



## Mike John Duff

President and CEO

**Design Group Staffing Inc.**

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

**T**ime has all gone so quickly," muses Mike Duff, of the 30 years since he founded the largest privately owned employment services company in Canada. In that time, his company has grown from just himself, a clear vision, and some field workers to 19 branches across Canada, with annual revenues of \$220 million.

In spite of logging three decades with his passion, he's not ready to call it a day quite yet. "Some of my friends have sold their businesses, and I'm not sure if I could wake up in the morning thinking, 'What am I going to do today?'"

Looking at his accomplishments, one can understand how he feels. Duff has gone from, in his words, "nowhere" to being at the helm of the 775th largest company in Canada (by revenue, according to the *Financial Post*), which Duff feels is one of his greatest accomplishments. He feels he has achieved this by specializing in three segments of the staffing industry – engineering/technical, office/clerical and IT staff.

The key to keeping employees and field staff happy is treating them with respect. "The companies who aren't good at keeping staff don't treat their people as they would like to be treated. We try to be supportive and respecting, and they, in turn, act the same towards us."

So, for now at least, Duff will still hit

the office most mornings, doing much of what he has been doing for 30 years best: strategizing and planning with staff and customers, solving problems, and ensuring everything is running tickety-boo across the country.

And when he does hang up the tie,

he'd like to trade it in for a helmet and driving gloves, and maybe learn to drive race cars. Just in case he feels time isn't moving quite quickly enough.

– Susan Pederson

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**What will you be doing 10 years from now?**

"I'll be spending time with family and friends, staying fit and healthy, and staying interested."

