



Policy & Procedure Manual



SECTION ONE: HISTORY

Before decisions can be made to effect growth and advancement in the field of sign language interpreting, it is important to have an understanding of the history surrounding the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC).

Sign language interpreting, that is, interpreting between a signed language and a spoken language, is a relatively new profession. It was born out of a need for better communication between Deaf/deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals. Prior to the 1960s, the bulk of interpreting between Deaf and hearing people was performed by family members of Deaf people, clergy members, co-workers or teachers “of the Deaf” who knew sign language and who volunteered to assist with communication. It was not until the mid-1960s that interpreters began to regularly earn money for their work.

In 1965, a professional association of sign language interpreters, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), was the first of its kind to be established in the United States. Ten years later, interpreters, many of whom had been Canadian members of RID, began to organize a Canadian association of American Sign Language/English interpreters. In 1980, AVLIC was born.

In April 1979 in Ottawa, Ontario, three interpreters: Louise Ford (Ontario), Janice Hawkins (Manitoba) and Dottie Inkenbrandt (British Columbia) met and planned the first national conference of Canadian interpreters set for November 16-18, 1979 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The need for professional networking and the establishment of standards and training was imminent and supported by the national Deaf community and service providers for Deaf Canadians.

It was at this first conference of Canadian interpreters that the federal government, Bureau of the Secretary of State Department, made a groundbreaking announcement. Sign language interpretation services, in both French-langue des signes quebecoise (LSQ) and English-American Sign Language (ASL), would now be provided to assist the federal government in its communication with Deaf citizens. During this inaugural conference a decision was made to establish a Canadian professional association that would go on to draft a constitution, bylaws, a Code of Ethics and certification standards.

The following is a chronological account of milestones in the history of AVLIC:

1979

First meeting of Canadian interpreters on November 16th-18th in Winnipeg, Manitoba

1980

Constitution and bylaws ratified at Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ottawa, Ontario. The founding

Board of Directors were: Laurie Ann Reese, Christine Hilda Wilson, Phyllis Lee Joynt, Karyn Ann Goldstein, Terence David Janzen, Richard Wayne Letourneau, Maureen Ann Paull, Margaret Jane Perry, David Wayne Still, Janice Judith Hawkins, Susan Jane Masters, Dorothy Mildred Rundles, Louise Helen Ford and Paul Emrilde Bourcier

1981

Letters of Patent issued by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada
Conference and AGM held in Edmonton, Alberta

1983

Conference and AGM held in Montreal, Quebec
Code of Ethics and constitution amended
Dr. Gertrude Allison Kent received first Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1984

Conference and AGM held in Halifax, Nova Scotia
Evaluation/Certification committee mandated to prepare the Canadian Evaluation System (CES)
Alice Hiscock received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1985

AGM held in -- . No quorum.

1986

Conference and AGM held in Calgary, Alberta
CES ratified
Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD) and Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD) made significant participatory and financial contributions to development of CES
Richard W. Letourneau received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1987

AGM held in --

1988

Conference and AGM held in Toronto, Ontario
D. Bruce Jack received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1989

AGM held in --
Denise Sedran Murray hired as first CES Project Manager until October 19th, 1990
First AVLIC office located in Ottawa, Ontario

1990

Conference and AGM held in Vancouver, British Columbia
First offering of the Test of Interpretation (TOI) 51 applicants; 11 successful
Phyllis Joynt received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1991

AGM held in --
CES Project Officer, Leanne Walls, hired to administer testing and apply for grant funding
23 TOI applicants; 6 successful

1992

Conference and AGM held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Sharon Sherman replaced Leanne Walls as CES Project Officer responsible for test administration
Dual Membership in local Affiliate Chapters and AVLIC as membership requirement first introduced
Office moved to Edmonton, Alberta
31 TOI applicants; 4 successful
CES Project Manager laid off due to financial restraints
Debra Russell received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1993

AGM held in --
Interpreters in the Educational Setting: A Resource Document published
Rhonda Webster hired as CES Project Officer responsible for grant funding
Pam Brenneis replaced Sharon Sherman as CES Project Officer responsible for test administration
29 TOI applicants; 2 successful

1994

Conference and AGM held in Winnipeg, Manitoba
AVLIC faces severe financial challenges; the following decisions made at the AGM:

- Fees to increase \$25/year for five years
- due to financial and human resource limitations, services to LSQ-French interpreters, oral interpreters and Deaf interpreters cannot be offered at this time. AVLIC's focus is to remain on the development of ASL-English interpreting.

Tracy Hetman, AVLIC president, traveled to Montreal to meet with AQIFLV members in the hopes of answering their questions, strengthening ties and encouraging membership in AVLIC
Interpreting in Legal Settings: An AVLIC Position Paper published
17 TOI applicants ; 3 successful
Kirk Ferguson received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1995

AGM held in --
Implemented "5 Year Plan" – 1995-2001
Association quebecoise des interpretes francophones et langage visuel (AQIFLV) decided to participate in Dual Membership.
Nicole Milot hired as research officer and to administer French version of WTK
Rhonda Webster worked from Fall 1995 to November 1996 on special projects
Repetitive Strain Injury Among Sign Language Interpreters: A Resource Document published
16 TOI applicants; 2 successful

1996

Conference and AGM held in Ottawa, Ontario
First LSQ-French Written Test of Knowledge offered
13 TOI applicants; 4 successful
Darlene Karran received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1997

AGM held in --
8 TOI applicants; 3 successful

1998

Conference and AGM held in Montreal, Quebec
10 TOI applicants; 2 successful

Karen Malcolm received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

1999

AGM held in Toronto, Ontario

First part-time contract administrative manager, Barb Mykle-Hotzon, hired

16 TOI applicants; 4 successful

2000

Conference and AGM held in Edmonton, Alberta

Oral Interpreting: An AVLIC Position Paper published

Ratified the AVLIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct

18 TOI applicants; 2 successful

Linda Hatrak Cundy received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

Bonnie-Lyn Barker received first Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award

2001

AGM held in Vancouver, British Columbia

AQIFLV voted to disaffiliate from AVLIC until such time they could regain health as an organization; to remain sister organization to AVLIC

French WTK no longer offered

15 TOI applicants; 2 successful

2002

Conference and AGM held in Halifax, Nova Scotia

New Board structure implemented to reduce costs of organization and encourage more participation from members

10 TOI applicants; 0 successful

AVLIC News became available as an online publication

Greg Evans received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

Adele Routliff received Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award

2003

AGM held in Toronto, Ontario

15 TOI applicants; 3 successful

Membership voted to suspend offering of TOI until revision completed

2004

Conference and AGM held in Vancouver, British Columbia

Newfoundland Association of Visual Language Interpreters (NAVLI) was formed

Ratification of revised Dispute Resolution Process

Treena d'Aoust replaced Pam Brenneis as CES administrative manager

Ratification of revised Canadian Evaluation System

Membership voted for AVLIC to join Council of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters of Canada; COI holders benefit from membership

Susi Bolender received first AEIP Graduating Student Award

Terry Janzen received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

Debra Russell received Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award

2005

AGM held in Edmonton, Alberta

Deanna Brouet replaced Treena d'Aoust as CES administrative manager

New logo ratified and first published in the fall

Maria (Margarita) Rodriguez received AEIP Graduating Student Award

2006

Conference and AGM held in Toronto, Ontario

Revised TOI Preparation Phase workshops presented

Membership Categories and Criteria changes ratified

Membership voted to disaffiliate with Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council

Dawn-Marie Hildebrand received AEIP Graduating Student Award

Jim McDermott received Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award

Marty Taylor received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

Launched revised website

2007

AGM held in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Revised TOI offered: 20 applicants; 3 successful

Simon Dorer received AEIP Graduating Student Award

Instituted online membership application and payment

AEIP Graduating Student Award changed to David Still Memorial AEIP Graduating Student Award

2008

Conference and AGM held in St. John's, Newfoundland

Revised membership categories and criteria changes instituted

Sisko Huijgen-Bilker received David Still Memorial AEIP Graduating Student Award

Glenda Messier received Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award

Sue Stegenga received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit

Kirk Ferguson received first Wayne R. Letourneau Award

Initial training of Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) Internal Resource Persons (IRP) completed

ASL translation of Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct, and Dispute Resolution Process completed

TOI offered: 9 applicants; 4 successful

Resignation of CES administrative manager, Deanna Brouet

Moving of Edmonton office to Langley, BC

Adopted Occupational Health and Safety for Sign Language Interpreters out of Ryerson University as a Health and Safety resource

Struck the new standing committee, Health and Safety

2009

TOI offered: 13 applicants; 4 successful

Farah Ladha received David Still Memorial AEIP Graduating Student Award

Strategic plan developed

2010

Conference and AGM held in Ottawa, Ontario (theme: Small Steps, Big Difference)

Joint Statement signed by CCSD, CAD and AVLIC stating support of working in close partnership to for the future benefit of Canadian Deaf people who use Sign Languages.

New Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Core Values ratified (Motions OT10G – 12, 13 and 15)

Five Year Goals set – 1.) Increase the number of interpreters achieving the COI; 2.) Strengthened benefit; 3.) Strengthened capacity of AVLIC to deliver programs and services

Revised Active (Motions OT10G - 26, 28, and 33) and Deaf Interpreter (Motions OT10G - 04, 10 and 37) membership criteria instituted

Resignation of administrative manager, Barb Mykle-Hotzon

Jane Pannell hired as administrative manager

AVLIC office moved from Langley, BC to Squamish, BC
Jennifer Wilson received David Still Memorial AEIP Graduating Student Award
Catherine Maier received Phyllis Joynt Mentorship Award
Sheila Johnston received Edward C. Bealer Award of Merit
Barb Mykle-Hotzon received Wayne R. Letourneau Service Award
TOI offered: 4 applicants; 1 successful

2011

AGM held in New Westminster, B.C. – quorum not reached
TOI offered: 13 applicants; 4 successful
Maggie Harkins received David Still Memorial AEIP Graduating Student Award
New AVLIC website launched in August

References:

- Letourneau, R. Wayne. (1985) AVLIC: An Historical Perspective. Unpublished.
- Malcolm, K. & Russell, D. (1991). Interpreting in Canada. Proceedings of the 1991 RID Convention.