



**Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council
Conseil des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes du Canada**

- COMMUNIQUÉ -

***VIMY: ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL
TRANSLATOR'S ESSENTIAL ROLE***

OTTAWA 2007.04.24 — The Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) was very disappointed to hear, earlier this month, of the poor quality of the French text which was posted at the Vimy Memorial.

Without reiterating the media reports, nor the statements made with regard to this by various persons and organizations, it is clear that this controversy would never have arisen in the first place had the task of producing a French version of the text been entrusted to a genuine professional translator. According to media reports, the translation was apparently done by volunteers. Once more, it would appear that the essential role played by translators has been misunderstood.

A professional translator, especially if certified by an order or a professional association, is first and foremost a communication specialist, someone who has the required training and experience to grasp the author's message and to convey it in a clear, coherent, idiomatic and accurate way in another language. This is where the translator's purpose meets the author's: to correctly communicate a message to a reader who speaks a language other than the author's. In this age of globalization and cultural diversity, this is a perspective which even transcends the framework of the Canadian federal government's bilingualism policy, and which should be kept in mind.

Certified translators working everywhere in the public, para-public and private sectors are an essential element of sound interlinguistic and intercultural communication. Making better use of this valuable resource would be a big step towards meeting the objectives of Canada's bilingualism policy, and especially towards achieving quality interactions between peoples and between cultures.

The Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) is a national organization which brings together the provincial and territorial associations of translators, terminologists and interpreters. CTTIC's mission is to coordinate the actions of its member organizations and promote cooperation among them, to ensure uniformity in professional standards, and to conduct relations with national and international bodies representing language specialists.

In this context, CTTIC, through its member organizations, seeks to promote professional certification as a guarantee of quality and competence, thereby contributing to the advancement of the profession and the protection of the public.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kenneth Larose
President
CTTIC
(613) 562-0379