

President Report - 2022 ATIA AGM

Prepared by Roula Salam

First and foremost, I want to thank the members of ATIA Executive Council, its Members at Large, its Committees, and our staff, consisting of Allison Downer, our Administrative Assistant, and Kea Adachi, our Development Coordinator. The team I have been working with has been nothing short of amazing in their support, energy, and unwavering high spirits, even in the face of the challenging obstacles we encountered this year. This year and the past have been a whirlwind of activity, with so many projects, activities, and new collaborations on the go. At the same time, we also had our fair share of trials and frustrations, but this did not stop us from doing our best when it comes to supporting our Association and its membership. Please allow me to share with you some of the important highlights and achievements for this year in my report.

I. Highlights

Certification of Indigenous Translators (English>Nêhiyawêwin)

- ATIA welcomes two certified translators in English>Nêhiyawêwin, thus becoming the first provincial translation and interpretation association in Canada to have indigenous language translators among its members.
- After over a year of collaboration, discussion, and monthly meetings with indigenous language professionals and translators, ATIA's Indigenous Languages Committee has been working with Nêhiyawêwin professors and language professionals to develop the pre-entry and entry-level assessment tools and procedures that would be implemented in order for Nêhiyawêwin translators to become members of the Association.

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

- ATIA's membership with the International Federation of Translators and its automatic membership by affiliation with FIT North America Regional Centre have opened numerous doors and created many valuable opportunities for us.
- During the FIT Congress in Cuba, I was also nominated as a member of the FIT Council, which also serves to enhance ATIA's visibility and involvement at the regional and international levels.

Re-Assessment, Revision and Improvement of Examination and On-Dossier Procedures:

- Following close collaboration with and a lot of wonderful work and support from our Examination Committee, ATIA has put in place enhanced practices regarding Exam and On-Dossier procedures.
- Guidelines have been revised, and we are following a much-improved process which ensures more fairness, due diligence, and accuracy.

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.

Collaboration with and Support of Provincial Service Providers and Not-for-Profits

- Alberta Health Services has reached out to us for the first time to find indigenous language interpreters in order to help them better serve all communities.

- AHS are looking for certified indigenous interpreters for different languages, such as Blackfoot and Dene, and ATIA will be collaborating with them in the future to help in this regard once we have more members for other indigenous languages.

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

- Our collaboration with the U of A's Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies has opened the door for future collaboration regarding new members and possibly offering interpretation teaching programs through the Department.

Collaboration with International Organizations and Not-for-Profits:

- Through its membership with FIT and its North American Regional Centres, ATIA has been able to expand its network to collaborate with UNESCO and Translation Commons.
- This has allowed our first certified indigenous translator to present an important talk on the occasion of International Translation Day regarding Nêhiyawêwin resource development and the translation of children's literature.
- The event was hosted by Translation Commons in partnership with UNESCO's Secretariat of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the International Federation of Translators and was aired live globally.

Creating New and Important Opportunities for Members:

- Through some of these collaborations and networks, ATIA has been able to create some excellent opportunities for its members to join international working committees, attend conferences and talks, as well as network and develop.
- ATIA will be hosting professional development events and webinars offered by national and international professionals.
- We will also be opening opportunities for interested members to provide training and teaching at different levels.

Collaborating with and Supporting Sister and International Associations

- ATIA continues to help and work with its sister associations, whether through providing online exam support and training sessions, collaborating on CTTIC-led committees, and other occasions.
- ATIA has been supportive of the Ukrainian Association of Translators and Interpreters (UATI). After giving her talk at our ATIA ITD event and answering some of my questions, the Chair of UATI seemed open to her association collaborating with us on training and other opportunities in the future.

Supporting Our Community

- ATIA seeks to help small not-for-profits who support the community by providing community service translation and interpretation free of charge, while ATIA pays its members discounted fees for their services.
- Community services provided by members will also go towards their professional development points.

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 full support of indigenous communities.

FIT Committees and Task Forces:

- ATIA members who are actively involved with FIT Committees and Task Forces will be part of a special ATIA FIT Committee, and will be able to participate in important international events and projects.

ATIA Committees:

- ATIA’s Committees this year have been amazing. They continue to support ATIA’s membership through working hard on creating and managing new projects and supporting ATIA’s Council and the membership.

Title Protection and Website Updates:

- Important updates will be provided by Kea Adachi, our Development Coordinator, and Allison Downer, our Administrative Assistant.

Discipline Committee Report (presented by me on behalf of Discipline Committee Chair):

- During this year, one complaint has been brought before the Discipline Committee. The case is currently under investigation. A report on the conclusion of this case will be provided at the next AGM.

Exam Committee Report (presented by me on behalf of Exam Committee Chair):

From June to October 2022, the Exam Committee has been busy evaluating two On-Dossier translator certification applications. The evaluation process is lengthy as it involves contacting several references, sponsors and translators, as well as two markers who assess the translations that were submitted. All input is gathered, thoroughly analyzed and discussed by members of the Committee before a result is reached.

One On-Dossier application evaluation was completed in September. The second one is being finalized.

The Exam Committee is considering streamlining the On-Dossier application components in order to simplify the process and make the evaluation more effective.

III. Upcoming Projects for 2022-2023

- 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

IV. ATIA’s Associate Membership – Graduates:

- After our collaboration with the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies and the excellent presentations given by four of the Department’s graduate students, and seeing that it is important for ATIA to attract academics and scholars with a strong background in the field of translation and interpretation,
- After discussions with the Chair of the Department and other professors wishing to collaborate with ATIA to create incentives and guidance for graduates wishing to become members of ATIA,
- After listening to the request from the Department Chair of whether we would be able to provide a reduced fee for graduates who are doing their post-graduate studies,
- After seeing that this practice is implemented by all our sister associations but not by us,
- ATIA Executive Council discussed the matter, and we would like to offer the following:

- Graduates in translation or interpretation in a language combination where the one language is English can become Associate Members directly upon passing the Code of Ethics Exam and paying the membership dues.
- Credentials need to be assessed by the Board.
 - Degrees and transcripts from overseas will need to be translated by a certified translator if not in English or French.
 - Degrees and transcripts from overseas must be accredited by a recognized Canadian organization such as IQAS or WES.
 - Candidates from a country where English is not an official language will need to pass the editing and/or reading comprehension exam(s).
- As is true for all associate members, these student associates will have six years within which they can apply for certification either by writing the certification exam or on-dossier
- As per By-Law 3.1, Terms of Admission, “The Association shall admit any person who: 3.1 Meets the requirements applicable to the category of membership for which he has applied”, and as per Article 2.5.2:

In order to be eligible for admission as an Associate Member as a translator, the applicant shall pass an admission examination set by the Association. The Council shall determine, on the basis of the availability of appropriate resources for each examination period, the language combinations in which the admission examinations may be held.

To this effect, graduate students would still be sitting for either the Code of Ethics Exam or both, the Code of Ethics and the Editing/Reading Comprehension Exam, but will not need to take the Associate level translation exam.

V. Small Increase in Membership Fees and Special Student Rates (as per Item V) (requires vote):

- The ATIA Board of Directors moves to propose a modest increase in its membership fees, considering that we are one of the associations with the lowest membership fees across Canada, and we are currently in the process of setting aside budgets for professional development, bursaries, grants, and travel. We would like to also propose a reduced fee for university students.

Old Associate Membership Fee: \$160

Old Certified Membership Fee: \$240 (current fees for ATIO \$395 STIBC \$310)

- New Associate fee: \$180
- New Student Associate Fee: \$120
- New Certified fee: \$280
- As per By-Law 4.1, these changes would not be in effect until August 2023

**VII. Proposed budget for professional development and travel expenses
(requires vote)**

Now that the world is slowly going back to normal after COVID, and considering the value and gained exposure attained by attending conferences, congresses, and PD events in person, ATIA has decided to set aside a budget of \$15,000 for this purpose. This budget will cover events such as ATIA retreats, AGMs, FIT Congress/Conferences, FIT Regional Centre events, and other similar or related events. It is worth mentioning that any such applications for attendance of any of these conferences/retreats will be evaluated by the Board and approved if found to be of value to the members and to the Association.

**VIII. Proposed increase from \$7000 to \$8000 to the budget set aside for
community service (requires vote)**

Thank you,
Roula Salam, ATIA President

