

AGM COMMITTEE REPORT

Title Protection & Public Relations Committee

Progress Report from October 2022 to October
2023 Submitted to ATIA Council on October 16th,
2023

Note that this report **should be completed and sent to the ATIA Admin (admin@atia.ab.ca)**. It should be prepared by the Chair(s) and approved by the members of the Committee before being submitted to ATIA Council.

Members (First name and surname)	Email address	Role Chair Co-chair, member	Status Active - Inactive (To be completed by Chair)
Roula Salam	president@atia.ab.ca	Member by default	Active
Cinthia Mazur	cinthia.mazur@telus.net	Co-Chair	Active
Kea Adachi	development@atia.ab.ca	Co-Chair	Active
Samah Elzahaby	elzahaby1@yahoo.com		Active
Michel Selim	Michel.selim@gmail.com		Active

Number of meetings held during the period: 7

Date	Purpose	Main outcomes achieved
February 8, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss committee objectives Set up monthly meeting time and date
March 13, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information gathering Update on GoA meeting (Ministry of Skilled Trades & Professions – oversees TP)
April 5, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial draft of the “ATIA Letter of Support” Creation and populating of documents (list of MLA's, sister organizations, organizations/groups that use/benefit from ATIA)
May 9, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation into SOITA (Signature of Interpreters and Translators Alberta)- SOITA is a registered legal entity in Alberta. A committee member came across translation documents that had been stamped with “In good standing with SOITA”. SOITA has no online presence, but the stamps make it appear as though it is an official/certified translation body. This is another reason why title protection is important, as we cannot verify if those who are using the SOITA stamps are certified translators.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to promote/enhance ATIA name recognition • ATIA member support • Begin ATIA brochure updates
Jun 15, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the "ATIA Letter of Support" • Update on GoA meeting (now under the Ministry of Advanced Education, formerly Ministry of Skilled Trades & Professions) • Continued work on ATIA brochures
August 8, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOITA update • Updates and edits to the "ATIA Letter of Support" • Create Jot Form (Support Declaration) to include within the ATIA Letter of Support • Cinthia and/or Michel will be attending the ATIA AGM in person and will be available to read the report and answer any questions (Kea will be available via Zoom)
September 12, 2023	Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the "ATIA Letter of Support" to include Indigenous Languages • Update wording on Jot Form (Support Declaration) • Kea to draft AGM report for the committee

Outline of the Work Plan:

- 1) Connect with Government of Alberta Skilled Trades & Professions (Mary Jane Graham and Wayne Williams) to determine what the steps and other requirements needed for ATIA to become a regulated profession and/or achieve Title Protection
- 2) Determine and create lists of groups, organization, entities that use ATIA translators/interpreters and/or benefit from ATIA (includes: sister organizations, MLA's, Passport Canada, Alberta Registries, newcomers organization, hospitals, not-for-profit organizations, etc.)
- 3) Draft a Letter of Support to send out to above groups/organizations/entities/individuals
- 5) Request support in the form of letters or Support Declaration
- 6) Continue to meet with GoA contacts and begin to submit information/documents (once there is a clear process laid out)

Objectives for the current mandate:

Make sure the objectives are **Relevant, Aligned with** ATIA's overall strategic goals and committee description, **Specific** to the Committee and **Attainable** within a clearly defined and realistic timeframe.

- 1) Outline why Title Protection is important for ATIA (See [ATIA LETTER OF SUPPORT](#))
 - a. Letter has been drafted along with a link requesting a declaration of support (e-signature)
 - b. The ATIA Letter of Support will be sent out to Alberta MLA's in October 2023
- 2) Reach out to community, stakeholders, and other entities to request support for Title Protection
 - a. Lists have been compiled with contact information
 - b. The ATIA Letter of Support will be sent out to these groups at a later date
- 3) Connect with other ATIA Committees to come up with ways to:
 - a. Enhance ATIA name recognition
 - b. Support and engage ATIA members
 - c. Reach out to potential ATIA members

Objectives completed to date:

Objective 1 is almost complete. Emails are being sent out to Alberta MLA's with the ATIA Letter of Support

Objective 2 is in progress

Objective 3 is in progress, and we hope to have more engagement with other ATIA Committees following the 2023 AGM

Obstacles or issues encountered, and what steps have been taken to resolve these:

- 1) Determining a monthly meeting time that works for everyone
 - a. Doodle polling helped to determine the best times and dates for regular meetings
 - b. Regular email correspondence helped to ensure that all committee members were able to catch up on missed meetings and additional information
- 2) Information sharing
 - a. A Title Protection & PR Committee Google Drive was created for the committee members to share, edit, update, etc. information and documents
- 3) Delays and communication with the GoA
 - a. The GoA is updating the Professional Governance Act, currently there is no system for organizations to begin the process of applying for Title Protection

- i. The TP & PR Committee has had multiple meetings with our contacts in the GoA and we are beginning to compile evidence as to why TP is important for ATIA along with signatures and letters of support
- b. Alberta election in May 2023 created more delays
 - i. The Ministry we previously worked with changed to the Ministry of Advanced Education from Ministry of Skilled Trades & Professions
 - ii. The former minister was not reelected, the new Minister of Advanced Education is Rajan Sawhney
 - iii. We have been told that the Professional Governance Act should be tabled during the fall sitting, and hopefully will go through
 - iv. The TP & PR Committee has a tentative meeting with the GoA contacts on October 26th, 2023 for updates

Comments and observations:

The ATIA Title Protection & PR Committee members have worked well together this year. There is much more to do, but the passion, dedication, and work contributed by all members is incredible. We hope that all current member will continue with the committee into 2024.

Next steps:

- 1) Meet with the committee after the AGM and welcome any new members
- 2) Prepare for the tentative meeting with the GoA contacts on October 26th
- 3) Continue to send out the ATIA Letter of Support to MLA's and eventually other groups/organizations
- 4) Create a specific Title Protection & PR Committee section on the ATIA website that will be used to explain the importance of title protection for ATIA and keep the membership up to date on what the committee is focusing on