



ATIA AGM November 1, 2025

Vice President – Calgary Report

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Introduction

As I complete my two-year term as Vice-President – Calgary, I look back with appreciation for the meaningful work we have undertaken together and the steady progress we have achieved for our Association and our profession. This term has been guided by a commitment to strengthening interpreter and translator pathways, advancing professional standards, and ensuring that our work continues to protect the public and support our members.

Council Collaboration & Member Engagement

- It has been a pleasure working alongside my fellow Council members — Perla, Tania, Mayada, and Russel — and our dedicated staff, Allison and Kea.
- I am also grateful to the many members who participated in discussions, shared ideas, and supported our initiatives. Together, we have invested countless volunteer hours to support our profession and safeguard the public through ethical, qualified language services.

Community Outreach & Service

- This year, we continued the community services and outreach project launched in 2021, connecting nonprofit organizations with limited resources to ATIA members for translation and interpreting services. This initiative supports both the community and our associate members' growth and professional exposure.
- Through this effort, we matched three interpreting assignments from Calgary's women's shelter, Ruth's House, with our only Tigrinya interpreter, who accepted the assignments for a small honorarium while gaining valuable practice and community hours. We also matched a Mandarin interpreting request from the Calgary Youth Justice program, followed by requests for Turkish, French, and Russian services. Although we were unable to fulfill those due to funding limitations, we remain hopeful about expanding our capacity next year.

Promotion & Visibility

- Perla and I delivered a presentation to CYRA Calgary on ATIA's role and this initiative, which was very positively received. The program coordinator later requested referrals to certified Korean and Farsi translators to review senior-focused materials — a testament to ATIA's growing visibility and credibility.

Training Partnerships & Court Interpreter Development

- Throughout the year, we consulted with court-interpreter educators and national leaders in interpreter training to better understand training needs and options for expanding professional development pathways in Alberta and offering more competitive training options for court interpreters.
- As part of this work, I am pleased to share that a discounted court-interpreter training opportunity has been secured for ATIA members through a reputable provider and experienced trainer. This initiative expands access to high-quality training that prepares court interpreters to meet Alberta's growing needs and uphold the highest standards of professional and ethical practice. Participation is optional, and ATIA receives no financial benefit. Full details will be shared through ATIA's official communication channels in the upcoming term.

On-Dossier Certification Milestone

- A major achievement this year was the finalization of the On-Dossier certification packages for court, medical, and community interpreters — a milestone five years in the making. These will be released online shortly and represent a significant expansion of pathways to certification for experienced associate interpreters.

Title Protection & Provincial Advocacy

- In parallel, through the Title Protection Committee, we have been diligently working with the Government of Alberta to support the future implementation of title protection. We remain patient, purposeful, and optimistic as we look toward the anticipated opening of the application process in 2027 — a major step toward protecting the public and elevating our profession in Alberta. Title protection will move our profession one step closer to full regulation and support the responsible growth and recognition of language services in Alberta.

National Collaboration & Harmonization

- Calgary had the honour of hosting the most recent CTTIC AGM & Conference, which featured presentations from provincial association leaders and an accomplished language-industry entrepreneur. During the AGM, a national harmonization committee was established to advance aligned certification processes across provinces while respecting provincial needs.
- The conference further examined national perspectives on the evolving role of AI in language services, underscoring the importance of mastering and guiding these tools rather than fearing displacement by them. Ethical integration, the irreplaceable human element and trust, and a pragmatic approach to technology were emphasized as key to ensuring our profession continues to lead, adapt, and thrive.

Professional Development & Training Leadership

- Professional growth remained a priority this term, reflected in my participation in the CTTIC AGM and multiple international webinars, seminars and workshops addressing the impact of AI on interpreters and translators.
- Further specialized training consisted of two six-week advanced programs in conference and simultaneous interpreting with International PhD-level instructors to support and maintain alignment with global best practices.
- Additionally, I participated in AIMGA's annual medical-interpreters mock interview panel, helping evaluate 18 candidates alongside HR and language-sector professionals and supporting internationally trained physicians transitioning into the Canadian system.

Closing Reflections & Calling for Members Participation

I continue to dream of seeing all professional translators and interpreters in Alberta united under ATIA, working collectively to improve working conditions, uphold ethical standards, and protect the public. I invite more members to step forward, bring new ideas, and help shape the future of our profession. Thank you to my fellow Council members for your dedication and support over the past two years. It has been an honour to serve as VP-Calgary.