

WHY TITLE PROTECTION?

Translation and interpretation standards have decreased alarmingly across Canada over the past years, with errors and/or ethical breaches ranging from minor to serious. The harm that these errors and/or ethical breaches have on the public, businesses, and taxpayers is alarming, and is why ATIA wishes to seek title protection from the Government of Alberta for the titles of Certified Translator, Certified Community Interpreter, Certified Court Interpreter, and Certified Medical Interpreter.

Currently, there are no protected titles for nationally certified translators and interpreters in Alberta, leaving the public and public dollars at risk.

This means that individuals/agencies, who may not have appropriate credentials, experience, or the public's best interests in mind, can operate without the requirement of standards, ethics, or the ability or knowledge to accurately translate or interpret.

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 SETS/PREPARES THE EXAMS?

ATIA requires new candidates to sit for 2 pre-entry exams (Code of Ethics and Language Proficiency/Reading Comprehension exams) prior to taking the Associate Level translation exams. These pre-entry exams are created by experienced translators who specialize in the areas of assessment and who have considerable experience teaching the skills candidates are tested on. Entry exam (Associate Level) texts are either submitted by other Certified Translators or University Professors who are qualified to evaluate exam texts and whose skills have been verified by the Exam Coordinator and the Exam Committee. The selection of texts for Associate Level translation exams is based on a set of criteria that determine difficulty level, readability, authenticity, and variety. Furthermore, texts must not be political or overly technical in nature. Certification Level exam texts are prepared by the CTTIC Examination Committee. Following a process similar to ATIA's, the CTTIC Exam Committee ensures that the exam texts selected for the certification exams follow a clear set of criteria. These exam texts are not to be used more than once.

WHO PROCTORS THE EXAMS?

Associate level exams are administered online using a platform called Mettl. The platform uses AVP (Advanced Visual Proctoring) to capture live images through the web camera to prevent impersonation and use of unfair means such as cheating by navigating away from the test screen. Snapshots are taken at regular intervals and included in an assessment report reviewed by ATIA Admin.

For the certification exam, both in-person and online options are available depending on whether the exam is for translation or interpretation and in some cases, on the language combination.

WHAT ARE THE CREDENTIALS FOR EXAM MARKERS?

The markers are experienced, qualified individuals who are either Certified Translators or University Professors who have been marking for a long time. They are usually selected from outside the province of the candidate or even sometimes from the USA, depending on the language. Markers receive training in marking, and they also use a set rubric to mark exams. Feedback or comments on marking are provided by the Exam Committee, who goes over the markers' comments to determine if the guidelines have been followed. Markers always mark in pairs, so each exam, whether at the Associate or Certified Level, is marked by two qualified professionals. There is an appeal process in place if the candidate feels they have been unfairly marked. In this case, a third marker is asked to review the exam.

WHAT ARE THE CREDENTIALS REQUIRED FOR CANDIDATES?

There are two steps for candidates who wish to become certified. Firstly, they must pass the pre-entry exams with a minimum of 70%. If they pass, they must then pass the Associate Level exam. Once they have become Associate members, they then have up to 6 years to gain experience and accumulate the required word count to be eligible to sit for the Certification Level exams. Once they are ready, they then take the certification exams or may also submit an on-dossier application if they have extensive experience in translation along with a solid educational background either in translation or in a translation-related field. On-dossier applications rely heavily on translation experience in various fields. Experience must be substantial and must reflect a high degree of quality and professionalism (such as translation of academic articles, literary texts, lengthy legal or technical documents).

HOW ARE DEGREES, DOMESTIC & FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, EVALUATED?

Degrees and transcripts may qualify candidates for exemption from some of the exams. For local graduates, transcripts allow the Exam Committee to determine what courses the candidate has taken, and how these courses relate to translation or interpretation. International degrees must be translated (if not already in English or French) by a certified translator, and they must be sent for assessment prior to being submitted to the Exam Committee to World Education Services (WES) or International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS), or any other similar organization.