



August 11th, 2023

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta (ATIA)

RE : Translation in Immigration Cases

To whom this may concern,

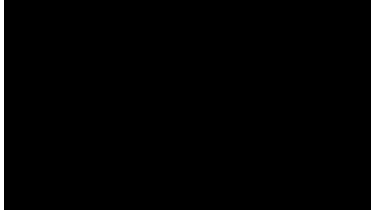
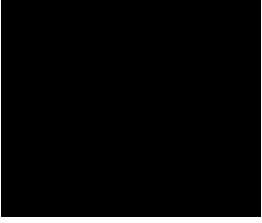
I am writing this letter at the request of Ms. Roula Salam, in support of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta.

I have been an attorney since 2017 
 a member of the Law Society of Alberta, since 2021. My firm practices exclusively in Immigration and Refugee Law, with offices in Montreal and Edmonton. We represent clients all over Canada and from different countries, and from all nationalities and walks of life.

We offer legal representation to clients in all types of immigration applications, and represent clients in their asylum claims at the Immigration and Refugee Board, as well as litigation at the Federal Court. As such, our firm frequently has recourse to translators who work in different languages; Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, Hindi, Creole, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, etc.

The documents that are required for immigration files are crucial to the clients' applications, in particular when they are used as evidence in refugee claims. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that a refugee's evidence is translated correctly and accurately, as this could reflect upon the client's credibility at the hearing.

Throughout my years of practice, I have seen first-hand the negative consequences of incorrect translations, where a few words or expressions translated inaccurately have resulted in the refusal of



a refugee's asylum application. A refusal in an asylum application in Canada can eventually lead to deportation, or in the case of a refusal in a visa application, a 5-year ban from Canada.

In a majority of these cases, the translations were completed by individuals who were not certified translators in Canada. Due to the lack of standards regulating these individuals, there is nothing to prevent them from doing this work and submitting these documents with Immigration applications. Refugees in particular are a vulnerable population and when in Canada, they seek help from community members, without having the knowledge and awareness to discern who is a regulated professional and who is not.

Consequently, it is the responsibility of regulatory bodies such as the '*Association of Interpreters and Translators of Alberta*' to oversee and regulate the profession of translators and interpreters, in order to protect the public from the grave consequences of dealing with unregulated individuals.

Sincerely,



Avocate • Attorney at Law
Barrister & Solicitor