

practicePRO program grows in effectiveness and reach

In 2014, the practicePRO initiative continued to broaden the reach of its risk management message by providing claims information and risk management content for dozens of speakers who participated in 65 CPD programs and law association and law firm events, to a

combined audience of over 8,600 lawyers and paralegals. A particular focus was cybercrime awareness, on which we provided live education sessions throughout the province.

“ In total, 270 CPD programs were approved for the LAWPRO Risk Management Credit for this policy year, with a combined attendance of 53,000. Those lawyers are able to receive a \$50 Premium Credit (to a maximum of \$100) for each CPD qualifying program they complete. ”

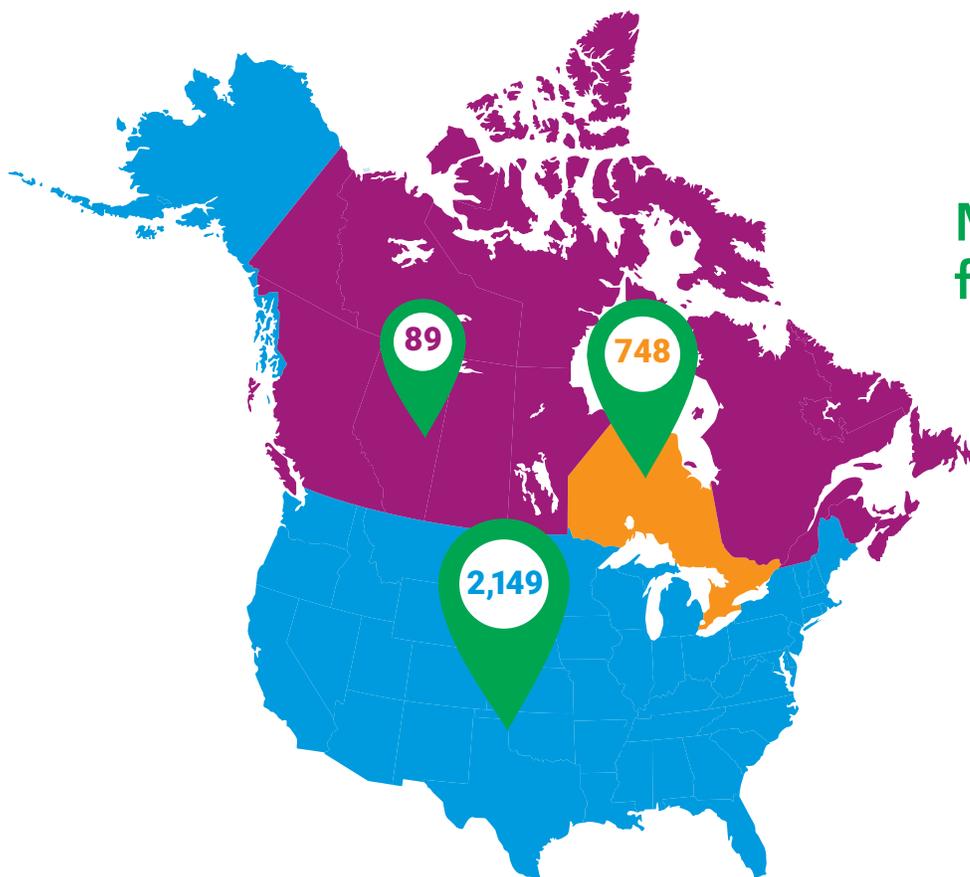
For practical help, look at the top 10 most downloaded resources from practicePRO.ca in 2014.



In total, 530,000 articles, checklists, and practice aids were downloaded from our practicepro.ca website. The increasing number of downloads each year reflects that practicePRO.ca is seen as a valued source of practice management tools by lawyers in Ontario and beyond.

The AvoidAClaim blog published 427 posts on risk and practice management content, fraud prevention and the latest news from LAWPRO. The blog continues to grow in both subscribers and daily visitors, with 240,500 visits (or an average of 659 a day).

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The practicePRO and TitlePLUS programs are provided by LAWPRO



Many reports from many places



Email fraud continues

The number of email frauds reported by lawyers, and resulting blog warnings on AvoidAClaim.com, continued at a high pace: 3,400 suspicious emails resulted in 282 fraud posts in 2014. The number of warning posts each year has nearly doubled since 2011. In an effort to dupe lawyers, fraudsters are continuing to change and update the names and scenarios they are using.

We continue to receive fraud reports from around the world. Receiving notice of fraud attempts from foreign jurisdictions lets us post warnings about active frauds for the benefit of Ontario lawyers.

See above for the geographic origin and total numbers of emails received at fraudinfo@lawpro.ca in 2014. ■

Helping lawyers adapt to new Rule 48.14

Effective January 1, 2015, a new Rule 48.14 brought significant changes to the administrative dismissal regime under the Ontario *Rules of Civil Procedure*. While the new rule will eventually stem the tide of administrative dismissal-related claims under the old rules, there is no doubt that the changed deadlines, processes and transition provisions under the new Rule 48.14 introduce new claims risks that may trap the unwary lawyer.

practicePRO has a number of initiatives to help raise awareness of the new Rule 48.14 and what lawyers can do to protect themselves from a malpractice claim under the new provisions:

- A *LawPRO Magazine* article, "Risk management strategies to reduce your risk of a claim under the new Rule 48.14 (administrative dismissals)"
- A presentation on Rule 48.14 changes for CPD programs across the province
- A Rule 48.14 Transition Toolkit that will be sent to lawyers practising litigation

Here are the critical dates to be aware of:

- New automatic "5 year from date of commencement dismissal" applies to actions commenced on or after January 1, 2012
- Actions commenced before January 1, 2012, will be automatically dismissed January 1, 2017
- Dismissals will occur without notice to parties or their counsel