



Call for Presentation Proposals: 2021 OTTIAQ Conference

The Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) is pleased to call for presentation proposals for its upcoming [annual conference](#), to be held on **Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1, 2021**. For a second year in a row, the conference will be held online through the Hopin platform.

The annual conference is OTTIAQ's marquee event. It is attended by hundreds of language professionals, students, and other experts in translation, terminology, and interpretation. OTTIAQ is the largest body of language professionals in Canada and the authority on translation, terminology, and interpretation in Quebec.

This year, the Conference Program Committee is seeking proposals on the following theme:

Language Professionals and Public Safety: From Global Crisis to Local Action

In any emergency, language is a critical component of public safety in often unavoidable and unpredictable situations. Floods, attacks, epidemics, fires, alerts, shootings, cyberattacks, tornadoes, terrorist attacks, pandemics—these and other crises require clear, unambiguous communication with the public. Citizens and/or users of goods and services must receive information that they can understand if they are to be kept safe.

In 2020, translators, terminologists and interpreters quickly found themselves at the centre of a pandemic. These professionals had to meet the demand for rapid information dissemination in all the languages spoken in the many communities that make up our modern, multicultural society.

At our conference this year, we hope to generate a reflection on the role of language professionals in public safety as key links in a chain of communication logistics involving healthcare, the environment, equity and inclusion, access to essential resources and more. We believe that the current pandemic presents an opportunity to review and expand our profession's contribution to society on a local, national and international scale. Language professionals from all over the world are invited to join in this reflection by submitting proposals for presentations, roundtables and workshops on this theme.

Here is a series of questions that we are asking in seeking proposals for our conference days:

- Does translation slow the delivery of urgent messages?
- What roles can language professionals play in addressing a global health crisis?
- What public safety best practices do language professionals use at home and abroad?
- How can public policy better frame official communications?
- How can language professionals, organizations and the logistics chain establish stronger communication between each other?
- A number of organizations think that translation takes too long and instead choose to broadcast their emergency responses in only one language, putting the public at greater risk. How can language

professionals integrate themselves into the emergency response process to accelerate the dissemination of urgent communications?

- Community work: Can humanitarian and social causes give our work meaning?
- How can we evaluate the impact of not translating essential goods or services on consumer safety? What recourses could consumers have in these situations? Could a parallel be drawn with international trade?
- What are the consequences on the relationship of trust between consumers and government authorities?
- How do language professionals concretely counteract unilingual communications regarding the safety and protection of target audiences, particularly in emergency or crisis situations?
- There are a number of associations of language professionals in Canada and worldwide. Is it possible to compare the different challenges these associations face and to target their commonalities to present a united front?
- How can we raise awareness among “big” communicators—that is, public organizations and administrations, as well as companies of all sizes—of the importance of adapting messages to different target audiences, especially during emergency or crisis situations?
- How can new language professionals, students and even those more experienced adapt to the exponential increase in the need for professionals and the increasingly fast pace required for near-instantaneous communication while avoiding the pitfalls of technological tools? How can we help preserve the quality of our target language while meeting shorter and shorter deadlines?
- To translate or not to translate: in an emergency, is it a question of safety?
- How can virtual tools and social media facilitate high-quality information dissemination in multiple languages? What offline means can also be used to that end?
- How can language professionals and professional orders position themselves to provide interpreting services in hospital and community environments and to ensure labelling in local languages?
- Which link in the communication chain should be occupied by language professionals?
- How can we preserve the importance of terminology and ensure its dissemination in emergencies?
- Does cultural diversity and affirmation play a role in public safety? If so, how?

Potential speakers

- Language professionals from here and around the world
- Self-employed and salaried professionals
- Professionals from other sectors of activity (CPAs, lawyers, CHRPs, journalists, etc.)
- Academics and graduate students
- People of influence from various professions

Target audiences

- Language professionals of all ages
- Managers (private- and public-sector buyers of language services)
- Researchers, academics, and students in translation, terminology, or interpretation

Preferred formats

- Interaction with the conference participants
- Dynamic approach
- Situational exercises, discussions, semi-structured workshops
- Etc.

Languages accepted

- French
- English

Length

- 30-, 60- and 90-minute timeslots, including a question period at the end

Selection criteria

- Level of interaction and audience participation
- Relevance to the theme
- Relevance to all three professions

The Conference Program Committee reserves the right to accept or refuse any proposal without having to justify its decision.

As per its policy, OTTIAQ will cover the registration costs for one (1) speaker per proposal on the conference days. At its discretion, the Conference Program Committee may also recommend that OTTIAQ cover registration for a second person.

To submit a proposal

- Complete the registration form in [English](#) or [French](#)
- Include a colour portrait photo (high resolution)
- Email your proposal to the attention of the “Conference Program Committee” at srivard@ottiaq.org by **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.**

Sponsors and exhibitors

Individuals and companies interested in sponsoring the OTTIAQ conference or exhibiting their products or services during the conference are invited to contact Sylvie Rivard, Communications Officer, by phone (514-845-4411, ext. 1222) or email at srivard@ottiaq.org.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.