



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

23 Lùnastal 2019

Alasdair
MacCaluim

Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament – being spoken and being heard – Alasdair MacCaluim, Gaelic Development Officer





Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament

- Gaelic and BSL
- The history of Gaelic
- The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005
- My work at the Scottish Parliament
- What we can learn from each other





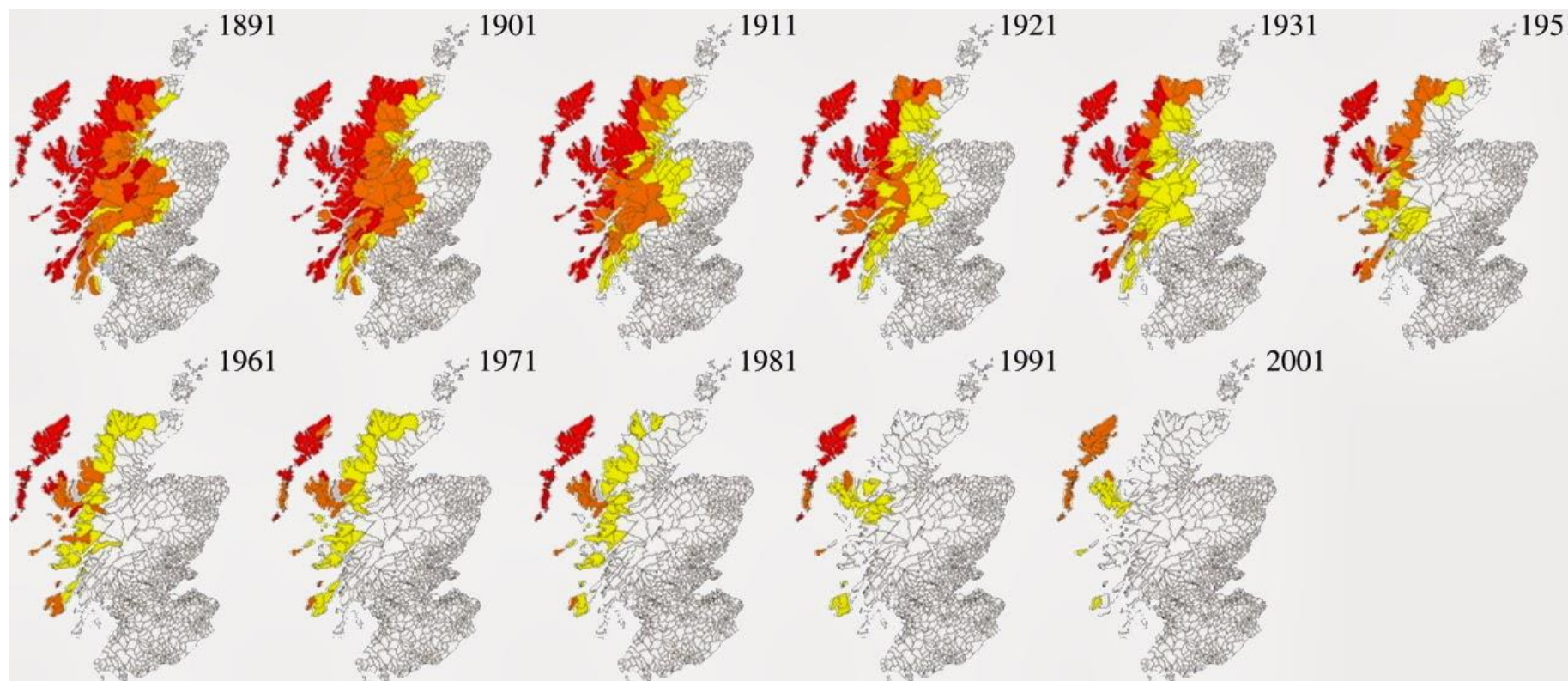
Gaelic in Scotland

- Gaelic was once the majority language in Scotland – it was at its strongest between the 10th and 13th centuries
- Gaelic has been spoken as a native language all over what is now Scotland with the only exceptions of Orkney and Shetland
- This can be seen from place-name evidence





Gaelic's decline post Education Act (1872)





The Gaelic Revival!

- First attempts in late 19th and early 20th century
- Main efforts made from 1980s: Establishment of Gaelic education, Gaelic organisations, Gaelic TV
- Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- Literature/writing





The Gaelic Revival

- 2011 – decline more or less halted
- Increased numbers of people able to read/write/speak Gaelic
- Increase in younger people speaking Gaelic due to Gaelic education
- Gaelic now almost 50/50 split between Highlands and Lowlands





The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- “Equal respect”
- National Plan for Gaelic
- Gaelic Language Plans



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Gaelic in the Parliament



- Publications
- Social media
- Correspondence
- Education sessions
- Bilingual signs





Challenges

- Uptake – letting people know about services
- Uptake – lack of confidence by fluent speakers and learners in their language skills
- The Esperanto dilemma





The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



A' tarraing air an aon ràmh – “rowing with the same oar” – Gaelic and BSL

- Gaelic awareness training
- “Active Offer”
- Mainstreaming – boring but important!
- Friendly face at the parliament
- Learning from each other





The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Contact us

Alasdair MacCaluim/ Marc Mac an Fhile

Gaelic Officers

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

gaidhlig@parliament.scot

0131 348 5395

www.parlaimaid-alba.org

Twitter - @ParlAlba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba