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President's Report for the 25th Annual General Meeting

Fenella Sung, C.Tr., C.Crt.I.

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting me in the position of President of the Society of Translators and Interpreters of B.C. for the past two years. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Board, all committee chairs and members, our Office Administrator and her part-time staff, our Webmaster, our TRANSLetter editor and proofreaders, our admission examination markers and reviewers and all those who have helped the Society one way or the other. As you know too well, our Society thrives thanks to this support and contribution from its membership, and I sincerely hope that you will continue to contribute in the coming year.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I will concentrate in this report on a few thematic

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Director-at-Large:Zita Szilagyi
Director-at-Large:Joann McKinlay
Director-at-Large:Alexander Kulyashov
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highlights of the 2005/2006 term, but without repeating our ongoing achievements that were initiated in 2004:

(1) More Individualized Support to Our Members and Candidates

As I said when I first took on the helm of STIBC, whereas we would all be delighted in an increased membership, the quality of service to our members and candidates is of utmost importance. The key issue with our Society is not so much in providing more services, but in better delivery of the existing services. We at the Board have tried our very best to respond one-on-one to the individual needs and inquiries of our members and candidates. More often than before, we have provided individualized advice or counselling to members and candidates who were either at the crossroads of their professional/career pursuit or required some extra help along the way. This new approach of service in a way reflects the changing face of our prospective membership: many of our new members and candidates today are relative newcomers to Canada who are not entirely familiar with our system, our profession or even our country. Together with this new reality come new challenges for our office administration and the certification process (please see **Task Force to Review the Certification Examination** below) that we have to prepare ourselves to face.

(2) Task Force to Review the Certification Examination

At the national level, we have worked closely with CTTIC to strive for a fair and high-quality certification system. The very low passing rates in the certification examination for both the official and foreign languages categories in the past few years have continued to be of grave concern, both at the STIBC and CTTIC levels. This is particularly so in the categories for English to French as well as foreign languages to English or French. In response, CTTIC has set up a task force under the Board of Certification, with representatives from the provincial associations to review the entire examination process from text selection to training and accreditation of markers. Since our Society has the highest number of candidates writing the foreign languages to English/French examinations, STIBC has volunteered to offer our experience and expertise in foreign languages as the task force conducts the review.

(3) Increased Accountability of the Board, Officers and Staff

In keeping with its status as a reputable professional association and its requirements to demonstrate reliability and accountability to the public, STIBC has

required all the Board Members and the Office Administrator to sign the CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS for the term 2005/2006, the content of which includes:

“In establishing policy and making decisions for and on behalf of STIBC’s members, we – board members / officers - are custodians in trust of the assets of our association. The members recognize the need for competent and committed elected board members and they deserve our utmost effort, dedication, and support.

As board members/officers of STIBC, we acknowledge and commit that we will observe a high standard of ethics and conduct as we devote our best efforts, skills and resources in the interest of STIBC and its members. We will perform our duties as board members/officers in such a manner that members’ confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of STIBC are conserved and enhanced. To do otherwise would be a breach of the trust which the membership has bestowed upon us...

- I will declare any conflict of interest, be it real, potential, or apparent, which is not immediately obvious with regard to any matter being discussed in my presence during a meeting.

- I will not knowingly take advantage of or benefit from information that is obtained in the course of my official duties and responsibilities as a board member / officer, and that is not generally available to membership.
- I will maintain confidentiality of all information which the board deems ought to be kept confidential...”

From now on, signing of the Code will become an annual exercise every time that a new Board is elected at our Society’s AGM. Furthermore, STIBC also took the initiative to bring to discussion this idea of CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS at the CTTIC Board Meeting held in Montreal in November 2005. It is expected that a similar Code will be adopted by CTTIC and other provincial associations in the near future.

(4) Enhanced Professional Outreach

Through our regular efforts to forge and strengthen relationships with other stakeholders in the profession and related industries, I am proud to report that our Society has now become one of the primary sources for businesses and governments alike to recruit professional translators and interpreters. One such example was the BC-Guangdong Business Forum, attended by over 1,400 delegates at the Vancouver Convention Centre in October 2005. Through our facilitation, the Vancouver Board of Trade recruited nearly 30 of our members who work in the Chinese languages to be interpreters to help out at the forum.

Other notable organizations/meetings that have contacted STIBC for professional help include the World Health Organization (WHO), the City of Vancouver, the Globe Foundation, the World Urban Forum and the World Down Syndrome Congress, just to name a few.

Needless to say, we are maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Court Services Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General to discuss the overall review of working conditions for court interpreters, including hourly rate, duty roster, cancellation policy and transportation.

(5) Provincial, National and International Recognition

As we celebrate our Society's 25th anniversary, it is gratifying to know that our Society has thrived and is highly regarded at the provincial, national and international levels, thanks to the hard work and achievements of many of our predecessors, including our founders, all the Past Presidents, Board Members and volunteers.

At our International Translation Day celebration in September 2005 attended by more than 100 guests and members, many elected officials (members of the legislature and city councillors (one later became mayor), representatives from various government departments as well as other professional organizations came to celebrate with us. It shows that through these years we have established very extensive networks and wide

support from all sectors of the communities in the province.

A good example is the CTTIC Volunteer Award presented to our Past President Hana Kucerova in November 2005. It demonstrates that Hana's achievement is not only recognised here in BC but also across Canada.

At the international level, China as the host country and organizer of the 2008 FIT World Congress has also sought advice and assistance from Canada and particularly from STIBC, because of our experience in organizing the highly successful 2002 World Congress.

Last but not least, I would like to conclude my report with a special thank you to Robin McGuire, our Office Administrator. Without her diligence and hard work, the Board would not have been able to run the Society smoothly and obtain many of our achievements mentioned above.

FOUNDING MEMBER'S MESSAGE:

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the AGM. As a Founding Member, I would naturally have liked to be present on the Society's 25th, but I am presently away from Vancouver.

My congratulations to all, on the growth of the Society, I am impressed with what it has become; and my appreciation to all those who over the years have helped accomplish what we originals had hoped and knew was possible.

Phyllis Wrenn,

Founding member and past President.

Board and Members' Biography

Evelyna Radoslavova, M.A., C.Tr. (Canada)

Born in Bulgaria and educated in France, where she graduated from high school, Evelyn Radoslavova grew up in a truly multilingual environment. She obtained a diploma in French Language and Literature, with a second major in English, from the University of Sofia, in 1989.

She settled in Montreal in 1992, becoming a member of OTTIAQ in 1996 and obtaining certification (Bulgarian>French) in 1997. After relocating to Vancouver, she also joined STIBC in 2001 and ATA in 2004. She is a linguist by calling and by profession, working as a full-time freelance translator since 1998. Over the years, she has acquired an excellent knowledge of the Canadian and international markets and translation communities, and has seen the profession evolve as new technologies emerge to support and change the way translators work. She has been Vice-President of STIBC since 2004 and enjoyed working with the President and Board towards promoting the profession and the interests of STIBC members.

Patty Castrillon is an adult ESL teacher with Burnaby School Board and a freelance translator from English<>Spanish. She was born in Bogota, Colombia and has been in Canada since September 2000 when she became an associate member of STIBC. She became certified in 2001. She has over 20 years experience in translation.

Patty has been on the STIBC Board of Directors as Registrar for 2004 and is running again for the same position.

Esther Vitalis

I have a university degree in translating technical texts. My original language pairs were Russian <> Hungarian and English <> Hungarian. Unfortunately my Russian is quite useless by now (at least for translating purposes), and I rarely translate technical texts. However there are many more areas that I have had opportunity to work in. And I am pleased to say there is no shortage of work. Also I'd like to mention that the Latin that I took during my high school years, helped me to learn other Western languages, such as French and Italian; however, I am not certified in those. Neither am I certified in German that I spoke fluently when I was young; but I know it less and less as the years go by.

Just to say a few words about my work background, other than my degree, I have worked for the provincial and federal governments in various capacities. Already before my retirement I became an Associate Member of STIBC. And after my retirement, I began building my new career, that of

a translator. In some ways it was easy, because I always enjoyed working with words and the creative aspect of translating. The past few years I have been a board member and I find working with the other members of the board a rewarding experience. It is a good feeling to be able to contribute to such an important organization that helps build our profession not only to be respectable but also dependable. That is the reason why I wish to stay on only for one more term (although I said that before) as Secretary, and I am pleased if I am accepted.

Golnaz Aliyarzadeh

Treasurer

Golnaz Aliyarzadeh has been a member of STIBC since 1994 and became certified as a court interpreter, Farsi/English in 1997.

I have been on the STIBC Board of Directors since 2003 as the Treasurer.

I have worked for the Canadian Red Cross since 2000 as the Operations Manager for LMR. Before that I was working with the North Shore Multicultural Society.

I recently got back from Mexico and love traveling. I love hiking and power walking and do a 10 – 15 km walk every weekend.

Hana Kucerova, C.T., C.Crt. I.

I will stand for election as a Director. I will ask the members to entrust me the court interpreting portfolio.

This is what I want to do in my term:

Create a group of volunteers - a court interpreting taskforce - to work on the following issues:

1. Map out how many of STIBC members work for the courts (even certified translators)
2. Attract practicing court interpreters-non members to become STIBC members
3. Enter into discussions with the Court Services about working conditions and attain significant increase in rates
4. Formalize a representation for interpreters in the bylaws (perhaps a Director, maybe even a Vice President)

Bio: Certified Translator and Court Interpreter specialized in legal and medical subjects. Former STIBC President, Active Member of ATA and NAJIT.

Received the CTTIC Volunteer Award in 2005.

Hobbies: skiing, hiking, kayaking, cooking.

I am hoping for your support.

Zita Szilagyi

Education: Bachelor of Arts (German Honours).

Accreditation: STTIC certified Hungarian – English, English – Hungarian.

Translating experience: more than 10 years.

Proprietor of Garden of Languages Translation Services.

Employed by UBC, Copper Library as an Informant in Linguistics.

Other interests: gymnastics coaching.

McKinlay, Joann

Board of Directors 2005-2006 - Director at Large,
Responsible for Continuing Education.

Education:

BA in Contemporary Dance and Latin American
Studies (1986)

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada

Certification:

Certified Spanish-to-English translator (Canada)
since 2001

Member of Society of Translators and
Interpreters of BC (STIBC) since 2000

Occupation:

Tehtelpan Services - (Oct. 2000 - present)
Owner-operated firm with editorial and creative
services including Spanish-English translations,
media relations, research and consulting,
bookkeeping and event planning.

Offices Held in Other Organizations:

Mexican Business Association of Canada –
President (2003)
Secretary (2002).

Other Experience and Interests:

Resided and worked in Mexico from 1987 to
1999 as a finance and fine arts journalist,
translator, and as a contemporary dance
choreographer.

Alexander Kulyashov

Hi, my name is Alexander Kulyashov, and if you
think that's hard to pronounce, well, you've never
heard my middle name. I am a certified translator,
Russian to English.

I've been serving on the Board of Directors for
the past two years. Before I joined STIBC in
2004, I was a freelance translator, among many
other things. Back in my home country, Russia.
I've been a translator for about 10 years,
graduating from a State University of Foreign
Languages.

I've had some experience working for nonprofit
organizations in Vancouver, which was one of the
reasons I joined the STIBC Board of Directors.
The reasons I stayed however, culminated in my
appreciation of the intellectuality and
professionalism of my colleagues here.

As the Director of Associate Members, I helped to
organize the annual Orientation Sessions, which
was a new workshop that received some very
positive feedback. I hope these seminars continue
on as a part of the STIBC tradition.

For all of you new to STIBC, feel welcome to bug
me with questions/concerns.

**Fariborz Khasha (Candidate for the Position
of Director at Large)**

- Certified member of STIBC since 1998,
presently holding combined designations

of Certified Translator (English to Farsi and Farsi to English) and Certified Court Interpreter (Farsi/English);

- Accredited as an Official Translator by the Iranian Ministry of Justice since 1983;
- Member of the Society of Notaries Public of BC since May 2004, commissioned permanently by the Supreme Court of BC as a Notary Public in and for the Province of British Columbia, and currently operating an expanding notary practice in the District of West Vancouver;
- Years of experience working with the Court Services Branch of the BC Ministry of Attorney General, Immigration and Refugee Board, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Translation Bureau of the Public Works and Government Services Canada, and numerous local law firms and multicultural societies;
- Active translator (60000 plus words per year) of various legal, academic, medical and other types of documents from and into English;
- Literature-savvy, with published translations of many English short stories into Farsi by such writers as Maxim Gorky, Mark Twain, Frantz Kafka, George Orwell and others, as well as published translations of works into English by renowned Iranian writers and poets including Jalal Al-e Ahmad and Ahmad Shamloo;
- Have never before served on the Society's Board of Directors;

- Occasional volunteering for the Society, including serving several times as marker for the admission and certification exams, and participating in pre-exam mentoring sessions;
- Eagerness to contribute to the Society's professional growth during the upcoming period with the belief that the new Board may be the right venue for making an effective contribution.

Sara Pou

My name is Sara Pou and I am a Certified Translator (English into Spanish) as well as an accredited Health Care and Court Interpreter. I also translate into Catalan.

I am originally from Barcelona, Spain, and moved to Canada in 2001. I was first acquainted with the STIBC at the FIT Congress that was held in Vancouver in 2002. Shortly after I joined the society as an associate member, and in 2003 I took the examination and became a Certified Translator.

Throughout the years as a member, I have volunteered at many of the events that the society has organized. I now feel that it is time for me to become a more active member by joining the Board of Directors. I believe that we, as members, have to participate in order to make this a unique association. I feel that my time has now come. I would be honoured to join the board and further the great work that has been done over the past years.

Reflecting on My Job as a Freelance Translator and More

Every once in a while, I evaluate my job as a freelance translator: the pros and the cons, the stress level, the money (let's face it — it is important, especially if you live in Vancouver), and the flexibility. All in all, I must say that I feel that the job of Translator is a great job. You get to learn new things daily, you can pretty much set your own schedule (of course your clients always give you ample time to complete an assignment...), your mind is never idle, and you can earn a reasonable income.

Recently, Money Magazine released a new list of the **"Best Jobs in America"—and *technical writing* landed at number 13!** What's more, two other job titles used by S.T.I.B.C. members—*curriculum developer* and *editor*—scored numbers 18 and 19, respectively. In evaluating the jobs, *Money* used such criteria as salary, growth, stress levels and flexibility in hours. You can view the complete list at: <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bestjobs/top50/index.html>. Although Translator did not make the list, there are a lot of similarities between these three jobs and that of a Translator. This article is interesting to read.

A common complaint from many freelancers is that they feel isolated... Well, what prevents you from using the phone and calling your colleagues? If more of us saw our colleagues as partners and allies rather than as competitors, we would open

the door to rewarding collaborative ventures and new friendships, and we would break the barriers of solitude. Sharing ideas, findings, techniques and tips is important and even vital if we do not want to be eaten up by more aggressive translation companies, including multinational firms. We need to reinvent ourselves to stay on top of new developments in the translation world, which is evolving rapidly. If we fail, we will have only ourselves to blame.

2010 will be a great test for all of us. Will we stay in our corner and avoid sharing ideas and tips with others in fear of losing a contract, or will we network and think creatively to show the world that big does not necessarily mean good, and that partnerships can benefit everyone?

The workshop on bidding for the 2010 Olympics is an excellent way to start and you will learn that you do not have to go after large direct contracts if you do not want to. However, making yourself known is an important start.

Although I have been translating for more than 20 years now, both as an employee and as a freelancer, I am still passionate about my jobs and the new people I meet. I have mentored many young aspiring translators and I realize each day how much there is still to learn. That is why I am jazzed about my work!

Pascaline Denblyden
Eureka Translation Inc.

Translating Is a Love Story

By Eric Spalding

The French-Canadian author Jacques Poulin, perhaps best known for *Volkswagen Blues*, has worked as a translator and has written about translating. For instance, he does so in his novel *Les Yeux bleus de Mistassini*, which is not yet available in English. A character in this book analyzes the translation into French of a brief passage from “The Battler”, a short story by Ernest Hemingway. I recommend this section of Poulin’s book for anyone interested in translation.

In *Wild Cat*, another Poulin novel, the protagonist is reading the French translation of a book by John Irving when he comes across a scene involving baseball:

The French translator wrote “base-ball” with a hyphen, but that wasn’t really his fault because the dictionaries are behind the times and they make that same error. Nevertheless, after a few pages I fell on a number of sentences that were incomprehensible. This one, for instance, about the boy who wasn’t normal: “He didn’t play base-ball well but as he had a very small extension he often served as a replacement...”

What kind of “small extension” would allow him to play as a “replacement”? I had no idea what this meant... Later on, when the boy stepped up to the plate, the

French text read that he was “motionless, crouching, on the guardian’s square.”

A batter *crouching*? The *guardian’s square*? What could that possibly mean? In my opinion those words had nothing to do with baseball... Continuing my reading, I saw that as a last resort, the boy had been chosen to play first base. And I read: “In that position he became a star. No one could run from base to base like him.”

A first-baseman who ran to second and third: what strange baseball! I was starting to think that the translator lacked expertise in this area. Fortunately, the subject was abandoned in the following pages and the story took a new turn. The novel became more interesting. I stopped being distracted by the translation and my mind was totally absorbed for minutes at a time. Some twenty pages later, baseball reappeared. One brief sentence startled me.

“It was strike four.”

I was appalled.

The narrator goes on to suggest that

translators based in France should consult Quebeckers for advice on baseball and football. He then buys the English-language original and goes over the offending passages with his girlfriend. It turns out that John Irving had written “Ball four.”

All of this makes me look forward to Jacques Poulin’s next book, announced on www.amazon.ca as *La Traduction est une histoire d’amour* – *Translating Is a Love Story*.

References:

Jacques Poulin, *Les Yeux bleus de Mistassini* (Montréal: Leméac, 2002), pp. 54-55 (for the passage on translating).

Jacques Poulin, *Wild Cat*, translated by Sheila Fischman (Toronto : Cormorant Books Inc., 2003), p. 104 (for the quotation) and pp. 103-109 (for the entire passage on translating). French title: *Le Chat sauvage*.

Jacques Poulin, *La Traduction est une histoire d’amour* (Montréal: Leméac, 2006).

Message from TRANSLetter Editor

Pascaline Denblyden, C.T.

One year already... as TRANSLetter Editor. I would have liked to do a better job, to bring you some breaking news, to make you laugh, to take you away from your daily routine...

Maybe I will succeed this year, but not alone. Some of you have contributed articles and I thank you. S.T.I.B.C. is your Society. It can only be

as proactive, interesting and innovative as you make it. Now is the time to get involved, to ride the momentum of the 2010 Olympics, to become active members. The Board can only do so much without your input, and we also appreciate positive input. We need to know who you are, if you had a contract from hell, if you know of opportunities that would interest others but that you cannot take on, if you have discovered new ways to simplify your work. We need to hear from you! Don’t be shy!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer now that the sun has decided to come back to us.

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