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MILD HIRING CLIMATE EXPECTED FOR EDMONTON

(Edmonton, AB, March 10, 2009) – Edmonton area employers expect a mild hiring climate for the second quarter of 2009, according to the latest Manpower Employment Outlook Survey.

Survey data indicates that 13 per cent of employers plan to hire for the upcoming quarter (April to June), while 10 per cent anticipate cutbacks, stated Randy Upright, CEO for Manpower's Alberta Region. Another 74 per cent expect to maintain their current workforce and three per cent are unsure of their hiring intentions for the upcoming quarter.

"Edmonton's second quarter Net Employment Outlook of three per cent is a decrease from the same time last year when area employers reported a Net Employment Outlook of 18 per cent," said Upright. "It is also a decrease from the previous quarter when the outlook was 22 per cent indicating a conservative hiring climate for the second quarter of 2009."

"This quarter's national Net Employment Outlook indicates that the steady hiring climate experienced in the previous quarter has decreased," says Lori Rogers, VP of Operations for Manpower Canada. "Canadian employers are telling us that while they will continue to increase their payrolls they will do so at a more cautious pace than in the previous quarters."

Of the 10 surveyed industry sectors, employers in the Services sector report the most hopeful results for the April to June period of 2009 with a projected Net Employment Outlook of 11 per cent once seasonal variations are removed from the data. Employers in the Public Administration and Construction sectors expect a moderate quarter both with Net Employment Outlooks of 10 per cent.