

STIBC Voice

Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC

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From the STIBC President's Laptop

By Stefanie Kennell

On the eve of Canada Day, the sun is shining, the crows are cawing, the leaves rustle in the breeze, and life—not least the work of interpreters and translators—goes on. Now that summer is here, the weather has warmed up and we are trying to recover from being cooped up indoors for months. The COVID-19 crisis does continue, however, so while many if not all of us continue to utilize video conferencing (Skype, Zoom, etc.) as an essential tool of the trade, none of us should let down our guard in regard to social distancing and the wearing of masks, despite the challenges we face as language professionals and as human beings.

Through everything, STIBC is here for you. At the beginning of June, our office staff returned to full strength. Continuing staffers Tamara, Angela and Silvia have been joined by Julia Yu, our new Membership Coordinator, and Jean-Philippe Rheault, our new Executive Director. Everybody is hard at work, and the scheduling of exams, workshops and other events is now underway. Keep an eye on your Inbox and the STIBC webpage for the latest developments.

All the same—I've said it before (remember the Summer 2019 issue of the *STIBC Voice*?) and I'll say it again—STIBC still needs you!

Our Society exists because of and for the sake of its members—to promote our interests and to assert the value of the services we translators and interpreters provide to a wide range of clients.

To do these things, STIBC must reach out to the wider community, discovering and developing opportunities for the Society to bring its message to current and potential stakeholders, whether

private individuals, public-sector organizations (community service, health care, education, the courts, or ICBC) or businesses.

As the professional society for translators and interpreters in British Columbia, STIBC's membership and potential scope of influence have increased. Thanks to the Society's work coordinating admission requirements and records, implementing exam and on-dossier certification procedures, and organizing professional development opportunities (workshops, webinars, etc.), as well as monitoring and ensuring compliance with legal, financial and ethical regulations, we are in a better position than ever to make a positive difference for members and clients.

However, our hard-working office staff can only do so much to run the Society and raise its profile. It's up to us, too. Each and every one of us who possibly can needs to pitch in, since service to STIBC ultimately benefits us all as translators and interpreters.

Where can we start? I suggest the Annual General Meeting. Now scheduled for **Wednesday October 7 from 7-9 pm via Zoom**, it will be our first virtual AGM. Time is consequently limited, so the meeting notice and agenda will be sent out at least three weeks in advance, questions should be submitted in writing prior to the meeting, and attendees must register in advance (so we can send them the Zoom invitation/link).

The agenda will include approval of the Minutes from last year's AGM, reports, presentation and approval of the Society's financial statements, a resolution on membership fees and elections for Board positions (Executive Officers and at-large Directors).

I cordially invite every Certified Member who cares about the future of STIBC and the T&I profession to put her/himself forward as a candidate for the 2020-2021 STIBC Board of Directors (see pp. 16-22 of the Bylaws). Nomination forms will be available in late August.

Stay well, keep on learning, and do please lend a hand!

Stefanie Kennell, Ph.D., C.T.
Certified Translator, Greek to English
President, STIBC Board of Directors, 2019-2020

Newly Certified Members via CTIC Exams and On Dossier

CTIC Exams

No written or oral exams have been held in the last three months.

On Dossier

Court interpreting

Jennifer Jacobson: Spanish<>English

Surjeet Kalsey: Punjabi<>English

Lea Kawer: Spanish<>English

Kyoung-wha Lyu: Korean<>English

Birpal Mann: Punjabi<>English

Congratulations to you all!

Introducing Our New Executive Director, Jean-Philippe Rheault



Jean-Philippe Rheault

been either member-oriented or dedicated to raising awareness about certain issues. For this position with STIBC, he hopes to use his relevant experience with two professional associations (radiologists and chiropractors) as well as a regulatory body (medical imaging technologists). His mandates with these organizations covered certification, continuous professional development, advocacy and promotion of the profession. He is a father of a four-year-old son, who is already at ease switching among French, English and Farsi. Jean-Philippe's parents were both English to French translators and he remembers growing up with ancient Greek and Latin dictionaries as well as an ever-increasing collection of glossaries from the federal Translation Bureau on the family bookshelves. Originally from Ottawa and living there until his 20s, he spent 30 years in Montreal before moving with his family to Vancouver three years ago, away from the snow and mosquitoes!

Over the past 30 years, Jean-Philippe has been involved in many non-profit or fundraising organizations that have

He looks forward to meeting STIBC members either virtually or in person and can be contacted at ExecutiveDirector@stibc.org.

Upcoming Workshops

1) Webinar - Translating Official Documents

Target audience: All Certified Translators and Associate Members with a rare language combination for which no Certified Translator is listed in the STIBC directory.

When: July 17 (Friday) 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Price: Members of other translation associations: \$40, STIBC Members: \$30, Student Members: \$20.

To register: Sign up online.

Official documents such as birth certificates, degrees/diplomas/certificates, transcripts and driver's licenses are issued in different ways in different countries and there are certain formats and procedures that can be used when translating those documents into English. This workshop aims to clarify some of the questions that the STIBC office has received over the years and provide guidelines to members who would like to translate official documents.

There will be a Q&A session at the end of the workshop.

2) Webinar - Introduction to Community Interpreting and Best Practices

Target audience: Anyone interested in interpreting who has no previous interpreting experience.

When: July 31 (Friday) 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Price: Members of other translation associations: \$40, STIBC Members: \$30, Student Members: \$20.

To register: Sign up online.

This 2-hour online workshop will not only benefit beginners in the field of interpreting but also be an excellent refresher for seasoned interpreters, in particular those interpreters who have passed the certification exam.

Topics:

- Introduction to Community Interpreting
- Interpreting Methods
- Community Interpreters' Code of Professional Conduct
- Guidelines for Community Interpreters
- Certification

Do you have an idea for a future workshop?

If you have an interesting topic you would like to suggest or present, please let our office know: office@stibc.org. Tamara and Julia are constantly on the lookout for new events to organize and promote.

Interview Series #VI. A UN Conference Interpreter Abroad

By Angela Fairbank

Due to the political situation in the country where this interviewee is currently working, I was asked to keep the name and region anonymous. We are lucky in Canada that we are free to speak our mind. I had asked this person for an interview many moons ago and the answers would probably have been a lot more revealing and interesting back then, while those of today are fairly straightforward in an effort, no doubt, to avoid saying anything that may be considered volatile or more importantly, that could identify the interviewee. Nonetheless, I hope these replies will still be of interest to our readers, since this person began language studies in Canada before pursuing freelance work with the United Nations abroad. Working at the United Nations is always interesting (and it is a level to which many conference interpreters aspire). However, we must keep in mind that not all UN interpreters are working in safe and secure areas of the world and we thank them for the risks they are taking on our behalf.

1. Translator, Terminologist, Interpreter—which of these three professions do you identify with?

Conference Interpreter. [Ed. This interpreter's language combination is French A, English B and Spanish C.]¹

¹ For readers unfamiliar with this lettering, "A" designates the interpreter's mother tongue, "B," the first foreign language and "C," the second foreign language. In conference interpreting, interpreters may be expected at times to interpret into their B language but never into their C language. The six languages used at the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

2. Please provide a brief synopsis of your education—including language education—and background related to how you came to be a Translator, Interpreter or Terminologist. For example, immersion in foreign countries and culture, university education, mentorship/menteeship, internship, etc.

I studied Political Science and Conference Interpretation at an EMCI² affiliated Interpretation School. I grew up in a bilingual environment in Montreal, high school in French and university in English. To improve my C-language (Spanish), I traveled to Spain twice. I also had a fellow AICC conference interpreter as my mentor for many years.

3. How long have you been working in your chosen profession?

15 years.

4. Are you currently working in-house or as a freelancer? If you have had experience in both types of employment, which do you prefer?

I am presently working as a freelance interpreter. I prefer freelance work by far as the diversity of meetings (subject matter) I cover is enriching. The downside, of course, is the precariousness one can face in a COVID-like context.

5. Where do you currently exercise your profession?

[Information withheld].

6. Are you certified in your profession? If so, by which certification organization(s), and for how long have you been certified now? If you are certified, once you became certified, did you notice your income increase slightly, moderately or substantially?

I am not sure if being accredited to the UN counts, but I did sit a UN examination and passed it successfully. It did not increase my income directly but it helped me become recognized as a competent interpreter and allowed more employers to call upon my services.

7. What have been some of the highlights of your career so far?

I believe interpreting bilateral meetings between Heads of State and government really stands out in my memory. The content of the exchanges is not what made them so special but these encounters magnify the importance of our role in terms of communication.

8. Have there been any particular challenges in your profession that you would like to share with our readers?

Remote Simultaneous Interpreting is a disruptive evolution of our profession that all interpreters are facing today. The question of accepting or refusing to work with such platforms is no longer relevant. How we will work using these platforms will determine the future of conference interpretation.

9. Are you a member of a local T&I association in your area? If so, what do you get out of it – e.g. workshops, social events, annual conferences, etc.?

I am an AICC member and I am greatly involved in the activities of our region.

Questions by Angela Fairbank M.A. C.T.
Editor, *STIBC Voice* 2019-2020

² EMCI = European Master's in Conference Interpreting (Switzerland).

Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RSI)

By Carla Koch

What, I wonder, is the way forward for conference interpreters worldwide in the wake of Covid-19?

My professional world came to a grinding halt on March 18, 2020 after a nine-day stint in Manitoba. The year had started out very promisingly with the busiest first quarter I had ever had in my 35-year career as an interpreter in Canada.

When it became amply clear that my profession would not return to “normal” until a vaccine was found, I started looking into offering my services remotely.

VSI (Video Simultaneous Interpreting) and OTP (Over-the-Phone) protocols have been used for many years in the field of community interpreting, for example for medical assignments or depositions and witness statements at a police station. RSI, on the other hand, only started to appear on the radar in 2016 when a number of clients wished to explore the possibility of holding their meetings remotely for participants who couldn't attend. Frequently, over the past 15 years or so, I have worked at national and international meetings where some of the attendants convened in person and others called in over the phone or via video-conferencing.

Two years ago, the federal government seriously looked into this mode of interpreting and decided against it because of the risks involved, namely, feedback loops and damage to interpreters' hearing due to a phenomenon called “acoustic shock.” Since mid-March, however, they have had to adjust to this “new normal.” Physical distancing has forced the Parliament (House of Commons and Senate) to hold virtual meetings. A special Covid Committee, set up in the House of Commons, has met online and in-person to satisfy political pressure.

Every morning, as Prime Minister Trudeau presented an update to the country in front of Rideau Cottage, interpreters worked on Parliament Hill, one per booth, with a technician nearby. As the months went by, a support team was set up to facilitate distancing, booth cleaning, document provision, etc. As staff interpreters began to suffer from cognitive overload and sheer fatigue, freelance interpreters were called to Ottawa to help out.

Other meetings in Ottawa are being held in what are called “hubs” or special SI broadcast centres where interpreters go to one of the warehouses of a local audio-visual company and are set up much the same as their colleagues on the Hill.

Those of us who do not live near the National Capital Region (NCR) have not been as fortunate to return to work in a relatively timely manner.

A few private market clients are experimenting with Zoom Business and its SI function. I was lucky enough to work for an international meeting broadcast out of Toronto with plenary sessions and concurrent breakout sessions. Interpreters were working from their homes in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast. A team of two interpreters covered the plenary sessions while their colleagues were assigned to work alone, either uni-directionally or bi-directionally, in other “rooms.” I worked two 45-minute sessions, one in the morning and another in the afternoon separated by a good one-hour break in between. When I accepted the contract, I was told I would be working only into French. On the day before the meeting, I was informed that I would be working

back and forth between both official languages. We knew the name of the meeting and had a website to peruse. We were also told the themes of the concurrent sessions we were to interpret and were given the speakers' names. Most of us were never provided with any documents.

We were given a "dry run" a few days before the conference where we were introduced to the ins and outs of Zoom SI. It all seemed very straightforward to those of us not having to worry about handovers, i.e. passing the microphone over to a colleague after a 30-minute turn. Zoom does not have that function built into its platform. As a result, colleagues working in the plenary session were obliged to listen to the floor on one platform as the interpreter and then log in as a participant on another device (iPad or phone) to hear when they were to take over. There were no visual cues as they would have had in a physical booth. Instead, they ended up having to send a text or message via MSN or WhatsApp to communicate with their colleague(s) in a different remote location.

Needless to say, the meeting was fraught with technical issues despite the rehearsal. During my first RSI interpreting session, I was bumped out of my breakout room just as we went live. One technician was monitoring all the sessions and he was unaware of what had happened until I sent a private message to the co-host of my room. I quickly had to log back in and try not to lose my nerve. While the host and four presenters were talking at break-neck speed, some of the 150-odd attendees "chatted" amongst themselves. In doing so, they would block my virtual console, which was located in the middle of the screen. This meant I was unable to change language channels until the chat box had disappeared. I was only informed later that the co-host was monitoring the chat, which is why I could not turn it off.



Photo © Carlo Koch

For RSI meetings, I had purchased a dedicated Dell computer (see *photo above*), which was hardwired, and a Logitech 340 USB headset with an incorporated mike. As there was a run on this

type of headset, it was like searching for gold dust! I was using my MacBook for vocabulary searches when necessary.

All the interpreters working at this meeting were set up with AICC-standard and ISO-certified equipment. Unfortunately, many presenters were not wearing headsets or using a stand-alone microphone. Many were relying on the microphone on their laptops or wore ear buds. This resulted in a tinny sound or one that faded in and out. By the end of the first 45-minute session, I was more than ready to let the participants know that the interpreting service was about to end. They had been told that they were obliged to stick to the time frame allotted.

The second 45-minute session started out well, but when we went live, I heard another colleague working into English in another room; not the one I was assigned to work. Once again I had to fire off a note to the co-host to say I was not in the right place. Moreover, there was no way for me to tell if participants were able to hear my interpreting. I could only guess that they could as they asked questions of the presenters and no one in the chat complained of issues with sound.

By the end of my second session, I was as giddy as I could be from having just succeeded in completing my first RSI assignment without having had a heart attack or a nervous breakdown. What an ordeal! It was extremely nerve-wracking! My take-away from the experience is that RSI is definitely not for the faint of heart.

All in all, nevertheless, it was a wonderful learning opportunity. I have had other RSI work offered to me—from Mexico and Hungary—but in Spanish, my C Language, which is not active enough for me to feel comfortable doing SI.

I am working hard to encourage an AV company in Metro Vancouver to set up an SI Hub. I have also been in touch with the federal government to see if they could send business our way on the “West” Coast. I recently became a member of the federal government’s (Translation Bureau) Advisory Panel on Interpreting. I truly believe that, as professionals, we need to do our best to defend good working conditions. This is why becoming an AICC (International Association of Conference Interpreters) member is the next step on my pathway toward good professional representation.

We are all responsible for how we live through this pandemic. Being proactive is my choice. Sitting back and waiting it out is not an option for me. I would like to help colleagues weather this storm and come through it, at the very least, better equipped to continue a profession they have worked long and hard at perfecting.

Carla E. Koch, C.C.I. French > English
Federally accredited conference interpreter, English <> French
Member of STIBC & ATIO

Watch a free video from ATA on scams!

https://www.atanet.org/webinars/ATA_webinar_scam/scam.mp4

Reflections on Literary Translation

By Carl Rosenberg

Like many STIBC members, I mostly translate official documents—birth certificates, academic transcripts, and the like. Nevertheless, I've always been fascinated by literary translation, of which I've done very little, except for a few poems to accompany an art exhibit some years ago.



Photo © Angela Fairbank

Translation of any kind is difficult and literary translation is even more so. I've read severe criticisms, as well as more offhanded dismissals, of certain translations. We've all heard the well-known Italian saying "*Traduttore, traditore*" (translator, traitor). It is true that there are inept translations as well as simply mediocre ones. Some readers are left wondering what all the fuss is about once they have finished the translated work of a writer who may be outstanding in their original language. Nevertheless, if we focus only on critiques, we sell literary translators short and overlook the importance of their art.

Admirers of various works of literature (including writers and translators) sometimes urge readers to learn to read them in their original language rather than rely on translations. This is an admirable sentiment but unrealistic. Learning a language as an adult is an enormous undertaking and learning it well enough to read literature in it is even more daunting. For most of us, apart from reading works in the one or more languages we have acquired in addition to our native language (or languages), we have no alternative but to seek out literature in translation.

We should honour the most outstanding translators and remember how hard it is to achieve an excellent translation. Nevertheless, even less skilled translations can be greatly rewarding as they introduce us to worlds we would never have visited had we confined ourselves to works written in our native language.

Over the years, I've enjoyed reading literature translated into English from various languages including Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic, as well as works written originally in English, my first language. Even though Spanish is my second language, and I've appreciated Spanish and Latin American writers in Spanish as well as English, I might not always have the energy to read Borges, Cortázar, etc. (as much I love their work) in the original. As a reader as well as a translator, I find it important to remember and acknowledge those translators who brought me, as it were, the works I've enjoyed: Gregory Rabassa and Edith Grossman for their translations of Gabriel García Márquez; Margaret Sayers Peden for her translations of Carlos Fuentes; Norman Thomas di Giovanni for his translations of Jorge Luis Borges; William Weaver for his translations of Italo Calvino, among many others. My cultural life would be greatly impoverished without them. I owe them a debt as great as the one I owe those writers whose works they translated.

Carl Rosenberg is a Certified Translator (Spanish to English) and a long-time member of STIBC.

An Update on Certified Translators under the CTIC Umbrella

An update on Canadian Certified Interpreters was published in the STIBC Voice edition of October 2019. About a month ago, I compiled information on Certified Translators from the websites of the seven member societies of the Canadian Translators, Terminologist and Interpreters Council (CTIC) in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Below are the totals for each association and language combination. Please note that some translators work in more than one language combination and/or are registered simultaneously with more than one provincial association. The numbers were compiled from website directory searches on June 5 and 6, 2020. The diversity of languages and their distribution across Canada is particularly interesting, I find.

| Province | BC | AB | SK | MB | ON | NB | NS | Total |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Language combination | | | | | | | | |
| Albanian to English | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| English to Albanian | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Arabic to English | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 21 | | 1 | 33 |
| English to Arabic | 5 | 3 | | 1 | 16 | | 1 | 26 |
| Arabic to French | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| French to Arabic | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| English to Bosnian | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| English to Bulgarian | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Bulgarian to French | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Catalan to English | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| English to Catalan | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| French to Catalan | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Chinese to English | 37 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 66 |
| English to Chinese | 53 | 4 | 3 | | 23 | 1 | 2 | 86 |
| French to Chinese | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Croatian to English | 4 | | | | 7 | | | 11 |
| English to Croatian | 5 | | | | 6 | | | 11 |

| Province | BC | AB | SK | MB | ON | NB | NS | Total |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Language combination | | | | | | | | |
| Czech to English | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | | | 6 |
| English to Czech | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | | | 6 |
| Danish to English | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 |
| Dutch to English | 2 | 2 | | | 4 | | 1 | 9 |
| English to Dutch | | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 | 6 |
| Dutch to French | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| French to Dutch | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Farsi to English | 8 | 1 | | | 13 | | | 22 |
| English to Farsi | 11 | | | | 13 | | | 24 |
| Finnish to English | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| English to Finnish | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| French to English | 14 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 140 | 29 | 8 | 220 |
| English to French | 38 | 16 | 9 | 29 | 306 | 106 | 20 | 524 |
| German to English | 16 | 9 | 1 | | 26 | 3 | 2 | 57 |
| English to German | 13 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 36 |
| German to French | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| French to German | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Greek to English | 1 | | | | 6 | | | 7 |
| English to Greek | | | | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Hebrew to English | 1 | | | | 5 | | | 6 |
| English to Hebrew | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Hindi to English | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 4 | | | 10 |
| English to Hindi | 5 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | | | 11 |
| Hungarian to English | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | | | 9 |
| English to Hungarian | 3 | 2 | | | 4 | | | 9 |
| Indonesian to English | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 |
| English to Indonesian | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Italian to English | 1 | 2 | | | 9 | | | 12 |
| English to Italian | 3 | 2 | | | 9 | | | 14 |
| Italian to French | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| French to Italian | 2 | | | | 3 | | | 5 |
| Japanese to English | 10 | | | | 3 | | | 13 |
| English to Japanese | 18 | 1 | 1 | | 4 | | | 24 |
| Korean to English | 8 | 1 | | | 3 | | | 12 |
| English to Korean | 18 | 2 | | | 5 | | | 25 |
| Macedonian to English | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 |
| English to Macedonian | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Malay to English | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| English to Malay | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Norwegian to English | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |

| Province | BC | AB | SK | MB | ON | NB | NS | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Language combination | | | | | | | | |
| Polish to English | | | | | 3 | | | 3 |
| English to Polish | 4 | | | | 7 | | | 11 |
| Portuguese to English | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | | 1 | 21 |
| English to Portuguese | 8 | 1 | | | 5 | | 1 | 15 |
| Portuguese to French | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Punjabi to English | 12 | 2 | | | 7 | | | 21 |
| English to Punjabi | 12 | 2 | | | 6 | | | 20 |
| Romanian to English | 2 | | | | 5 | | | 7 |
| English to Romanian | 2 | | 1 | | 9 | | | 12 |
| French to Romanian | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Russian to English | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 43 |
| English to Russian | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 45 |
| French to Russian | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| Serbian to English | 3 | | | | 7 | | | 10 |
| English to Serbian | 6 | | | | 5 | | | 11 |
| Serbo-Croatian to English | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | | | 5 |
| English to Serbo-Croatian | | | 1 | | 4 | | | 5 |
| Slovak to English | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 |
| English to Slovak | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Slovene to English | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Spanish to English | 23 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 49 | | 2 | 103 |
| English to Spanish | 32 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 57 | 3 | 1 | 114 |
| Spanish to French | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| French to Spanish | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 12 | | | 17 |
| Swedish to English | 2 | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| English to Swedish | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Tamil to English | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| English to Tamil | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Thai to English | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| English to Thai | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Turkish to English | 3 | 1 | | | 12 | | | 16 |
| English to Turkish | 1 | 1 | | | 9 | | | 11 |
| Ukrainian to English | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | | 1 | 16 |
| English to Ukrainian | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 6 |
| Urdu to English | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | | | 6 |
| English to Urdu | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Vietnamese to English | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| English to Vietnamese | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 |
| TOTALS = 95 combinations! | 456 | 142 | 47 | 68 | 999 | 149 | 51 | 1912 |

Save the Date and an Appeal for Assistance

Due to the pandemic, our **Annual General Meeting** has been postponed from our usual date in June to the evening of **October 7**. Please mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend. You can now join the AGM from virtually anywhere via **Zoom**. We look forward to seeing the faces of many members who have not been able to join us in Vancouver in previous years.

Not only will the 2020-2021 Board of Directors be elected during this year's AGM—and we invite all members interested in becoming involved to volunteer their time, either as an executive member of the Board, as a Director-at-large or as a member of a committee—but we are also looking to expand the editorial team of the quarterly *STIBC Voice*.

Yes, the newsletter you are now reading! Even though it appears only four times a year, the Voice is a great deal of work, mainly for one person who is already wearing several hats.

If you can put aside some time to help us, please let us know (voice-editor@stibc.org). We hope to revamp the entire format of the newsletter as well as obtain assistance in specific areas such as content “acquisition,” copyediting, design/layout and proofreading.

As a member of STIBC, you can have a say in the content and design of your Society's newsletter by joining our editorial team.

Letter from a High School Student

The following letter was sent to CTIC's office in Ottawa. It was then forwarded to STIBC's President, Stefanie Kennell, since the student was located in British Columbia. Stefanie then contacted me because French and Spanish are also my languages and asked if I would like to reply. I was delighted to accept the challenge. By publishing a somewhat pared-down version of my responses to the student here, I hope that my answers will encourage others—students and non-students alike—contemplating a career in translating and/or interpreting to follow their dream.

Greetings...I am a High School student currently attending Grade 11 at Thomas Haney Secondary School in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. I was recently assigned a project for my CLE³ 11 course to report on a career I am interested in. I am passionate about languages and linguistics as I am taking French 11 and Spanish 11 and I plan to continue improving my Spanish learning and skills post-secondary. My passion stems from my personal history as I have dual Canadian-Mexican citizenship and I took French immersion from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

I was wondering if anyone at the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council would be willing to speak to me about possible future career opportunities in translation services and answer my questions below. Thank you, D.P.”

1. What is your job title?

I am currently a freelance certified Spanish to English translator (STIBC and OTTIAQ⁴), a certified French to English translator (ATA⁵), a community, health and immigration interpreter, as well as an

³ CLE = Career-Life Education.

⁴ OTTIAQ = Ordre des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes agréés du Québec.

editor and proofreader (among other things). However, I also volunteer my time as Vice-President of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC), as Registrar of STIBC and as Editor of STIBC's quarterly newsletter, the *STIBC Voice*.

2. What are the duties and responsibilities of your job?

If we concentrate on what I do in my two major, paid occupations as translator and interpreter, I render written documents from one of my professional foreign languages into my mother tongue (English) and I render oral utterances between two of my three working languages at a time. In upholding the code of ethics of these two professions, I must be accurate and faithful to the source language without addition, distortion, omission or embellishment of the meaning; I must maintain confidentiality of any information entrusted to me during the course of my work; I must be impartial by showing no preference or bias in the performance of my duties; I must maintain the boundaries of my role; I must be accountable for the quality of my services and only accept assignments within my competence; I must be professional and ethical at all times; and I must continue my education so as to be up to date with all the latest trends and technologies in my profession.

3. How many hours per day or week do you work?

As a freelancer, the hours and days of the week I work vary greatly as they depend on how many assignments I have and their deadlines. I often find myself working evenings and weekends but there are other periods of time when days go by without any assignments and this gives me a chance to catch up on other projects, such as attending webinars as part of my continuing education, or updating my website or LinkedIn profile, etc. Of course, a great deal of my time is also spent fulfilling the voluntary duties mentioned above, answering e-mails, participating in various committee meetings and board meetings, and reading through documents submitted for on-dossier certification.

4. Can you tell me about your background and how you got into this field?

Born into a monolingual family of British parents, I discovered my affinity for languages in high school. I started learning French at age 13, Latin and German at age 14 and attended a summer French-immersion program in Penetanguishene, Ontario as well as courses in Amboise and Caen during Spring and Summer holidays in France as a high school student. I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at UBC, graduating with a double major in French and Spanish. (I had only started learning Spanish at UBC at age 18, and after spending two summers working in Germany, at the age of 20, I had to decide whether to concentrate on German or Spanish as my third language). I spent the third year of my four-year course at Université Laval in Quebec, where I was not only enrolled in the French program but also continued my studies in Spanish. In the summer after my time in Quebec, I studied Spanish in Valencia, Spain as part of a program offered by the University of Chicago. Next, after taking a year out to work as a freelance translator, English-programs administrator and multilingual receptionist, as well as gain some experience as a voluntary translator and interpreter in Vancouver and Honduras, I enrolled in the Master's in Translation and Interpretation program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in Monterey, California as it was the only university in North America at that time offering a Master's in Conference Interpreting in French and Spanish. (My goal then was to become a United Nations Conference Interpreter!) As my studies at MIIS also included a number of courses in Sight Translation as well as Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting, it fully prepared me to work in both disciplines. During that summer and the autumn of my second year, I studied Spanish translation and interpreting at Estudio Sampere in Madrid, Spain and then was an

⁵ ATA = American Translators Association.

exchange student at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (ETI) at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. I finally ended up with a Master's Degree in Translation from MIIIS, which enabled me to start the first twenty years of my career as an in-house translator and interpreter, among other things, in Belgium, Hong Kong, Central West Africa and the Caribbean. Perhaps that (adventurous) part of my life can be narrated in a separate Voice article.

5. a) What do you like most about your work?

As a freelancer now, I love the freedom I have. I can travel when and where I want to and work from almost anywhere in the world! I am also at liberty to turn down work if I am too busy or just need a break. Furthermore, I enjoy spending time with fellow translators and interpreters in my capacity as a board member of STIBC and CTTIC⁶. However, the greatest reward is meeting clients face to face and helping them communicate.

b) What do you like least about your work?

Some days when translating for long hours at my home office, I feel somewhat isolated. Then when I get too busy, I have no time to exercise, or even shop for groceries! At other times, I feel stressed when rushing between interpreting assignments—which could be several kilometres and therefore several bus and skytrain trips apart—and anxious about arriving at the right place and on time to help my clients.

6. a) What education or training did you need for this job?

From the description in question 4 above, you will see that I concentrated my early years on learning and immersing myself in languages. In addition to language training and, of course, specialized courses in translation and interpretation, I took personal trips to study the culture of other countries and I was trained onsite in specific fields: health care, immigration, law, agriculture, tourism, forestry, etc. If you have a choice between theoretical and practical courses in translation and interpreting, I'd say go for the practical ones as they are much more useful. As you will hear frequently, it is not enough to be bilingual or multilingual and expect to become a translator or interpreter, you have to learn exactly how to translate and interpret. In Canada alone there are 12 universities offering degrees in Translation; seven of them are in Quebec: Université Laval, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Université de Sherbrooke, Concordia University, Université de Montréal, McGill University, Université du Québec en Outaouais, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, York University, Université de Moncton (New Brunswick), and Université de Saint-Boniface (Manitoba). Furthermore, Glendon College in Toronto has an excellent program for Interpretation. Unfortunately, here in BC, programs in the field are somewhat limited. Currently, UBC and SFU only offer translation certificate or diploma programs in Chinese. Of course, if you would like to study outside of Canada, there are also excellent (and some quite famous) translation and interpreting schools all around the world. Fairly extensive lists of translation and interpreting schools can be found at the following two websites:

<https://www.betranslated.com/blog/translation-schools/>

<https://www.educations.com/search/translation-interpretation-europe/c857-d58>.

b) Is there any training you have done since starting the job?

Absolutely! I am constantly learning new things to update my skills. I have earned certificates in a smattering of other languages as well as web design, business, film, photography, tourism and others. I have learned a variety of software so as to tackle almost any type of translation project. Over the last few years, I have attended ATA conferences as well as online workshops and webinars offered

⁶ CTTIC = Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council.

by ATA, STIBC, other CTTIC member societies and OTTIAQ in addition to those I come across via my LinkedIn network. In 2016, I attended a summer school in Antwerp, Belgium to learn a few CAT⁷ tools. A few years ago, I took an in-classroom certificate course in Community Interpreting while more recently, I took online training in Health Care Interpreting and Legal Interpreting. In addition to formal training, whether in a classroom or on line, I also make it my personal goal to travel to a few new countries every year in order to widen my cultural knowledge and learn variations in vocabulary and accent among French-, English- and Spanish-speaking countries. I even obtained a TESOL/TEFL certificate recently in order to teach English in Italy for a year. I embrace new challenges.

c) What personal characteristics are required for someone to be successful in this job?

The first few characteristics that come immediately to mind are being **organized and self-disciplined**, having a good **memory** and being **curious**. For a translator, time management is key so that all projects, once accepted, can be completed on time. A good memory is necessary for interpreting. I offer consecutive interpreting as opposed to simultaneous interpreting—which are quite different skills—but memory is important for both. A consecutive interpreter listens to the client speak for a longer time before interpreting than a simultaneous interpreter does and then has to remember everything that was said. A consecutive interpreter learns how to take notes using a special system of symbols while listening to the client talk in the source language. These notes are then used as an *aide mémoire* when rendering the speech into the target language after the speaker has finished talking. Furthermore, it is important for an interpreter to be calm, eat healthily and get enough sleep, to keep the brain fresh and focussed so as not to miss anything that has been said. As far as curiosity is concerned, if there is a word in the translation—or interpretation—that you can't immediately identify, you may need to consult various dictionaries, thesauruses or colleagues to find just the right word, and then remember it the next time it comes up in your work!

7. Is there a steady demand for workers in the field? How much job security is there?

As the world evolves, knowledge of more than one language (especially rare languages) is becoming more and more important for communication. There will always be a need for human translators and interpreters. Machine Translation has been on the rise for a few decades now and is seen by some in the profession as a threat to the industry. However, in reality, it still has a long way to go; humans are still required for the important stuff, such as reading between the lines, noting body language and being aware of cultural references—subtleties that I believe machines will never learn.

8. What other jobs could you do with the skills/education you have gained in this field?

Speaking for myself, over my 38-and-a-half-year career, I have used my languages as a language teacher; tour guide; travel writer, photographer and videographer; subtitler; transcriber; voice-over artist; cruise ship hostess; escort, liaison, community, court and medical interpreter; international sales and marketing manager and more. However, there are many other jobs I have not pursued and today's Translation and Interpreting School graduates are faced with a plethora of career choices such as Bilingual (or Multilingual) Assistant, Conference Interpreter, Cultural Expert, Customer Support Manager, Flight Attendant, Global Merchandiser, Globalization Manager, International Business Development Manager, International Buyer, L10n (Localization) or I18N (Internationalization) Engineer, Linguistic Tester, Localization Project Manager, Multimedia Specialist, Overseas Account Manager, Recruiter, Remote Interpreter, Reviewer, Terminologist, Transcreation Specialist, Translation and Localization QA (Quality Assessment) Manager or Translation Project Coordinator, to mention only a few.

⁷ CAT = Computer-assisted translation.

No matter what career you choose, the secret to job satisfaction is finding a job that you love. If you are not comfortable working for others—in an office role for instance—then why not create your own business in a sector that excites you? It may take a while to find your specific market niche but be ready to explore as many opportunities as you can and enjoy your time as you do so. If nothing else, you will learn a great deal and should meet some pretty amazing people along the way.

9. How are new employees hired for this position?

I am not currently an employee, but when I was one—in Belgium, in Hong Kong, in the Caribbean—I either worked with agencies, responded to ads or heard of jobs through word of mouth. Now, as a freelancer, I obtain most of my work through my website, LinkedIn, the on-line directories of ATA, STIBC and OTTIAQ or from past client referrals, family and friends. I also offer my services directly to LSPs (language service providers) throughout the world.

10. What advice would you give someone who wants to pursue this career?

First of all, never stop learning: a) practice your languages: watch TV shows and films, read books and newspapers and listen to the radio in your foreign languages as well as your mother tongue; b) work on your translating and interpreting skills at every opportunity; c) travel as much as you can to gain knowledge of the cultures of the countries whose languages you speak. Secondly, join and get involved in the activities of your local T&I association. In Canada, eight out of the ten provinces offer membership to qualified translators and interpreters: STIBC, ATIA⁸, ATIS⁹, ATIM¹⁰, ATIO¹¹, ATINS¹² and CTINB¹³, all of which are under the CTIC umbrella, and OTTIAQ. These associations, some of which offer student membership to those in university T&I programs, provide mentoring opportunities, social events, workshops and webinars as well as multiple opportunities to network. Thirdly, create a website for your services and keep your LinkedIn profile up to date. Fourthly, once you have completed your education in T&I, and have four or more years of translation and/or interpretation experience under your belt, become certified through one of the above associations. As a certified translator or interpreter, even more doors will open to you because you will finally be recognized as a professional.

11. Is finding work for translation services easier in some parts of the country compared to others? (provinces, municipalities, communities, etc.)

The pandemic period aside, if you want to be a medical, immigration or court interpreter, more assignments are available in large cities at hospitals, federal agencies and courts, etc. If your goal is to be a conference interpreter, you should either live by an airport so as to travel to work or move to a UN agency city: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_Nations_organizations_by_location. However, if your preference is to be a freelance translator, you can live virtually anywhere that has an internet connection as most of your work will arrive through e-mail while most translation platforms you are asked to work with will be online.

Angela Fairbank, M.A. C.T.
Editor, *STIBC Voice*, 2019-2020

⁸ ATIA = Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta.

⁹ ATIS = Association of Translators and Interpreters of Saskatchewan.

¹⁰ ATIM = Association of Translators and Interpreters of Manitoba.

¹¹ ATIO = Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario.

¹² ATINS = Association of Translators and Interpreters of Nova Scotia.

¹³ CTINB = Corporation of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters of New Brunswick.

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The *STIBC Voice* is Calling All Members!

The *STIBC Voice*, published four times a year (January, April, July and October), is looking for contributions that relate to the translation and interpretation industries locally, nationally, and internationally.

Author-members eager to share new ideas, sources of inspiration, proposals for improvement, and experiences of interest to colleagues and friends are invited to submit news items, articles, announcements or illustrated essays that fit into the following framework:

News Items and Announcements (50–200 words)

Brief notices about events, issues and projects relevant to STIBC.

Feature Articles (500–800 words)

Longer pieces that entertain, enlighten and compel

- discussing one or more topics of interest in depth;
- sharing knowledge, for example professional experiences, implementation efforts in markets or tips and tricks;
- offering new perspectives on current global issues affecting our profession, such as migration, citizenship and technological change;
- reflecting on technical and linguistic matters, educational issues, regulatory perspectives, etc.

Submissions should include a title, the author's name and date (section headings optional). The use of images (paintings, sketches, photos, tables and/or sidebars) for illustration and emphasis is encouraged.

All contributed material must comply with the ethical principles and standards of professional conduct set out in the STIBC Code of Ethics (see the Bylaws, Part 14).

Please send all texts (.doc, .docx, or .rtf files, double-spaced 12-point standard font, basic formatting) and images (.jpg or .png files) to the STIBC Voice Editor at voice-editor@stibc.org

All articles selected for publication will be edited for content (including length, if they exceed the recommended word count and space is tight), spelling and grammar.

Contributions are welcome at any time throughout the year, but...

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE IS

Thursday, October 1, 2020.

To suggest ideas for articles or to ask about any other details, please contact the STIBC Voice Editor at voice-editor@stibc.org.

Please note: Certified Members are reminded that each article they contribute that is accepted for publication in the Voice is eligible for 1 CE credit under the Continuing Education Chart subscription/contribution category, which allows a maximum of 5 credits in this category per year.

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