

CLE Premium Credit program makes its mark



LAWPRO's CLE Premium Credit program has closed the books on a second successful year during which the number of programs eligible for the credit and attendance at approved programs almost quadrupled from 2002.

Over the last 12 months, close to 7,500 lawyers attended 46 programs that were eligible for the credit, which entitles lawyers to a \$50 per program credit, to be applied to insurance premiums (to a maximum credit of \$100 per lawyer). In 2002, the first year of the program, 2,300 attended the 12 programs eligible for the credit.

LAWPRO has worked closely with the Law Society, the Ontario Bar Association, the County and District Law Presidents' Association (CDLPA), The Advocates' Society, the Carleton County Law Association and others to expand the roster of programs that qualify for the CLE credit.

Qualifying programs must include content that addresses areas of law where there are claims, reviews the types of claims that are happening, explains why those claims are happening, and most importantly, provides lawyers with information to help them reduce or eliminate the risks of a claim. Programs can be offered either

in lecture/seminar format, or can be video replays of qualifying programs, provided they are offered in a classroom setting with a knowledgeable moderator, and include a question-and-answer session. Lawyers who chair or speak at a qualifying program are eligible for the credit, provided they attended the entire session. CLE providers must submit program outlines to LAWPRO for review before being allowed to attach the CLE Premium Credit "seal of approval" to their literature.

As well as attending a CLE program, lawyers can obtain a premium credit by completing three modules of the Online Coaching Centre self-coaching tool accessible on the Web at www.practicepro.ca/occ/.

Privacy concerns and logistics preclude LAWPRO from being able to obtain attendance lists from CLE providers. To claim a credit lawyers must complete the online CLE Declaration Form at www.lawpro.ca/cledec. Credits for programs taken between September 16, 2002, and September 15, 2003, will be applied to the 2004 insurance premium, for all lawyers who filed Declarations by the September 15, 2003 deadline. Credits for programs taken between September 16,

2003, and September 15, 2004, will be applied to the 2005 insurance premium. Unclaimed credits cannot be carried forward from one year to the next. The September 15 deadline allows LAWPRO time to prepare invoices for the 2004 premium that will reflect the credit.

LAWPRO is already working with CLE providers to further increase the number of programs that qualify for the credit. Eligible programs carry the LAWPRO "seal of approval." An updated list of qualifying programs is posted on the LAWPRO Web site at www.lawpro.ca/clelist.

