**ASL Interpreter Info, prepared by Michael Iannozzi (17 April 2015)**

*[List of local interpreters deleted]*

INFO

“For funding, you may want to check out the York University Accessibility Fund to help cover costs.”

* If there were U of T students who would benefit from ASL interpreters then I might be able to find something.

Re: fees

So... if you are curious about a ballpark figure and you are thinking about a conference that is 2 days long with an opening evening of events, I would charge $1300 for the conference itself and maybe 4 hours of prep at totaling $200, bringing my fee to roughly $1500.

* This varied a lot between the different people. However, I would say 500$/day was definitely the mode if not the mean. They all do a “conference rate”, and do a per-diem instead of hourly for events like this.

Re: booking

“Booking interpreters this far in advance is recommended. (we are a busy bunch!) Each person is an independent contractor and will offer their own cancellation policy. For example, 10 business days notice to avoid paying full fees.”

* The idea is that it is best to know far in advance how many people will benefit from interpreters. And also, several recommended that once the schedule is posted, the people who would use an interpreter make a schedule of the talks they specifically plan to attend, so the interpreters can study those abstracts and we won’t need to have interpreters in each of the separate rooms.

Re: how they work

Re: teams

* With a team of interpreters, one sort of “takes charge” and organizes the others, and coordinates between them and you guys at NWAV.

“Interpreters work in teams of two or three usually. We work for 15 minute "turns", while our colleague attends to the presentation, and is simultaneously available to correct miscues or add any messages we may have missed. For a conference we recommend hiring at least 3 interpreters.”

* The two switch back and forth, and then the third is the rotation to for when the other takes lunch, break, etc.

“You want to be sure that your interpreters are qualified and certified. Many interpreters will not work with another interpreter unless they belong to our provincial and national organizations, AVLIC (Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada), and OASLI. “

* I have a list of qualified people, and all the people I have contacted are on this list. Also, **if you were to pick a team leader, many suggested that she would coordinate, sort out, and pick/hire the rest of the team.**

Re: prep

* The interpreters will want information beforehand, such as slides of each speaker, because even those with pretty specialized vocabulary will need to prepare for the specific terms that are linguistic-specific (I’m guessing terms like pro-drop).

“Your presenters/workshop providers should be prepared to share copies of their presentations about two weeks in advance at least. An itinerary of events will be expected around the same time so that the team can organize their responsibilities. The interpreters will need to know who they will be working with in order to plan. Also, because our community is very small, the names of the Deaf participants may be requested, to avoid any conflict of interest for the interpreters.  “

* I’m not super sure what the conflict of interest would mean, but it is something to keep in mind.

“Prep time must be paid, so that will need to be negotiated. This pay rate stays in line with the typical hourly rate of $50-60/hr. It is usually agreed beforehand how many hours the interpreter will need to prepare. ”

Finally:

“I am happy to address your questions about planning interpretation at the conference. And kudos for beginning to consider this so early in your conference planning process. Your questions and your timing indicate that you are genuinely interested in ensuring that your conference is accessible for Deaf participants.”

That’s a nice thing.

Finally, this is worth keeping in mind to try to bring down the costs a little, because they all hinted at this:

“There are agencies that handle interpretation at conferences, but most of us are also freelancers and accept contracts individually and/or as a group. It is my preferred practice to contract directly with conference organizers as this arrangement allows direct communication and reduces misunderstanding. If you would prefer to contract with an agency, I would be happy to make a recommendation. You should know that the same pool of freelancers work independently and through agencies. We typically charge the same rates regardless, so the agencies’ fees would be additional costs to the conference. “