

informATIO

December 2015

Number 3

Message from the President

By Lisa Carter, President

Dear fellow ATIO members,

As the festive season approaches and 2015 draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to share some of what your Board has been up to since it was elected this past April.

I can assure you that each Director has been hard at work on a number of fronts, not all of which have yielded concrete results... yet! We have been promoting the association and our members with the federal Translation Bureau, the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration, Industry and Trade, among others. We have been working with CTTIC and our sister associations across Canada. A number of ATIO committees have been toiling away in various areas, including the new website, the entrance exam for translators, as well as the certification process, and the role and recognition

of candidates for certification—just to name a few! We will be sharing the outcome of all this work with you over the course of 2016.

Bear in mind that a number of important issues will be addressed at the AGM next April in Toronto, including potential by-law changes. As such, we hope many of you will attend. This is your association, after all; do be sure to make your voice heard.

We are very pleased to have permanent staff at the Secretariat. In addition to Marc Pandi, Executive Director, we now have Rebecca Kinos-Varo and Alexandra Chiasson, who joined us last summer. A number of you have already met them both, and I know they look forward to meeting many more of you at future events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all that they do, and of course the many ATIO volunteers

who contribute in so many ways. Your Board members dedicate great time and energy on your behalf, as do committee member volunteers whose input and commitment are much appreciated.

Our thanks go to all of you, our members, who continue to promote the language professions and ATIO every day through the invaluable work that you do. We are especially pleased this year to count on candidates in community interpreting and medical interpreting as part of our ranks.

It has been a pleasure for me to meet so many of you at various ATIO events in 2015, or to at least correspond with you. I look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration in benefit of our professions.

On behalf of the entire Board, I wish you and yours all the best in this festive season and continued health, happiness and prosperity in 2016! ■



Best wishes!

The Board members and the Secretariat would like to wish all ATIO members a happy season and prosperous New Year.

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A TRIBUTE TO MOHAN RAJAGOPAL, 1951-2015

By Lucie Caron

Translation Victor Loewen, C. Tran.

While jotting down some thoughts for this tribute to my late husband, I asked myself, which words best say who Mohan was? Mild-natured, honest, generous, passionate, faithful, modest... the list is endless! Mohan was a brilliant kind-hearted man whose paths inevitably led him to translation. During his childhood in India he was bounced from one state and language to another, but this did not prevent him from learning Tamil, his mother tongue, which he transmitted to his daughters with a sense of duty. In 1962, he came to Canada. At school, he was outstanding, especially in mathematics. He was also a dedicated long-distance runner. His passion for chess very naturally led him into another passion, Russian, the language of the grandmasters!

After completing his university studies in mathematics and linguistics, Mohan enrolled in a training program at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow where—as his travel companions love to say—he lived his Russian experience to the max! Whether as a freelance Russian-English translator or an English-French translator-reviser with CLC Itée (where we met), whether at the Immigration and Refugee Board or at the Library of Parliament, he always made an impression with his knowledge and talent. He left an indelible memory in everyone who ever worked or played with him. I and his two daughters, Tamil and Nila, deeply miss him, as do his family and friends.

Farewell, Mohan. On the great chessboard of life, you were a champion, all categories combined! ■

Looking for more industry news and information? Log-in and like the **ATIO Facebook** page today!

Each week you receive the most important news from ATIO directly to your e-mail inbox- job postings, event invitations, exam information, registration details for professional development opportunities, etc. But there's so much more going on in the world of translation, interpretation and terminology! We can't e-mail you everything, otherwise your inbox will burst! But if you follow us on Facebook you will receive even more updates on conferences from around the world, seminars, industry news and the like. Even better, you can check-out the photos from past ATIO events and tag yourself and your colleagues.



To find our Facebook page, search for ATIO or go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/ATIO.Association/>

Don't
worry, you will
still keep receiving the
information you need to
know via e-mail. But there's
more great information
to be found on our
Facebook page too!



Call for Volunteers!

By Rebecca Kinos-Varo, Membership Liaison Coordinator

We are currently looking for volunteers to help the Association with our various projects and events in 2016, including:

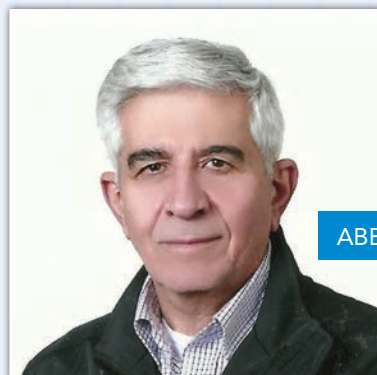
- Invigilating exams (entrance and certification)
- Marking entrance exams
- Helping out at events and workshops
- Tutoring university students currently studying translation
- Joining a committee: We are specifically looking for people interested in being a part of the Entrance Exam Committee, Disciplinary Committee, and others.

There are plenty of opportunities for certified members, candidates for certification and student members to get involved. Whether you can only volunteer a few hours a month or once a year, we would be more than happy to add you to our roster of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please email Rebecca Kinos-Varo at assistant@atio.on.ca. Please include the amount of time and how often you would like to volunteer, as well as the projects or events you are interested in. ■

ATIO
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MEET OUR MEMBERS

By Abbas Gholbeigi



ABBAS GHOLBEIGI

PERSONAL

To me the journey to receiving the CTTIC Translation Certification was a great and meaningful accomplishment. It was toward the formal and official recognition of my translation skills and experiences by my Canadian peers. I learned, developed and practised those skills over more than 20 years starting as a university student of translation in Iran, and I look forward to continuing to develop and practise them.

As in the past, highest quality, efficiency and standards of excellence, quick turnaround and customer satisfaction will be the prominent features of my brand.

Having witnessed the decisive will of the ATIO leadership team to improve the Association, I am determined to be more active in that process.

MY EXPERIENCE WITHIN ATIO

Upon reflection, I have not realized a pivotal point or key moment yet. I do expect optimistically that I will have one as I use my translation skills in translating from Farsi to English, which will be my next challenge in obtaining certifications.

MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

I am thankful to many people who have helped me to get where I am today:

Mr. Andalib, a very close, long-time friend and a certified translator in B.C., for his encouragement.

Mr. Foruzandeh, a publisher and translator, for his support.

My family members for their patience and understanding during the many ups and downs in my journey to certification.

Lastly, the ATIO leadership team and administrative staff for their efforts to maintain a high level of quality in the profession.



FondATIO: A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF ATIO'S CHARITABLE WORK

By Pascal Sabourin, C. Tran., President of FondATIO

Translation William Hart, C. Tran.

Any discussion of the future of the ATIO Foundation needs to refer to section 6(j) of the *Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario Act, 1989*. The Act called for establishing "a benevolent fund ... [and] providing for the receipt of contributions or donations." The intent of the drafters of the Act was to give ATIO a mandate to manage the language professions in Ontario. It was also to enable the Association to play a social and humanitarian role by creating mechanisms to collect and distribute funds for charitable purposes.

Over the years, ATIO administrators have sought the most useful ways to promote the language professions and support the next generation of professionals. In 1995, a group of members and non-members came up with the idea of forming the Peace Interpreters Foundation, with the primary aim of training young interpreters working with Canadian troops during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1997, this became the Foundation of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (FondATIO) to support the next generation in all the professions under the jurisdiction of the Association. Members' donations and the diligent work of its volunteer board of directors enabled FondATIO to present scholarships and awards to students in Ontario post-secondary institutions that offer training programs in the language professions, including the School of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Ottawa, Glendon College at York University in Toronto, Laurentian University in Sudbury up to 2003, and the Université de Hearst starting from 2011. Between 1995 and 2015, FondATIO distributed more than \$80,000 to 85 students during their studies or on graduation.

Despite these outstanding results, the fact remains that any foundation is dependent on the economic situation of the supporting population. For some years, the economic challenges faced by a number of our members have been reflected in the total amounts donated annually. Added to this are administrative requirements set by Industry Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency, such as a financial audit and presentation of financial statements in accordance with strict rules for reporting donations received and their disbursement.

At its April 2015 annual general meeting, FondATIO regretfully had to accept the reality that it could no longer continue to function usefully and effectively as a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. For example, audit expenses for the 2014 fiscal year were close to \$2,000 on a total of \$4,500 in donations received. It was therefore decided that FondATIO would gradually scale down its activities and would submit its final report when the funds it had received as a foundation were entirely depleted, that is, within two or three years.

However, the decision does not mean the end of the excellent scholarship and award program managed by FondATIO on behalf of ATIO since 2000. To the contrary: ATIO's board of directors has already adopted measures so that the program will continue its work with the next generation, and members will be invited to continue supporting the program through their contributions and donations. For this purpose, the registration form for the Association's Christmas dinners includes an opportunity to contribute to UNICEF or ATIO's scholarship and award program. Interested members, particularly self-employed professionals and freelancers, should consult their accountant or financial adviser to learn about the advantages of contributing to a scholarship and award program compared with donating to a charitable organization.

Cooperation continues between experienced professionals and the next generation. At both FondATIO and ATIO, your administrators think that they have responded appropriately to the situation they had to face. If you have specific questions about FondATIO or the ATIO scholarship and award program, please contact the author of this article: pascalsabo@bell.net.

Congratulations to Newly Certified Members

ATIO

Call for Trainers

By Marie Bordeleau

CERTIFIED THROUGH CTIC TRANSLATION EXAMINATION

Arabic to English
Ehab Abdelrahim Ali

English to Chinese
Jun Liu
Bing Qi

English to Farsi/Persian
Abbas Gholbeigi

English to French
Claire-Line Aecherli
Julien Daneau
Joanie Demers
Géraldine Green
Tiffany Holland
Mark Jessop
Moïse Khadour
Johanne Morin
Martine Pilon
Marie-José Raymond

English to Greek
Dimitrios Kagialaris

English to Korean
Sun Me Byon

English to Russian
Valery Gulyaev

French to English
Lindsay Bach
Roger Burrows
Tiffany Holland
Steven Jewitt
Leanne Legault

Russian to English
Olga Kuchuk

Turkish to English
Aysegul Canturk

ON-DOSSIER CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

Gabriela Rangel
A= Portuguese
B= English
C= French
C= Spanish

Jenny Pellerin
A= French
B= English

ON-DOSSIER TRANSLATION

Gabriela Rangel
English to Portuguese

Jiri Adler
Russian to English

ON-DOSSIER COURT INTERPRETATION

Soheila Khatami
Farsi/Persian/English

The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO) is the oldest organization of translators, conference interpreters, court interpreters and terminologists in Canada. The main purpose of the Association is to promote a high level of competence in the fields of translation, conference interpretation, court interpretation and terminology by providing a collective voice for its members; promoting the professional development of its members; and applying standardized, national criteria to recognize the competence of professional translators, conference interpreters, court interpreters and terminologists.

ATIO is developing a solid roster of monthly professional development workshops for its members in Toronto and in Ottawa, and is inviting qualified trainers to submit their proposed one-day seminars or half-day workshops in translation and interpretation, focusing primarily on the following topics:

- Language-specific workshops (Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish, German)
- Grammar and punctuation in French, English, Spanish
- Technology in translation, interpretation and terminology
- Business/entrepreneurship in the translation and interpretation fields

Please respond to marc.pandi@atio.on.ca by January 31, 2016 with your name, phone number, email address, a short syllabus for each seminar you propose and your rates.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

By Joanie Demers

Translation Carolyn Laidman, C. Tran.



JOANIE DEMERS

PERSONAL

I was pulled in all sorts of directions before deciding on “my career” as evidenced by my post-secondary pursuits. It was difficult to make a choice between so many fields, with each one being more fascinating than the last: history, modern languages, the arts, chemistry, mathematics, geography, economics, not to mention the various “-ologies” (geology, ecology, etc.). After completing a bachelor’s degree in general science (since I could not bring myself to specialize) with a minor in biology (I had to specialize somewhat), I realized that I much preferred to dissect passages, sentences, clauses, words and phrases rather than innocent organisms, who had never agreed to being donated to science. That’s when I went back to my first love and also completed a bachelor’s degree in translation (with a minor in deciphering mumbo-jumbo and expressing abstract concepts into plain language). Today, I’m able to take all sorts of scientific, legal and literary puzzles and have them make sense in French, which makes my job challenging and diverse.

MY EXPERIENCE WITHIN ATIO

Once I chose a career in translation, it was clear to me that I needed to join a professional association for translators. For me, it was of course a question of belonging, but also a question of credibility—added value. That is why I joined OTTIAQ as a student in my first year of university (at that time, I was planning to work in Quebec). Not only did that experience prepare me really well for the job market, but it also opened doors. Attending training workshops and annual conferences provided me with opportunities to speak with translators who worked in a variety of areas, secure job interviews and learn about the challenges language professions face. Having landed a job in Ontario near the end of my studies in 2013, I immediately turned to ATIO, where I hope to continue to expand my professional network, keep up with changes in my profession and the context in which it operates and possibly, encourage novice translators. My experience with ATIO has therefore only just begun!

MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

There are numerous people who directly or indirectly helped me become the professional I am today. First, I was privileged to have been taught by professors who were as dedicated and passionate as they were meticulous throughout my undergraduate studies at the University of Ottawa and my graduate program at the Université de Montréal. I was also fortunate to have completed internships in positive work environments where I received excellent training. The critical role that employers and mentors play in the development of young translators cannot be emphasized enough. For a little over two years, I have had the opportunity to work for a company that values continuing education and employee development. I have been able to count on my team leader’s support from the moment I began the certification process. But most of all, I would like to thank my mother who provides me with constant encouragement and who gave me a passion for reading and words.

ATIO Appoints Committee on Certification, Executive Approves Pilot Project for 2016

By Maha Takla, Director, Foreign Languages, and Jim Shearon, Secretary

In September 2015, ATIO appointed an ad hoc committee of 10 members to consider improvements to the certification processes, which have been the subject of complaints from members, especially foreign language translators. The committee was also asked to make recommendations on the role and status of candidates for certification.

About 40 percent of ATIO members are foreign language translators. The Executive was concerned that while Spanish and official languages candidates had a success rate of nearly 30 percent in the annual certification examinations, the pass rate for other foreign language candidates ranged from less than one per cent for Arabic candidates, to 8 percent for Chinese, and 10 percent for Farsi candidates.

Committee members are: Jiri Adler, Vancouver; Karina Azanza, Toronto; Albert Fung, Toronto; Stelian George-Cosh, Kitchener; Ayman Hammamieh, Ottawa; Lisa Maldonado, Guelph; Margaret Piasecka, Toronto; and Joan Shnier, Toronto. Ayman Hammamieh resigned very early when the committee would not agree that markers were in a conflict of interest position. Co-chairs are Maha Takla and Jim Shearon.

The committee has met several times in person and by teleconference, and also held public meetings in Ottawa and Toronto that were attended by more than 100 members. Among the complaints raised by members were allegations of conflict of interest when translators mark other translators and unsuitable examination texts.

Conflict of interest

Although there is no evidence of any marker deliberately failing a candidate, there is a perceived conflict of interest in foreign language examinations when a certified translator marks the examination paper of a candidate who is a potential competitor for work in a market that is smaller than the official languages market.

Quality of source text

Candidates who fail the examination frequently complain that the source text was poorly written, contained errors or dealt with a questionable subject matter. Some members believe there should be a committee to review examination texts. Others feel university professors, not working translators, should mark the examinations.

Pilot project approved

In October, the ad hoc committee presented preliminary recommendations to ATIO's Board of Directors, which included the use of an objective marking grid and changes to the appeal process, as well as a representative of candidates for certification on the ATIO Board. The committee will also make recommendations concerning on-dossier certification in its final report.

In November, the ATIO Executive approved a pilot project for the 2016 certification examinations in the Arabic and Farsi languages. ATIO will hire a third-party assessment organization to conduct a 2016 certification exam pilot project for Arabic<>English and Farsi<>English.

The third-party subcontractor will contract with language specialists to pre-screen examination texts for, among other things, consistency of accepted modern language use. ATIO will recruit volunteer certified translators in these combinations to write the examinations as a test of their appropriateness.

CTTIC will correct all examination papers per its usual methods, including ensuring that markers have taken the mandatory training, mark as per the guidelines and provide completed characterization sheets.

If failed candidates in these language combinations appeal their exam results, the third-party subcontractor will contract certified language specialists to rule on those appeals.

When the pilot project has been completed, the third-party subcontractor will evaluate the results of the pilot project, share that information with ATIO and CTTIC, and ATIO may conditionally commit to following similar procedures for other foreign language groups in 2017 and following years.

President Lisa Carter said the ad hoc committee's final report will be reviewed at the February meeting of the Board of Directors. The committee's recommendations will be published in the next issue of *InformATIO*. ■

TRIBUTE TO MICHEL LIMBOS

By Jacques Roland, C. Tran.

Translation Marina McDougall, C. Tran.

Although I hadn't seen Michel for some years now, I have an excellent recollection of our dealings with each other on both a personal and professional level. During our conversations, always conducted in a friendly tone—he was a frank and direct person, but always careful not to offend the sensibilities of others, even when he disagreed with them—we always seemed to have a number of things in common. We both studied in Belgium, were practically the same age and had the same interest in the professions of translator and interpreter, whether about working conditions or pay, professional standards or advancement.

During our conversations he told me that he did part of his studies in Anvers with one of my cousins. But it was here in Canada that he contributed the full measure of his talent and skills. I've had many opportunities to witness his enthusiasm, the profound dedication he continued to demonstrate for the interpreting profession and to those who practised it or who were aspiring to it through their studies, as well as to ATIO. He was a trusted, loyal colleague who could be counted on to do his share of the work and meaningfully contribute to any teams of which he was a member.

This did not curb his sense of humour, which contributed to lightening the atmosphere, sometimes in a most unexpected way, in stressful situations that are typical of what we do. He contributed to promoting and strengthening the profession, carrying out numerous particularly demanding functions. He has taught at the University of Ottawa, was president of ATIO (1984-1986) and of CTTIC (1986-1988) and has held

many other distinguished key positions, including within FIT (International Federation of Translators). I have often wondered how he found the time and energy to carry out all the responsibilities involved, efficiently and with flair.

After being elected to the ATIO Board in 1984, I admired his cool as he ushered our association through one of the most turbulent and chaotic periods of its existence without much ado. The Association survived dissension, political gamesmanship and aberrant behaviour threatening to blow it wide open, thanks mainly to Michel's efforts and the climate of confidence that he helped restore at an especially critical moment when many were ready to jump ship, and some in fact did.

For me, Michel will always be one of the great figures who, through tireless efforts, have made it possible for the professions of translator and interpreter to continue to grow and adapt to changing markets despite budgetary constraints and a host of other challenges that would have discouraged many.

The hope is that his example will inspire the young colleagues he has mentored to step up and demonstrate, through concrete actions and unfailing commitment, that our profession is one of the greatest in the world. I know he would agree with me that, more than an occupation, it is rather a vocation. This is how Michel has earned our friendship, respect and gratitude. He has left a mark that is not even close to being obscured and a message we won't forget. It is because of colleagues like him that we can continue to be justifiably proud of pursuing our profession, often long past the so-called "normal" retirement age, and to contemplate its future with renewed optimism. ■

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