

President Report - 2023 ATIA AGM

Prepared by Roula Salam

Dear Members, it has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as your president for the past three years. I could not do it without your support, and without the hard work, steadfastness, and wonderful energy and enthusiasm of ATIA's Executive Council, its Members-at-Large, its Committees, and our staff, consisting of Allison Downer, our Administrative Assistant, and Kea Adachi, our Development Coordinator. My ATIA family has been the best, and I hope to continue to support our Association in different capacities in the years to come. For now, as I pass the hat to a new president, I trust that I will be able to lighten my load a little yet still be of assistance to the new members on the Executive Council and committees, and I trust that our new president will share the same passion and dedication in their new role.

Provincially, ATIA has been identifying its strengths and weaknesses to help our Association continue to develop and grow, and to provide short- and long-term solutions for some of the issues that we have been facing. Nationally, this year ATIA has continued to be a staunch supporter and role model for many of our sister associations; we have gladly provided help when needed, discussed common concerns, and shared ideas on how to better elevate the profession of translators and interpreters in consultation with CTTIC. Regionally, we have been actively involved with FIT's (the International Federation of Translators) North American Regional Centre at different levels, and we have also been quite active participants with FIT Mundus, both at the level of Council as well as at the committee levels.

I would like to share some of the highlights for this year with you in my report.

I. Highlights

Indigenous Translators (English>Nêhiyawêwin)

- After continuous meetings and collaboration with ATIA's Indigenous Languages Committee, we are almost ready to launch the first ever pre-entry and associate level examinations for Nêhiyawêwin translators. The exams will be launched in the spring of 2024. We have been working with the exams and the marking guidelines and rubrics to develop appropriate assessment tools for candidates wishing to become associate members. A lot of work has been put into the creation of a set of rubrics and marking guidelines designed especially for the Nêhiyawêwin language, and we are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our Nêhiyaw committee members, Tina Wellman, Wayne Jackson, and Ross Krekoski.

Membership and Involvement with the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and its Regional Centre:

- ATIA's membership with FIT, and its membership with FIT North America (by default) have enabled us to provide regional and international platforms for our Association and its membership.
 - o FIT Mundus: I am currently an active member on the FIT Council (2022-2025). I also co-chair two of FIT's standing committees (Indigenous Languages Standing Committee and Association Development Standing Committee) and am a member of FIT's Crisis Settings Standing Committee. This involvement has allowed me to engage ATIA with different projects and initiatives. We currently have one member from ATIA who is on the

Indigenous Languages Standing Committee (Tina Wellman), and we will continue to involve more members next year. We have participated in important surveys for at least three of FIT's committees where we shared our practices, our ideas, our challenges, and our accomplishments with the committees and with representatives of FIT member associations from all over the world. I attended FIT's annual in-person Council Meeting in April in Barcelona, where I also participated in conferences, attended seminars, and met with presidents of FIT's regional centres (for more details, please see my report on the Barcelona session).

By networking, developing strong working relationships, setting goals, and initiating important projects, we hope to see our ATIA's participation and involvement continue to grow in support of our membership at local, national, and international levels.

- FIT NA Regional Centre: As a Board Member of FIT NA Regional Centre, I have also been involved with the organization of webinars and conferences. Our own member, Tania Therian, has assumed the position of Secretary for FIT NA, and she traveled to Mexico this summer to attend FIT NA's annual council meeting both as secretary and as ATIA representative. At that meeting, ATIA submitted a proposal for the training of Indigenous and language of lesser diffusion interpreters across North America. The proposal was very well-received, and as a result a special committee was formed to begin working on this important initiative. We involved some of our members (Wayne Jackson and Monica De Maria) in this committee as well, and this led to the two members travelling to Monterey to attend the Next-Gen Conference on the future of education for translators and interpreters.

Examination and On-Dossier Procedures:

- Our current examination and on-dossier procedures have been streamlined and have been updated. We now have a solid system in place, and tasks and processes have become much easier with the help of our Exam Coordinator and Exam Committee, as well as our dedicated members.

Financial Support and Funding for Members:

- ATIA has been offering and continues to offer financial support to its membership through bursaries, grants, and financial support to deserving members and members in need.
- This funding can be used for things like translation/interpretation projects, publications, education, fees, and other related events as per merit and need.

Collaboration with the University of Alberta's Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies

- For the second year in a row, our collaboration with the U of A Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies has been extremely successful. We have collaborated for the second year with the department in our ITD event, and we have participated in one of the Department's symposiums held on main campus. ATIA was represented in this last event by our VP in the North, Rocky Feng.

Collaboration with International Organizations and Not-for-Profits:

- Through its membership with FIT and FIT NA, ATIA continues to network with international organizations such as UNESCO and Translation Commons with the goal of providing more visibility and creating new channels of communication with the Association and its members.

New Committees

- This year, ATIA saw the formation of four new committees: the Interpreters Committee, the Professional Development and Events Committee, the Title Protection and Public Relations Committee, and the Associate Member Committee. In a wonderful show of energy and cooperation, the new committees plunged into the task of bringing back more social events, actively working on the pursuit of title protection, supporting and involving associate members, working on initiatives for training and support of our interpreters, and so much more. The dedication and passion of our committee members have been phenomenal, and I hope that we will continue with this energy in the future. Our committees have also done a wonderful job in cooperating with one another, attending each other's meetings, and developing better strategies to help ATIA gain visibility, improve its support for its members, and continue to grow and develop as an association.

Title Protection

- As per our report, we have been meeting monthly and working hard to launch our letter of support campaign to obtain signatures supporting our quest for Title Protection. We have also met several times with representatives from the Ministry to discuss the next steps towards this goal.

II. Ongoing Projects

Indigenous Languages:

- ATIA's collaboration with Indigenous language professionals is an on-going journey, and we will remain in solidarity with and in full support of Indigenous communities. We will continue to work with new Indigenous languages and welcome new members into this committee.

ATIA Committees:

- As mentioned, our committees have been active and continue to dedicate time and energy to support ATIA's membership and its Council. We hope to see many new faces this coming year!

Title Protection and Website Updates:

- We will provide updates in our monthly newsletter of any developments.

Discipline Committee:

- During this year, three complaints were brought before the Discipline Committee. The cases have been thoroughly investigated and actions were taken where needed.

III. Upcoming Projects for 2023-2024

- Continuing work with Indigenous language groups
- Continuing work to obtain title protection
- Continuing work to refine and perfect our exam and on-dossier procedures
- Continuing service for our members and our community to provide support, training, and on-going professional development opportunities
- Continuing collaboration and work with FIT International and FIT Regional Centre
- Continuing work on our website and our email/filing platforms

IV. Minor Amendment to Our By-Laws (to be voted on at the next AGM)

As our membership was not notified of this item within the twenty-day window, I share it here as a reminder for a motion to be voted on at next year's AGM.

From:

12. REMUNERATION FOR SERVICES

12.

12.1 No officer or member of the Association shall receive any remuneration for his services, unless the general membership has authorized such remuneration at a duly constituted meeting. Notice of the intent to authorize such remuneration shall be included in the notice of the meeting.

To:

Change of By-Law 12:

No officer or member of the Association shall receive any remuneration for their services, unless the Executive Committee has authorized such remuneration at a duly constituted meeting. Notice of the intent to authorize such remuneration shall be included in the notice of the meeting.

Reasoning: Pursuant to ATIA's fair remuneration policy in the matter of compensation for services such as webinars, exam marking, mentorship, or the like as have been offered to our ATIA members for a long time, ATIA EC finds that the above-stated by-law is no longer applicable, considering that ATIA does not hold a "duly constituted meeting" every time a payment is to be made to a member to compensate for services rendered as explained.

Thank you,
Roula Salam, ATIA President

