

President's Report

Dear ATIA members,

It is my distinct honour and pleasure to report to you today about the activities, events and accomplishments of ATIA this last year. 2019-2020 has been wonderful, but also challenging year for ATIA. I am sure it was also a challenging year for many of you.

Covid 19 had multiple impacts on the activities of the association. The Board worked hard to address them, to advance feasible alternatives and to respond to the needs of members in the best possible way.

We had our first Associate Exam online in the summer and it was very well received. At this moment, a subcommittee from the Board is working on the process to provide the pre-requirements exams (Code of Ethics and English Proficiency) online. We have selected the skill assessment platform Mettl for the mentioned exams. The Associate translation exam will be provided with zoom.

The situation became very dire for most of our members when the province came to a standstill and work dried up for most of us, especially for our interpreters. The Board decided to provide opportunities for intellectual enrichment through several interesting free webinars for our members and the public. The response has been fantastic. Many members of ATIA and of sister Associations in CTTIC participated in these webinars.

We offered the following free webinars to our members:

- *Memory Skills: What Every Interpreter Needs*. Presented by Debra Russel PhD
- *Note Taking: Why do I Need That*. Presented by Debra Russel PhD
- *An Overview of the Canadian Court System*. Presented by Carmen Aguilera
- *Word Choice*. Presented by Roula Salam PhD
- *Cognitive Models, what do we need to know about that?* Presented by Debra Russell (On Translators Day. October 3)
- *Media Translation and Geopolitics*. Presented by Housseem Ben Lazreg (On Translators Day. October 3)
- *Works in Translation*. Organized by Roula Salam. (On Translators Day. October 3)

Our website is improving. All the time we add new information specially in the Members' section. The present platform is more friendly to manage than the previous one and allows Allison to accept payments, process registrations and the like. Because of this platform a lot that can be done in-house, without a need to retain outside services.

Our presence in social media continues to grow. Our monthly newsletter provides members with news, professional development opportunities and remarkably interesting links relevant to

our profession. The newsletter is distributed to all members, as well as to the community upon request.

It is my pleasure to inform all our Associate Interpreters that the application for Certification on Dossier for Court Interpreters is now available for download from our website. The one for Medical and Community Interpreters will follow soon.

Title Protection: Since the Spring of last year, after the change in provincial government, there has been no progress in our application for Title Protection. This is due to a process of re-evaluation of these matters by the current Government of Alberta. No progress is to be expected before the conclusion of this re-evaluation process.

CTTIC

For last year I have served in CTTIC board. I am in charge of organizing webinars for all the Associations and at no cost for the members.

Webinars provided by CTTIC this year:

- *Emojis, Emoticons and Smileys. A Quick Primer for Court Interpreters.* Presented by Jeff Staflund
- *Introduction to Legal Translation.* Presented by Regina Landeck
- *To examine the true importance of translation in today's globalized interconnected and digitized world.* Presented by Donald Barabé
- *Looking forward to a brighter future in translation.* Presented by Donald Barabé

CTTIC Updates:

- New Exam Coordinator: Young Joe
- Webpage: There will be a new one soon.
- Exams: To address the existing backlog, the first exams will be the oral portion of the interpreting exams. Only candidates who have already passed the written section will be able to take it. In the future, candidates will take the two sections of the exam for interpreters the same day.
- CTTIC exams will be online but the Associations have the option to offer in person handwritten or computer exam.

As you know, my term in office, and the terms in office of some of my fellow Executive Board members, are all coming to an end. I still find it unbelievable that I have served as President of ATIA for the past 3 years. It has been an honour and a privilege, but of course, I did not do this alone. As I conclude my term, I wish to express my thanks to the talented, dedicated, and wise members of the Executive Board, and the terrific group of Members at Large. Special thanks to Allison and Amelia during this last year. Immense load of the Board's work could materialize thanks to them. It has been a joy to work with you all! My gratitude goes also to so many members of ATIA for your ongoing willingness to participate and be involved in this important organization, and for your support during these three years. Thank you again, and best wishes always!

