

APRIL 2019

# STIBC Voice

Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC

## **BIG NEWS ABOUT THE CTIC WRITTEN EXAMS: THE FIRST ORIENTATION DAY**

*by Silvia Milicia (Certified Member, French to Italian)*

The first CTIC Written Exams Orientation Day of 2019, held on February 23 at Douglas College, was the occasion to present a lot of big news. In the morning, Elaine Yoshida, Certified Medical Interpreter (English <> Portuguese) presented all the details about the Written Components of the Court, Community, and Medical Interpreting Exams, while Silvia Milicia, Certified Translator (French > Italian) introduced all the news about the Certification Exam for Translation.

As usual, all Associate and Certified Members in good standing with STIBC can take the CTIC exam to become Certified Translators, Court, Community, or Medical Interpreters in their preferred language combination. The first news for all the candidates was that the Certification Exam will no longer be held only once a year, but at sessions which will be offered monthly. This allows candidates to plan their preparation better and gives them more opportunity to choose the time when they feel ready to take the certification exam. As well, candidates may decide to take multiple exams per year, provided that they are in different language combinations. For example, a candidate may take the Translation exam from English into their mother tongue in May, and then the one from their mother tongue into English in November of the same year, or a Translation Exam and an Interpretation Exam in the same year.



Nothing has changed in the structure of the exams for Court, Community, and Medical Interpreters. It still comprises two components, written and oral. But the big news for candidates for certification as interpreters starting this year is that after they pass the written component they are not required to wait until the following year to take the oral component but can access the next available session immediately. However, in the event they do fail the exam, they will not be allowed to retake it the same year in the same language combination.

For translators who want to take the certification exam, the news is revolutionary. In fact, starting this year, candidates can choose either to write the exam by hand or to use a laptop. In both cases, they will have access only to print resources, so they are allowed to use all their printed dictionaries, glossaries, grammar books, etc.

The exam structure remains the same, so all the candidates have three hours to translate the compulsory text and a text they select from the two optional ones provided. If they decide to write their exam by hand, they are also provided with a booklet and a pen to write out

their translations. If they opt for the computer-based exam, they will have to bring their own laptop, which can be used only to type the translation. No internet access is provided, and no use of software or electronic dictionaries is allowed.

During the afternoon, some Language-Specific Mentorship groups for translators were offered. Participants had the opportunity to practice on some texts received in advance and to discuss their translation with peers and a Certified Translator, who provided some guidelines on possible mistakes and tips to avoid them.



During the year, the STIBC also offers opportunities to sign up for Practice Exams and organizes multiple workshops that can help candidates preparing for the certification exam. If you have any questions or worries, please send an email to [ctticexam@stibc.org](mailto:ctticexam@stibc.org) or check the Events page on the STIBC website for the next CTIC Certification Exam Orientation Day.

See you there!



**Congratulations to Our Newest Certified Members!**

The results of the 2018 and early 2019 CTIC Certification Exams are in...

**Translation 2018:**

Yuan (Lawrence) Li	English to Chinese
Yuan Yao	English to Chinese
Xiaorui Mi	English to Chinese
Farzan Sojoodi	English to Farsi
Rajeev Vishwakarma	English to Hindi
Sylvia Choi	English to Korean
Sunha Chang	English to Korean
Rei Sungseo Yoon	English to Korean
Rebecca Cho	English to Korean
Layna Giulia Alvares de Oliveira Nascimento	English to Portuguese
Mengyang (Darren) Wang	Chinese to English
Mark Lee	Chinese to English
Yong Tao (Tony) Yu	Chinese to English
Suet Kam (Angel) Wong	Chinese to English
Tian Jue (Tony) He	Chinese to English
Yuan (Lawrence) Li	Chinese to English
Danielle Givon	Hebrew to English
Angela Fairbank	Spanish to English

**Community Interpretation 2018:**

Tiffany Chien	Mandarin-English
Han-Fen Lucia Chung	Mandarin-English
Iqbal Brar	Punjabi-English

**Medical Interpretation 2018:**

Catherine Hung	Mandarin-English
Rose Jen	Mandarin-English
Yi Shen	Mandarin-English
Yuan (Louis) Tian	Mandarin-English
Yujing (Jenny) Tian	Mandarin-English
Adel Tawakul	Arabic-English
Yoshie Nishina	Japanese-English
Elaine Yoshida	Portuguese-English
Lan Guo	Mandarin-English

**Court Interpretation 2018:**

Catherine Hung	Mandarin-English
Yuan (Lawrence) Li	Mandarin-English
Jing (Cindy) Song	Mandarin-English
Yuan (Louis)Tian	Mandarin-English
Karen (Xiaoyu) Cui	Mandarin-English
Jennifer Mao	Mandarin-English
Gerrie Wagner	Mandarin-English
Yue Xu	Mandarin-English
Travena Lee	Cantonese-English
Jingyi Shinie Tan	Cantonese-English
Gagandeep Kaur Sandhu	Punjabi-English
Kulvinder Kular	Punjabi-English
Mehdi Alaei Tafti	Farsi-English

**Pass Rates Overall 2018:**

For the 2018 Translation Exam — 15%  
 For Community Interpretation — 100%  
 For Medical and Court Interpretation — 75%

**Translation - March 2019**

Mary Habachi	Arabic to English
Bo (Robert) Zhao	English to Chinese

*Report compiled by STIBC Membership & Educational Services staff Tamara Schaupp  
 (Certified Translator, English to German) and Luise Wagner.*

## !!! ALERT — The “Cheque Overpayment” Scam

*We thank our colleagues at ATIO for circulating the following notice (English/ French)*

Dear Member,

We would like to advise you of a common scam that appears to be making the rounds again: The Cheque Overpayment Scam. The fraudsters behind this scam normally approach translators but any business can be affected.

What the scam typically “looks” like:

A “client” approaches you for a quote. You agree on a price and turnaround time. The “client” says they can only pay by cheque (giving some excuse why). When you receive the cheque, you see that it is for more money than what was agreed to. The “client” has some excuse for the overpayment and then asks for you to send the difference back. The unsuspecting translator returns the difference back to the “client” or the “client’s colleague.” Eventually, the bank determines that the cheque was fraudulent. You are now responsible for paying back the reversed funds and any related fees to your bank, and that “client” has disappeared with your legitimate money in their pocket.

The names, emails, stories and excuses the fraudsters use for the Cheque Overpayment Scam are always different and ever-evolving. The stories may even seem elaborate and convincing. But while the stories change, the motive of the fraudster does not: they just want your money.

How to protect yourself:

- Do not accept any overpayments. If a client has sent you too much money, refuse to accept it. Do not cash the cheque under any circumstances. Return it to the sender and report the incident to the authorities.
- Do not accept payment by cheque, especially from unknown or first-time clients. There are more reliable methods of payment including Interac e-transfer that can be used.
- Do not begin any work until you have received payment and it has officially cleared your account. Note: the bank can come back many months later and tell you a cheque was actually fraudulent.
- Do not feel pressured to “act now”. Fraudsters will use pressure tactics and quick turnaround times against you.

What to do if you have received an email you suspect is an overpayment scam:

- Don’t respond to the email.
- Report the email to the Canadian Government’s Spam Reporting Centre and/or the Anti-Fraud Centre. Spam isn’t just “annoying, unwanted” emails. It is also defined as “false or misleading electronic representations.”

If you believe you have already fallen victim to a scam, please report this to the following authorities:

- Your local police department’s non-emergency line.
- The RCMP’s non-emergency line
- The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

Finally, if you’re aware of any other fraudulent schemes where translators and/or interpreters are targeted, please let us know at STIBC.

## !!! AVIS : Une arnaque courante liée aux paiements en trop par chèque

Cher membre,

Nous souhaitons vous aviser d'une arnaque courante liée aux paiements en trop par chèque, qui semble faire le tour encore une fois. Les fraudeurs qui en sont responsables communiquent d'habitude avec les traducteurs, mais toute entreprise peut être visée.

L'arnaque se déroule normalement comme suit :

Un « client » communique avec vous pour obtenir une estimation. Vous vous entendez sur un tarif et un échéancier, puis le « client » vous informe qu'il peut seulement payer par chèque (en vous donnant une excuse quelconque). Lorsque vous recevez le chèque, le montant est supérieur au tarif convenu. Le « client » vous donne une autre excuse pour le paiement en trop, puis vous demande de lui remettre la différence. Le traducteur innocent remet la différence au « client » ou au « collègue du client ». Plus tard, la banque détermine que le chèque était frauduleux, et vous êtes maintenant tenu de rembourser le montant contrepassé et tous les frais connexes à votre banque, alors que le « client » est disparu avec votre argent légitime dans sa poche.

Le nom, les courriels, les histoires et les excuses utilisés par les fraudeurs de l'arnaque liée aux paiements en trop par chèque varient et évoluent constamment. Les histoires peuvent même sembler sophistiquées et crédibles. Cependant, même si les histoires varient, le motif des fraudeurs demeure inchangé : ils veulent votre argent.

Comment vous protéger contre cette arnaque :

- N'acceptez aucun paiement en trop. Si un client vous envoie trop d'argent, refusez-le. N'encaissez en aucun cas le chèque. Retournez-le à l'expéditeur et signalez l'incident aux autorités.

- N'acceptez pas les paiements par chèque, surtout de la part de clients inconnus ou nouveaux. Utilisez des méthodes de paiement plus fiables comme le virement électronique Interac.

- Ne commencez aucun travail avant que le paiement soit reçu et officiellement encaissé. Nota : la banque peut communiquer avec vous plusieurs mois plus tard pour vous dire qu'un chèque était frauduleux.

- Ne vous sentez pas contraint d'« agir immédiatement ». Les fraudeurs utilisent des moyens de pression et des échéanciers serrés pour vous convaincre.

Que faire si vous recevez un courriel suspect d'arnaque liée aux paiements en trop?

- Ne répondez pas au courriel.

- Signalez le courriel au Centre de notification des pourriels et (ou) au Centre antifraude du gouvernement du Canada. Les pourriels ne sont pas simplement « ennuyants » ou « non voulus ». Ils sont également des « représentations électroniques fausses ou trompeuses »

Si vous croyez que vous avez été victime d'une arnaque, veuillez la signaler aux autorités suivantes :

- Le numéro des non-urgences de la police municipale.
- Le numéro des non-urgences de la GRC.
- Le Centre antifraude de Canada.

Pour conclure, si vous prenez connaissance d'autres stratagèmes frauduleux visant les traducteurs ou les interprètes, veuillez-nous en aviser.

## And Another Alert from ATIO:

### An ATIO perspective on pre-signed translator statements

Recently, ATIO became aware that some agencies are asking translators to pre-stamp and/or pre-sign blank translator statements. The request is often accompanied by an offer that if the translator chooses to do so, they will be given priority when translation jobs come through the agency.

While ATIO does not have a policy that prevents its membership from taking this action, it is not something that we condone as you could be opening yourselves to the potential for fraud. Your stamp(s) and seals(s) are your responsibility. Agreeing to this practice could result in your stamp and/or credentials being used on a translation that you did not author. This could put you at risk of

### Perspective de l'ATIO sur les déclarations du traducteur signées au préalable

L'ATIO a récemment appris que certains organismes demandent aux traducteurs de tamponner et (ou) de signer au préalable des déclarations du traducteur vierges. Si le traducteur accepte, les organismes offrent souvent de lui accorder la priorité lorsque des tâches de traduction sont disponibles.

Bien que l'ATIO n'ait pas de politique qui empêche ses membres d'agir ainsi, cette pratique n'est pas recommandée car vous vous exposez potentiellement à la fraude. Vous êtes responsable de votre tampon et de votre sceau. Si vous acceptez cette pratique, votre tampon et (ou) vos titres de compétence pourraient être utilisés pour une

... [faxed text incomplete]

In other words, if you work with an agency, think hard before you pre-sign or pre-stamp, because it's all about trust and reputation.

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## An Introduction to the Interview Series

by Angela Fairbank

Late in 2018, when the *STIBC Voice* launched an appeal for articles of interest to STIBC members and the community, I began thinking, "What could I write to attract new members to our society, and how then to encourage Associate Members to become CTIC-certified?"

Personally, by being a member of STIBC, I feel acknowledged by the profession as a whole and thought it might be interesting to show how members of our profession elsewhere work. What's the job situation for T&I professionals in other countries? What are their specific challenges? Do they have local T&I associations where they live and work? How do they go about getting certified?

I decided to contact people I had come across both during my education and in my career. I started by writing to three friends on three different continents—one in the USA, one in Italy, and one in Ethiopia—and received enthusiastic answers from all of them. My first idea was to conduct Skype interviews, but in light of the time differences (3, 9, and 11 hours respectively), I decided it would be easier to send them my questions and let them reply at their leisure, in their own way.

Here is the first. Diana Rhudick, President of the New England Translators Association and an ATA-certified French to English and Spanish to English Translator, was a classmate of mine during the two-year Master of Arts in Translation programme at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, now called the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

Angela Fairbank has a B.A. in French and Spanish and a M.A. in Translation, French to English. She is a STIBC-Certified Spanish to English Translator, an ATA-Certified French to English Translator, and a Health Care Interpreter Spanish <->English and French<-> English

## **I. An Interview with Diana Rhudick, M.A., C.T., ATA-Certified French to English and Spanish to English Translator and President of the New England Translators Association**

*by Angela Fairbank*



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

*I definitely consider myself a translator. I discovered early on that I wasn't a good interpreter, and terminologist is something I'd never considered.*

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

*I wish I could say that my family is half French and half Spanish, and that I grew up in countries all over the world. But the boring truth is that I was born and raised in a monolingual household and attended monolingual schools. However, I've always been fascinated by other cultures, and when I had my first French class at age 13, I knew I wanted a career in languages. This insight led me to attend Middlebury College in Vermont to major in French and Spanish. Then I went to the Monterey Institute in California to get my master's degree in translation. Along the way, I studied in France and Spain for my third year of college, worked as an au pair in Barcelona, attended graduate school in Belgium for a semester--all necessary preparation for my profession.*

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

*Over 30 years now.*

**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?

*For most of those 30 years, I've worked as a freelancer, but just last year I took a part-time position as a project manager/translator for a small translation agency. If I had to pick only one, I would definitely choose freelancer. Business offices are not my preferred milieu.*

**5.** Where do you currently practice your profession?

*Just north of Boston, Mass. I've moved to a house where I have my own, separate office that I'm quite pleased with.*

**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 certified in both French and Spanish to English by the American Translators Association. I do get the occasional job through my membership and certification with them, but I think the true benefit of joining an organization is that it shows you are serious about your profession. And the professional interaction is wonderful.*

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

*I have a favorite client (sshhhh!), who gives me very challenging, very interesting work in the advertising field. So it's actually transcreation. One particularly fun job was writing ad copy for a French clothing line that played with expressions containing the word "look." With this same client, my translation on the history of a modern art museum was published as well.*

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

*One of the hardest aspects of this job for me is accepting criticism of my work. My secret conviction is that we all think we're the best translator in the room, so when an agency sends back my translation edited by someone else, especially when that editor finds actual improved solutions, I have to remind myself it's an opportunity for growth.*

**9.** What advice do you have for colleagues who are just starting—or thinking of starting—in the profession today?

*This is a tricky one. Some in our profession are foretelling the End of Days due to the advent of neural machine translation, while others predict that all future translators will in fact just be post-editors of machine translation. The positive ones say there will always be a place for translators who write very well and go beyond what a machine can do. My advice would be to proceed with caution and have a backup plan.*

**10.** 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'm the president of the New England Translators Association. My relationship with the association, spanning decades, has given me regular clients, friendships, learning experiences, opportunities to get involved, and so much more. Not to sound like a paid advocate, but I think it's essential for translators and interpreters to join a local T&I group.*

**11.** Is there anything I missed that you would like to add?

*Thank you for the opportunity, and good luck to your organization.*

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## The Fun Side of Translating

*by Daniella Givon (Certified Translator, Hebrew to English)*

As translators, we have fun just looking for the right word, playing with words, finding our mistakes and correcting them, and wordsmithing. In short, we enjoy what we do because it suits the type of people we are—exact, sticklers, caring about the details, worrying about saying exactly what we mean... You know yourselves already.

But beside the certificates, the transcripts, and the other documents that we translate routinely, there are instances of fun that come our way which make the job even more enjoyable. I would like to tell you about some of them.

One agency which works with the film industry asked me to translate a few sentences for a movie into Hebrew. I think it was supposed to be an obscure language, or maybe not, maybe just Hebrew. After translating the lines, I had to read them, first slowly and then at regular speaking speed so that the actors could learn their lines and say them. What fun being part of the film industry!

Another time, I was asked to translate a few lines of conversation from English to Hebrew, more precisely into Biblical Hebrew, for another movie. Biblical Hebrew is different from spoken Hebrew both in style and in vocabulary. It is archaic, with its own cadences. It is not spoken, and obviously some everyday words do not even exist. In order to sound authentic, I went to the sources, delved into chapters and books of the Bible that had a limited amount of conversation, sometimes among biblical personages, sometimes between the biblical personages and God. My creativity was called for along with my skills as I invented this language.

Translating literature and poetry is another source of utter enjoyment. I translated two children's books. What can I say – sheer fun! They were interesting, well written, and the challenge was to make the texts flow so that children would engage with them.

And what about words that do not exist in the target language? In North America, we have been using the word “wellness” for some years. However, it is not just a word—it is a concept, a way of life, a certain mentality and culture. The world outside North America is catching on to the concept and the need for wellness in people's lives, but the language needs to catch up as well. Israel has an Academy for Language, and the Academy suggests or seeks suggestions for words that exist in other languages but not in Hebrew, or are part of modern culture and new fields of science, especially high-tech. In due course, the Academy made up a new word for “wellness.” It is in the dictionary. However, I asked many informants if they were familiar with the word, and they were not. I posted the question on a website specifically for translators; I looked at websites of gyms and health institutes and trainers and found that while they were aware of the concept, they used many words to describe wellness, or simply used the English word in Hebrew letters. The hours I dedicated to this research... And the fun I had chasing this one word... It is time nobody is going to pay for, but the return cannot be measured.

If you love learning new things, then translating provides you with ample new information about a variety of subjects. Behind the documents is a wide world. There is always some research to be done when you need to translate a word that you do not understand accurately, or a word that contains several meanings. So many times I have found that I opened a host of new windows in researching a topic. This is what makes up for lengthy power of attorney contracts with a myriad of “and / or”, “hereinafter”, “this party and that party”, etc.

Now go have fun!

## The **STIBC Voice** is Calling All Members!

The **STIBC Voice**, published four times a year (January, April, July, and October), is looking for contributions pertinent to the language and translation industry. 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)

about events, issues, and projects relevant to STIBC

### **Feature Articles** (500–800 words)

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.

Articles 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 (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 [secretary@stibc.org](mailto:secretary@stibc.org)

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

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EACH ISSUE ARE

1 July — 1 October — 1 January — 1 April

Contributions are welcome throughout the year, but...

**THE DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE IS**

**Monday July 1, 2019**

To suggest ideas for articles or ask about any other details, please contact the **STIBC Voice** Editor, Stefanie Kennell, at [secretary@stibc.org](mailto:secretary@stibc.org)

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**Stefanie Kennell**

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