STIBC Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC

May 15, 2024

Peter Hall, Vice-Provost and Associate VP Academic
Julia Denholm, Dean of Continuing Studies

Dear Mr. Hall,
Dear Ms. Denholm,

I am writing on behalf of the Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC (STIBC) regarding the recent decision by Simon Fraser University to discontinue its translation and interpreting programs. We were both shocked and saddened to learn of this sudden development.

There is a significant and ongoing need for professional training in interpreting and translation within British Columbia. Many individuals contact us on a regular basis, seeking pathways to become certified translators and interpreters. We had anticipated collaborating with SFU to expand these essential programs, aiming to provide comprehensive training and certification opportunities. While we had yet to make contact, this is something that our board had been thinking about and we were very much looking forward to working with local institutions to provide more options for residents of BC interested in pursuing a career in translation and interpreting.

British Columbia is home to a growing number of immigrants who rely on skilled interpreters to integrate and thrive within the community. The role of interpreters is crucial in facilitating effective communication and access to services for these individuals.

We kindly ask you to reconsider the decision to terminate these programs. Please also note that STIBC is fully committed to supporting and promoting your existing programs and is eager to assist in developing new ones to meet the increasing demand for professional translation and interpreting services. I would be more than happy to arrange a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to see how we could best support you and make a success of your existing programs. We sincerely hope you will reconsider this decision, as it is crucial to our community and the profession.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to enhance the availability of these vital programs.

Sincerely,

Silvia Xalabarde,
President