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2002

Volume 31

Number 4

In this final 2002 issue—in addition to our holiday greetings—we offer ideas for New Year’s resolutions! ATIO serves you and our professions thanks to a handful of volunteers. Three of them tell you why they chose to get involved. Please consider contributing your talents as well! Just e-mail me at f.cadieux@cmec.ca to offer your services. In the following pages, I am pleased to present my colleagues on the Board of Directors and some of their many tasks, and to highlight the winners of the ATIO Award and the ATIO Volunteer Award. May this homage to our volunteers convince many more to serve!

Fabrice Cadieux, President

Volunteering: The True Mark of a Professional

By: Mark Villeneuve, C. Tran.

Why bother? I don’t have the time! What do I have to offer? And after all, what’s in it for me? When I was asked to write an article on volunteering, my first reflex was to list all the personal and professional benefits I have gained from my various volunteer work in the profession over a long career, but I ultimately concluded that this approach would totally miss the point.

One of the most common complaints heard from translators, interpreters and terminologists is that our clients and the general public fail to accord us the respect we deserve as professionals. Great effort and significant funds have been expended by ATIO over many years in a sustained attempt to raise our professional profile and “educate” the public. However, if we want others to see us and treat us as professionals, in the same light as accountants, lawyers, doctors and engineers, we must conduct ourselves as professionals.

Our obligations as true professionals include volunteering our time and energy in the service of our profession and, ultimately, the public. We must be willing to go the extra mile to mentor new entrants into the profession, serve on a committee or the board of directors of our association, represent our profession at trade shows and other functions, or contribute to the production of various ATIO documents by translating or editing texts.

Complaints that we have no time just don’t wash! Recent surveys show that most doctors devote more than 60 hours a week to their various professional activities, and we all know that lawyers work even longer hours. Balancing client demands against the need for ongoing professional development and our desire for leisure and family time can indeed prove challenging, but if we truly believe we are professionals, we must pay this claim more than lip service, and find a way to devote a little of our precious time to the service of our profession. *Noblesse oblige!*

Do You Imagine That Everything Looks After Itself at ATIO?

By: Michel Trahan, C. Tran

Editor in Chief, Secretary of ATIO and CTIC, member of the Scholarship Committee and of the Public Relations Committee of FondATIO

Translation: Creighton Douglas, C. Tran.

Don’t kid yourself! You think that nothing ever happens at ATIO? You don’t get enough for your money, the fees are too high (and it goes on...)? Perhaps you say to yourself that the Board of Directors and the Secretariat have things well under control. It is true that the executive and the staff work very hard to ensure that things run smoothly and the Association does its best. Yes, Executive Director Catherine Bertholet, Administrative Assistant Paule Landry, and Secretary-Receptionist Nathalie Trudel are salaried staff and they do a wonderful job. The executive and directors, all volunteers, are dedicated and have the interests of ATIO at heart. But **THEY CAN’T DO IT ALL**. They may have bright ideas and keep important projects moving, but they still need **YOUR HELP**. We thank all current volunteers for their support; they are always ready to put their shoulders to the wheel, but it is **ALWAYS** the same people who do it. It’s not that we want to replace them, no way, but the demands can wear them down. They do not ask what their Association can do for them, but what **THEY** can do for it (it just came out that way.) That’s exactly the question I asked myself at the 1995 AGM. Why don’t you do likewise?

PS: For this issue of InformatIO, if we had paid market price (20 cents per word) for the translations done by our volunteers, it would have cost ATIO \$678.00

Focus on Volunteers... Focus on Volunteers... Focus on Volunteers...

Leadership and Service

By: F. Cadieux, President

As part of this special issue on ATIO volunteers, I take great pride in introducing my colleagues serving on the Board of Directors, whom you have elected to lead the Association. To get an idea of the extent and variety of tasks involved, we have developed the organizational chart below, soon to be accessible on our Website with links to additional information (such as committee membership and minutes).



Hélène Gélinas-Surprenant



Creighton Douglas



Pascal Sabourin



Kenneth Larose

Board of Directors

Executive

President
Fabrice Cadieux

Vice-President
Kenneth Larose

Secretary
Michel Trahan

Treasurer
Creighton Douglas

AGM Committee

Budget Committee

Category Representatives

Director,
Conference Interpreters
Vacant

Conference Interpretation
Committee
Chair: *Béatrice de
Montmollin*

Director, Independent
Translators
Nancy McInnis

Director, Salaried Translators
Patricia Adjizian

Salaried Translators
Committee

Director, Terminologists
Hélène Gélinas-Surprenant

Director, Court Interpreters
Janet Rodriguez

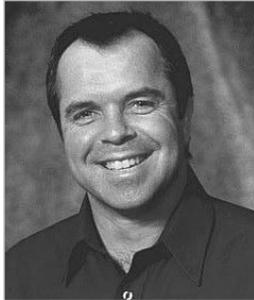
Court Interpretation
Committee

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Best Wishes

The Board members and the Secretariat would like to wish all ATIO members and associates a Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year.



Michel Trahan



Janet Rodriguez



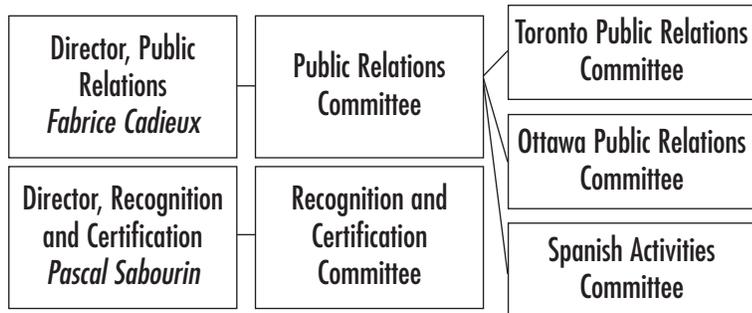
Patricia Adjizian



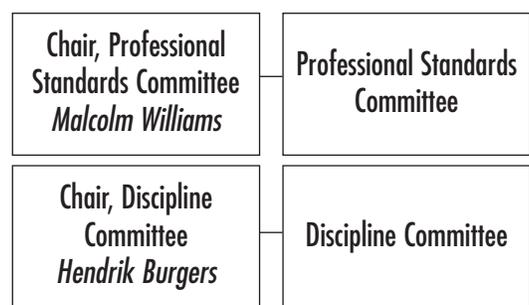
Nancy McInnis

Board of Directors

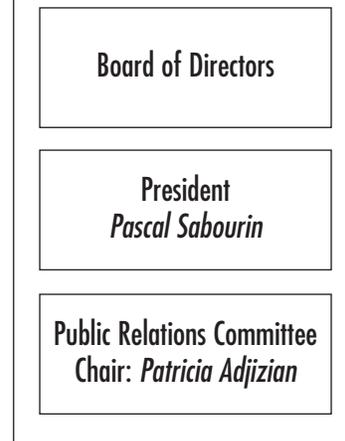
Functional Committees



Statutory Committees



FondATIO



Volunteer Awards



(2002)

A member of ATIO since 1967, **Jean-Guy Patenaude** is always ready to lend his expertise in translating or revising the flood of material the Secretariat needs to produce. ATIO is also better-known thanks to him: he enjoys making presentations about our professions to high-school students in his region on their “career days,” sowing seeds that may fall on fertile ground! FC



(2001)

At last year’s awards luncheon, Philippe Tessier recounted how, decades ago, he became a member, a director and treasurer of ATIO in a single day! As he told it, he was called in by his superior at the Translation Bureau “and in those days, you did what your superiors told you.” That ATIO-prescient boss was none other than stalwart volunteer **Raymond Aupy**, who these days exerts influence through untiring help to ATIO staff and contagious good humour. FC



(2000)

Past ATIO President **Mark Villeneuve** eloquently makes the case for volunteering in the pages of this issue—and he knows whereof he writes from first-hand experience as an energetic volunteer and Board member. Throughout his professional and service life, he has focused with passion on professional development, both in his private practice and in his enormously popular workshops delivered to Association members. FC



(1999)

Kenneth Larose has unstintingly given his time and energy to ATIO over the years, especially to help with access to the profession, for example by making presentations about the Association to University of Ottawa students, as well as in his role as long-time preparatory course tutor and translation examination marker. Now ATIO’s Vice-President, he has just been appointed the Association’s representative to the Translation Industry Sectoral Committee. FC

(1998)

André Moreau (photo not available) has worked tirelessly for ATIO as a Board member and volunteer, originating or tackling innovative projects that have proved decisive in the Association’s growth, such as the creation of the court interpreter category. He earned the first ATIO Volunteer Award for “exceptional services to the Association.” FC



(2002)

First Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council (CTIC) Volunteer Award winner of our profession with rigour and sensitivity. New modes of certification (especially promoted the national certification opportunities now available to all language profess

CTIC

ATIO Awards



(2002)

One of ATIO's most senior members and a long-time volunteer, **Philippe Tessier** inspired the creation of the Translation Bureau's terminology department, before founding and expanding a leading Ottawa translation firm respected for professional excellence. His latest innovation is the Mélanie-Tessier scholarship which offers financial assistance and practical experience to a young professional. FC



(2001)

Past President **Pascal Sabourin** was the founder and remains the inspiration for FondATIO, the Association's foundation to support students and research. He originated and led many projects crucial to ATIO's development, including on dossier certification, mentorship and our new pan-Canadian title. As we go to press, **Pascal Sabourin** has just been elected President of the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council (CTIC). FC



(1995)

The most significant milestone in the Association's history is without a doubt the adoption of the *ATIO Act* in 1989 by the Ontario Legislature, by which ATIO was the world's first association of language professionals to acquire legal title protection. This ground-breaking achievement was led by then ATIO 1st Vice-President **Julien Marquis** and Secretary **Richard Fidler**, who overcame many obstacles to draft the crucial bill, obtain a sponsor and achieve passage in the Legislature. Their achievement opened a new era in the Association's existence. FC

(1994)

Bryna Monson (photo not available) founded the Ottawa-based cultural interpretation service Languages for Life. By honouring her work with the ATIO Award, the Association paid homage to the sometimes life-saving role our colleagues play in many community settings, especially in the ever more multicultural cities of our province. FC

(1993)

Inaugural ATIO Award-winner **Liliane Vincent** (photo not available) is a respected translator with extensive experience in the education sector. She was honoured for her work as the founder and long-time leader of the Network of Translators in Education, an innovative forum for professionals interested in sharing knowledge through such means as a remarkable terminology series and well-attended biennial symposia. FC

Volunteer Award

Freighton Douglas was for many years Chair of the Board of Certification, where he governed this vital function (the on dossier process) reached full maturity during his mandate. With untiring dedication, he expanded and modernized the profession of translators and interpreters in Canada. ATIO is proud of having nominated him for this inaugural national Award. FC

Why Volunteer For Your Professional Association?

By: Julien Marquis, C. Tran.
Translation: Sue Collins, C. Tran

After a twenty-year career as a translator in the Ontario public service, I took early retirement and now I work for myself. So I have complete freedom to do what I want with my time. That is why I decided, after a few years off, to return to volunteering for my professional association, but in certain areas only.

My friend Jean Clément had started helping candidates for the CTIC certification exam, André Séguinot had formalized the program for ATIO and I am continuing their work by spending a little of my time correcting the texts that candidates translate as part of the CTIC exam preparatory course. Since this exam represents peers' approval of professional certification, candidates who prepare themselves by taking this course are judged, as much as possible, by the criteria that will be used for the actual certification exam. In addition, they benefit from the advice of experienced translators for remedying any weaknesses.

Over the years I have observed, as a translator, as a former elected member of our association and as CTIC president, that our future colleagues had trouble putting themselves under exam conditions, managing their time when translating and re-reading their work and comparing it again with the source language. Lack of precision in the syntax used, the use of idiomatic phrases which are not idiomatic because the wrong co-occurent is used, mistranslations and omissions are common mistakes and then typing and spelling mistakes accumulate as quickly in short texts as in longer ones. Practice can help to develop greater attention to detail and thus resolve this kind of difficulty so as to limit the damage at the exam. That is why I decided to put my experience at the service of my future colleagues.

Of course, nobody is perfect, least of all me, after all I'm only a translator! Helping my future colleagues is also a good way for me to look again at my own abilities and thus at the same time get back to basics myself. So in some ways it is also a form of professional development for experienced translators. At one time it was even suggested that this type of activity be made compulsory so that already-certified translators would keep their knowledge up to date. But that is another subject.

Editor's Note

Translation:
Creighton Douglas, C. Tran.

Due to a printing error, the Hungarian text by Martin Gaudi, published on page 5, Volume 31, Number 3 of *InformATIO*

did not appear correctly. It should have read "létrából – amelyet" on line 4, "látott – magyar" on line 5, "(I never killed him) – mondja" on line 23, "...phones!" – hangzik" on line 28, "együttműködésre" on line 38. Our most sincere apologies to Mr. Gaudi and our readers for these typographical errors.

A Penny For Your Thoughts!

First of all, I would like to thank ATIO for dedicating an entire issue of *InformATIO* to "native and foreign languages."

While I agree that ATIO should and can do more to promote translators of foreign languages, I was a bit surprised to see so many colleagues comment about the dearth of jobs in their language pairs and suggest that we, as translators of such languages, including a major one like German, could not afford to specialize. In my experience, this is simply not true.

In today's age of the Internet, we are no longer limited to our home market; we can work for direct clients and agencies all over the world. As a matter of fact, generalists are frowned upon by agencies and more discerning direct clients—they all expect us to specialize; otherwise, we will be seen as "jacks-of-all-trades" and not taken seriously. Would you take a doctor seriously who claimed expertise in every single medical discipline?

If fear of non-payment is the only reason that holds so many of my colleagues back from entering the international translation market, they should consider other, more modern, forms of payment, such as accepting payment by credit card. For some time now, I have had a "retainer system" (similar to the practice employed by lawyers), whereby new clients and clients from overseas are expected to pay at least 25-50% upfront. To my own surprise, most clients not only pay 25-50% upfront, but the full amount.

Finally, I do agree, however, that more needs to be done to promote foreign-language translators. For too long, the Association's emphasis has been on the official languages only, which clearly runs counter to current market trends.

By: Werner George Patels,
C. Tran., C. Conf. Int.

I received the latest
issue today.
Excellent idea!
WELL DONE!

By: Patricia Adjizian, C. Tran.
Translation: Peter Birrell, C. Tran.

The issue I just received
is superb. It's obvious a
lot of volunteer work
went into it!

By: Maguy Robert, C. Tran
Translation: Peter Birrell, C. Tran.

The City of Montreal Style Guide

Victor Trahan, *Service du greffe, Ville de Montréal*

First Edition, September 2001, 293 pages

By: Creighton Douglas, C. Tran.

Yes, it is a style guide, but also much, much more. As the subhead says: “A Handbook for Translators, Writers and Editors.” That is to say, for anyone translating to, or writing in English it should be a very useful reference work. Especially for those working in Montreal, the Province of Quebec, or Eastern Canada, it is a helpful guide through the quagmire of Frenglish and gallicisms that have infiltrated Montreal English. Best of all, it’s fun to read.

It may sound strange to suggest that one start out by reading a style guide from cover to cover (all 293 pages), but that is how to tackle this one. Since it is arranged alphabetically by topic, a quick skim-through is the best way to discover the many good things it contains. Those who do not work for the City of Montreal may be forgiven for skipping much of the section on local by-laws and regulations.

Page one starts with where to use the prepositions *a* or *an*, followed by useful suggestions about where to use (or not use) accents, problems with specific words, spelling, indirect speech, collective nouns, communications, non-sexist writing, and a large and very helpful section on prepositions.

There are amusing, and useful, warnings on gallicisms, Frenglish, language crimes and misdemeanours, worn-out and empty words. Three pages of jokes under “Humour and Translation” may challenge those whose first language is not English or Brooklynese. There is

also a very perceptive look at the difference in attitudes between French and “English Style” with suggestions for “Innovative Translation.”

There is excellent advice on business writing, and, because this guide was prepared for the City of Montreal, it looks carefully at styles for street names and place names, by-laws and regulations, capitalization, and city or government documents. Matters that should concern anyone writing for any regulatory body.

The *Guide* is replete with references to a wide range of published sources, including dictionaries, other style and usage guides, as well as books on language and writing, some well-known, many not. The book ends with an exhaustive bibliography that almost certainly includes many books you have never heard of. To find the answer to a specific question, consult the 34-page index at the end. It includes words, terms and section titles, with all relevant page numbers and cross-references.

It may sound surprising that a reference work like the *Style Guide* makes good reading, but it does—and it’s a very useful reference work as well.

Price: expected to be about \$20.

Distribution arrangements have not been finalized, but for the moment go to:

Victor Trahan Tel. (514) 872-2666 Fax (514) 872-5655
 Service du greffe vtrahan@ville.montreal.qc.ca
 275 Notre-Dame Street East, Suite R-113A
 Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1C6

NOTICE!

Please note that the ATIO office will be closed for the Holidays, from 5:00 pm on December 20, 2002, and will return to full operations as of 8:30 am on January 6, 2003.

Editor's Note

Translation:

Creighton Douglas, C. Tran.

Due to an error on our part, the translation of Michel Trahan's item "A Penny For Your Thoughts" on page 11 of the last issue of *InformATIO* was incorrectly attributed to Creighton Douglas. This translation was actually done by Raymond Aupy. Our most sincere apologies to Mr. Aupy for this mistake.

Calendar of Events

✓ **MAY 2003**

May 29–31, 2003: **16th Symposium of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies / Association canadienne de traductologie.** Theme: "Translation and globalization."

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Information: Dr. Louise Brunette (organizer),
Concordia University, Department of
French Studies,

1400 De Maisonneuve Boulevard West,
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8.

E-mail: louiseb@alcor.concordia.ca
or Dr. Anne Malena (Chair of the Program
Committee), Modern Languages & Cultural
Studies,

200 Arts Building, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E6.

E-mail: amalena@ualberta.ca

Telephone: (780) 492-1187

fax: (780) 492 2106.

Also consult the CATS/ACT Website:

<http://www.uottawa.ca/associations/act.cats/>

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