Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia
STIBC
Founded in 1981

The Voice

September 2026 stibc.org

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

1 CTTIC CERTIFICATION EXAMS
CTTIC CONFERENCE

2 WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

3 FIT

4 POLL RESULTS - HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE STIBC?

5 OTHER EVENTS

6 DID YOU KNOW?

7 THE ENLIGHTENED TRANSLATOR
HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION

8 HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION, PART 2

9 HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION, PART 3

10 HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION, PART 4

11 HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION, PART 5

12 COURTHOUSE ROCK

13 SPONSOR AD

14 GET INVOLVED

CTTIC CERTIFICATION EXAMS



The next round of CTTIC Certification exams will take place on November 28. This round ONLY translation exams will be available, and no interpretation written exams will be offered. For more information about the exams, including available language combinations, and for registration, please **click here**.

CTTIC CONFERENCE

This year's CTTIC Conference is getting closer! It will be held on October 2–4 in Regina, Saskatchewan, and presented with La Cité Universitaire Francophone and the University of Regina.

This is a chance for translators, interpreters, and terminologists across the country to connect, share ideas, and shape where our profession is headed. Registration and proposal submissions are open now.

Learn more and register: **https://cttic2026conference.oa-event.com**

Would you like a free ticket to the conference?

There are still two online tickets up for grabs!

Here's how it works: this Friday (September 18, we'll post about the conference on LinkedIn. The first STIBC member to like, share and reply to the post wins that ticket. (Not following us yet? Find us at https://www.linkedin.com/company/stibc/)

The last online ticket will be drawn among attendees of the International Translation Day event (details below).

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

International Translation Day Event, September 25, 5.30 PM

Join your fellow society members for an event celebrating our professions! This free, members-only event will feature "*An Informal Chat with Two STIBC Literary Translators*" with STIBC Certified Members Angela Fairbank and Laurie Bennett, casual networking, fun games, and refreshments — all in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

The in-person gathering at our office is limited to 30 attendees, so be sure to reserve your spot early. Can't make it in person? The panel discussion will also be available online, so you can still tune in and be part of the conversation.
Final details are still coming together and will be announced soon — stay tuned!
Register here

CTTIC Exam preparation - six-session workshop series, Wednesdays 6-6.50 PM, October 14 – November 18

Designed specifically for candidates aiming to certify from any foreign language into English, the workshops will focus on strategies to strengthen written English, including how to select suitable practice texts, make use of self-correction tools, and avoid common language pitfalls. A highlight of the program is the inclusion of a full practice exam in the participant's chosen language combination, which can be completed from home and is included in the registration fee.
Register here

New Associate and Newly Certified Member Orientation, October 20, 3PM PST

This interactive session is offered for new Associate Members and those who recently achieved their title as Certified Translators or Interpreters. The session will cover topics such as benefits and responsibilities of STIBC members, code of ethics, translator statements, etc. There will also be time for Q&A. **Register here**

FREE! Orientation for CTTIC Translation Exams, October 26, 5.30 PM

Court Interpreting Round Table, November 13, 6.30 PM – Save the date, details TBA

FIT

- The FIT LatAm Executive Committee is pleased to share issue No. 9 of their Regional Center's magazine, available at: http://tr.ee/aJygDc. This bi-annual publication, with articles mostly in Spanish and some in Portuguese, highlights the work their member associations do in support of our professions. We hope you enjoy reading it!

- FIT Europe would like to share a list of upcoming online events organized by their associations (all CET times--please note the language of instruction at the beginning of the event name):

[FR] Les fondamentaux de l'Expert traducteur-interprète pour les postulants et confirmés 2/3 | SFT Services | En ligne et en direct

- 9/17/2026 8:30
- Remote

[FR] Apostille et légalisation : maîtriser les procédures indispensables à l'expert-traducteur 2/2 | SFT Services | En ligne et en direct

- 9/21/2026 8:00
- Remote

[FR] Optimiser sa présence en ligne : stratégies et pratiques 3/3 | SFT Services | En ligne et en direct

- 9/22/2026 8:30
- Remote

[EN] Level Up -Build a Smart Business Plan to Grow your Freelance Business - AIT - UK

- 9/23/2026 9:00
- Remote

[EN] Carbon literacy for language professionals: taster session - ITI - Online

- 9/23/2026 10:00
- Remote

[FR] Les fondamentaux de l'Expert traducteur-interprète pour les postulants et confirmés 3/3 | SFT Services | En ligne et en direct

- 9/24/2026 8:30
- Remote

[EN] Learning the language of regulation | Online workshop

- 9/24/2026 10:00
- Remote

[EN] In defence of Public Service Interpreters - AIT - UK

- 9/30/2026 13:00
- Remote

POLL RESULTS - How do you pronounce STIBC?

The clear winner is "I spell it: S-T-I-B-C" with an overwhelming 83% of the votes.
"I pronounce it as one word: /steebek/" received 0 votes, and 1 vote went to Other ("Both, depending on the moment :)"

OTHER EVENTS

- TAUS – LOCWORLD: Two of the largest localization conferences are taking place back to back in Vancouver this October.

TAUS is holding its annual conference themed "The Art of Mastering Intelligence-as-a-Utility" in Vancouver, October 14–16, 2026. The event will explore how the language industry can evolve alongside AI, moving beyond hype to look at how localization is integrating into a broader AI ecosystem led by human strategists. The three-day program covers topics such as multilingual LLM benchmarking, AI orchestration, and localization strategy, with keynotes from speakers including the CEO of Canada's Translation Bureau. TAUS is an industry association for the global language and localization sector, known for its research, standards work, and events connecting language technology providers, enterprises, and linguists.

LocWorld will take place on October 19-21 at the Vancouver Convention Centre and will draw many industry leaders. More information and registration at: **https://locworld.com/events/locworld56-vancouver-2026/**

- ATA's 67th Annual Conference will take place October 28–31, 2026, in San Francisco.

ATA67 will offer four days of nonstop learning and networking, with expert-led sessions, continuing education opportunities, and plenty of chances to connect with peers across the profession. Registration is open now at **atanet.org/conference**.

- NETA's Translation Bash. The New England Translators Association is inviting our members to participate in the next edition of their yearly Translation Bash. More detail in their website: **https://netaweb.org/event-6811138**

- If you plan to be in London, UK in November, The Languages & The Media international conference will take place 4–6 November at Senate House, University of London, gathering accessibility professionals, researchers, technology providers, and content creators under the theme "Moving Images That Move Audiences: Localising with Intent." Building on conversations started in Budapest around a more human-centred approach to the industry, this year's event will dig into the bigger questions facing media localization, from sustainability and quality to navigating rapid technological change. Attendees can look forward to three days of expert panels, hands-on workshops, networking receptions, a lively exhibition hall, and a closing networking dinner. Note that the proposal submission deadline has passed, but registration is still open — **sign up here**

- Or if you're in Switzerland, ASTTI (the Swiss Association of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters) organizes "équivalences 2026". This annual continuing-education congress draws around 300 language professionals each year — translators, interpreters, terminologists, and other linguistic service providers, whether freelance or salaried. Building on 2025's theme, this year's edition digs deeper into how new technologies are reshaping the language industry, from evolving job profiles to shifting professional demands, offering a space for critical reflection, practical insights, and open dialogue about the future of the profession. More details here: **https://astti.ch/equivalences-2026/**

DID YOU KNOW?

As a STIBC member, you're eligible for **preferential rates on Errors and Omissions (E&O) and Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance** through NFP!

E&O insurance protects you against claims of negligence or mistakes in your professional work.

CGL insurance covers third-party claims of bodily injury or property damage related to your business operations.

More information and contact details can be found in https://stibc.org/wp-content/uploads/STIBC-Member-Benefits.pdf. This document is always available in the For Members Only section of our website: https://stibc.org/membership/members-only/for-members-eyes-only/

THE ENLIGHTENED TRANSLATOR

If I retire or cease to be an STIBC member, can any documents I have digitally stamped still be verified?

Yes. Documents you have digitally stamped as an STIBC-certified member can still be verified even after you retire or leave the association.

The STIBC digital signature platform uses the X.509 PDF/A standard for encryption, enabling third parties to verify the authenticity of a stamp at a later date, provided the document remains unaltered.

Key points regarding STIBC digital stamp:

✓ **Verification.** Third parties can verify the validity of a stamp, ensuring the document has not been tampered with since you signed it.

✓ **Validity.** The stamp remains valid as long as the document has not been altered.

✓ **Eligibility.** Only Certified Translators in good standing may use the digital stamp service.

HOW THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE MAPS A NATION

by Alexandre Gnes, STIBC Certified member

(this article is the second part of the article "The Hidden Logic of Hungarian" published in The Voice, June 2025)

There are countries whose history can be read in museums. There are countries whose past is preserved in castles, fortresses, and ancient chronicles. And then there is Hungary—a country whose history can be heard in everyday speech.

Every language preserves memories of the past, but Hungarian does so in a particularly vivid way. Within its words live the Romanian shepherds of Transylvania, South Slavic craftspeople, Ottoman officials, Central European merchants, and nomads of the ancient steppes. Its grammar still reflects a distinctive way of perceiving space, while the names of

rivers and lakes have long since become cultural symbols. If you listen carefully to the Hungarian language, it tells the story of the Carpathian Basin as effectively as any history textbook.

A Language at the Crossroads of a Continent

Geography is rarely neutral. The Carpathian Basin lies at the very heart of Europe, like a vast natural amphitheatre surrounded by mountains. Yet this protection has never meant isolation.

For more than a thousand years, the territory of historic Hungary has been crossed by armies, merchants, settlers, missionaries, and musicians. Here, the Germanic, Slavic, Romance, and Turkic worlds met and interacted. Each era left its mark not only on architecture and culture but also on language.

As a result, the Hungarian vocabulary resembles an archaeological excavation. Dig a little deeper and entire historical epochs begin to emerge. For example, the word *palacsinta*—the much-loved pancake—entered Hungarian from Romanian. Alongside it came words such as *furulya* (flute), *cimbora* (mate), *áfonya* (bilberry), and *tilinkó* (a traditional shepherd's flute). Behind each of these words lies the world of the Southern Carpathians, summer pastures, and ancient musical traditions.

In the south of historic Hungary, Hungarians and South Slavs lived side by side for centuries. From this contact came words such as *csizma* (boot), *sapka* (cap), *vacsora* (supper), *tambura* (a musical instrument), and the famous *betyár*—a figure who became one of the enduring symbols of Hungarian folklore.

The result is a kind of linguistic atlas of Central Europe: open a dictionary and you can trace the routes of centuries-old cultural exchanges.

When Coffee Was an Eastern Novelty

The Ottoman period occupies a special chapter in the history of the Hungarian language. For Hungarians, the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were a time of dramatic change. The country found itself on the frontier between two worlds—the Ottoman Empire and Christian Europe. Yet even conflict leaves behind a cultural legacy.

Today, few people realize that familiar words such as *kávé* (coffee), *dohány* (tobacco), *baksis* (tip), *tepsi* (baking tray), and *tarhonya* are linked to the era of Ottoman influence. Once they referred to objects, products, and practices that were entirely new to the region. The history of language reminds us that even adversaries inevitably influence one another. Words travel far more freely than armies.

People Who Think in Directions

Yet the most remarkable feature of Hungarian is connected not to its vocabulary but to its grammar.

For most Europeans, space appears relatively straightforward: an object is somewhere or moves somewhere. For Hungarians, things are considerably more nuanced.

Hungarian requires speakers to specify the precise nature of a spatial relationship.

It is not enough to say that someone is near a house. One must indicate whether they are inside it, on its surface, or beside it. Moreover, each of these positions has separate forms denoting location, movement toward the object, and movement away from it.

For a native speaker, the distinction between “in the house,” “on the house,” and “by the house” is as natural as the distinction between present and past tenses is for speakers of many other languages.

Some linguists believe that this system reflects centuries of experience in a society closely connected to agriculture, livestock farming, and spatial orientation. When life depends on understanding the boundaries of pastures, fields, and roads, space naturally assumes a special role in language.

The World as a Journey

Hungarian verbs are even more fascinating.

Many are accompanied by prefixes that literally indicate direction:

- *be-* — inward
- *ki-* — outward
- *fel-* — upward
- *le-* — downward
- *át-* — across
- *el-* — away

Thus *bemegy* means “to go in,” *kimegy* means “to go out,” *felmegy* means “to go up,” and *lemegy* means “to go down.”

Over time, however, these spatial elements came to describe not only movement in the physical world.

If the verb ír means “to write,” then *megír* means “to write completely” or “to finish writing.”

In other words, completing an action is understood as reaching the final stage of a journey.

In Hungarian, a result is a destination.

We are accustomed to thinking of space and time as separate things. Hungarian grammar seems to remind us that human thought often links them together.

Why People Go to Lake Balaton as if It Were the Surface of a Table

This spatial logic is especially evident in the language's relationship with geography.

For many nations, the largest lake in the country is simply a lake. For Hungarians, Lake Balaton has long been something more.

It is often called *A magyar tenger*—"the Hungarian Sea."

This expression contains an entire cultural history. Hungary is landlocked, and Balaton partly fulfils the symbolic role of the sea. It is where people spend their summer holidays, gather with family, embark on their first adventures, and create childhood memories. For millions of Hungarians, Balaton is associated less with geography than with personal memory.

Interestingly, Hungarians say *lemegyünk a Balatonra*—literally, "we'll go down to Balaton." From a grammatical perspective, the lake is conceptualized as a surface. Therefore, the same spatial forms are used as for many other objects:

- *a Balatonon* — on Balaton
- *a Balatonra* — onto Balaton
- *a Balatonról* — from Balaton

Even the country's largest lake is integrated into the same spatial system that shapes the entire language.

The Danube and the Tisza: Two Souls of Hungary

If Balaton is Hungary's "sea," then the Danube and the Tisza form two distinct cultural universes.

The Danube is Europe's river.

It connects Hungary with Austria, the Balkans, and Central Europe. Trade routes, armies, and ideas all travelled along it. It divides Buda and Pest while simultaneously uniting them into a single city.

It is no coincidence that many Hungarians associate the Danube with history, the capital, bridges, and European openness.

The Tisza is perceived differently.

It is the river of the Great Hungarian Plain, of rural landscapes and Hungary's interior. It flows more slowly—not only physically but culturally as well. In literature, the Tisza often becomes a symbol of home, tranquillity, and closeness to nature.

One might say that the Danube looks outward, while the Tisza looks inward.

One connects Hungary to the world; the other helps it remain itself.

From Goulash to the English Word "Coach"

The history of linguistic contact is never one-sided.

Hungarian has not only borrowed words but has also contributed generously to other languages.

The world is already familiar with *paprika*, *goulash*, *csárdás*, and *huszár*. Yet the story of the word *kocsi* is particularly remarkable.

Originally, it referred to the carriages produced in the town of Kocs. They proved so successful that both the vehicles and their name spread throughout Europe.

From the Hungarian *kocsi* came the German *Kutsche*, the French *coche*, and eventually the English word *coach*.

Today, millions of people use the word "coach" without realizing that its distant homeland lies in a small Hungarian village.

Language as a Historical Landscape

We usually think of language as a means of communication. Hungarian demonstrates that it can be much more.

It preserves memories of migrations, trade routes, and centuries of cultural coexistence. Reflected within it are the mountains of Transylvania, the plains of the Alföld, the shores of Balaton, the bridges of Budapest, and the waters of the Danube.

Perhaps this is why Hungarian continues to fascinate linguists. It allows us to see not only how people speak but also how they perceive the world.

Every word resembles a geographical marker on the map of history. Every grammatical form reminds us that space is not merely a physical reality but also a way of organizing experience, memory, and culture.

And when we view Hungary through the prism of its language, one thing becomes clear: we are looking not simply at a country in the centre of Europe, but at an entire civilization hidden within words.

COURTHOUSE ROCK[1]

Lenny Boi aspires to be a Creole interpreter in Grenada, but rock 'n' roll is his true passion. What he heard in court the other day sounded like a music festival.

Sheriff: Are you a witness?
Interpreter: I have not come to testify[2].
Registrar: Here comes the judge[3]. Stand[4].
Crown: Who are you[5]?
Interpreter: I am the interpreter for this trial.
Defence Counsel: Are you experienced[6]?
Interpreter: Yes[7].
Defence Counsel: Don't let me be misunderstood[8].
Judge: What do you want this court to do?
Complainant. Gimme shelter[9].
Judge: You don't have a place to live?
Complainant. Can't find my way home[10].
Registrar: Let me find the Techie to admit the witness on Teams.
Sheriff: She's not there[11].
Registrar: I saw her standing there[12].
Judge: What took you so long?
Techie: Oh Well[13], Call Me[14] Lazy[15].
Crown: Do you know what your job is today?
Witness: Tell the truth[16].
Crown: Are we going too fast?
Court reporter: Take it easy[17].
Defence Counsel: My friend and I are seeking adjournment to a higher court and have this matter heard...
Crown: In the court of the Crimson King[18].
Defence Counsel: Justice, when are you available?
Judge: Anyday[19].
Accused: Je te suivrai[20].

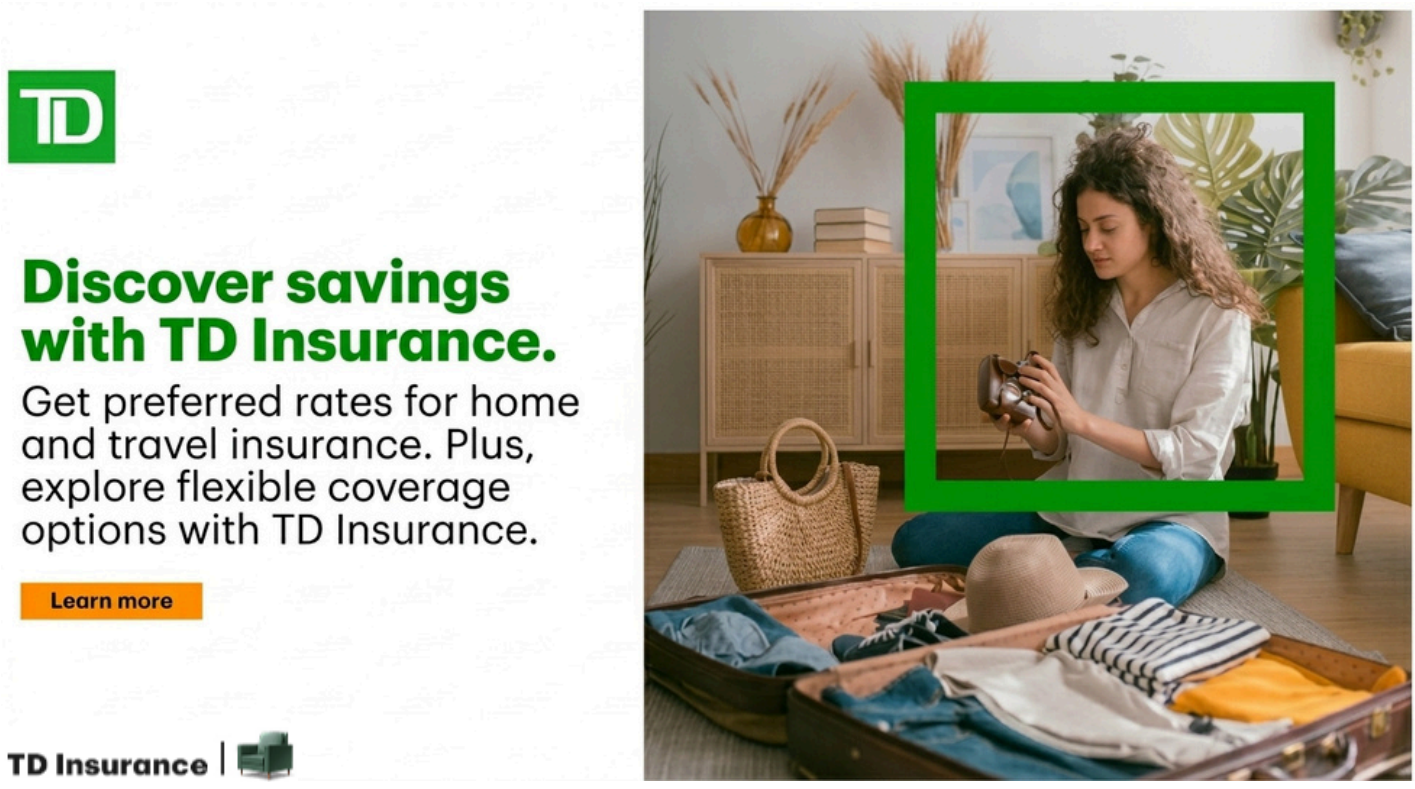
1. *Courthouse Rock* is a takeoff on Elvis Presley's Jailhouse Rock.

2. *I have not come to testify* are the first words in It's Not My Cross to Bear (Allman Brothers Band).

3. (Pigmeat Markam), 4. (R. E. M.), 5. (The Who), 8. (The Animals), 9. (The Rolling Stones), 10. (Blind Faith), 11. (Santana), 12. (The Beatles), 13. (Fleetwood Mac), 14. (Blondie), 15. (Deep Purple), 16. (Eric Clapton), 17. (The Eagles), 19 (Derek and the Dominos) and 20. (Francis Cabrel) are song titles.

6. (Jimi Hendrix Experience) and 18. (King Crimson) are album titles.

7. *Yes* is the name of a band



Let TD Insurance brighten your day with insurance savings.

Ready, set, save. TD Insurance brings you multiple ways to save on insurance.

Thanks to our affinity program partner, TD Insurance, Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia members can now unlock savings on Home & Travel insurance. Don't miss out on these savings.

Home Insurance: Access preferred rates on home insurance.

Travel Insurance: Explore travel insurance options and save with preferred rates.

To learn more about TD Insurance products or to get a quote visit https://www.tdinsurance.com/affinity/stibc?src=AFFINITYAPDG

Get involved. Earn CE credits. Strengthen your Society.

There are many ways to participate in Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia activities and support the growth of our professional community — while also earning Continuing Education (CE) credits (required for Certified Members).

Have an idea you'd like to explore? We'd love to hear from you. Reach out to the Office at office@stibc.org.

Here are just a few ways you can contribute:

- **Workshops** – Propose a topic, volunteer to present, or recommend a speaker you think would benefit our members.
- **The Voice** – Share your expertise or experience by contributing to our quarterly magazine, The Voice.
- **Regional meetings** – Most in-person events take place in Vancouver, but members live across BC. If you're interested in organizing a gathering in your area, we can help you promote it.
- **Event volunteering** – Support the Society at events such as the AGM, certification exams, and the End-of-Year Dinner.

Your involvement makes a real difference. Whether you can give a little time or take on a larger role, your contribution helps keep our community active, connected, and thriving.



Would you like to contribute to The Voice?

Please send us your suggestions to office@stibc.org

Editors:
Kamile Dias
Oriol Moalem

Contributors:
Alexandre Gnes
Benny Loi

Proofreader:
Carl Rosenberg

STIBC Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia
Founded in 1981

Suite 220, 1501 W Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 4Z6 Canada
T. 1-604-684-2940
E. office@stibc.org