OCCI Ontario Council on Community Interpreting

In response to the need for **consistent quality interpretation** across all public service sectors, the Ontario Council on Community Interpreting (OCCI) has developed a progressive and responsive **accreditation process for interpreters** working in the **community services sectors.**

Ontario Council on Community Interpreting (OCCI) has developed a progressive and responsive **accreditation process for interpreters** working in the **community services sectors** in response to the need for **consistent quality interpretation** across all public service sectors. OCCI began accepting applications from interpreters to become **Accredited Community Interpreters (ACI)** on July 1, 2015.

Individuals with Limited English/French Proficiency in Canada **need access to quality interpreter service**, in both urban and rural communities; and, spoken language interpreters **need professional accreditation** that are recognized and valued.
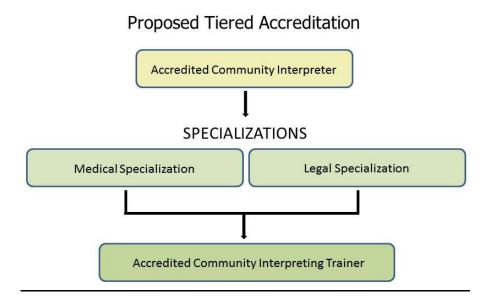
This accreditation process **takes away the guesswork** about interpreter qualifications for individuals working with spoken language interpreters, and it brings us closer to the common goal of **professionalizing the Community Interpreting sector.**

The OCCI is unique in its approach of consultation with stakeholders and community members from across the province:

• Interpreters • Public Service Providers • Interpreter Trainers •

• Interpretation Service Providers • Individuals facing language barriers •

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Proposed Tiered Accreditation

APLI has generously agreed to support the administration process of OCCI accreditation. Interpreters interested in applying for accreditation can visit www.aplicanada.org/accreditation or email occi@aplicanada.org

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Categories and Requirements for Accrediting Community Interpreters

1.0 Pre-Requisites/Requirements

1.1 English proficiency assessment * (e.g. IELTS**, iBT TOEFL**, or college language assessment)
1.2 Post-secondary credentials or equivalent
1.3 Language Interpreter Test (e.g. CILISAT, ILSAT)
1.4 Post-Secondary Training in interpreting: Successful completion of the Language Interpreting Training Program (LITP) (College Certificate) - Curriculum of 180 hours or Glendon Graduate Diploma in General Interpreting (GDGI)
1.5 Membership in a professional association of interpreters in North America, e.g., Association of Professional Language Interpreters (APLI), Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO), American Translators Association (ATA), International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)

*Exemptions for pre-requisite 1.1 are provided based on demonstration from the candidate that English has been the language of formal education for at least 2 years.
** Minimum required scores: IELTS: Speaking:7; Reading: 7; Listening: 7; Writing: 6.5
                 iBT TOEFL: Reading: 24, Listening: 23; Speaking: 27; Writing: 27

2.0 Specializations

2.1 Medical
2.1.1 Accredited Community Interpreter
2.1.2 Successful completion of a minimum 30-hour Medical Terminology Training course
2.1.3 250 hours documented medical interpreting experience

2.2 Legal
2.2.1 Accredited Community Interpreter
2.2.2 Successful completion of a minimum 30-hour Legal Terminology Training course
2.2.3 250 hours documented legal interpreting experience

2.3 Accredited Trainer
2.3.1 Accredited Community Interpreter
2.3.2 Adult education training
2.3.3. 600 hours documented interpreting experience
2.3.4 9 hours minimum of observation in LITP classroom

3.0 Continuing education

- 10 hours of Professional Development per 1 year period

4.0 Grandfathering protocols

- All interpreters trained prior to Jan 1, 2015 will be evaluated according to established OCCI accreditation requirements for recognition.

5.0 FAQ

Q: What will an ISP do, if an accredited interpreter is not available?

A: In the event that an Accredited Interpreter is not available, the Interpreting Service Provider will ensure to:
- Use professionally skilled, competent interpreters who are otherwise qualified by education, training and experience to carry out the assignment successfully.
- Use "on dossier" processes to select the most competent interpreters on file.
- Assign the most qualified interpreter possible based upon the nature of the assignment and the language in question.
- Properly monitor, assess and modify on an ongoing basis the interpreter's data status based upon performance.

6.0 Ethical considerations

- Interpreting Service Providers (ISPs) must inform the client if an accredited community interpreter is not available and a non-accredited alternative has been provided.

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