



## New CSIO Vendor Member Harder Software Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Centre for Study of Insurance Operations (CSIO) announces Harder Software Ltd. as a new CSIO Vendor Member.**

Toronto, Tuesday, July 23, 2002 – CSIO today announced that Harder Software Ltd. has become its newest vendor member. CSIO vendor members provide standards based products and services to CSIO company members and their broker partners. Canadian P&C brokers are members of CSIO through the Insurance Brokers Association of Canada (IBAC).

Harder Software provides applications and consulting services for the health care and health care insurance industries. The company is currently collaborating with insurance brokerage experts to embark on a development project to create an insurance brokerage and agency management software system.

Company president Ian Harder describes the design and development of its new management software as “an exciting opportunity to integrate our wealth of development skills with the latest open systems tools and technologies. We are employing Java, SOAP/XML web services, and SQL database standards in the development of our three-tiered application, and are committed to full compliance with all CSIO EDI, XML and screen standards.”

“CSIO is pleased to be able to expand its vendor member ranks through the addition of Harder Software” according to Klaas Westera, president of CSIO. “Their focus on brokerage management systems using existing and emerging new industry standards will help the industry maintain and further grow its competitive advantage over alternative channels. CSIO EDI standards are used by the majority of Canadian brokerages to exchange insurance transactions with their insurer partners. XML standards, which are used by the CSIO Insurance Portal are quickly being utilized within the industry to further expand insurance transaction exchange.

Harder Software was founded in 1990 to develop applications and provide consulting services for health care. In 1995, the BC provincial PharmaNet project was launched, and Harder Software became heavily involved in the distribution of application programming interfaces (APIs) for transmission of standardized data to provincial and third party healthcare insurers. Further growth saw the national distribution of communications software that adheres to provincial and private standards in all provinces. The company’s experience in database and communications standards, plus its ability to draw on the expertise of insurance industry personnel will be a tremendous asset for the development of its new software.

The Centre for Study of Insurance Operations (CSIO) is a national organization, supported and funded by committed broker insurance companies and the broker community through the Insurance Brokers Association of Canada (IBAC). Its mission is to assume a leadership role in facilitating the continuous improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of insurance and complementary products and services to the consumer. CSIO is responsible for the development and maintenance of Canadian industry standards in forms, EDI, XML and Web screens.

For information, visit [www.hardersoft.com](http://www.hardersoft.com), or contact Ian Harder at (604) 730-4827.

For information visit [www.csio.com](http://www.csio.com), [www.csioinsuranceportal.com](http://www.csioinsuranceportal.com), or contact Klaas Westera at (416) 360-1773 ext. 354. n 318.