

# informATIO

March 2014

Number 1

## By-law Amendments at the 2014 AGM

By Barbara Collishaw, President

**A**t this year's ATIO AGM, members will be asked to approve two changes to the By-laws.

1. In the past few years, ATIO has had trouble finding enough volunteers to serve on a disciplinary panel. Understandably, people are reluctant to give up several days' income, even for the good of their profession and their association, and, not least, for the protection of the public. The Board has discussed this at length and believes it would be fair to offer an honorarium to members who are willing to serve this way. The amount is variable in order to allow for inflation or special circumstances.

Therefore, the Board proposes to amend point 10 of Appendix 2, Discipline Committee Procedural Code (Composition and Conduct of the Discipline Committee) which currently states:

Committee members shall not be remunerated, but they shall be reimbursed, upon submission of an appropriate invoice or voucher, for any reasonable expense incurred by them in the course of their official duties.

by adding the following:

**and an honorarium of \$250 per hearing day, or whatever the board deems appropriate, be paid to each member serving on a disciplinary panel, retroactive to October 26, 2013.**

2. Because ATIO has added two new constituent professions, Certified Community Interpreter and Certified Medical Interpreter, the By-laws must be amended to include the criteria for admission as a candidate for certification (PART V) and for obtaining certification (PART VI). These criteria are in the final draft stages and will be available at or before the AGM. Related amendments will be made to the representatives of the professional categories on the Board of Directors (PART XIII) and the on-dossier certification procedure (Appendix 4). ♦

### Annual General Meeting

**Friday, April 11, 2014**

**University of St. Michael's College  
Elmsley Hall, Charbonnel Lounge  
81 St. Mary Street  
TORONTO**

**5:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.**

**Opening of the AGM and *vin d'honneur***

**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: AGM**

**DOOR PRIZE: FREE 2015 MEMBERSHIP  
(ATIO Members Only)**

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# Certification of Translations

## A guide to preparing certified translations

*By Alexandra Scott, C. Tran.*

If you have recently become certified, it will likely not be long before you receive a call requesting a certified translation for a document to be submitted to a government or educational authority. This type of work can broaden your client base and provide opportunities for you to have direct contact with those who use your translations.

After researching and preparing the translation of your client's document, you must ensure that it meets the certification requirements of the body to which it will be submitted. For example, the certification requirements of the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) differs from those of the Medical Council of Canada (MCC). The specifics of each may be viewed at the following links:

MCC: <http://mcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/translation-requirements.pdf>

CTC: <http://www.oct.ca/becoming-a-teacher/requirements/document-translation>

Also, some provincial immigration programs, for example, Ontario's Provincial Nominee Program, has its own Translator Affidavit, which may be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/lkghqpn>, which must be sworn by the translator before a commissioner/notary. A similar requirement applies to Ministry of Government Services in respect of name-change related document translation.

In general, it is sufficient to assemble a document consisting of a certification cover page, a copy of the source document and the translation. Each page must bear your seal. Two types of seals are currently available from the ATIO office, namely a metal seal, which embosses your qualification onto the paper, and an ink stamp, which provides a visual impression of your qualification. You can obtain either or both types of stamps for use in preparing certified translations.

The cover page should identify you and your qualifications, your language combination, and indicate that the translation is an accurate version of the source document. Here is some sample language to communicate this information:

I, [name], Certified Translator (ATIO), [insert language combination], and holder of a [insert translation degree information] hereby declare that I am well acquainted with the [insert source and target languages] languages and that I have translated [insert document description]. A copy of this document is attached hereto, the translation of which is also attached hereto. This translation is a complete and accurate version of the text referred to above, to the best of my knowledge, ability and belief.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the Province of Ontario that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED AT [insert your location], this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

[name]

Certified Translator [your ATIO number]

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario

[your full contact details]

[signature]

You may have to point out to your client that certified translations are hard copy documents and therefore cannot be supplied by email. You may want to offer delivery of translations via mail or courier, upon payment in advance via Interac email funds transfer or by postal money order or certified cheque.

You may be asked by a translation agency to provide a certified translation on the agency's letterhead. This is not advisable, as an agency cannot take the place of a qualified translation professional. You can take the opportunity to engage in some client education, by referring the project manager to the article "What you need to know" on the ATIO website, at the following address: [www.atio.on.ca/misc/NeedToKnowEN.pdf](http://www.atio.on.ca/misc/NeedToKnowEN.pdf)



# Reflections of a Translated World: Towards a Disciplinary Meta-Awareness

International graduate student conference organized thanks to the help of ATIO

By Alexia Papadopoulos collaboratively with Lisa Le, Liliana Rodríguez Flores, Maya Worth and María Constanza Guzmán

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, the graduate students of the School of Translation at Glendon College (York University, Toronto) held their yearly international conference. This year's event was made possible in part thanks to the financial support of ATIO.

The conference brought together Master's and PhD students from various disciplines and countries who are conducting research in different areas related to translation and interpretation. The goal was to spark conversations and reflection on the state of translation studies as a field and its points of contact with other academic disciplines, as well as the state of translation and interpretation practices throughout the world and the new trends and realities that are shaping current translation and interpretation processes and products.

The event was trilingual—presentations were given in English, French or Spanish—and, this year for the first time, simultaneous interpretation was provided by the students of Glendon's Master of Conference Interpreting program (in English, French, Spanish and Mandarin).

The keynote speaker was internationally renowned translation scholar Maria Tymoczko, a professor in comparative literature at the University of Massachusetts and author of *Enlarging Translation, Empowering Translators* (St. Jerome Publishing, 2007) and *Translation, Resistance, Activism* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2010). Professor Tymoczko opened up the conference by encouraging us to challenge our conceptions of translation and equivalency. Her talk exposed the extent to which our views of what translation is and should be (standards, competence, quality, ethics, etc.) are culture-based. She stressed the importance of being aware of that fact so that we can consciously participate in preventing other views and approaches from being assimilated into the dominant Western thought, especially as translator training becomes more widespread worldwide. She also touched on the importance of empiricism and critical thinking.

The presentations by graduate students that followed delved deeper into many of the topics addressed by the keynote. From case studies to discussions of specific



Conference Organizing Committee: Sanjukta Banerjee (2013 conference committee member), María Constanza Guzmán (faculty advisor), Alexia Papadopoulos (communications coordinator), Liliana Rodríguez Flores (translation and logistics coordinator), Maria Tymoczko (keynote speaker), Maya Worth (co-chair and treasurer), Lisa Le (co-chair and marketing coordinator)

popular theories or methodologies, the students presented the research they were conducting on issues of translation and interpretation as they relate to professional practice, translation competence, ethics, ideology, politics, identity, literary practices, and language and culture at large.

There was also a roundtable on translation and teaching, where three professors from Glendon's School of Translation discussed key elements of teaching translation and interpretation students, as well as a closing panel where scholars from various disciplines discussed the intersections between translation and opera, performance and other artistic practices. The day ended with a reception and translation recital, where participants read short pieces of their own literary translations.

The conference was a wonderful success, where students, professional translators, teachers and other interested participants passionately discussed everything translation—from its importance to its mystery—and left with a greater sense of pride and motivation for their work and topics of study.

The organizing committee would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to ATIO for helping make this day possible.

For more information about the conference, please visit: [www.glendon.yorku.ca/colloquium/2014](http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/colloquium/2014) ♦

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# ATIO Foundation Facing a Dilemma

*By Pascal Sabourin, President, ATIO Foundation  
Translation Heather Martin, C. Tran.*

**T**he ATIO Foundation, which has been under the guidance of a volunteer board of directors since its establishment in 2001, is now faced with a situation that could threaten its very existence. The board of directors must face facts: the value of donations to the Foundation has fallen over the last few years to the point that it can no longer support its scholarships and awards program in support of the next generation of language professionals in Ontario.

As some members may recall from ATIO's 1995 AGM, Jan Weinsberg, who represented the Foreign Languages section on ATIO'S board of directors at the time, asked ATIO to support the creation of the Fondation des interprètes de la paix (FIP), whose mission was to provide training to young interpreters working with the Canadian contingent serving in Bosnia. However, when the war in Bosnia ended in 1996, there was no longer an urgent need for interpreter training. The FIP wound up its activities in 1997, without having spent all the funds raised since its initial creation, but retained its charitable registration number.

As early as September 1997, ATIO'S board recognized the value of having its own foundation and supporting the next generation of language professionals in the three post-secondary institutions offering translation and interpretation programs at the time—University of Ottawa, Glendon College in Toronto and Laurentian University in Sudbury. ATIO's board asked its FIP counterpart, which had been re-established under President Pascal Sabourin, to initiate the necessary measures to convert the FIP to the Association's own foundation, named the ATIO Foundation. In 2001, Revenue Canada approved the name change and Industry Canada issued a new Letters Patent.

Under its scholarships and awards program, the ATIO Foundation has distributed up to four \$1,000 scholarships and three \$500 awards annually. Thanks to the generosity of ATIO members and outside donors, the Foundation gave out over \$75,000 in scholarships and awards between 2001 and 2013. These figures clearly show that support for the next generation of language professionals in Ontario is a cause close to the hearts of ATIO members.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that Canadians today are less able to give, in light of current economic realities. As is the case for most of Canada's charitable organizations, the

value of donations to the Foundation continues to fall, while its operating expenses continue to rise. Here, "operating expenses" does not refer to salaries or overheads, since the Foundation has very few of these—it pays no salaries and incurs only the usual AGM-associated expenses. Most of the Foundation's operating costs relate to the mandatory audits of its account books. Our figures show that in 2009 donations totalled \$5,407, while audit fees were \$1,355; in 2013 donations totalled \$3,264, while audit fees were \$2,260. How much does that leave for scholarships and awards?

At the ATIO board meeting held in Toronto on February 1, 2014, the Foundation reported on the critical situation in which it found itself and proposed two solutions to the dilemma. The first, which is the one preferred by the Foundation, would be for ATIO to negotiate with its auditors (the same individuals as those who audit the Foundation) to include their audit fees for the few annual transactions of the Foundations in their overhead expenses for their audit of ATIO's accounts. Indeed, the fees charged for auditing the Foundation's eight to ten entries per year (\$2,260 in 2013) appear unjustified when compared with the auditors' invoices for the thousands of entries in ATIO's books (roughly \$17,000). If the two sets of charges were combined, the Foundation could issue a tax receipt for the estimated value of the expenses incurred on behalf of the Foundation. This appears to be the better and less restrictive solution for all parties concerned.

The second option would be to allow the Foundation's status to lapse and transfer the scholarships and awards program to an ATIO committee. While donors would, of course, no longer receive a charitable donation tax receipt (which entitles Ontario donors to a tax credit of only about 22% of the value of the donation), they would be issued a receipt that would be 100% claimable as a business expense for self-employed persons.

Regardless of which proposal ATIO selects, the fact remains that the Association must maintain a support program for university students and new graduates as a clear expression of our desire to help with succession planning while allowing us to promote the Association with the next generation of language professionals, the universities and the general public. ♦

# Directors and Committees

*By Lisa Carter, Director, Independent Translators*

The Board is in need of Directors for the coming year, and one of the most important things a Director does is to lead a Committee. I offer this example of my experience to encourage members to put their names forward, to contribute to our Association in a way that is valuable yet not all that onerous.

Apart from helping to steer the organization as a member of the Board, a Director is there to answer member questions, consider what the membership needs and elicit help to address those needs.

With Independent Translators, the last survey about our work and working conditions was done in 2005. So much has changed since then! This was therefore a priority.

The ATIO Secretariat began by sending out a call for Committee members. Three volunteers stepped forward: Maha Takla, Edward Zhai and Eric Jacques. Coordinating by email, each of us suggested updates or additions to the survey. Gerald Yang, Director, Foreign Languages, also contributed. Once everyone had responded, Eric Jacques compiled all responses into a full draft of the new survey. I then edited the survey for coherence, formatting, spelling and grammar. Eric was kind enough to translate the final version into French before the Secretariat prepared and sent it out.

This relatively small job did take several months because everyone on the Committee is a working professional with various other commitments, too. It was important to take this into consideration, yet find balance and ensure this responsibility was fulfilled to the best of our ability.

Essentially, each Committee member was expected to:

- contribute to the extent needed and possible given individual circumstances.
- communicate effectively and openly.
- complete the task.

There were tangible benefits to participating in this Committee:

- networking. We are now more connected and this could lead to referrals, opportunities, even jobs.
- contributing. This is *our* Association and it is up to us to make it work. With these survey results, we will see what conditions are like for our colleagues and have a better idea what the Association can do to help effect positive change.
- learning. With this survey, we will all learn something new—about our Association, this specific topic, wider industry trends and ourselves.

If you'd like to get involved, there are plenty of opportunities:

- Elections for Board positions will be held at our AGM on April 11, 2014, in Toronto. Submit your nomination to the ATIO Secretariat by no later than April 2, 2014.
- Calls for Committee members go out by email. Step up when the next one is sent out.
- Speak to the Director of your specific area to offer suggestions and volunteer to participate.

Over the past ten months as Director, Independent Translators, I have found that the time volunteering “costs” me is far outweighed by a sense of satisfaction and real contributions to a profession I believe in. I hope the same might be true for you, too! ♦



# ATIO Foreign Languages Committee

*By Jianhua (Gerald) Yang, Director, Foreign Languages*

Since its inception, ATIO's Foreign Languages Committee, has generally been working on an ad hoc basis. Though feedbacks concerning a spectrum of issues have been received from individual Committee members and other foreign languages certified members and candidates, and duly reported to the Board and discussed at the Board meetings, the Committee could use a more stable and constant membership base in order to better reflect the issues and concerns of foreign languages members and ultimately better serve their interests. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to invite more certified members to join this Committee.

Keep in mind, though, that by becoming a member of ATIO's Foreign Languages Committee, which is a pro bono and voluntary position, you must be comfortable with committing to spending a average of a couple hours a month attending teleconferences and/or drafting/editing/proofreading committee literature, putting into play your unselfishness, enthusiasm and expertise to the long-term benefit of all ATIO foreign languages translators, interpreters, terminologists.

Topping the list, the most common concerns the committee has heard from fellow foreign languages certified translators still relate to the inadequacy of government recognition of certified translation provided by ATIO certified translators. Specifically, Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), among other government agencies, explicitly requires that all translations be accompanied by a "Translator

Affidavit," which is to be commissioned by a Commissioner for Taking Oaths/Affidavits. Similar requirements prejudicial to Certified Translators also exist with other government agencies at both provincial and federal levels.

The Committee's position is that while ATIO certified translators have no exclusivity in practicing translation, which is not a regulated profession on Ontario or Canada, unlike doctors and lawyers in relation to their respective professions, they deserve more official recognition in light of their professional competence backed by CTTIC's rigorous certification process and their ratification of ATIO's By-law and Code of Ethics, in addition to their professional titles protected by the law of Ontario.

On behalf of the Committee, I have drafted a letter to MCI to this effect, which ATIO will send to MCI upon approval by the Board.

In addition to ATIO's PR efforts and lobbying of the government agencies on this matter, I trust it would also make sense if individual foreign languages certified members of ATIO raise this issue with their local politicians. It is only through a concerted effort of both ATIO as an organization and its members that we can advance our profession as a whole.

If you have any comments on this matter or other matters relating to foreign languages, or if you are interested in joining the Foreign Languages Committee, please contact me at [info@jyang.ca](mailto:info@jyang.ca), or contact the ATIO Secretariat. ♦



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The Board of Directors of the  
Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario  
regretfully announces the death of

**Ronald Silvester**

**ATIO certified member (translation and court  
interpreting) since 1998**

## InformATIO

Published by:

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

1202-1 Nicholas Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

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Website: [www.atio.on.ca](http://www.atio.on.ca)

**Circulation:** 1370

**Graphic Designer:** More In Typo Ltd & Design

**Editorial Team:** Catherine Bertholet-Schweizer, Alana Hardy,  
Nancy McInnis, Michel Trahan

### Editorial policy:

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### Special thanks to:

Jean Bouchard, Lisa Carter, Barbara Collishaw, Michelle Delorme, Heather Martin, Françoise Michot Arbuckle, Alexia Papadopoulos, Catherine Rigaud, Pascal Sabourin, Michèle Santerre, Alexandra Scott, Jianhua (Gerald) Yang.

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\*No purchase is required. There is one (1) prize to be won. The winner may choose between an amount of \$60,000 CAD to build a dream kitchen of his/her choosing or \$60,000 CAD cash. The winner will be responsible for choosing a supplier and for coordinating all of the required work. The contest is organized by Security National Insurance Company and Primm Insurance Company and is open to members, employees and other eligible persons who reside in Canada and belong to an employer, professional or alumni group which has entered into an agreement with the organizers and is entitled to receive group rates from the organizers. The contest ends on October 31, 2014. The draw will be held on November 21, 2014. A skill-testing question is required. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. The complete contest rules are available at [melochemonnex.com/contest](http://melochemonnex.com/contest).

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