

AVLIC Name Change Committee FAQs

Answers to questions we have received from the membership in preparation for the AGM. May 29. 2017

1. Why are we changing the name?

Just as a reminder to the membership on our last survey that was distributed prior to the 2016 AGM, **71%** of the membership who responded answered “yes” to the following question.

Do you support changing the Association’s name to one that has the term, ‘Sign Language Interpreters’ instead of ‘Visual Language Interpreters’?

It was suggested by WFD President, Colin Allen, in his keynote presentation at the AVLIC 2014 conference that AVLIC consider changing its name in order to be consistent in the utilisation of the terminology (Sign Language Interpreter) that WFD advocated for and successfully included in UNCRPD. During Patrick Boudreault's presentation, he followed up with Colin's by expressing it was time for an organisation such as AVLIC to be more conjunctive and reflective of the Deaf community. Frank Folino, President of CAD, was in agreement.

2. Would the AC's who have visual language interpreter in their name be expected to change their names as well?

There has been no suggestion of having AC's change their names, nor does the committee foresee this as being a requirement. Members can change at their own pace in their business cards, invoices and such.

3. Can AVLIC afford to make this change at present? There is a worry that membership fees will be affected by this extra cost or was that part of the reasoning for our membership fee increasing at the 2016 AGM?

The name change expense was not the reason for the membership fee increase. As to whether AVLIC can afford this change, that will need to be determined by the AVLIC board, Treasurer and membership.

4. I noticed on the budget there were a few items that did not have a cost next to them, can we expect to see this budget increase? Could other costs be involved that were not considered?

After consulting with the AVLIC board, we have decided to withdraw both motions on the budget (9.2.2 & 9.2.3.) and use the budget as information for

the board and the membership to consider when deciding if and when AVLIC wants to change its name.

The budget provided is an estimate. We could expect to see the name change expenses increase or decrease. The committee feels that all potential costs are included in this budget, however there is always the possibility that something was missed.

5. Are the recommendations previously submitted by the committee in 2016 not to be accepted? Should there be a new motion to accept the recommendations by the committee? There is rationale in FR16G-35 that explains why the motion was referred back to the committee but there hasn't been any new information distributed to the membership for the past year to follow up.

The information shared with the membership has been through AVLIC messaging of emails and information. No new surveys were conducted.

6. The proposed motion to change the name of the Association is listed as an ordinary motion in the AGM package and should be a special resolution motion, as indicated in the 2016 motion's rationale. As such, 2/3 of the votes cast must be in favour in order for the motion to pass. And most importantly, there should be a detailed rationale identified for this motion to change the name. Personally I would like to see how the committee came to this decision.

The motion to change our name came from the 2014 AGM. The 2016 AGM motion proposed a specific name to the membership which was withdrawn and referred back to the committee. The parliamentarian will be responsible for identifying the type of motion the committee has put forth.

7. With the French translation in the new name, has the committee identified the impact that this may have? I understand that most federal organizations recognize both official languages of Canada; however, having the French name in the title, in my opinion, will have the perception that this Association will provide all resources in English and French, in addition to providing communication in both languages. This will be a significant cost to the Association. Or is the committee suggesting that the French translation be "reserved" but that the new logo would only have the English version until such time as the resources are available to support French communications? Again, the rationale must clearly identify the intention.

This brings up a good point. The name change conversation at our last AGM was happening at the same time as our conversation about how to support and include LSQ interpreters better. The answer to this important question lies with AVLIC and its decision about its capability to support French/LSQ interpreters.

CAD has both English and French in its logo so it imperative to show unity and partnership between two organisations. The interpreters and Deaf members in Quebec will be appreciative to do both languages in the logo and understand the rationality to do further changes when resources are available. Depending of the board and the membership we should have the French version of the new name included and "reserved." And, included in the new logo as a starting point.

8. Is the AVLIC Name Change Committee to continue? Are they to take on the responsibilities of the name change activities or should there be a motion to disband the committee?

The role in the AVLIC Name Change Committee was to investigate the rationality and need to change the name of AVLIC organisation. The committee has achieved the objectives which were to check if the members were in favour (vast majority), sent out a list of suggested names (most were in favour of CASLI). The next step is to formalise the process for name change by the vote at AGM. Therefore, it may be a good idea to form a new committee to carry through the changes and the expenses required for this activity.

9. Why does the committee feel CASLI is the best choice?

CASLI is a name that is consistent with the international community, such as WASLI (World Association of Sign Language Interpreters), EFSLI (the European Federation of Sign Language Interpreters), and ASLIA (the Australian Sign Language Interpreter's Association). This name is fully supported by CAD. CCSD appreciates the name, but feels it might be confused with acronyms CCSD currently uses.

It also provides global partnership and, if you will, solidarity in our field and profession.

10. What international implications did the committee identify if the organization changed it's name to one that the acronym will be CASLI? (Especially with RID using the acronym CASLI for their testing entity).
- How did the committee come to a consensus that the benefits of this change would outweigh the impacts identified?

- At the 2016 AVLIC AGM, RID had just formed their certification arm of the organization. At that time the committee was unsure how this would impact the name of CASLI in place of AVLIC. As it turns out we will be using CASLI.ca and to date there is no mention of a website for RID's certification arm. CASLI.ca is unique. The members at 2016 AVLIC conference were fine with CASLI.ca

11. How is the committee satisfied that the acronym CASLI for Canada's national organization of sign language interpreters will clearly distinguishable from RID's CASLI?

- ie: AVLIC is currently conducting a rating review/revision, part of the strategy of recruiting the skills and knowledge for this project is to recruit from the USA. Is the committee satisfied there would be no confusion as to what organization is looking to conduct a rating review if CASLI (our new name) put out a rating revision RFP?

See answer above

12. What factors lead to the committee putting forward a different name for approval from the motion from 2016 AGM (which was withdrawn)?

In 2016 the motion was withdrawn due to pushback with regards to the term "professional": being included in our name. The committee is now coming forward with a new name that does not include the term Professional. CAD president, Frank Folino, presented a strong argument against using the term "professional". His argument included the fact that AVLIC can not monitor the "professional" nature of interpreters working in Canada and members of AVLIC. Currently, AVLIC only requires one graduates from a recognized interpreter program. Also, the term "professional" may be useful for now, but not in the future. We are already "professional" and we don't have state that in our name. Lastly, with the strong recommendation to follow the current norm of other national interpreting organizations, "professional" is not used.

13. What consultations did the committee conduct with the AVLIC Board of Directors about the potential impact of the passing of these motions to AVLIC's strategic plan?

If the motion recommending a name change passes, the board will include the name change within their strategic plan. It will depend on the priorities already identified by the board and the membership. It is clear that a Name Change Committee will need to work with the Board and assist with the workload that changing AVLIC's name will require.

Respectively submitted,

Committee Members

- Cindy Boscow
- Nigel Howard
- Alicia Ponciano – co-chair
- Meg Reket
- Denise Sedran
- Marty Taylor – co-chair