

# Permanent North American *Gaeltacht*

1. A place where Irish is spoken.
2. A place where Irish is taught.
3. A place where members can celebrate Irish heritage in the Irish language.
4. A place where members can spend their holidays in an Irish-speaking environment.
5. A place where families come to nurture Irish among their children.
6. A place where public Irish language gatherings take place: immersion weekends, immersion weeks, and immersion months.
7. A place where public Irish language courses are run, including intensive courses for fluency.
8. A place where Irish language summer camps for grade school children are run.
9. A place where credit courses for high school students are run.
10. A place where every necessary learning resource in Irish is located: books, tapes, films, Irish speakers, *etc.*
11. A place where the spirit of the early Irish nation, dissipated following the Flight of the Earls (September 1607), exists as the primary guiding philosophy.
12. A place to host Irish speakers from Ireland and other parts of the world.
13. A place from which Irish culture may be promoted, including language, music drama, dance, art, sport, and literature.
14. An institution to draw together representatives from different Irish language organizations, and coordinate Irish language events.
15. A place where the history of the early Irish settlement in North America can be recognized and perpetuated.

## General Objectives of the *Gaeltacht*:

1. To nurture the Irish language as the normal medium of communication between members.
2. To organize events to promote the Irish language.
3. To encourage the use of Irish among the North American community.
4. To encourage the teaching of Irish in the official educational system at every level: nurseries, primary schools, high schools, and universities.
5. To preserve a connection with Irish speakers in Ireland.
6. To cooperate with organizations working on behalf of the Irish language, Irish culture and Irish heritage.
7. To promote the development of local businesses in the area of the *Gaeltacht* that supports the aims of the *Gaeltacht*.
8. To publish Irish language materials.