

2003 insurance program: fitting the coverage pieces to meet your needs

Moving money in real time

TitlePLUS & virtual
conveyancing

Litigation: new processes,
new approaches

LAWPRO repairs

A piece of... Good news



Given the gloom that permeates the business news these days, it is heartening to be able to report some positive news for lawyers in this issue of LAWPRO magazine.

As is detailed on the following pages, our 2003 insurance program enhances the coverage we offer lawyers – while at the same time lowering the premium to levels not seen for almost a decade.

Base premiums for the coming year are reduced by \$200 to \$2,500 per lawyer; lawyers who take advantage of some basic options – such as the e-file discount, CLE premium credit and early lump sum payment discount – can reduce their 2003 premiums to \$2,200, while others who select options such as the part-time practice or restricted area of practice option could pay \$1,500 or less.

Our decision to expand the scope of coverage for the coming year speaks to our commitment to respond to your evolving needs – which in turn are driven by changes in the practice environment.

For example, you brought to our attention your concerns related to exposure for penalties that may be assessed against lawyers under the *Income Tax* and *Excise Tax Acts* and we responded with coverage to address that concern. To support the work of the Law Society in advancing access to justice, we enhanced the coverage available to lawyers who undertake certain *pro bono* work. Providing full insurance coverage for the estate of a lawyer for a grace period recognizes the practical realities of winding down a law practice on the death of a practising lawyer. As well, we will make additional changes in the insurance program

when the national mobility protocol is adopted by the Law Society – again reflecting our commitment to provide lawyers with an insurance program for the changing times.

And the good news does not end there. In this issue you'll find a story on how a new series of Web-based programs from TitlePLUS have been snapped up by lawyers eager to embrace the new world of electronic conveyancing. The Casebook feature examines how LAWPRO repairs matters, for the benefit of both the lawyer and the insurance program. And Boyd Balogh of Gowlings discusses how to turn the new *Rules of Professional Conduct*, which impose on you increased expectations to involve your client in litigation, into an asset for you and your practice.

Challenges surround us all these days. The 2003 program should not prove to be one of them.

Michelle L.M. Strom
President

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