

OCCI Ontario Council on Community Interpreting

OCCI Works toward a Better Community Interpreting Accreditation Framework

Toronto - June 19, 2014 – After province-wide consultation with the stakeholders who will be directly impacted, the Ontario Council on Community Interpreting (OCCI) is announcing the development of a progressive accreditation process for interpreters working in the **community services sectors**. OCCI work, which began in Sept 2012, is aligned with that of the Canadian Coalition on Community Interpreting, the national body poised to work with the provincial partners who will be responsible for accrediting and maintaining standards for interpreters in the community services sectors, which include healthcare, legal, social, and community services.

This initiative by OCCI is in response to the need for consistent quality interpretation across all service sectors – a need felt across the country. Limited English/French Proficiency individuals in Canada need access to quality service, in both urban and rural communities; interpreters need professional accreditation that will be recognized and valued in order to better serve the public.

Current OCCI membership includes interpreters/interpreter associations, colleges and training institutions, interpreter service providers, hospitals, court services, and provincial government agencies. Members of the OCCI Committee all draw upon their direct involvement in community interpreting, some since the 1970s, including contributing to the development of the National Standard Guide on Community Interpreting. They share values of equal access to services for individuals in Canada regardless of language and support for the interpreters who are crucial to health and service equity initiatives.

OCCI is unique in its approach in that we include the voice of the communities we support. We have a process that is responsive to emerging ethno-linguistic groups. The OCCI wants to launch a structure that can be applied to the French-speaking Community interpreters as well.

The Ontario Council on Community Interpreting (OCCI) will ensure that we serve our communities with highly qualified interpreters, by taking away the guesswork in terms of quality from the minds of Service Providers and Limited English/French speakers and achieving the common goal of professionalizing the Community Interpreting sector.

For more information, visit our website at: www.occ.ca