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1. New Fraud Alert

Ontario lawyers have been the target of a new fraud scheme that will likely move west to target Manitoba lawyers. The scam, described in detail in a recent Law Society e-mail and on the [Law Society website](#), involves the proceeds of a small business/equipment loan which prove to be fraudulent only after the lawyer has written a trust cheque to the fraudster client. To avoid being stung, always wait for certified cheques to clear, hold funds until your bank confirms they are good, and verify phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail contacts for all cheque issuers. To learn more about the red flags of fraud and how to avoid becoming a target read [LAWPRO's fraud fact sheet](#) and [Fraud: How to avoid becoming its next victim](#).

2. Technology Trends 2009

Technology acquisition in a recession is a topic that has been examined from several angles in a number of recent publications.

Recognizing that technology "is going to be less of a priority than it might be in a normal year," Dennis Kennedy's predictions in his annual update [Legal Technology Trends for 2009: The Year of Hunkering Down](#) are both pessimistic and pragmatic. Although he doesn't expect to see a lot of innovation or investment in 2009, he points out that the opportunity is definitely there, especially with regard to collaboration tools and client-focused technologies.

Donalee Moulton argues that firms who want to attract top recruits must invest in new technology despite the downturn in [Technology still key way to lure recruits](#), from the May 8 edition of *Lawyers Weekly*.

For those considering updating their software or hardware, the following three articles will help sort out the options:

- The [Canadian Lawyer 2009 Legal Software & Technology Product Guide](#) is a comprehensive annual guide to the hundreds of specialist software packages aimed at the Canadian market, published April 2009
- [SmallLaw: Minimum Daily Technology Requirements Part 1: Hardware](#) and [SmallLaw: Minimum Daily Technology Requirements Part 2: Software](#), both by tech expert Ross Kodner, focus on small firm technology needs rather than wants

If, on the other hand, you've had enough of technology hype and your enthusiasm for "new and

better" technology is waning, support for your position can be found in these articles:

- [*What if our tech is good enough? - Incremental improvements just don't get us excited*](#)
 - [*Bloggers: Let's Band Together and Stop the Hype Cycle*](#)
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3. Does Your Office Have a Pandemic Plan?

Although the threat of a swine flu epidemic has subsided, employers should take the time to read and consider the issues outlined in the following articles, which discuss the ways in which workplaces may be affected by a pandemic and how to prepare for such an event.

- [*Pandemic Preparations for the Workplace*](#) by Donald W. Benson and Katherine S. Dix, published May 2009 by the Colorado Bar Association
 - [*Swine Flu - Some Employment Issues*](#) by Bernard Jacques, May 2009 Law Practice Today
 - [*An action against "Swine Flu" - Is it subject to Charter review?*](#) by Sona Dhawan, published May 13, 2009 on The Court
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4. Tips for New Lawyers

The April 2009 Young Lawyers edition of [*Law Practice Today*](#) contains several articles of interest to new lawyers. Subjects covered include: the mentoring equation, personal mission statements, marketing/client referrals, legal career guidance, and getting useful feedback.

The 29 minute podcast [*How to Take the Nightmare Out of Networking*](#) offers young lawyers useful tips on how to navigate the sometimes daunting world of networking. Produced by Young Lawyers - CBA, it discusses the importance of creating relationships and provides advice on how to start that process at a fictional wine and cheese function.

5. Free Online Conference Videos

Canadian Lawyer magazine posts [*free videos*](#) on its website from conferences and events of interest to Canadian lawyers. Recent posts include:

- [*Lawyers need to push for more technology in courtrooms*](#) - a video from the Legal IT 3.0 conference held in Montreal in April
 - [*Legal trends and best practices for 2009*](#) - an interview with Michael Rynowecer about key issues facing both inside and outside counsel
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