

WHY TITLE PROTECTION?

ATIA translators and interpreters are more than just bilinguals. They are trained linguists skilled in intercultural communication who have achieved certification through rigorous and standardized examination. They work in hospitals and court rooms, with refugees and new immigrants, on sensitive subjects and confidential papers. Their role in maintaining public safety is key.

ATIA, the only nationally certifying association for translators and interpreters bound by a code of ethics and professional standards in Alberta, seeks protection for the titles of Certified Translator, Certified Community Interpreter, Certified Court Interpreter, and Certified Medical Interpreter.

Protecting these hard-earned titles protects Albertans from communication errors and ethical breaches ranging from minor to serious. It recognizes the credentials and experience of vetted professional translators and interpreters. It enforces high provincial standards and prevents individuals from operating without a code of ethics, disciplinary body, or sufficient training. Most importantly, title protection protects the public and public money.

POARA

Currently, the Professional and Occupational Associations Registrations Act (POARA) is under review by the Government of Alberta.

- POARA, a “title protection” legislation, is an “umbrella act” that is intended to regulate many professions and occupations not regulated under other Alberta Statutes.
- The purpose of POARA is to PROTECT and PROMOTE public interest by ensuring that the members of registered professions and occupations meet acceptable standards.
- Once a profession or occupation is registered under POARA, only members of the professional association are authorized to use protected title(s).

Association of Translators
and Interpreters of Alberta



Association des traducteurs
et interprètes de l'Alberta

MISSION

ATIA's mission is to elevate the professions of translation and interpretation in the province of Alberta by applying high standards of national certification; protecting clients, professionals, and the general public through the implementation of our Code of Ethics; providing unique opportunities to members for professional development and community service; and ensuring that the language service needs of Albertans are met with the exceptional standards and unparalleled experience of our qualified language professionals.

ABOUT

ATIA was established in 1979, and is the only professional association of certified translators and interpreters in the province of Alberta.

ATIA certifies translators and interpreters by facilitating national examinations as a provincial member of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC).

ATIA is affiliated with CTTIC, sister provincial associations, and with the International Federation of Translators (FIT).



HOW YOU CAN HELP



★ Scan the QR code to read ATIA's Letter of Support

★ Share the letter and sign the Declaration of Support

ATIA FAQs

WHO MAKES UP ATIA?

ATIA members are translators and interpreters, with postsecondary education and extensive experience, who are recognized as professionals by their peers and relied on by Albertans for their linguistic expertise. ATIA has two levels of membership: Certified and Associate. For both levels, candidates must successfully pass a number of exams for each language combination they wish to work in.

Associate-level exams:

- Code of Ethics
- English-language proficiency/reading comprehension
- Language-specific exam/application

Certification-level exam:

- Nationally standardized translation or interpretation exam/on dossier application

WHO CREATES ATIA EXAMS?

Pre-entry exams are created by linguists with considerable experience in assessment techniques and in teaching the skills candidates are tested on. An ATIA exam coordinator and committee vet the qualifications of certified translators, certified interpreters, and professors who select associate-level exam texts. Texts are selected based on level of difficulty, readability, authenticity, and variety. Exam texts must not be political or overly technical in nature. Certification-level exam texts are prepared at the national level by the CTTIC examination committee, who ensure exam texts follow a clear set of criteria and are not used more than once.

WHO PROCTORS EXAMS?

Associate-level exams are administered online via Mettl, a platform using advanced visual proctoring to capture live images through web cameras to prevent impersonation or cheating. Snapshots of examinees are taken at regular intervals and included in an assessment report for review by ATIA administration. Certification exams are available in-person and online, depending on the type (translation/interpretation) and language combination.

WHO MARKS EXAMS?

Associate- and certification-level exams are marked by certified translators, certified interpreters, or university professors, recruited from outside the province of the candidate with substantial assessment experience. Markers receive training and follow a rubric. Each exam is graded by two qualified professionals. The ATIA exam committee reviews graded exams to ensure markers adhered to guidelines. An appeal process allows candidates to request a third marker should they feel they have been unfairly graded.

WHAT ARE EXAM PREREQUISITES?

Candidates seeking certification must first pass pre-entry exams with a minimum of 70%, followed by a language-specific translation exam or interpreter application, which they must also pass with 70% or higher. Associate members then have 6 years to accumulate the requisite experience (measured by word or hour count) to be eligible for certification-level exams or on-dossier application. On-dossier applications require proof of substantial experience, a high degree of quality and professionalism, and references.

HOW ARE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEGREES EVALUATED?

Certain degrees may qualify candidates for exemption from some exams. ATIA's exam committee reviews transcripts to evaluate the suitability of courses taken. International degree transcripts must be translated into English or French by a certified translator and assessed by World Education Services, International Qualifications Assessment Service, or a similar organization prior to submission to ATIA's exam committee.