



14 November 2011

Hello everyone in Canada and United States,

My name is Nigel Howard and I am your new North America Representative for the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI).

First of all, I wish to express appreciation of the honour of being selected by the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC) and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

WASLI is an exciting international organisation consisting members, both hearing and Deaf interpreters, sponsors and associations, for the promotion and betterment of the profession, and sharing knowledge, resources, expertise and experience. Additionally, it works collaboratively with Deaf organisations, especially the World Federation of the Deaf, worldwide.

Below is a brief introduction and background of who and what I am.

Over 18 years, I have been involved instructing at the Program of Sign Language Interpretation at Douglas College, New Westminster – a suburb of Metropolitan Vancouver, BC, Canada. On top of that, I work at University of Victoria at the Department of Linguistics in Victoria. Additionally, I provide workshops, training and presentations on varying topics/subjects in North America and worldwide, ranging from Interpreting in Medical Settings to Deaf Interpreting training to Deafhood to Interpreter professional development and so forth. I develop curriculum such as Deaf Interpreter training, and Deafhood and the Global Communities.

I have worked as a professional Deaf Interpreter for over 15 years in varying capacities such as medical, mental health, legal, theatre, community and conference settings – local, national and international. I do also perform as International Sign interpreter throughout the world. I am a member of Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI), AVLIC and WASLI.

Please do check WASLI's website (www.wasli.org) where you can find information about the organisation and its history. Included in the site via the WASLI Publications section, you will find numerous newsletters allowing you to have an insight of people from all over the world involved. Membership is encouraged as it is only \$50 per year.

If you are interested to be involved such as fundraising, providing expertise/knowledge, sharing research/publication, contributing in one of our committees and so forth, you can contact me through the website under WASLI Executive Board section. Also, feel free to ask questions or inquire.

It is certainly a great honour to represent on behalf of the three countries and I aim to do the best of my ability your interests are well represented and presented at WASLI.

Sincerely,

Nigel Howard