

DONEGAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Donegal will be the location for a Peoples' Assembly. Details of the event will be released later following the devastating explosion in Cresslough and the deaths of 10 people and others injured. Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald who visited Cresslough and met with families extended condolences to the "families and friends of those who tragically lost their lives and those who were injured."



UNITY NEWS

#TIME4UNITY
#AM LE HAONTACHT

NUAHT NA HAONTACHTA

OCTOBER DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2022



Declan Kearney MLA, Paul Maskey MP, John Finucane MP, Aisling Reilly MLA

Belfast Peoples Assembly – Have your Say

The Belfast People's Assembly is the first in a planned series of such Assemblies. It will be held in the Waterfront Hall on Wednesday 12th October. As Unity News goes to print the event is now fully subscribed and it has received around 80 submissions.

Along with the Ireland's Future event in Dublin this too is evidence of the growth in interest around constitutional change and Irish Unity.

The aim of the Sinn Féin 'Commission on the Future of Ireland' and the organising of People's Assemblies is to intensify the conversation about constitutional change and a united Ireland and to encourage citizens in all sectors of society to engage in it.

As the headline for the series of Sinn Féin events states – 'The New Ireland is for Everyone – Have Your Say'.

As part of the process of encouraging dialogue and seeking answers to issues of interest and concern to citizens, Sinn

Féin believes the Irish government should organise a Citizen's Assembly where these matters can be discussed.

Sinn Féin National Party Chair Declan Kearney, who is also the Chair of the Commission on the Future of Ireland said:

"The Belfast People's Assembly this Wednesday will be followed by a Donegal People's Assembly on 24th November in the Mount Errigal Hotel in Letterkenny. Registration for attendance at this will open shortly. Ireland's Future also plans a Belfast event for 23rd November.

The Sinn Féin events and those of Ireland's Future are opportunities for people to have their say on the constitutional future of the island of Ireland.

We have already received submissions from a wide range of opinion. It's not too late to make a submission. You can do this at www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

ABAIR LEAT
HAVE YOUR SAY
HAE YER SPAKE
THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE

BELFAST PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

WATERFRONT HALL
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12th
7pm-9pm

THE COMMISSION ON
THE FUTURE OF IRELAND


www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

SAVE THE DATES:



Waterfront Hall
on 12th October.
Mount Errigal
Hotel, Letterkenny
on November 24th.

#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

IRELAND'S FUTURE TOGETHER WE CAN

Ireland's Future is well named. Its landmark event in Dublin was all about the future. It was an ambitious project. Over thirty participants addressed 5,000 citizens. Ten political parties with five party leaders along with leaders from civic society and the Arts talking about their desire to achieve a united Ireland. And music and dance as well. That's a remarkable achievement. The audience was excited, engaged and respectful. The tiered thousands listened attentively. Applauded enthusiastically. The number of young people who were present is a hopeful sign for the future. It was also good that An Tanaiste Leo Varadkar was there. Unfortunately that An Taoiseach was not. There were interesting and insightful contributions from all those who spoke and no attempt at point scoring by politicians who normally spend much of their time critiquing what others say. The conversations were genuine, thoughtful and clearly interested in engaging positively on these issues.

But most interest, understandably centred on those who acknowledged that they are from the cultural unionist section of our people and who are now on personal journeys of discovery. Ben Collins, Rev Karen Sethuraman, Andrew Clarke and Peter Adair explained why they have moved to advocating for unity.

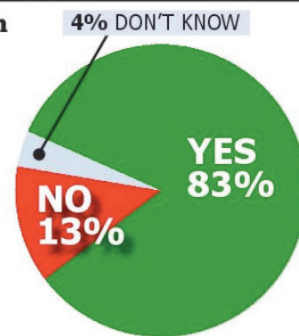
For Peter Adair it was the Brexit vote in 2016 that opened his mind to other possibilities. Andrew Clarke is for progressive politics on same sex marriage and women's health and didn't see his views reflected in political unionism. Ben Collins remarked that he and Rev. Karen Sethuraman are from East Belfast: "We want people from East Belfast to do well What we need to point out is that Britain doesn't really care for Northern Ireland, they don't want us."

The final speaker of the day was the actor James Nesbitt who spoke for all in the auditorium when he said that a referendum on unity requires an informed debate. Nesbitt said that solutions must emerge from a public discussion of the options for the future and should be led by the people. The 3Arena was buzzing as the thousands headed home. If you have been enthused by it then become active. If you're already active - do more. The Good Friday Agreement, with its provision for a unity referendum and its commitment to defend and protect the rights of all citizens, is the bedrock of the philosophy that drives this movement of United Irishers. So well done Ireland's Future. And thank you. Never mind the politicians, this was the keynote address of the night.



INISHOWEN INDEPENDENT READERS SURVEY

"If a referendum on a United Ireland were called in the Republic tomorrow, how would you vote?"



YES: 83%
NO: 13%
DON'T KNOW: 4%

Inishowen says **YES** to a United Ireland

At the beginning of October a survey carried out by the Inishowen Independent has found that 83% of respondents would vote yes if a referendum on Irish Unity was called tomorrow. The survey was prompted by the recent census figures which were published in the north and asked the same question that was posed in an Ireland Thinks opinion poll published in the Sunday Independent the previous weekend. 136 people took part in the survey. A breakdown of the vote is as follows:

112 said they'd vote **YES**
18 said they'd vote **NO**
4 said they **DON'T KNOW**

- 11%** of respondents were aged under 25
- 66%** of respondents were aged 25-55
- 21%** of respondents were aged over 55

74% of respondents were male
26% of respondents were female
The Sunday Independent opinion poll revealed that Sinn Féin has reached its highest ever level of support in polls at 37%. The Ireland Thinks poll was carried out three days after the budget when traditionally the government is expected to get a bounce. It reported that 57% would vote for a united Ireland if a referendum was held tomorrow. Commenting on the Inishowen poll Pdraig MacLochlainn TD said: "The reality of course is that no one is proposing a quick referendum. Sinn Féin and all of the parties and individuals campaigning for constitutional change and a United Ireland have made it clear that Irish reunification must be planned for. That is why Sinn Féin is calling for the Irish government to establish

a Citizen's Assembly. Sinn Féin in Donegal will be holding a People's Assembly in the Mount Errigal Hotel on 24th November as part of our contribution to the growing debate on unity.

YES CIARAN MCGUINNESS, BUNCRANA



THE POLL reflects the growing evidence that people are talking about Irish unity and constitutional change and the result validates my belief that we are now entering the final years of partition and that a unity referendum is not only achievable but is also winnable within this decade.

Regardless of whether you support a united Ireland or not, it's important that we have the conversation and that we plan and prepare for the referendum.

The Irish government has an obligation to do this and put in place the mechanisms needed to facilitate the discussion further, starting with a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity. ■

YES AOIFE NIC SHEAIN, INCH



WOULDN'T it be a wonderful thing to see the DUP sitting in the Dail, under the guidance of Michelle and Mary, with everyone working together to solve the problems of the entire country, from the Irish Language Act to health issues and mica houses? ■

SEANAD BACKS IRISH PASSPORT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH

The demand on the Irish government to establish a passport office in the North has been a priority for Sinn Féin Seanadóir Niall Ó Donnghaile, who is the party's leader in the Seanad.

Niall has been a Seanadóir since 2016 and has consistently argued for a passport office in the North. Last week he and party colleague Lynn Boylan proposed that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, "in light of the current backlog and volume of applications on the island of Ireland" including an unprecedented number from the North "consider as a matter of urgency opening a Passport Office in Belfast."

Speaking in the Seanad on 5th October Niall Ó Donnghaile pointed out that; "For the first time ever, last year, in the North more people applied for an Irish passport than for a British one."

He added: "The recent census figures in the North showed a 63.5% increase in Irish passport holders."

Seanadóir Lynn Boylan said that; "In 2020 the number of Irish passports being issued in the North surpassed British passports for the first time. Since then, the gap has

become even more pronounced, with the number of applications for Irish passports more than double the number for British passports in January and February of this year."

She pointed out that the night before the Seanad debate a motion was passed in

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in support of an Irish passport office. The motion enjoyed cross-party support with a majority of 27 in the Chamber from Sinn Féin, the SDLP, and Alliance voting in favour, while Derry City and Strabane District Council has already passed a motion calling for the same.

Commenting after the Seanad passed his motion Niall Ó Donnghaile said:

"I want to thank colleagues across the Seanad for supporting this motion. Opening a new office in the North just makes sense. It is needed and will improve access to services for a huge number of applicants. The Seanad has now endorsed this call – the government can no longer ignore the demand and need for this office and should move to open one as soon as possible."



Seanadóirí Niall Ó Donnghaile and Lynn Boylan

Planning for Constitutional Change

In the Assembly election Sinn Féin secured the largest number of first preference votes and the largest number of seats - a first for a non unionist party. Michelle O'Neill is now the First Minister Designate. Partition was supposed to make this impossible. Partition sucks. On all counts.

The recent census figures for the North attracted significant attention and analysis. It is remarkable that a century after partition, and the creation of the sectarian gerrymandered northern state that the population demographics have shifted so dramatically.

While many people today are reluctant to equate religion with political affiliation and national identity it is nonetheless a fact that the northern state was constructed on that basis. Two thirds of the population was Protestant and unionist. One third was Catholic and nationalist. In the years following partition the Unionist regime at Stormont set about entrenching its domination by creating an apartheid state in which Catholics/nationalists were discriminated against in employment and housing and tens of thousands were denied the vote in local government elections.

When the census figures were published ten years ago in December 2012 the unravelling of the sectarian headcount that was the basis for the northern state was already visible. When the question of identity was asked 40% of citizens registered as British-only. Another 8% identified as British and northern Irish. That meant that 48% of citizens in the North had some form of British identity. A far cry from the 66% of 1920.

Those who acknowledged in 2011 that they were Irish-only stood at 25% and the figure for those self-identifying as northern Irish-only was 21%. That was 46% of citizens identifying as Irish and not British.

Ten years later and the percentage identifying as British-only has dropped significantly to 32% while those who registered as British and northern Irish is unchanged at 8%. That means

that approximately 40% of citizens now identify as British. The comparison for those identifying as Irish-only shows a jump of 4% to 29%. Those who registered as northern Irish-only has remained unchanged at approximately 20%. In addition another 2% identified as Irish and northern Irish only. That brings the total identifying as Irish to 50.67%.

In addition, in the last six elections in the North political unionism has failed to secure an electoral majority. In every electoral contest since 2017 the combined unionist vote was less than a majority of votes cast. Put simply, the unionist electoral majority is gone.

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None of this means that winning the unity referendum provided for in the Good Friday Agreement is a dead cert or that Irish Unity is inevitable. What it does mean is that there are more and more citizens who want constitutional change. But it must be planned. For united Irelanders this presents an enormous opportunity and a huge challenge.

The Ireland's Future event in Dublin at the beginning of this month and the Belfast People's Assembly on 12th October, along with an Ireland's Future event in Belfast on 23rd November and a Donegal People's Assembly on the 24th November are all evidence of the growing determination of people to develop a strategy and encourage the necessary conversation around planning for future constitutional change.

Successful Sinn Féin delegation to the British Labour Party Conference

The British Labour Party Conference was back this year in Liverpool. The city that John Lennon once joked that most people in England thought was the 'capital of Ireland' - and it would be fair to say that the Sinn Féin delegation felt on 'home turf' for their stay.

Having attended seven Labour Party Conferences, this year certainly marked the highest number of fringe events of Ireland. The fringe circuit saw a range of meetings by Sinn Féin, Trademark Belfast, the SDLP, the Labour Party Irish Society, the Labour for Irish Unity campaign, the 'Labour Party NI' membership, and an exhibition of Troops Out Movement ephemera at The World Transformed festival. Social receptions were also held by the Embassy of Ireland to Great Britain and by RetailNI in collaboration with Queens University Belfast.

The Sinn Féin fringe meeting took place in its traditional slot on the Sunday evening. Unfortunately, the keynote speaker - First Minister designate Michelle O'Neill MLA - was unable to travel due to a last-minute viral infection. Chris Hazzard MP was available however to stay on and cover the rest of her engagements. The panel discussion was chaired by Francie Molloy MP and included the Labour Party Shadow Secretary of State, Peter Kyle MP, and Professor Jon Tonge of the University of Liverpool.

Peter Kyle had drawn some attention that Sunday morning when he confirmed that, if the British Labour Party were in power, he would set out the criteria required for calling a unity referendum. Speaking to the BBC's Sunday Politics, the British Shadow Secretary of State outlined, "If I become secretary of state and it is very clear those circumstances are emerging, I will set out in detail the criteria. I am not going to be a barrier if the circumstances emerge."

The fringe meeting was a resounding success and, due to high turn-out, the meeting room had already reached full capacity a full half-hour before the scheduled start time. A larger room had to be found to hastily relocate to. There was a lively discussion on the prospects of a unity referendum, with Professor Jon Tonge commenting, "When the Good Friday Agreement was signed, people did not think a border poll might be in any way be imminent and so it didn't really matter what the Good Friday Agreement said. It's beginning to matter and people want to know, well, when might this border poll happen? And let's have some criteria by which we can call a border poll."

The following evening, for the first time since the Labour Party Conference of 1998, a Sinn Féin representative was invited to address the Tribune Rally. The rally is generally considered the largest fringe event of the Party Conference and an annual tentpole event for the broader British labour movement. From the main stage in St George's Hall, Chris Hazzard MP advised that too often whenever the British Left "looked west" it tended to focus its attention on progressive struggles in Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba - though worthy causes they are - he challenged those assembled that "tomorrow, when you look west, see Ireland!"

Meanwhile, across town, Francie Molloy MP addressed a 'Rally for Irish Unity' hosted by the Labour for Irish Unity campaign group. The meeting was also addressed by Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, John McDonnell MP, and Professor Colin Harvey of Ireland's Future. The Mid Ulster MP said that "While meetings are great, we cannot afford to all go home tonight and say, 'that was a good meeting.' There needs to be a focussed campaign. And that'll be for you, in this room, to decide and to carry-out. Tonight should be remembered as just the beginning. The beginning of something larger. The beginning of a



meaningful debate and discussion, here in Britain, on the merits of Irish unification."

The Conference was also an opportunity to extend solidarity and support to international struggles and the delegation met with the Cuban Ambassador, Her Excellency Bárbara Montalvo Álvarez; the Palestinian Ambassador, Dr. Husam S. Zomlot; and the Colombian Senator, María José Pizarro Rodríguez, who provided an update on the new Petro administration. Francie Molloy also addressed a fringe meeting calling on the Turkish government to release Abdullah Öcalan, the Kurdish political leader.

Ultimately, the five days saw a successful programme of engagement. Mindful of the of the positive role that the British Labour Party played in helping to bring about the Good Friday Agreement, it was important that the largest party in Ireland was present for their annual conference. The delegation received a warm welcome and a fair hearing at each and every engagement.

The Conference itself was in high spirits, with many political commentators suggesting that the British Labour Party finally looks to be a 'government-in-waiting.' To what extent that is a consequence of Liz Truss's performance, as opposed to Keir Starmer, remains another matter.

Joe Dwyer,
Sinn Féin Political Organiser (Britain)



Call for Irish Unity in Gibraltar...



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

Athenry Crann na Saoirse Planting

Areas are continuing to plant Crann na Saoirse. Some in memory of comrades and others as a reminder of the key importance of Irish Unity to the future freedom and prosperity of the Irish people. As part of the programme of events by Sinn Féin to mark the 100th anniversary of the execution of Liam Mellows in December, Cllr Dermot Connolly planted a Crann na Saoirse in Athenry Community Park. Mairéad Farrell TD and SF Galway East Rep Louis O'Hara were also in attendance. The tree was planted within 100 metres of the house Liam Mellows lived in during the years 1915/1916 when he was training the Galway volunteers in advance of the Rising.

Mellows was a 1916 veteran, who opposed the treaty and partition. He fought in the Four Courts, was subsequently imprisoned and in his notes from Mountjoy Jail, he outlined his thoughts on the situation at that time. He advanced propositions and strategic methods that are generally applicable to national independence struggles and indeed to all broad democratic movements everywhere. Much of what he wrote may be just as valid today as it was then.

Speaking against the Treaty during the Treaty debate in 1922 Liam Mellows warned that; "men will get into positions, men will hold power and men who get into positions and hold power will desire to remain undisturbed..."

On the evening of December 7th 1922, the Free State Cabinet ordered the execution of four republican political prisoners, Rory O'Connor, Joe McKelvey, Dick Barrett and Liam Mellows. The following morning at 9am, the four were executed.

So, well done Galway Sinn Féin. Why not plant your own Crann na Saoirse? For your clann? Your hero? Your club? Your community groups? Yourself?



#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**



Rural

Communities

Stronger in a United Ireland

The Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity Tionnól na Saoránach ar Aontú na hÉireann

The Irish government has a responsibility to plan and prepare for the future and to work towards Irish Unity. It should convene an all-Ireland Citizens' Assembly to enable citizens to contribute to the discussion and begin setting out the trajectory towards unity. Rural communities must be facilitated to contribute to the Citizens' Assembly. A Sinn Féin government would establish a Citizens' Assembly without delay.

ABAIN LEAT HAVE YOUR SAY NA MEASURAS DO AONTUITHE

THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

Sinn Féin has established a Commission on the Future of Ireland. The Commission will host a number of public People's Assemblies across Ireland and it will accept submissions. The Commission will include Irish language Assemblies in Gaeltacht areas. Women's Assemblies and Youth Assemblies. There is also provision for specific initiatives on regional issues including private or public engagements. Initiatives involving the diaspora will be arranged once the Commission is underway in Ireland.

Join **Sinn Féin** today www.sinnfein.ie

[Facebook.com/sinnfein](https://www.facebook.com/sinnfein)
[Instagram/sinnfein](https://www.instagram.com/sinnfein)
[YouTube/sinnfein](https://www.youtube.com/sinnfein)

POBAIL NA TUAITHE NÍOS LAIDRE IN ÉIRINN AONTAITHE

RURAL COMMUNITIES

STRONGER IN A UNITED IRELAND

Irish unity will help sustain agriculture as an economic driver across the island and protect our international reputation as a world leader in agri-food production. A strong all island agri sector, increased investment and the provision of enhanced public services in rural communities are Sinn Féin priorities.

Sinn Féin #Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

Know your rights! See Sinn Féin's privacy policy at sinnfein.ie/privacy

Sinn Féin's marquee at the 2022 National Ploughing Championships that was held in Ratheniska, County Laois in September enjoyed an impressive flow of people throughout each day of the event. The attendance exceeded all previous years. The general reception during leadership visits and talks involving various sectors and stakeholders was overwhelmingly positive and it was clear from the way visitors interacted with people staffing the party's stalls that there is a clear appetite for a change of government and a sense that rural communities are being left behind.

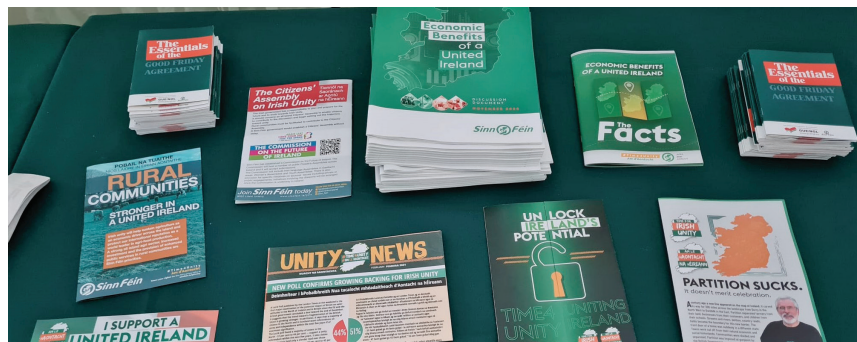
There was a dedicated United Ireland stall within the tent that contained information on Irish Unity and was staffed by activists who engaged with the public on the benefits of reunification and what must be done to achieve this objective.

The importance of an all-Ireland economy and the benefits for rural communities, farmers, diversification, meeting sustainable energy targets and the promotion and export of Irish produce was a big part of the public engagement. This included the production of an attractive and informative leaflet.

The consistent message from both Uachtarán Mary Lou McDonald and First Minister designate Michelle O'Neill was that Irish Unity will help sustain agriculture as an economic driver across the island and protect our international reputation as a world leader in agri-food production. The Sinn Féin leaders also made it clear that a strong all island agri sector, increased investment and the provision of enhanced public services in rural communities are priorities for Sinn Féin.

These points were emphasised by the leadership team in their extensive walkabout of stalls that included a number

of meetings with key stakeholders, as well as in the course of their media interviews. The significant footfall and the positive response to Irish Unity is an encouraging indication of the public mood and reflects the growing acceptance that Irish Unity will be good for rural Ireland.



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

SINN FÉIN IN USA AND CANADA

BY CIARAN QUINN,
SINN FÉIN'S NORTH AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE

"The Good Friday Agreement provides for referendums on Irish Unity, and I believe that they will happen in this decade. We must prepare for that day. The people of Ireland are ready. We are ready to be a united nation once again."

Mary Lou McDonald, speaking at the University of San Francisco

It is instructive to listen to political opponents and commentators relate to the Irish abroad. On St. Patrick's Day ministers traverse the globe celebrating the contribution of the Irish to their adopted homes. But when the Irish abroad express an opinion on Ireland they are dismissed.

A combination of arrogance and ignorance by commentators. The Irish abroad have been a vital part of our history, from Wolfe Tone landing in the US to defending the Good Friday Agreement in Brexit and all points in between. The Irish in Canada and the US will be central in the building of a peaceful, prosperous, new, and united Ireland. They are a vibrant part of our nation.

In September, Friends of Sinn Féin Canada and the USA hosted several visits with a focus on the opportunities of Irish Unity.

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald traveled

to San Francisco. In a packed schedule, she met with congressional leaders including Speaker Pelosi, Rep. Thompson, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, and members of the California State Assembly. The discussions centered on the changes in Ireland, the potential of Irish Unity, and the challenges of a British government acting unilaterally to undermine agreements on Brexit and legacy. The visit also offered an opportunity to meet with businesses and labour leaders. The engagement with the Irish American community was the highlight of the trip. A coming together of Irish cultural groups was hosted on the fantastically named Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. The University of San Francisco hosted a discussion on the Irish Unity. The discussion can be viewed here. (1) A Decade of Opportunity: Building a New and United Ireland - YouTube

The trip ended with a sold-out dinner in the United Irish Society Cultural Centre.

At the same time as Mary Lou was in San Francisco, the Sinn Féin leader in the Seanad Niall Ó Donnghaile was bringing the message of unity and opportunity to Vancouver and Calgary as part of a cross-Canada Unity Roadshow. Niall received an open door from political leaders and a warm welcome from the Irish Canadian community. Later in the month as part of the Unity Roadshow,

Michelle Gildernew travelled to the historic Celtic communities of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The eastern seaboard of Canada is our nearest Atlantic neighbour with enduring links to Ireland. Friends of Canada is a coast-to-coast effort. In the same week that Michelle was on the Atlantic coast of Canada, Gerry Kelly MLA travelled to Washington and New York. In Washington, he met with and brief congressional offices before traveling to New York to give a keynote address at the inaugural Martin McGuinness dinner.

"The ideas of fairness, equality, respect and diversity are the foundations for building a new and united Ireland and we are closer now to that goal than at any other time in our history." Gerry Kelly, Martin McGuinness Foundation Dinner. New York Sept. 2022

At the same time Sinn Féin is engaging regularly with political leaders on Capitol Hill and with the US administration. The big issues are Unity, Brexit and Legacy. The US has remained steadfast in its position that any threat to the Good Friday Agreement is unacceptable and will delay a US/British trade deal. Liz Truss, the British Prime Minister travelled to New York for the meeting of the UN General Assembly in September and admitted that there was little possibility for a trade deal with the USA in the short or medium term.



Niall Ó Donnghaile with Vancouver City Councillor Pete Fry and activist Alex O'Donnell



Mary Lou McDonald and Speaker Nancy Pelosi



Sen. Niall Ó Donnghaile at Friends of Sinn Féin Canada public meeting in Calgary



Gerry Kelly MLA in Canada



Michelle Gildernew and James Aylwood



Mary Lou McDonald in San Francisco

Cross Canada Irish Unity Roadshow for October

The Cross Canada Irish Unity Roadshow, having visited Québec in May, and Western Canada and Atlantic Canada in September, is now rolling into Ontario and Québec in October. Three cities are included in this part of the Roadshow.

On Saturday October 15, the Roadshow will stop in Montréal with guest speaker Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin's North American Representative. The event will be held in Hurley's Irish Pub.

On Thursday October 20, the Roadshow will be in Ottawa where there will be a Concert for Irish Unity. The guest speaker will be Sinn Féin MP John Finucane. The event is being held in the Heart and Crown Irish Pub and Restaurant.

Toronto is the final stop on the Cross Canada Irish Unity Roadshow with a big event taking place on Saturday October 22 at 7:30 pm. Sinn Féin MP John Finucane and North American Representative Ciarán Quinn will be speaking and the event is taking place at the Hothouse.

Organized by Friends of Sinn Féin
Organisé par les ami(e)s du Sinn Féin

United for Unity
Ensemble pour l'unité

Event / Concert
Montréal



with guest speaker / avec invité
Ciarán Quinn

Sinn Féin Representative
for North America
Représentant du Sinn Féin
pour l'Amérique du Nord

with music by / performance musicale

Gráinne

Saturday, October 15th / Samedi, le 15 octobre

Hurley's Irish Pub
1225 rue Crescent / St
5pm - 8pm / 17h00 - 20h00
Free Entry / Entrée Gratuite



For more information / Pour plus de détails
Kevin: 514-805-1097

CROSS CANADA
IRISH UNITY ROADSHOW

TORONTO!



With John Finucane MP, Sinn Féin
& Sinn Féin North America Representative Ciarán Quinn

Reception, Hors D'oeuvres & Music

HOTHOUSE
35 Church St.
Toronto

Saturday, October 22, 2022
7:30 pm

RSVP: friends@fosfc.com

Info: 416-402-3729



Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht



Seanad Consultation begins on Constitutional Change

Several months ago the Seanad launched a public consultation on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland. The Seanad committee invited submissions from groups and individuals, and plans to hold three public consultations.

The first of these was held on the 30th September and included submissions from young people and youth groups and others, including the ICTU and Rev Kyle Paisley. Rev. Paisley told the Seanad committee that; "The prospect of the emerald isle becoming a single political entity is not so easily talked down as it used to be." He identified the economics of unity as a major issue and he raised unionist concerns about the impact of constitutional change on their sense of identity and Britishness.

In his contribution to the conversation Sinn Féin Seanadóir Niall Ó Donnghaile called for the creation of a Citizens Assembly with the resources to ensure that we have an informed debate on this vitally important issue.

This is the first time in the history of the Oireachtas that one of its institutions will be debating this live and important topic. The consultation process is majoring on the following key themes; the criteria for a referendum on Irish unity, lessons we can learn from other jurisdictions, the views of young people and different sections of our community, as well as the opportunities and challenges that constitutional change could present.

Sinn Féin has welcomed this initiative and has made a submission. Our priority is clear – it's time for the Irish government to start planning for constitutional change.

"The Irish Government is constitutionally obliged to plan for Irish Unity and best equipped to lead the necessary planning. All



governments plan for the future. In an Irish context that means planning for possible constitutional change.

The Irish Government should move now to establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity."

Sinn Féin Submission

Seanad Public Consultation on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland

Every government plans for the future and it is beyond time that the Irish government begins to plan for our future and Irish unity. We need to start planning now and that planning has to be citizen led and government resourced.

The Irish government must establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity. We need now to think and plan our way forward.

Irish unity provides us with the opportunity to right the wrongs of partition, to end division and to unlock the potential of our people and our island. It also creates the possibility of building something better for us all – to build a new Ireland, with fairness equality and citizens' rights at its core. We can build an all-island National Health Service, address the housing crises and unleash the social and economic potential of our people.

Planning for unity now also allows us to avoid the catastrophic mistakes of Brexit, and move to a referendum on Irish unity with a confident and informed electorate. Sinn Féin in government will establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity. We have allocated €1.5 million in our alternative budget submission to adequately fund this process. Irish unity is the big idea whose time has come – it's time to start planning.

#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**

Councils back Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity

This month councils in Donegal, Derry & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh and Monaghan have backed a motion urging the Irish Government to convene a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity. Officials from the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit will now be invited to present to council and provide an update on activity and plans for the future. Donegal Sinn Féin Councillor Gerry McMonagle speaking at September's county council meeting said that; "an all-island Citizens' Assembly would enable political, civic and cultural entities to become involved in a structured formal process for change and would put citizens at the heart of shaping a new Ireland and would democratise the process." He added: "By convening a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity, the Dublin government will demonstrate its commitment to engaging with citizens to chart the best future for the people of Ireland." Derry and Strabane Councillor Conor Heaney described Citizens' Assemblies as powerful democratic



Fermanagh and Omagh Cllr Stevie McCann

exercises that can "inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy." Councillor Heaney said: "I am delighted that councils north and south are backing the Sinn Féin motion calling on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens' Assembly to debate and discuss our constitutional future. This is a natural progression of the fact that the debate about the reunification of Ireland is already well underway in homes and workplaces across the island, not least because of disastrous British Government policies on Brexit, the pandemic and the failure to address the cost of living crisis. The Good Friday Agreement also provides for a referendum on Irish Unity and polls consistently show mounting support for reunification. In that context, there is a responsibility on the Irish Government to show leadership by convening a Citizens' Assembly in order to shape and inform the debate and plan for Irish Unity."



Conor Murphy
MLA

CONOR MURPHY CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES DONOHOE COMMITMENT

The Irish government's Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe has acknowledged that the economic consequences of a united Ireland "will need to be given consideration by the government."

Although Donohoe's remarks were very qualified he did accept that the debate around Irish unity is "intensifying" and that the government will begin planning for Irish unity and the impact it will have for public finances. He also acknowledged the potential positive elements of an all-island economy in terms of energy, food and foreign direct investment.

The North's Finance Minister Conor Murphy welcomed the comments. He said: "I welcome the comments made by the Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe that the government will begin planning for Irish Unity and the impact it will have for public finances.

The Irish government has full access to the levels of revenue and expenditure generated in the southern state. It can use this to help inform the debate on Irish Unity in terms of how we pay for public services and deliver better living standards.

People in growing numbers are joining the debate on Irish Unity. Together we can help convince people of the merits that a New Ireland can produce, particularly when it has full financial levers and EU Membership. We look forward to working with the Irish government in planning and setting out the economic case for Irish Unity in the time ahead."



RESOURCE FOR ACTIVISTS

All of the recent articles and significant contributions on the United Ireland theme are available on the Sinn Féin website. Log in to www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity for all of the news on uniting Ireland.



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irish.unity@sinnfein.ie