh

www.languagecommissioners.org

