

informATIOn

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Number 4

Community Interpreting: Latest Developments

By Nancy McInnis, President

For the past while, I have been attending policy committee meetings of the Healthcare Interpretation Network (HIN). This allows ATIO a direct window to monitor developments in the field of community interpreting, and it ensures that lines of communication remain open and that our relationship continues to be cordial and supportive.

The Healthcare Interpretation Network (HIN) is working hard to promote the National Standard Guide for Community Interpreting Services (NSGCIS), and I applaud their efforts. The NSGCIS is a first step down the lengthy road to professional recognition. It does not go far enough, but HIN's viewpoint is that compromise is the best way to bring all partners to the table. For all its shortcomings, the NSGCIS offers some practical and ethical guidelines to an otherwise unregulated sector of the language industry. HIN should be commended for its efforts to support community interpreters, and for working with employers and agencies to help them understand why they too should adopt the guidelines.

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The Language Interpreter Training program offered at Seneca College is an introductory 180-hour certificate program that offers six courses. The program is a perfect mirror of community interpreting: it is insufficient for professional recognition. It does not require a high enough level of fluency in the target and source languages, there is not enough practical training and, incredibly, the course does not test that the message conveyed in the target language is the same as the message in the source language. Yet a program that ATIO could recognize would require a time and financial commitment that would place it beyond the reach of most of those seeking to train and work as a community interpreter.

It is very difficult to know how best to tackle the challenge of community interpreters. At our last meeting, ATIO Board members agreed that to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ATIO Act, we would revise the Act, and include the title



of "Certified Community Interpreter" to ensure the title is ready when community interpreters are. We are acutely aware that that sector of the language industry is not ready for professional recognition, but we are equally aware that it will be a lengthy process to amend the Act.

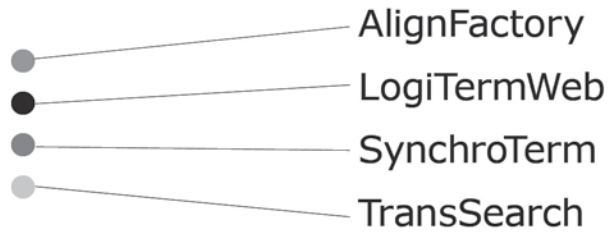
We hope that by including the community interpretation title with our other protected titles, we can signal to the industry that we recognize the huge need for trained, talented, professional community interpreters. We also hope that by taking steps now to reserve the title, we can begin to explore exactly what experience and training we could recognize, and what testing would have to be in place to confer the title of Certified Community Interpreter.

Again, we are not prepared to recognize community interpreters at this time, and there will be no amendments to the by-laws

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Community Interpreting: Latest Developments

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at the 2009 AGM to introduce the category. But we are embarking on that path.

We recognize that community interpreters provide a vital service, without which many citizens would have limited access to medical, legal and social services. But we also recognize that access is no less limited when the interpreter provided lacks the necessary skills and training.

It is our sincere hope that by taking concrete steps to show what ATIO requires of a professional community interpreter, we can

encourage this sector of the language industry to continue to develop. All parties need to recognize that there is more to community interpreting than just being bilingual. Community interpreters need to assert themselves as professional service providers. They need to demand professional training and professional working conditions and pay commensurate with their abilities. And those who hire community interpreters need to recognize the risk inherent in using unskilled, untrained, unqualified individuals.

We look forward to your comments. You may reach us by e-mail at info@atio.on.ca, by fax at 1-613-241-4098 or by mail at Suite 1202, 1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7.

Succession Planning Starts Now!

By Lise Cloutier, C. Tran. (Canada)

I am a certified translator with over 20 years of experience serving hundreds of clients from my home business in Moonbeam, in Northern Ontario. This summer, I did something I have never done before—I hired a student for a work practicum, third-year translation student Mireille Renaud from the University of Ottawa.

The experience was extremely positive for both of us. I was impressed with how mature and versatile Mireille was, and how willing she was to take on all kinds of projects, including translation from English to French and from French to English, as well as revision, proofreading, writing and creating lexicons. I revised everything she did for me. In addition to translation experience, Mireille learned about running a small business, time management skills, and work ethics.

At a time where the translation demand has never been stronger, I encourage other self-employed certified translators to think about succession planning by hiring a translation student. I would also like to encourage universities to approach small translation companies or qualified independent translators to take on translation students who need a work term.

The next generation of translators needs experience to start their career and experienced translators need to expand their network of colleagues to meet the growing demand. Why not hire a student next summer?

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◆ NOTICE!

Please note that the ATIO office will be closed for the Holidays, from 5:00 pm on December 19, 2008, and will return to full operations as of 8:30 am on January 5, 2009.

On the Lighter Side: Terminology Results

By Nancy McInnis, President

Our last survey asked you how you handle terminology issues. Despite the focus on terminology during Terminology Week, only 9% of members responded to our survey. Of these, the overwhelming majority (88%) do not use the services of a terminologist and only half (52%) have their own private terminology databank.

Most clients (66%) do not provide a lexicon. However it is interesting to note that when our members are given a lexicon, 80% say that they are free to use it for anything. Only 20% must keep the lexicon confidential.

Lastly, the Internet has had a huge impact on how we work. 89% of respondents turn to Internet sites for vocabulary when

Termium and Le Grand Dictionnaire Terminologique have no answers for them.

The sites most trusted? Reputable unilingual sites, and federal and provincial government sites. Our members also trust large national and multinational corporations whose websites are available in more than one language, provided the quality of language is good!

But over and over again, members repeated the same words of advice: Don't take anything for granted. Research your terms thoroughly!

Congratulations!

To Mr. Lucian Efanov for having translated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms into Romanian. The translated document was presented to the Honourable Jim Karygiannis, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, at a ceremony at All Saints Church of Toronto on November 15, 2008.

CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN CONFERENCE INTERPRETATION

Spanish = A, English = B
Jordan Arias Aguila

CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN TRANSLATION

English-Portuguese
Jucelei Pereira

Calendar of Events



✓ DECEMBER 2008

December 8-13, 2008: World Congress on Specialized Translation "Languages and Intercultural Dialogue in a Globalization World"

Havana, Cuba

Information: http://www.fit-ift.org/download/en/pr-acti_cttic-20081208.pdf

✓ APRIL 2009

April 1-3, 2009: International Conference "Translation: philosophical, linguistic and pedagogical perspectives"

Lille, France

Information: http://stl.recherche.univ-lille3.fr/colloques/20082009/Traduction/traduction_accueil.html

April 25, 2009: ATIO Annual General Meeting

Chateau Laurier, Ottawa

✓ MAY 2009

May 16-17, 2009: ITI International Conference 2009 – Sustainability in Translation

London, UK

Information: http://www.fit-ift.org/download/en/ev-call_for_papers_iti-2009.pdf

✓ JULY 2009

July 9-10, 2009: 3rd Conference of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) Mediation and Conflict: Translation and Culture in a Global Context Monash University

Melbourne, Australia

Information: <http://www.foxevents.com.au/Current-Events/2009-Events/IATIS-Conference/Default.asp>

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