

# informATIO

December 2004

Number 3-4

## BEST WISHES

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

We hope you enjoy this double issue of *InformATIO*. We needed the additional pages to report on the American Translators Association annual conference held in Toronto in mid-October, which was attended by many of our members. Rather than rely on ATIO volunteers to get the reporting job done, we thought we would try something different, and had two student journalists from *La Cité collégiale*, Antoine Ricard and Danny Bertrand, attend various sessions to provide an outsider's view of

the proceedings. Another student in the program, Marie-Pier Lécuyer, covered the National Capital Region International Translation Day event.

Also noteworthy is the launch of our new logo, which you probably noticed on the masthead of this issue. The new design and colours will also be prominent on our revamped Web site, which will be up and running by the end of December. The changes are not only skin deep—watch for the new Terminology Exchange Network at our members only corner of the site. David Lowe, Nancy McInnis and Roxanne Lepage, our new Webmaster, have been working hard to iron out the details, and we are sure that many of you will find it very useful.

*The Editorial Committee*

## Translation Plays Essential Role in Canada's Linguistic Duality

By: Marie-Pier Lécuyer, Student in Print Journalism, La Cité collégiale, Ottawa  
Translation: Al Daigen, C. Tran. (Canada)

Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages, Dyane Adam, regards the work of language professionals as indispensable for the defence of languages and cultural diversity, two fundamental Canadian values. Ms. Adam expressed this view in her keynote speech at this year's International Translation Day celebrations in the National Capital Region, held on September 30. The theme for this year's celebrations was *Translation, underpinning multilingualism and cultural diversity*.

The International Translation Day celebrations provide an opportunity, not only to bring members of the profession together, but also to pay tribute to the tremendous work that all



Gilles Gamas with Francine Kennedy, Translation Bureau's CEO

translators, interpreters, and terminologists accomplish within a wide variety of Canadian organizations and institutions. In the Official Languages Commissioner's opinion, this work represents the "drive belt for the engine of linguistic duality."

Continued on page 3

To mark this event, the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, addressed a letter to all Canadian translators. Highlighting the cultural value of their profession, she wrote: “Your translations of literary works from around the world help to bring cultures together. Your role knows no borders. Your contribution to closer understanding among individuals and peoples is indispensable.”

The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, also sent a message to the event’s organizers. He wrote: “This year’s theme for International Translation Day stresses the important role that translators play in the quality of communications between communities.”

Many officials from the federal government’s Translation Bureau attended the Ottawa celebration, including Donald Barabé, Vice President, Operations. He told me how important this event was for his organization: “The Translation Bureau is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and for us, International Translation Day is something really important. It hasn’t been around for all that long—only about 15 years—and it gives us a chance to honour the profession.”

Let’s not forget that International Translation Day also gives the profession the chance to express its gratitude to some of the major figures in the industry and to provide its support to some of tomorrow’s language professionals. Many prizes and awards were handed out in the course of the evening. Gilles Gamas, a longstanding member of ATIO, chairman of the Board and CEO of Société Gamma Inc., received the Translation Bureau Quality Service Award from Francine Kennedy, the Translation Bureau’s Chief Executive Officer, in recognition of his leadership, entrepreneurship, rigour and determination. This year, for the first time, the Canada Region of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) gave out two awards, one to a conference interpretation student, the other to a technician, in recognition of the priceless assistance that technicians provide to interpreters working in their booths.

Lastly, this year’s ATIO Award went to H el ene G elinas-Surprenant, in recognition of the enormous services that she has rendered to both her profession and her professional association, while the FondATIO scholarship went to Anna Gopenko, a doctoral student in translation at the University of Ottawa. (To read H el ene’s message of thanks for her award, please go to page 4.)

# International Translation Day 2004–Toronto style!

By: Nancy McInnis, Vice-President, Director, Independent Translators

Wow! What a night!! The Albert Tucker room at Glendon College was filled to overflowing as one and all came together to celebrate International Translation Day. The theme chosen by FIT for 2004 was *Translation, underpinning multilingualism and cultural diversity*. In keeping with this, co-hosts ATIO and Glendon College invited three speakers for the evening. First Caroline Disler, a doctoral student in the York Humanities program, spoke on “Multiculturalism and Translation in the Ancient World.” She had many heads nodding in vehement agreement when she pointed out that, although the labours of ancient translators are largely unacknowledged, the modern world owes much to their genius. As Rosalind Gill, Chair of the School of Translation, later noted, translation definitely made the world go round.

Ms. Disler also highlighted the vital role of interpreters in the ancient world as trade flourished between multiple countries, each with its own language. It was interesting to note just how multilingual Cleopatra herself was!

The second presentation was given by Branka Agic and Stella Rahmann from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Their topic was “Translation in the Context of Community and Culture.” Ms. Agic outlined the CAMH’s need for translations that are culturally appropriate for the target audience, and Dr. Rahmann gave specific examples of how the process had actually been implemented in translating CAMH publications. Judging by the numbers that flocked to Ms. Agic and Dr. Rahmann after their presentation, they will have no shortage of willing translators to help with the next job!

The evening was a wonderful celebration of translation, terminology and interpretation. The speakers were fascinating, and the networking opportunities abundant. And for two men, there was extra reason to celebrate. FondATIO is ATIO’s charitable organization, designed to ensure the continuation of the profession by providing financial support to the best students. Just in time for the evening’s festivities, FondATIO announced that Andrew Clifford would receive a \$500 award and Eric Capelle a \$500 scholarship. Quite the night! Hope to see you at next year’s event!

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## A message from H el ene G elinas-Surprenant, winner of the 2004 ATIO Award

Dear professional colleagues:

Thank you for honouring me with the 2004 ATIO Award. In my fifteen years on the Board of Directors, I have seen the Association grow, with membership numbers rising annually and the constituent professions going from two to four, and the increasing quality and excellence of the Secretariat in providing the services members request.

I think of the colleagues with whom I shared concerns as administrators and worked to find solutions. Whether it was the Board of Directors of ATIO or FondATIO, the ATIO Awards Committee or the Foundation's Scholarships and Awards Committee, the Recognition and Certification Committee or the M elanie Tessier Scholarship Committee, I was working with first-rate people who had the best interests of our professions and their future at heart. Together, we worked to find ways our professional association could best serve the professions we practise so that they are better known and respected.

As for you, beloved By-laws, you took up my time and energy to such an extent that you are surely part of the reason I have been honoured. Amended twice, completely corrected on two occasions, rewritten three times, and re-read I don't know how many times in eleven years, you demonstrate the vitality of a rapidly developing association which, since the *Association of Translators and Interpreters Act* was passed in 1989, has welcomed terminologists and legal interpreters to its ranks, adopted procedures for certification on dossier and recognition of specialties, and provided mechanisms to unite the diversity of languages and cultures in the Association, while keeping a close eye on the language industry and the exercise of our professions in Canada.

I acquired the desire to learn about things and a sense of sharing from my father, whom I saw always heading up organizations of a social nature. From my mother, I got my sense of organization and some of her creativity. I thank them for providing me with a shining example, and I thank ATIO for allowing me to participate in furthering its development over the long term.

To those with whom I have worked, I express my great appreciation and thanks; we can be proud that we were able to be a part of the Association's dynamic growth.

To the Association, long may you continue.

*Translation: Patricia Solomon, C. Tran. (Canada)*

*ATIO extends warm thanks to*



*for its International Translation*

*Day 2004 sponsorship.*

### CERTIFIED THROUGH CTIC TRANSLATION EXAMINATION

**English-French**  
Marie Rahman

**English-Spanish**  
Teresa Ram on Joffr e

**English-Greek**  
Effrossyni Fragkou

**German-English**  
Marcus Malabad



### CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN TRANSLATION

**English-Farsi**  
Abdullah Mozaffarian

**English-Korean**  
Cho-Nung Jeong

**German-English**  
William Bergerson

# Court Interpreter Training

By: Yuri Geifman, Director, Court Interpreters

The whole thing was Yolanda's idea. Yolanda Hobrough is a Certified Court Interpreter who is working in the British Columbia court system and, for the past 20 years, has been teaching court interpreting at the Vancouver Community College. She has also been instrumental in designing the exam that we now use to certify court interpreters nationwide.

The venue picked for the workshop—a ground-floor auditorium in the Carr Building, University of St. Michael's College, on St. Joseph Street right off Queen's Park Circle—was perfect, it was a beautiful sunny day, and people were showing up in a very positive, I might even say enthusiastic, state of mind.

The topic of the workshop was **Memory, Notes and Pesky Terms**, and that's exactly what Yolanda talked about. I won't tell you the details—if you are curious, come to the next workshop (I hope to have a series of them next year). All I will say is that the material was interesting, the practical exercises challenging, and the style very informal so that everyone felt relaxed and at ease. In a word—it was fun!

The room was full—65 people showed up and, to be honest, I did not expect this kind of turnout. I also did not expect so

many to come from great distances—there were court interpreters from all over Ontario, from Guelph and Windsor to Timmins and even Thunder Bay. Many of them weren't even ATIO members, they found out about the workshop from the announcement sent out by the Ministry of the Attorney General. There was a wide variety of languages represented—French, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Urdu, Vietnamese, Tsee, Cree, ASL and many others.

My impression is that there is a great need for training out there. People need a chance to practice and build up their essential interpreting skills, to test their own abilities (perhaps getting a boost of self-confidence), and to learn from an authority figure—a colleague with a great deal of experience who can answer difficult questions. And until there are more programs available in Ontario to those who wish to learn, perhaps workshops and seminars are the way to go, at least for those of us who are already certified or accredited, but still feel the need to learn and build our skills.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the people who made this event possible: Andre Moreau of Andre Moreau and Associates, Inc. who introduced me to Yolanda Hobrough and gave me a fast-track prep course on the current situation in court interpreting, and Christopher Rutledge of the Ministry of the Attorney General for sending out the announcement to court interpreters throughout the province and helping us make this workshop a success.

# Year-End Resolutions

By: Louise Voyer, CLU, ATIO Benefits Advisor  
Translation: Murray Bauman, C. Tran. (Canada)

In order to enjoy worry-free personal and financial health, you need to set specific goals, and the end of 2004 seems to be the appropriate time to do so. Here are a few suggestions.

**1. Take good care of yourself.** Work should never encroach on your quality of life, and it is essential that you set aside time for yourself (at least 30 to 60 minutes per day). The ideal recipe—leisure activities, physical exercise, healthy eating and, above all, a positive attitude.

**2. Pay yourself first.** Decide on the percentage of your monthly income that you want to save for retirement or for a special project and put that amount aside in a fund at the beginning of the month. Then, you will need to set a realistic budget and live on the remainder.

**3. Start to make your RRSP contributions during the year.** By contributing to your RRSP each month, rather than waiting until the last minute (end of February), you will be surprised to see that you will earn considerably more with the power of compound interest.

**4. Review your insurance coverage.** Look into life, disability, critical illness, auto and home insurance, because it is pointless to work so hard only to lose everything due to an unforeseen event.

**5. Review your retirement strategy.** Check your retirement goals at age 45, 55 and 65, and make sure you can achieve all of them by sticking to your plan.

**6. Prepare an annual statement of your financial assets.** Make a detailed list of your assets and your liabilities and note the progress (or setbacks) you achieve each year.

**7. Pay your debts as quickly as possible,** especially those whose interest is not tax deductible. If necessary, negotiate a consolidated loan at an interest rate that is lower than your credit card interest, for example.

**8. Establish a rainy day reserve.** This emergency fund should represent at least three months worth of income, but it will be essential if your income dries up.

**9. Review your will.** If you don't have a will yet, have one made because it is one of the most important financial documents there is for your family and your heirs.

**10. Invest in financial planning software.** There is some excellent software on the market and it will make your annual updates much easier.

If you follow these suggestions, they just might make a major difference for you and your loved ones. So, this year, avoid making New Year's resolutions and get a head start by acting now!!!!

Happy year-end to you all!

# Tap into the Knowledge of Your ATIO Colleagues

By: Nancy McInnis, Director, Independent Translators  
David Lowe, Director, Salaried Translators

<http://www.atio.on.ca/terminology>  
<http://www.atio.on.ca/terminology>  
<http://www.atio.on.ca/terminology>

Have you ever been stumped on the translation of a specific term or phrase and wondered who to turn to? Perhaps you are an independent translator working alone or a salaried translator on a small team. Wouldn't it be great if you could ask your question to more than a thousand translators at the same time? Well, now you can. ATIO's Terminology Exchange Network can let you do this.

The network is part terminology database and part electronic billboard. You can post a term for translation or search the entire database of existing terms. When someone replies to your message, you will receive an e-mail with the response. Therefore, the network is unlike a list-server—it won't bombard you with e-mails all day, interrupting your work.

The network is also a great place to share your knowledge and, in doing so, build up contacts with other members. If you are an expert in a certain field and reply to a query on the site, you will be recognized for the quality of your work because an e-mail is sent to the requester with your answer and your name.

## How does it work?

You have to go through the Membership area to connect to the Terminology Exchange Network (<http://www.atio.on.ca/terminology>). Once connected, you can log in and use the network.

You'll then be able to submit a new term, view newly submitted terms, or search the entire database. And the network is not just for Canada's official languages. You can submit a term in any language—the network supports multilingual and multidirectional symbols.

You can search the database by word, language, category, context, user and date. Searches can be for exact words or phrases or for terms in which the word appears. By selecting a specific language combination, for example, you can concentrate your search on the languages you use and eliminate the others.

## Growth potential

Because the Terminology Exchange Network is a database, it needs to be fed data to grow. Therefore, it does not come preloaded with thousands of terms in a multitude of

languages. It will grow with use and, with your input, it will become a very useful tool for all members.

Philanthropists will also find this to be a useful tool because it enables ATIO members to share their terminological records with everyone else in ATIO. How? Well, the network does not limit you to just posting and replying to questions. You can add complete entries. These would then be available to you (and to other ATIO members) from wherever you connect to the ATIO site.

## Network etiquette

The Terminology Exchange Network is intended to complement and not to replace or to duplicate other terminological tools available on the market. The network should not be used as a backdoor access to commercial terminology software by those who have not purchased such software but who want to access it through postings on the Terminology Exchange Network. The network is intended as a knowledge-sharing tool, but it should be your knowledge and not someone else's you are sharing. If you find an answer to a query in Termium, for example, I suggest you reply with "See Termium."

## Feedback

Because the network is in its infancy, we need your comments for improving it. Please e-mail the ATIO secretariat at [info@atio.on.ca](mailto:info@atio.on.ca) with your suggestions.

Address: <http://www.atio.on.ca/Terminology>

## NOTICE!

Please note that the ATIO office will be closed for the Holidays, from 12:00 pm on December 22, 2004, and will return to full operations as of 8:30 am on January 3, 2005.



Login is done through the restricted membership area.

Good afternoon XXXXXXXX

Welcome to our Membership area  
Please login:

Username:

Password:

Welcome to the ATIO Terminology Exchange Network.

The network is intended to provide you with one more terminological resource – your ATIO colleagues. When you have exhausted all your usual reference sources and just can't find a translation or phrasing that works well, it's time to "take TEN"! Post your term and see if any of your colleagues can help.

[Submit A New Term](#) [View Newly Submitted Terms](#) [Search All Terms](#)

Terminology Exchange Network - Submit a Term

Term:

From:  Into:

Context:

Category:

Posted by:

Posted On: 2004 - 11 - 16

Search Screen – All fields are mandatory except for the context field. Your username will automatically be entered in the posted by field.

Once logged in you can submit or view existing terms.

You can submit a term in any language. This network supports multilingual and multi-directional symbols.

Terminology Exchange Network - Search

Term:

EXACT PHRASE ENTERED

From:  Into:

Context:

Category:

Posted by:

Posted On:

Search Screen – You can search by any of the fields shown.

You can also search an EXACT term by checking this box.

Terminology Exchange Network - Search Results

Term	Source	Target	Submitted by:	Category:	Context:	Date
<a href="#">bbbb</a>	French	English	nmcinnis	Medicine	no real context - just an observation on an obstetrical form	2004-09-14
<a href="#">fondation</a>	French	English	mimi	Construction (Buildings and Civil Engineering)		2004-09-10
<a href="#">Terminology Exchange Network</a>	English	French	dlove	Titles	I'm looking for a French equivalent for this term, which is the name of this network.	2004-09-21

Terms are listed in alphabetical order. To view click on the TERM.

Then click here to submit an equivalent or comment.

[bbbb](#)

Context:

Submitted by:

From:  Into:

Category:

Submitted on: 2004 - 09 - 14

Year Month Day

Once an equivalent or comment has been submitted an e-mail will be sent to the person who originally submitted the term.

[Add an Equivalent OR Comment to this Term](#)

Proposed Equivalent:

Source:

Posted by:

Replied On: 2004 - 11 - 19

Year Month Day

[Add an Equivalent OR Comment to this Term](#)

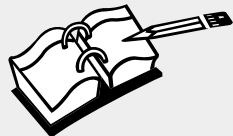
Thank you for submitting your information!

An e-mail was sent to:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX The e-mail was sent using the following information:

From: XXXXXXXXX

Subject: ATIO Terminology Exchange

# Calendar of Events



## ✓ NOVEMBER 2004

November 25-28, 2004: FIT VII International Forum Interpreting and Translating – Contributing Factors to a Fair Trial

Magdeburg, Germany

Information : [www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)

## ✓ DECEMBER 2004

December 7-8, 2004: V Symposium on Translation, Terminology and Interpretation in Cuba and Canada.

Language policies and language professions.

Havana, Cuba

Information: [g.jordan@aiic.net](mailto:g.jordan@aiic.net)

## ✓ MARCH 2005

March 10-12, 2005: Translating Canada *en traduction*.

« The Margins Talk Back : *les marges répondent* »

*Université de Moncton*, New Brunswick

Information: Denise Merkle, [merkled@umoncton.ca](mailto:merkled@umoncton.ca)

## ✓ AUGUST 2005

August 4-7, 2005: XVII World Congress of FIT

Tampere, Finland

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**The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario**

1202-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 241-2846 / 1-800-234-5030

Fax: (613) 241-4098

E-mail: [info@atio.on.ca](mailto:info@atio.on.ca) Web site: [www.atio.on.ca](http://www.atio.on.ca)

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### **Editorial policy:**

The Editorial Committee of *InformATIO* reserves the right not to publish, or to edit with the author's consent, any article submitted or commissioned for publication. Any opinions expressed (except in articles signed in an official capacity) are those of the authors and are not endorsed by the Association.

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# 45th ATA Annual Conference Canada Meets Expectations

*By: Antoine Ricard, Student in Print Journalism, La Cité collégiale, Ottawa*  
*Translation: Michael Wilkshire, C. Tran. (Canada)*

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the ATA took place in Toronto from October 13-16, 2004. Held for the first time outside the United States, this meeting brought together close to 1,400 participants, and offered 175 training workshops as well as approximately 50 presentations—a golden opportunity for ATIO to make itself known and to forge new links with other North American associations of translators and interpreters.

The main subjects discussed were the influence of globalization and new technologies on the profession and the growth of relations between Canada, the United States and Mexico. Also included in the programme were the improvement of marketing strategies, and business relations between clients, translation agencies and language professionals. In

addition, the participants had the opportunity to learn more about high-growth sectors, particularly health, technology and international relations.

While a small number of speakers were skeptical about the appropriateness of holding the conference in Canada, the high quality and diversity of the presentations and the professionalism of the speakers were sufficient to convince even the most die-hard among them. It was evident on the evening of the closing ceremony that the participants were totally satisfied; this first experiment in moving outside of the United States was convincing both for us and for our neighbours to the south.

Don't miss the 46<sup>th</sup> conference next year in Seattle!

## A Warm Welcome with Icewines

*By: Antoine Ricard, Student in Print Journalism, La Cité Collégiale, Ottawa*  
*Translation: James Shearon, C. Tran. (Canada)*

The ATIO team took advantage of this unique opportunity to promote the Association at a networking evening on Thursday, October 14. President, Ken Larose, and other members of the Board of Directors were on hand to welcome participants and answer questions in a pleasantly warm and friendly setting. Ken Larose was very pleased with the outcome of the evening, "We never expected such a large turnout. It was more like a party at the Toronto Film Festival. Despite the chaotic atmosphere, there was a steady stream of

visitors to the ATIO desk, only partly for the free icewine, and discussions were exceedingly informative. I've never seen so many business cards being exchanged," he said.

To mark the occasion, ATIO offered a sample of the world famous *Inniskillin* icewines, a special taste of Ontario that was much appreciated by our American colleagues.

**Focus on ATA**  **Focus on ATA**



## The table is set for negotiations

By: Antoine Ricard, Student in Print Journalism, La Cité collégiale, Ottawa  
Translation: Creighton Douglas, C. Tran. (Canada)

One of the important items up for discussion at the ATA's 45th Annual Conference in Toronto was improved relationships between language professionals in Canada, the United States and Mexico. This reinforcement of the natural ties that unite the countries of North America will be moved ahead this year by FIT, the *Fédération internationale des traducteurs*.

The project is a result of the establishment in 2002 of a North American initiative under the acronym RNNA (Regional Network for North America) / RRAN (*réseau régional pour l'Amérique du Nord*). To this end, discussion forums have been held, moderated by representatives from the three countries. Canada was represented by Pascal Sabourin, President of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC). The U.S. representative was Jiri Stejskal, Treasurer of ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, as well as Chair of the Status Committee of FIT. Mexico's voice was Estaban Cadena Chávez, President of the Mexican Translators Organization (OMT).

The goal of these discussions is to encourage the exchange of knowledge and information which would be useful to language professionals. The participants would like to establish a simpler system for recognition of professional competence and subsequent certification, so as to facilitate the mobility of professionals and the exchange of services between the three countries. The participants agree on the importance of not doing this by lowering the standards, but rather by encouraging optimal quality work. It should not be overlooked that Canada is actually considerably ahead of Mexico and the United States in both certification and recognition of specializations, the latter of which does not exist in Mexico or the U.S. In fact, CTTIC has been administering national certification examinations since 1975. The process of certification based on submission of a professional dossier, as established by Pascal Sabourin while he was President of ATIO, has existed since 1996, and recognition of specializations has been in place since



Photo: Antoine Ricard

*In the usual order, Jiri Stejskal, Estaban Cadena Chávez, Pascal Sabourin*

2000. According to Pascal Sabourin "it is thus completely logical to think that Canada, and especially CTTIC, can play a leadership role in the harmonization of certification standards at the pan-american level".

Such exchanges will also respond to the need to establish relationships between translators and interpreters who are evolving in similar environments but without being from the same country. In certain cases the territorial divide is much less important than geographic factors. Thus translators and interpreters in Vancouver feel much closer to the realities of their colleagues in Seattle, with both having a window on Asia, than to their colleagues in Toronto or Montreal.

It should be noted, however, that the subject of recognition of competencies that can facilitate work in other countries remains sensitive. Establishing professional fees for these possible workers will be even more so.

Representatives of the three countries seem very enthusiastic and confident about the value and feasibility of the project. In their view, globalization of markets, growing needs for translation and ever-fiercer competition, make it not only desirable, but essential.

A story to follow up...



# Translation in the Health Field

By: Antoine Ricard, Student in Print Journalism,  
La Cité collégiale, Ottawa  
Translation: Hendrik Burgers, C. Tran. (Canada)

The demand for translation in the health field has experienced explosive growth over the last 10 years, particularly in Canada. However, a high-quality workforce specializing in the medical and pharmaceutical field is a rare commodity and translation students generally are not inclined to get into it. Are we letting the Eldorado of the translation world slip by us?

The increase in the number of senior citizens and the globalization of pharmaceutical markets has led to a more than substantial increase in translation requirements. The tightening of government regulations has also contributed to this trend, along with the growth in the number of medical texts. Official documents, internal publications, information for public consumption, specialized journals, monographs, on-line training modules, etc.; the demand is not just universal, it is also highly diversified. This variety often ensures a continual renewal of the types of documents to translate, thus decreasing the risk for translators of falling into the rut of routine and repetitive work.

But where is the supply? The lack of translators noted in Canada is felt in the health field just like in others. Fewer than 300 newly graduated translators came into the market to compensate for the 800 “natural” departures recorded in the profession last year (voluntary departures, retirements, deaths). It is difficult to explain the lack of interest that the health field arouses in students and young graduates; even generous pay, particularly in the pharmaceutical companies, seems to leave them indifferent. There is, for example, a specialized medical translation program at the *Université de Montréal*, but the courses sometimes have to be cancelled for lack of registrations.

Jacques Roland, a long-time ATIO member, owns his own translation company that specializes in the medical and pharmaceutical field. He used the occasion of the ATA conference held in Toronto to present an informative session on translation. According to him, the solution to the lack of a qualified workforce involves raising the awareness of working translators and students. “There is, in my view, a lack of information among students. There is a need to show them that there are



Jacques Roland

Photo: Antoine Ricard

a lot of opportunities and potential in this field.”

The ATA conference attendees were also able to attend another workshop dealing with translation in the pharmaceutical field, the one given by Alain Côté, President of *Groupe traduction – Rx&D* and an ATIO member. Mr. Côté also believes that there is a need to educate and inform future translators on the crying need for personnel. He noted that his firm has already started this process: “We are trying to forge links to the university translation programs so as to make students aware of the fact that this field exists and that it is a very stimulating one.”



Alain Côté

Photo: Antoine Ricard

In fields as specific as health, specialization in addition to a general degree is always a desirable asset. “Given the complexity of our texts, we try to recruit people who already have experience in the field,” noted Mr. Côté. Although Canada has an excellent reputation in the translation sector, and particularly in the medical and pharmaceutical field, such translators are sometimes difficult to find, and organizations sometimes are forced to hire subcontractors from abroad: “We are often forced to send texts to the USA, Belgium or France... which is a pity, even if the volume of requests that we receive from foreign clients far exceeds what we send to subcontractors. I would like to give preference to creating employment in my own country,” explained Mr. Roland.

We should, in conclusion, note the recurring problems between health care professionals and translations, with certain doctors claiming that they should be the only ones considered competent to translate official medical documents. According to Jacques Roland, translators and doctors should instead intensify their collaboration so as to avoid technical mistakes, errors in grammar, syntax and even spelling, as well as lack of clarity, denseness in style, without even mentioning the anglicisms which are all-pervasive in the French used in this field.

Will the promotion of translation in the health field be successful in overcoming the lack of qualified people? New technologies favour increased productivity, but the gap between the supply and the demand is so great that the problem is still the same. There is only left the hope that translators will be able to take advantage of this growing market segment, which is also wide open both for students who are looking to specialize and experienced translators wanting to specialize.

The medical associations and pharmaceutical companies are greeting you with open arms. An option to consider, .... and it's good for our health!



## Technology: An essential tool in translation

By: Danny Bertrand, Student in Print Journalism,  
La Cité collégiale, Ottawa  
Translation: Francesca Worrall, C. Tran. (Canada)

Most translators and interpreters today would agree that they could not work without technology, and naturally a large portion of the ATA's workshops were dedicated to it.

The workshop *Google is Your Friend*, given by ATA member Marcello Napolitano, demonstrated the effectiveness of this search engine for obtaining specific terms or lexicons.

William Bergerson, certified ATA and ATIO translator, dealt with the use of *Microsoft's Office Suite* in a session entitled *Sunken Treasures: Diving into the Wealth of Features in Your Mac or PC*.

Many exhibitors were on site to present and explain their new software. For example, **ATRIL** came to present the *Déjà vu* software series, and **Terminotix** was there with *Logiterm*, a research tool primarily meant for translators and terminologists.

## Technology: Unquestionably, a factor

By: Danny Bertrand, Student in Print Journalism,  
La Cité collégiale, Ottawa  
Translation: Nick Todd, C. Tran. (Canada)

The world of translation is subject to the same rules as every other sector: technology is henceforth part and parcel of the language professional's work environment, and while employees can sometimes look to their employer for specific training on the software the company uses, a freelance has no choice but to invest the necessary funds in learning the tools of the trade.

William Bergerson, a certified translator and a member of both ATIO and the ATA, feels that learning a technology is much like learning another language. "Learning how software works is just like learning foreign languages. The third or fourth always comes more easily than the second."

In some cases, computer tools can increase cost-effectiveness by speeding up the work without impairing quality. Mr. Bergerson finds them very useful as a way of gaining a rough idea of the content of a text. "Of course, software cannot 'understand' the meaning of a sentence, but it can be a very useful technical aid."

You might think, therefore, that translators are in danger of being replaced by machines one day. Micheline Cloutier, President of Terminotix, notes that "computer tools can speed up the translation process. They offer translators a way to avoid burning the midnight oil. We have to find ways to cope with the current labour shortage. Technology will remain a vital tool for translators, but this does not mean it will replace them."

Her views are shared by Bryan Montpetit, a representative of SDL Desktop Products: "There will always be a place for translators in the industry—software will never replace the translator as such."



Photo: Antoine Ricard

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