



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE PHOTO

MEETING DEMAND

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW PARALEGAL PROGRAM

Centennial College is launching a new paralegal program to help meet the growing demand for paralegal practitioners in Ontario. Centennial's one-year graduate certificate program is tailored to people who already possess a college diploma or university degree, and who are looking to join the burgeoning paralegal field.

"It's really quite a good fit with the law clerks program," says program co-

ordinator Patti Ann Sullivan. "A law clerk works for a law firm traditionally under the supervision of a lawyer. Paralegals, on the other hand, are different now; they carry their own liability insurance and they're not supervised by a lawyer. In conjunction with a law clerk, it's a perfect combo."

Whether you prefer working with lawyers, or diversifying and embracing your entrepreneurial spirit

with your own paralegal practice, Centennial prepares you to make that choice. Paralegals are an integral part of the Ontario legal system and are active throughout the legal process from the first client meeting until case resolution.

Once you have successfully completed the program, you will be ready to write the mandatory LSUC licensing examination that is required to

CAREER OUTLOOK

With strong employment prospects after graduation, paralegals will be prepared to work in the following fields: Law firms; community legal service; government; insurance firms; self-employment; collection agencies; and corporations.

Possible areas of private paralegal practice include: Highway Traffic Act offences; small claims court; tribunals; and provincial/minor criminal offences.

practise as a paralegal in Ontario.

"The idea is that we're preparing them to be able to write the licensing exam," explains Sullivan.

The Law Society of Upper Canada accredits Centennial's Paralegal program and the licence allows paralegals to provide permitted legal services to the public.

"People are really making informed choices when they choose this program, that this is the career that I want to make," Sullivan says.

In January 2010, the monetary jurisdiction of small claims court was raised to \$25,000.

"So there's a lot more work for paralegals because of that. They now are the only ones, other than a lawyer, that can go to small claims court," explains Sullivan.