

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coyote Software completes data extraction project for Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit

Burlington, ON – July 19, 2010: The Coyote Software Corporation has announced their completion of a custom data extraction tool that will help the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit to glean best practice insights from a national registry of child welfare cases. The specialized software tool extracts de-identified data from the case management systems of child welfare agencies across Canada, and feeds it into a national database designed to report on outcomes. A University of Toronto initiative, the Bell Research Unit intends to use this data to build best practice recommendations for child welfare placements, investigations and kinship care environments.

To design the data extraction tool that makes all of this information available to the Child Welfare researchers, Coyote Software collaborated with the team of Aron Shlonsky, Director of the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit. On the agency side, Coyote worked with three pilot agencies: Peel Children's Aid Society, Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, and Family Services of Leeds and Grenville.

"We worked closely with the University of Toronto researchers and the agencies' data analysts to define a common data extract format, and then we wrote the tool to do the extract," explained Coyote Software Engineer George Evink. "The software system that these agencies use contains years of historical data, and also includes 149 separate forms that they use to track child protection cases, children in care, adoption, group home and foster home locations. We designed our extraction tool to pull de-identified data not only from their rich historical database, but also from those many different forms.

"As a result, these agencies not only gained the ability to send more than 8 years of child welfare history and outcomes to the national registry, but they will also be able to use the data extraction tool to do their own statistical analyses in the future."

Coyote Software is the developer of the **CWIS eForms** system in use by approximately 30 child welfare agencies across the province of Ontario. Its experience as designers of the system used daily by over 4500 child welfare workers made Coyote the ideal partner for this initiative of the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit, whose goal is to evaluate effective child welfare services and recommend best practices for providing care and preventing child abuse and neglect.

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About Coyote:

Coyote Software Corporation is Ontario's premier developer of caseload management solutions for health and social services agencies. They are makers of **CASEWORKS** for managing caseloads, **FORMWORKS** for automating forms, **SCANWORKS** for scanning case records, and **SHAREWORKS** for storing and sharing non-case-related documents. Coyote also offers a broad range of consulting services to assist agencies in planning for effective utilization of technology and information management.

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