

THE CRITICAL LINK UN MAILLON ESSENTIEL



A Newsletter for Interpreters in the Community across the World

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

This issue of The Critical Link, with its **Call for Papers**, marks the send-off of our Second International Conference. The local organising committee in Vancouver, Canada, under Silvana Carr of Vancouver Community College and Lyndon Hrytzak of the Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society, has everything in place at the University of British Columbia for an efficient meeting and a comfortable stay in a spectacular setting. We intend to keep the registration fee under \$600 Canadian, including accommodation and meals.

As we saw confirmed at Geneva Park, the success of a conference of this kind lies in the quality of the presentations. We want to do even better than last time. So the next few months are crucial for us, as the program committee under Roda Roberts awaits proposals. The ball is in your court now.

UN MOT DU COMITÉ D'ORGANISATION NATIONAL.

Oyez, oyez, chers collègues et amis! Voilà déjà venu le moment de lancer notre deuxième conférence internationale du Maillon essentiel. Aussi, trouverez-vous ci-joint notre **appel à communications**.

Le comité d'organisation local, à Vancouver, co-présidé par Silvana Carr du *Vancouver Community College* et Lyndon Hrytzak du *Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society*, a tout mis en oeuvre pour garantir le bon déroulement de notre prochaine rencontre, à l'Université de Colombie-Britannique, et assurer à tous un séjour confortable dans un cadre tout à fait enchanteur. Les frais d'inscription, comprenant logement et repas, seront de moins de 600 \$ canadiens.

Comme il a été démontré à Geneva Park, le succès d'une telle conférence réside essentiellement dans la qualité des communications et des ateliers. Or, à Vancouver, nous comptons non seulement renouveler ce premier succès mais le dépasser. Les prochains mois seront donc cruciaux. Faites vite, le comité du programme, présidé par Roda Roberts, attend vos propositions. A vous de jouer maintenant!

Brian Harris for the Committee:

Silvana Carr, Dini Steyn (British Columbia), Isabelle Hemlin, (Quebec) Terese Szlamp-Fryga. (Alberta)
Diana Abraham, Aideen Dufour, Nathan Garber, Brian Harris, Roda Roberts, (Ontario)

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THE CRITICAL LINK STANDARDS AND ETHICS IN COMMUNITY INTERPRETING: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Second International Conference on Interpreting in Legal, Health, Educational and Social Service Settings

May 19-23, 1998

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

The Program Committee invites presentations (papers or workshops) on aspects of the conference theme. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Codes of ethics
- Professional standards
- Accreditation procedures
- Standards of interpreter service delivery
- Training of interpreters (pre or post-accreditation)
- Curriculum development
- Evaluation
- Training of people who work with interpreters

As this is the Second International Conference on Interpreting in Legal, Health, Educational and Social Service Settings, we encourage proposals that focus on recent developments in spoken or sign language interpreting. A list of topics covered in the first conference (1995) is included for your information.

The proposals should include the following information:

- Name and affiliation
- Paper (20 minutes) or workshop (90 minutes)
- Language of presentation (English, French, or ASL)
- Title of presentation
- Abstract of 250 words

The deadline for presentation proposals is May 31, 1997.

Proposals should be sent to:

Dr. Roda P. Roberts

40 Stewart Street, University of Ottawa
Ottawa ON K1N 6N5
Tel: (613) 562-5208, Fax: (613) 562-5131
E-mail: roberts@uottawa.ca

APPEL A COMMUNICATIONS

UN MAILLON ESSENTIEL NORMES ET DÉONTOLOGIE EN INTERPRÉTATION CULTURELLE : DÉVELOPPEMENTS RÉCENTS

Second congrès international sur l'interprétation
dans les services juridiques, éducationnels, sociaux et de santé

du 19 au 23 mai 1998
à l'Université de Colombie-Britannique, Vancouver (Canada)

Le comité de programme invite les personnes intéressées à soumettre des propositions de communications (exposés ou projets d'ateliers) portant sur différents sujets reliés au thème du Congrès, dont entre autres :

- le code déontologique
- les normes professionnelles
- les procédures d'agrément
- les normes en matière de prestations de services
- la formation des interprètes (avant ou après l'agrément)
- l'élaboration de programmes
- l'évaluation des compétences
- la formation des personnes travaillant avec les interprètes

Ce congrès étant le Second congrès international sur l'interprétation dans les services juridiques, éducationnels, sociaux et de santé, nous encourageons les communications qui portent sur les développements récents dans le domaine de l'interprétation verbale ou gestuelle. Vous trouverez, ci-joint, une liste des sujets traités au cours du premier congrès, tenu en 1995.

Les propositions de communications doivent comprendre les renseignements suivants :

- Nom et affiliation de l'auteur(e)
- Type de communication : Exposé (20 mn) ou Projet d'atelier (90 mn)
- Langue de présentation : anglais, français, langage ASL
- Titre de la communication
- Résumé de 250 mots

Les propositions de communications doivent parvenir à Dr. Roda Roberts avant le 31 mai 1997, ?
l'adress suivante:

Dr. Roda P. Roberts
Université d'Ottawa
40, rue Stewart
Ottawa ON K1N 6N5
Tél : (613) 562-5208 Fax : (613) 562-5131
CÉ : roberts@uottawa.ca

TOPICS COVERED IN THE FIRST CONFERENCE

- Community Interpreting Today and Tomorrow
- Telling Your Story through an Interpreter
- Mind the Gap
- Screening Interpreters: Criteria and Resources
- Cultural Interpreter Language and Interpreting Skill Assessment Tool
- Designing a Training Program for Community Interpreters
- Legal Interpreting by Any Other Name is Still Legal Interpreting
- Interpreting Administrative Hearings in Texas: Problems and Processes
- Accreditation In Australia: an Alternative Means
- Community Interpreting or Not?
- The Challenge of Setting and Monitoring the Standard of Community Interpreting: an Australian Perspective
- Interpreters' Predicaments: Out of Sight and Out of Mind
- Acculturation Factors Determining Impartiality of Medical Interpreters
- Interpreting for Health in the USA: Government Partnerships with Community Interpreters
- Two Models for Organising Medical Interpretation Services in Seattle
- Exigencies des soignants et support à l'interprète
- Interpreter's Casebook
- Advocacy, Adversary or Adjunct? The Community Interpreter
- Access to Justice in a Multilingual Society: the Team Approach
- Issues in Court Interpreting
- Obtaining Feedback from Non-English Speakers
- The Use of Focus Groups in Understanding Community Expectations of Health Care Interpreters
- Cultural Inquiry: An Essential Ingredient in Medical Interpreting
- Training the Community Interpreter: the Arctic College Experience
- Degree of Interpreter Responsibility in the Interaction Process in Community Interpreting

- Interpreting for South East Asians: Clients Express Symptoms of Mental Health
- Community Language Interpretation
- The Training Needs of Public Personnel Working with Interpreters
- Two Decades of Community Interpreting in Australia

- Court Interpretation in Denmark
- Professional Support and Development of Interpreters
- A Three-Tiered Health Care Interpreter System
- The Cross-Cultural Medical Interview and Working with Interpreters
- The Role of the Interpreter in the Adversarial Courtroom
- Research into Tenor in Medical Interpreting
- The Interpreter on Trial: Pragmatics in Court Interpreting
- Ethical Dilemmas Encountered by Bilingual Medical Interpreters: Challenges, Methods and Strategies
- Perception and Policy of Community Interpreting Services in Norway
- Community Interpreting in Austria: Practice and Training
- Black Patients, White Doctors: Stories Lost in Translation
- The Calgary Language Bank: a Centralised Community-Based Interpretation/Translation Program
- Building, Developing and Delivering Interpreting Services
- L'interprétation culturelle au Québec. Qui a le mandat?
- The Role of Interpreters in Health Care: Balancing the Expectations of Individuals, Institutions and Cultural Communities
- Training College Students as Community Interpreters: an Innovative Model
- School Children as Community Interpreters
- United Nations Military Observer Interpreting in a Community Setting
- Orientation Workshops for Interpreters of All Languages: How to Strike a Balance between the Ideal World and Reality



Excerpts from the
web



France

Michel Sauvêtre
ISM Interprétariat, Paris

Concertation européenne sur l'interprétariat en milieu social

En octobre 1995, 28 organisations d'interprétariat venant de 14 pays européens se sont rencontrées à Strasbourg (France) dans le but d'échanger sur la recherche et l'expérimentation d'un interprétariat adapté aux migrations qui touchent les sociétés européennes. Les actes de ce colloque ont été rédigés au printemps 1996 et sont maintenant disponibles en français et en anglais.

L'objectif de la rencontre, encouragée par la Commission Européenne de Bruxelles, était d'établir un état de situation et de créer une synergie. Les organisations invitées fournissent toutes des services d'interprétariat en milieu social. Elles venaient aussi bien du sud de l'Europe (Espagne, Italie, Portugal,) nouvellement confronté aux flux migratoires, que des pays de migrations plus anciennes comme les pays nordiques.

Les échanges ont souligné toute la subtilité des différentes pratiques de l'interprétariat dans chaque pays, selon que l'immigrant est introduit dans un processus d'accueil voulu par les

services publics ou que sa situation de clandestin ou de non-droit l'a rejeté dans la marginalité. Certains sont d'avis que l'interprète doit traduire strictement le message, sans rien modifier ni ajouter. D'autres pensent qu'il ne peut se limiter aux mots et qu'il doit aider les partenaires à mieux communiquer en apportant au besoin les explications culturelles nécessaires.

Il est indéniable que les modes de communication et le rôle de l'interprète sont affectés par la philosophie du pays face à l'immigration. Pensons à des facteurs comme l'existence ou l'absence de politique d'intégration, la reconnaissance ou non de droits aux communautés ethniques, le degré de connaissance de la culture de l'autre ou encore la place de telle ou telle communauté étrangère dans l'imaginaire national. À cet égard, l'Europe garde des sensibilités diverses.

Les participants à la rencontre souhaitent poursuivre les échanges, c'est pourquoi le Comité organisateur cherche à mettre en place une structure appropriée afin de permettre aux acteurs de l'interprétariat en milieu social de vérifier leurs intuitions et leurs pratiques et de dégager progressivement des standards communs. Deux groupes de travail préparent actuellement une enquête sur les thèmes du recrutement et de la formation des interprètes.

Toronto, Strasbourg, Vancouver...mêmes

préoccupations



Canada

Du Québec

L'interprétariat européen : consensus, divergences et interrogations

Par Anne-Marie Mesa

*Régie régionale de la santé et des services
sociaux, Montréal*

Selon les participants du colloque sur l'interprétariat qui s'est tenu à Strasbourg (France) en octobre 1995, la finalité de l'interprète en milieu social est d'intégrer les populations étrangères. Qu'il se contente de traduire le message ou qu'il joue le rôle de médiateur culturel, il obéit à un code d'éthique. Ce code devrait s'insérer à l'intérieur d'un cadre légal garantissant à chacun le droit fondamental d'avoir accès aux services publics dans le respect de son intimité, de sa langue, de sa culture et de sa situation sociale. Pour ce faire, les institutions ont besoin d'interprètes soigneusement recrutés et formés.

C'est ce qui ressort du document «L'interprétariat en milieu social» qui récapitule les discussions des 14 pays européens invités au colloque. Les actes de ce colloque sont disponibles en français et en anglais¹. Nous vous présentons ci-après un bref résumé des échanges.

Rôle de l'interprète et déontologie

“Traduire, c'est donner l'équivalent du terme; cet équivalent qui sera compris dans la langue du client, comme il l'est dans la langue de l'intervenant”. Si cette définition fait consensus, il en va autrement du rôle de l'interprète. En effet, certains sont d'avis qu'il doit strictement traduire le message sans rien ajouter ni modifier, d'autres pensent qu'il est également un acteur social du type médiateur chargé aussi d'apporter les explications culturelles nécessaires.

Quoiqu'il en soit, tous conviennent que le client a le droit de savoir le type d'interprétation qu'il va recevoir. Et c'est aux organismes qui fournissent l'interprète de les en informer. Quant à ce dernier, il a également des droits, notamment celui de refuser une mission, soit parce qu'il ne maîtrise pas suffisamment la langue, parce qu'il est trop proche du client ou lorsqu'il est victime de menaces.

Cependant, les consensus obtenus ne permettent pas d'établir des lois qui couvriraient les particularités de chaque pays. En effet, il n'existe pas de contexte social uniforme d'un pays à l'autre.

¹ Ce document est disponible auprès d'Inter-service

Recrutement et formation

Un autre point commun est le recrutement qui s'effectue principalement par le bouche à oreille entre interprètes ou au sein de communautés, ou encore grâce aux professionnels s'occupant de migrants. Les participants pensent à formaliser davantage le processus de recrutement, notamment en facilitant l'échange de tests et les descriptions de fonction afin de définir un standard minimum pour la profession. Ceci aura un impact sur les contenus de formation et les méthodes employées.

Concertation

Bien que le statut de l'interprète varie selon chaque pays, tous s'entendent sur la nécessité de faire connaître et reconnaître la profession, aussi bien auprès des médias que des institutions internationales telles l'O.M.S., l'UNICEF, ou le Parlement Européen.

Il serait donc souhaitable de créer un cadre légal au niveau européen, lequel soulignerait le droit d'être servi sans préjudice dû à la langue et donc par des interprètes ayant un réel savoir-faire; déterminerait les exigences minimum en ce qui concerne les qualifications, la formation et

l'éthique professionnelle des interprètes en milieu social et enfin mettrait en garde contre

l'interprétation non professionnelle et la médiation par les enfants.

La principale interrogation reste la définition du rôle des interprètes. Doivent-ils transmettre un message? Comprend-t-il le contexte culturel? Qu'en est-il du non verbal? Si tous ne s'accordent pas sur ces questions, ils reconnaissent néanmoins que le contexte local ou territorial, la nature de l'immigration, les politiques d'intégration, le cadre institutionnel et les réglementations sont des facteurs qui influencent la pratique professionnelle.



From Québec

European interpreters : consensus, differences and questions

*By Anne-Marie Mesa
Regional Board of Health and Social Services,
Montreal*

According to the participants of a conference on interpretation held in Strasbourg (France) in October 1995, the aim of cultural interpreters is to help integrate foreign populations. Whether they only translate the message or act as cultural mediators, they have to respect a code of ethics. This code should be part of a legal structure that would guarantee citizens the fundamental right

of access to public services respecting their privacy, their language, their culture and their social situation. To ensure this,

institutions need interpreters who are carefully selected and trained.

These are the main issues raised by the document called "L'interprétariat en milieu social". This document sums up the discussions that took place during the conference attended by 14 European countries. This document is available in English¹. Here is a brief summary of the discussions.

Interpreters' role and code of conduct

"To translate is to give the equivalent term; this term will be understood both by the client and by the other party". If the participants reached a consensus on this definition, they disagreed on the interpreter's role. Some think that interpreters should strictly translate the message, without adding or modifying anything; whereas others see them as social actors, mediators who should add the necessary cultural explanations.

However, all agree that clients have a right to know which type of interpretation they are being offered. The institutions employing interpreters are responsible for informing the clients.

Interpreters also have rights. One of them is to

refuse an assignment, either because they do not know the language well enough, or because they are too close to the client, or because they have received threats.

Nonetheless, the consensus reached by the participants cannot lead to the creation of laws that would cover the particulars of each country. Indeed, there is no social uniformity from one country to another.

Recruiting and training

Another common aspect is recruiting methods. Most of the time, recruitment is done by word of mouth among interpreters or different communities or through professionals who deal with migrants. Participants are thinking of formalising recruiting procedures, namely by facilitating exchange of tests and task descriptions in order to define minimum standards for the profession. This will have an impact on training programs and methods.

Although the status of interpreters varies from one country to another, all agree that actions should be taken to make the profession better known and to reach a recognition, whether it be by the media or by international institutions such as the WHO, the UNICEF or the European Parliament.

¹ To obtain this document, please contact Inter-service

It would therefore be relevant to create a legal structure throughout Europe which would stress the right to be served without prejudice related to language; thus, by interpreters possessing a real know-how. This structure would also determine minimal standards regarding

qualifications, training and ethics and would warn against non-professional interpreting and mediation done by children.

The main question remaining is about the interpreters' role. Should they transmit a message? Does it include cultural context? What about non-verbal communication? Although opinions differ on these issues, all countries agree that the local or territorial context, nature of immigration, policies on integration of immigrants and institutional structures and rules are factors that influence the practice of the profession.

THREE YEARS OF AGE AND ABLE TO SPEAK 50 LANGUAGES

*Anne-Marie Mesa, Isabelle Hemlin
Régie de la santé et des services sociaux,
Montreal*

The Inter-regional Interpreters' Bank of the Health and Social Services Board is now three years old. Created in 1993, its mission is to provide equal access for immigrants living in the greater Montreal area who lack sufficient knowledge of their host society's language and culture.

The Bank is composed of 82 professional interpreters with training in Quebec's culture and institutional operation. Their strengths lie not only in their language skills but also in their ability to bridge different cultures.



From our
mail bag
Interpretation and translation

NEW PUBLICATIONS

services are provided in 50
different languages mainly in the

health and social services network. The Bank has

recently extended its works to

other areas of public interest

such as education,

occupational health and safety, automobile

insurance and correctional services.



The Bank's activities are listed in the report called "Giving Voice to our Future, the Inter-regional Interpreters Bank 1993-1996, Portrait of a Successful Experience" which is available in French and in English. This report deals with the languages that are in demand, the legal obligations towards the clientele according to the Act respecting Health and Social Services and the codes of ethics of health professionals.

Information can also be found on interpreter training, interpreters' code of ethics, operation costs and user institutions. It is worth noting that management costs have remained stable despite the 220% increase in demand over a three-year period. This increase in demand proves that the service offered to over 80 institutions is essential and greatly appreciated. Interestingly enough, the institutions that make the most use of interpreting services are also the ones that employ the greatest percentage of personnel belonging to ethnic communities.

The Critical Link: Interpreters in the Community

Papers from the first international conference on interpreting in legal, health and social service settings, Geneva Park, Canada, June 1-4 1995 Edited by Silvana E. Carr, Roda P. Roberts, Aideen Dufour and Dini Steyn

What is community interpreting? What are the roles of the community interpreter and the standards, evaluation methods and accreditation procedures pertaining to community interpreting? What training is available or required in this field? and, what are the current issues and practices in community interpreting? These questions, discussed at the first international conference on community interpreting, are addressed in this collection of selected conference papers.

The merit of this volume is that it presents the first comprehensive and global view of a rapidly growing profession, which has developed out of the need to provide services to those who do not speak the official language(s) of a country. Both the problems and the successes related to the challenge of providing adequate community interpreting services in different countries are covered in this volume.

interpreters, to help them cope effectively in a range of legal settings involving the speakers of different languages.



Although the emphasis is on practice in the English justice system, many of the principles discussed are equally valid for interpreting-related situations in other countries. Two chapters deal specifically with good practice and codes of professional behaviour in a number of countries. Throughout the book, issues relevant to sign-language interpreting are taken into account.

Contributions by: Sherill J. Bell; Virginia Benmaman; Carolyn Bullock & Brian Harris; Silvana Carr; Terry Chesher; Ann Corsellis; Brigitta Englund Dimitrova; Sabine Fenton; Julia Puebla Fortier; Yvonne Fowler; Nathan Garber & Louise Mauffette-Leenders; Adolfo Gentile; Sandra Hale; Elizabeth Lascar; Suzanne Michael & Marianne Cocchini; Holly Mikkelson & Hanne Mintz; Christine Penney & Susan Sammons; Franz Pöchhacker, Roda P. Roberts; Nancy Schweda Nicholson & Bodi Martinsen; Roy Thomas; Cecilia Wadensjö.

BTL 19, 1996. ca 304 pp.

Hb 1-55619-701-2 ca. \$ 79.00

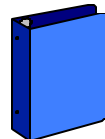
? Winter 96/97

NEW BOOK ON INTERPRETING AND THE LEGAL PROCESS

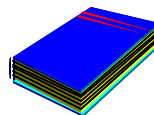
Interpreters and the Legal Process discusses many of the practical, theoretical and moral issues arising frequently today in the administration of justice, where legal systems have to communicate with many people who do not speak or understand the language.

The book provides explanations and guidance for law practitioners, administrators and

The book has been written for a broad range of potential readers:



– interpreters, to make them aware of interpreting-related issues and dilemmas and



– to inform them about the legal system in England and Wales;

- judges, magistrates, police officers, probation officers, social workers, prison officers, lawyers, immigration lawyers and students, to make them aware of interpreting-related aspects of their work or studies
- everyone interested in language, communication, interpreting and translation as they affect legal matters.

*****PUBLICATION DETAILS*****

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ISRAEL

Final Report on the Educational Forum
Developing Standards for Interpreting in
a Health Care Setting: The Interhospital
Interpreter Project.
November 1996

To obtain a copy of this report please contact:
Diana Abraham,
Citizenship Programs Branch
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
77 Bloor Street West, 9th Floor,
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
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Email: Abrahamd@gov.on.ca

The Hospital Cultural Interpreter Network,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING OF INTERPRETERS IN A HOSPITAL/HEALTH CARE SETTING.

May 5-9, 1997
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

REGISTRATION FEE: \$600.00 Canadian

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This training of trainers program is an outgrowth of the Interhospital Interpreter Project undertaken by seven hospitals in the Toronto area.

Working in partnership, the hospitals produced and tested tools for assessing the linguistic capability and interpreting potential of individuals to be trained as hospital interpreters, an interpreter training curriculum and a service protocol

This orientation program is designed to provide:

1. An understanding of the issues to be considered and the tools which may be used when:

- ?? determining the level of competency necessary for effective interpreting in a health care setting
- ?? recruiting and training second language staff in a hospital/health care setting
- ?? recruiting and training community volunteer interpreters
- ?? assessing the language competencies and interpreting potential of the applicants for the training program
- ?? providing an interpreter service staffed by volunteers from the hospital's workforce

2. Training approaches To Core Competency Curriculum

An orientation to the training modules designed around:

- ? Values and attitudes
- ? Code of ethics
- ? Terminology
- ? Sight translation
- ? Interpreting skills
- ? Liability and risk
- ? Service protocol
- ? Self-study
- ? Interpreting in a health care setting
- ? Communication and assertiveness
- ? Role and responsibilities

2. Demonstrations of the range of approaches and training modalities which may be used in training programs.

3. Opportunities for participants to use the training modules and modalities.

4. Openings for participants to contribute to or expand on the training modules and modalities included in the curriculum

5. An introduction to the approaches and tools which may be used to evaluate the training program and assess the competencies of the participants in the training program.

6. Complimentary copy of the curriculum

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Distance Education Project on Interpreter Training

Funding Announcement

Funding has been provided to Vancouver Community College (VCC) to develop and test a distance delivered course for court interpreters. The principal funders are the Office of Learning Technology (HRDC) and the BC and Ontario Law Foundations.

Course Development

Course development has already begun with the Open Learning Agency as a partner, and delivery of the pilot course is slated for the Fall of 1997. The project team comprising project manager Dini Steyn, content consultant Silvana Carr, course designer Bruce Thompson, and external evaluator Kathryn Barker has met three times, once with curriculum advisor Roda Roberts and six of the VCC course instructors.

An advisory committee meets once each quarter to guide the process. Members include representatives from the B.C. Court Services, the B.C. Law Courts, Ministry of Human Resources, the Society of Translators and Interpreters, B.C. (STIBC) Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council (CTIC), Law Courts Education Society, the Northwest Territories (NWT) Bureau of French Language Services, two immigrant serving agencies and the Law Society of B.C.

How this course differs from the VCC full-time course

- ?? The course will be packaged as a self-study course with audio cassettes, video cassettes, assignments and telephone and e-mail tutor support.
- ?? The course is shorter - approximately 120 hours depending on individual progress.
- ?? The same three components will be offered: the Orientation Module (20 hours); Bilingual Interpreting hours); and the Law Component (20 hours).
- ?? Course materials are in English only; the other language will be used in practice tapes and in language-specific audio and computer conferences with the tutors.
- ?? Graduates of the course can challenge the CTIC or VCC exam to become certified court interpreters. Certification is not automatic.
- ?? The pilot course groups will meet twice for videoconferences. The conferences will be video taped for future use in self-directed courses.

Potential Sites

Sites recommended for the pilot course are Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Burnaby and surrounding areas. As the course is self-directed except for two videoconferences, it is

feasible for people within a two or three hour radius of the main centres to register.

Feasibility Study

Contact will be made with agencies and individuals who filled out the feasibility study questionnaires 18 months ago. Responses to the new questionnaire will determine final site selection, student numbers and languages.

Student Selection and Final Examination

Screening of students will be similar to the current procedures at VCC but will be administered locally and will take approximately two half-days. Guidelines for local invigilators will be provided. Candidates who pass the written test will be tested verbally in both languages. Successful candidates can then register for the distance delivered course offered by Vancouver Community College Continuing Education. The final examination will also be administered and invigilated locally and graded centrally at VCC.

National and international interest

We are well aware that the field of interpreter education appears to require a great deal of one-on-one, interactive training techniques. How can individual attention be replaced or simulated in a distance delivered course? Many individuals and organizations nationally and internationally have expressed interest in the outcomes and effectiveness of distance delivered training. The external evaluator's analysis of the effectiveness of various technologies, such as video-, audio- and computer conferencing, is awaited eagerly.

.....
.....
Readers interested in receiving copies of the final report (December 1998) should contact Dini Steyn at the Open Learning Agency, 4355 Mathisi Place, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5G 4S8; or Silvana Carr at Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus, Box 24785, Vancouver, BC V5N 5V2.

Court Interpreting Future Developments

Distance Education Program

Vancouver Community College in co-operation with the Open Learning Agency is developing a distance education system for court interpreter training. The program will be delivered through a combination of audioconferencing, videoconferencing, print materials, and local facilitation. It is expected to commence in September 1997.

If you are interested in receiving information about distance education, please complete the form below and return it to Continuing Education at Langara College, 100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z6. We will add you to our mailing list and contact you when the new program is ready.

Court Interpreting Distance Education Program

Please add me to your mailing list

Please print

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Language _____

Course number 150147