To Whom it may Concern.

Re: Communication access real-time Translation (CART) for individuals with hearing impairment.

Verbatim Reporting Services is a local company that has been providing court reporting services to the community of Sault Ste. Marie for the past 29 years. We employ proficient, certified court reporters with the latest up-to-date technology to provide legal and general reporting, as well as CART, which is an acronym for Communication Access Real-time Translation.

CART is invaluable for the deaf or hard-of-hearing client in that it provides speech-to-text translation via a computer and steno machine. Our certified steno reporter writes the spoken word on her steno machine; it is then translated into English text via a cable hooked up to a laptop computer. The client can then read everything as it is being said in realtime, allowing the client to participate and understand what is happening in a meeting, classroom, appointment, or whatever type of venue communication access is needed. The client can also have their own device such as an iPad, iPhone, or computer, where the speech-to-text can be provided wirelessly.

Verbatim is currently providing CART services to the hard-of-hearing in our community of Sault Ste. Marie. Our certified reporters will attend any type of meeting or appointment where communication access is required.

We have provided CART services in the past to college students. CART is much more accurate than note-taking, as 100% of the text is provided realtime, as opposed to what a note-taker can remember and provide in point form only. The student can mark or highlight portions of text for quick access at a later time, or review prior text in realtime as it’s happening. It is happening in colleges and universities across Canada with great success. This link provides one example of how CART is being used in Alberta. <http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=293242>.

CART can also be useful for clients who do not have a hearing disability. If the client can’t physically be at a meeting but want to participate in that meeting, Verbatim can provide Internet streaming of the realtime text, allowing the client to participate remotely.

Verbatim also provides transcription services. Let us transcribe your audio, video or CD/DVD recordings.

If you would like a live demonstration or discuss our services in more detail, please contact our office, or visit our website. We would be happy to fully explain our services to you.

Thank you.

Catherine Belsito, Office Manager

Verbatim Reporting Services