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nienkämper

Nienkämper – Diversity Leader A Canada's 50 Best Managed Company 2010

Toronto, March 3, 2010 – Nienkämper Furniture & Accessories Inc. has been named among Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies for 2010 by Deloitte & Touche. The diversity of its workforce was one of the many factors that contributed to its selection.

This most recent honour tops a long list of awards for the internationally renowned furniture designer and manufacturer. For company founder Klaus Nienkämper the New Pioneer Award (2003) he received from Skills for Change, is among the most meaningful. Each year the non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for immigrants and refugees, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals who have come to call Canada home.

Speaking at the Skills for Change “Diversity @ Work Leadership Series” on February 25th before the announcement of this year's recipients, Mr. Nienkämper said: “We've always been a very diverse employer – we never set out to formally be that. It just evolved as we continually hired the best skilled people we could find. “

“As an immigrant myself, this country has given me so much – it just seemed right somehow to create opportunity for other newcomers.” Nienkämper said. “We have a flag wall to acknowledge the diverse cultures we represent.”

The Nienkämper workforce represents almost 30 different countries of origin including China, Croatia, Equador, Italy, Guyana, Haiti, India, Peru, Poland and many others. Not only is the company ethnically diverse, but it has a formal Employment Equity program as well.

With many long-service employees, Nienkämper stays at the forefront in employment practices. This is reflected in a remarkably low turnover rate. It provides employees with time off to mark unique cultural or religious observances including Chinese New Year, Yom Kippur, Ramadan and others. Investing in training, Nienkämper offers both apprenticeships and co-op placements. It has also formed partnerships with many local school boards, community colleges and national art institutions and provides numerous scholarships and internships.

Nienkämper is focused on creating a workplace and public environments where people can realize their full potential. The company occupies a sprawling 120,000 square foot facility in north Toronto that houses state-of-the-art furniture manufacturing equipment, much of it customized to meet Nienkämper's demanding design standards.

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