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Education Department
Cultural Policy
Scots Executive
1-A North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

5t Mairch 2007

Guid Maister Ansdell,

Language Strategy Consultation (Ref. Nummer 6)

Please fund the enclosit Respondent Information Form alang wi a copy o ma repone as speirt for.

Tak tent that the SAE ye speak about maun hiv drappit oot in the post.

Wi guidwill,

Robert Fairnie.

Guid Sir,

Whaur the Scots language is concairned, A dinnae agree that the language initiatives described in the proponed Scottish Language Strategy is the richt ettles for forderin thon language in Scotland for the follaein raisons:-

Ye threap that Scots isnae an “endangered” language yet mony fowk haes threapit for years that about 30 guid Scots words is tint wi ilka succeedin generation an the language is aye the puirer for it. In fact Scottish educationists blawed about this in the 20t century an ae report threapit that ‘Scottish Education could be considered successful if every generation of children was less Scottish in awareness, language and identity’. The bairns at the schuil the day disnae hae the same reinge o Scots vocabular as the bairns that A gaed tae the schuil wi in the 1930s - 1940s.

Like Michael Forsyth’s last Scottish Office in the mid 1990s, ye threap that the Scots language is an important pairt o Scotland’s cultural heirship an juist like Michael Forsyth’s National Guidelines on the English language for the 5 – 14 year aulds, ye advocate the inclusion o Scots an Scots literature in the schuil curriculum (Tak tent - aw Scots literature isnae aye written in Scots). But as ye aye keep on pyntin oot tae us, the Scots curriculum isnae prescriptive sae ye can “recognise” the importance o the language tae oor cultural heirship an “advocate” the inclusion o the language intae the curriculum till the coos comes hame an, juist like in Michael Forsyth’s day, naethin will chyngae an you ken that. Aw the things that ye “recognise”, “advocate” an “respect” in this Strategy haes been on the agenda syne about 1995 an nane o thaim haes been generally introduced intae the Scottish Education system yet.

Professor Joe LoBianco, an expert on the survival o minority languages frae Australia, said efter a visit tae Scotland that, when a government talks a lot about uphaudin a minority language but disnae dae onythin positive tae uphaud it, then that government daes hae a sleekit secret agenda for that language an that’s tae juist leave it alane an howp that it dees oot on its ain oot o neglect. Whaur Scots is concairned, the abuin Strategy wad seem tae faw richt intae this category an the Professor’s threap wad seem tae be a brow guid description o’t.

Tae evyte the abuin weirin awa o the Scots language, bairns at the schuil the day shuid be learnt Scots in sic a positive wey that they end up juist as literate in Scots (able tae speak, read an write the language) as they are in English. Scots shuid be treated as the language it is an kivvert in the Education budget like aw the ither languages in the curriculum an no as a couthy airt form kivvert bi the SAC. Scots in education shuid be treated as a language in its ain richt an no as pairt o English. It shuid kythe as a subject in aw the exams for the current certificate coorses. Aw linguistic discrimination in Scotland shuid be redd oot an Scots, Gaelic an English shuid aw be gien the same meisure o positive government uphaud baith in an oot o education an in siller an ither resources as weel. A wey throu the non-prescriptive nature o the Scottish curriculum shuid be fund for Scots the same wey as it wis fund for Gaelic an English. The Executive haes the pouer tae dae this if it wants tae.

A raicent palmie that the Scots Executive got via the British Government frae the “Comatee o Experts” o the European Charter For Regional Or Minority Languages, threapit:-

“The Committee of Experts recommends that the British authorities take account of all its observations and, as a matter of priority – create conditions for the use of Scots in public life, through the adoption of a language policy and concrete measures, in co-operation with the

speakers of the language.”

A dinnae think that onythin tae dae wi Scots in this proponed Language Strategy cuid be described as onythin like the “concrete measures” the CoE haes in mind an A doot they’ll think the same an aw.

Robert Fairnie.

(Thae are ma ain pairsonal consaits an A've nae objection tae thaim bein makit public)

Wi guid will,

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Sent frae the Honest Toun	Secretar o Scots Tung
bi R. Fairnie	0131-665-5440

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27 Stoneyhill Avenue
Musselburgh
EH21 6SB

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Matthews B (Barry)

From: R. Fairnie [rfairnie@btinternet.com]
Sent: 07 February 2007 22:38
To: National Language Strategy
Subject: Scotland's Language Strategy Consultation

 This email has been received from an external party and
 has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

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