
Sixth annual A+ rating for LawPRO

LAWPRO's underwriting and operating strength, its skilled management team and excellent capitalization have earned it a sixth consecutive A+ financial strength rating from A.M. Best Co., a leading rating agency.

A.M. Best commented favourably on LAWPRO's risk-based underwriting model, which it says provides greater control over matching risk factors to the cost of insurance. It also commented on LAWPRO's ability to manage risks on its insurance program, pointing out that a combination of stop-loss reinsurance and self-insurance arrangements have mitigated potential exposure resulting from LAWPRO's decision to forgo quota share reinsurance coverage for the insurance program since 2002. "Overall, A.M. Best believes that the company's disciplined management, strong results and excellent capital position will ensure its ability to assume the liability program without compromising its financial strength," A.M. Best said in its release.

Lawyers adopt online filings, reduce insurance premiums

Close to 90 per cent of lawyers eligible to file their insurance applications electronically opted to do so for the 2006 insurance year: Just under 18,000 of the 20,000 practising lawyers completed insurance applications online, via the LAWPRO website, making them eligible for a \$50 per lawyer e-file discount on the 2006 insurance premium.

As well, about 3,300 lawyers filed the required declaration to be eligible for a \$50 per program premium credit (to a maximum of \$100) for each CLE qualifying program they had completed by mid-September 2005. Programs eligible for the LAWPRO CLE credit must include a risk management component that must be pre-approved by LAWPRO.

TitlePLUS extends online application process to western Canada

Lawyers in Western Canada can now apply online, at titleplus.lawyer-donedeal.com, to secure TitlePLUS coverage for their purchase transactions.

Real estate practitioners in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia had been using the website to access TitlePLUS insurance for their mortgage-only/refinance transactions for the past year. For purchase transactions, lawyers in these provinces had been either completing a paper application (available for download from the TitlePLUS website) and/or accessing TitlePLUS title insurance directly by phone.

"We've had excellent response to TitlePLUS insurance from lawyers in all areas of Western Canada over the past year," said TitlePLUS Vice President Kathleen Waters. "Over the past year, we've been working hard to ensure that our online TitlePLUS application addresses the specific differences in approaches and practices in conveyancing in the different provinces, and are pleased to now offer this online facility to Western Canada lawyers. We expect that the ability

to apply online will attract even more lawyers, and will translate into a significant increase in TitlePLUS business from Western Canada."

Deadline reminders

Please note the following transaction levy filing and payment deadlines:

- Real estate and civil litigation transaction levy surcharge filings and payments for the quarter ending March 31, 2006, are due on April 30, 2006.
- Real estate and civil litigation transaction levy surcharge filings and payments for the quarter ending June 30, 2006, are due on July 31, 2006.
- Annual levy exemption forms to exempt yourself from having to file quarterly real estate and/or civil litigation forms are due April 30, 2006.

2006 Insurance premium payment deadlines:

- The first two quarterly instalments by pre-authorized bank account withdrawal or credit card are processed on January 15, 2006, and April 15, 2006.
- Monthly instalments by pre-authorized bank account withdrawal or credit card are processed on the 15th of each month.
- Lump Sum payment discount: Payments dated and received by March 1, 2006, are eligible for a \$150 per lawyer discount. Only payments made by cheque or pre-authorized bank account withdrawal are eligible for the lump sum payment discount.