

Peanuts, Popcorn ... Resume?

ACSESS Recruiting and Staffing Professionals Celebrate at the Ballgame

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If that guy next to you at the Capitals game on Thursday asks what you do for a living, he might be taking more than a passive interest..

It might be a professional question – many of the best recruiting and staffing professionals in Edmonton converge at Telus field in celebration of National Staffing Week.

Started in Edmonton in 1980 as National Temporaries Week, Staffing for Canada Week has since grown into a national celebration of the professional recruiting, temporary staffing, and executive search business.

It's an industry often overlooked in industry stats, but a vital one to the Canadian economy – an industry worth \$9.2 Billion in Canada – and almost 20% of this business takes place in Alberta.

Rick Harcourt, Edmonton Chapter President of industry organization ACSESS (the Association of Canadian Search, Employment and Staffing Services), says that means big things for the people who work in the province:

“If you look at recent stats, our industry is a key employer in Alberta. We're responsible for over a billion dollars in salaries, wages and benefits paid to Albertans. Across the country, our industry employs over 400,000 people.”

“What's more,” he says, “We're a knowledge industry. We're selling brains – top performers who excel in their careers. It's hard to beat that as an example of the new economy.”

The industry can include everything from temporary agencies placing labour or temporary clerical staff, to executive search firms placing CEOs and VPs – and everything in between. Harcourt Recruiting Specialists, for example, plays exclusively in the mid-to senior level professional sphere. The Capitals game is just one way they've organized to bring together these kinds of disparate organizations and make a vibrant industry.

“When you look at it,” Harcourt says, “compared to many industries, we're in our infancy. The earliest version of firms like ours are maybe 50 years old – vs hundreds of years with other professions. We're one of the oldest firms in the city, and we've only been around 34 years. We still have a lot of building to do.”

For more information, please contact

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