



Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters

P.O. Box 41542
923 - 12th Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 6L1

email: wavli@wavli.com
website: www.wavli.com

[FAQs – BC Occupational Title Protection](#)

What is Occupational Title Protection?

Occupational Title Protection is part of the British Columbia (BC) Society Act, which grants title protection to different occupations in BC as a way of protecting consumers, assuring them the professional hired/contracted has the knowledge and ability to provide a specific service.

The Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI) has been granted the rights to the following titles:

- Registered ASL-English Interpreter (R.A.S.L.E.I.), or
- Registered Sign Language Interpreter (R.S.L.I.) or
- Registered Visual Language Interpreter (R.V.L.I.).

Because these titles are registered with the province of BC, an interpreter working in BC using one of the above titles is required to be a member of the WAVLI.

When did the BC Provincial Government grant WAVLI Occupational Title Protection?

WAVLI was granted Occupational Title Protection in July, 2011.

What is a Registered Sign Language Interpreter?

A registered interpreter working in BC is a WAVLI member, who has graduated from a recognized interpreter education program and adheres to the *AVLIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct*. Recognized programs include: Douglas College - BC, Lakeland College - AB, Red River College/University of Manitoba - MB, George Brown College – ON, and Nova Scotia Community College – NS.

How do I become a Registered Sign Language Interpreter in BC?

To be a Registered Sign Language Interpreter in BC, you must hold Active WAVLI Membership status.

Does membership to another Affiliate Chapter qualify me to work in BC?

No. Under the provincial Society Act rules, an interpreter working in BC using any one of the three registered titles must be a WAVLI member. Membership in another Affiliate Chapter is not sufficient.

If I am not a member of WAVLI, can I work as a sign language interpreter?

Any individual, in the province of BC, using one of the protected titles must be a member of WAVLI.

Does the AVLIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct apply to WAVLI members?

Yes

Does the AVLIC Dispute Resolution Process apply to WAVLI members?

No, oversight of professional standards under the Society Act is provincial. Disputes are handled, using the process outlined in WAVLI By-Law 5.0.

For more information, contact professionalstandards@wavli.com

How do I hire a Registered Sign Language Interpreter?

To ensure you are contracting the services of a Registered Sign Language Interpreter, ask for their association membership card, or check the directory of Active WAVLI members at the following link: <http://www.wavli.com/directory-2>. A list of referral agencies who contract the services of Registered Sign Language Interpreters can also be found at this link: <http://wavli.com/rservice>

How can I post a job advertisement with WAVLI?

When advertising for a Registered Sign Language Interpreter it is important to remember the applicable requirement is Active WAVLI Membership status. To post a job advertisement with WAVLI, forward an email with the posting details, including the applicable job requirement to professionalstandards@wavli.com

What is AVLIC?

AVLIC or the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada is a non-profit, professional association for interpreters whose working languages include a sign language. AVLIC was incorporated in 1979 and has several Affiliate Chapters across the country, of which the WAVLI is one.

