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**October 26, 2009**

**Rockett Lumber & Building Supplies Limited:**

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### **Rockett Lumber Uses Outsourcing as a Recession Proofing Strategy**

In searching for creative ways to adjust their business model during the recent economic downturn, Rockett Lumber & Building Supplies has outsourced the management of its health and safety programs to The Clarkson Group, a Mississauga based consulting firm. It may seem odd to hire a consulting firm when times are tough, but the results have been really positive - reduced costs and improved performance across the business.

“Obviously we own the overall responsibility for health and safety in our business,” says Stephen Rockett, President of Rockett Lumber, “but it is such a complex area for us to stay on top of that we decided to look for experts who could support our health and safety programs more efficiently, and with a greater degree of skill than we could ourselves.” The result has been to reduce the overall cost of health and safety management across Rockett’s five locations while at the same time improving the focus on health and safety. “Typically, our in-house health and safety people have job responsibilities in addition to their health and safety management function. That can cause them to get pulled into other issues. Having an outsourcing partnership keeps a focused and fresh set of eyes on everything we do.”

Rockett Lumber’s vendor, The Clarkson Group, is one of a growing number of companies providing part-time expertise to companies looking for ways to reduce costs without losing the experience of seasoned employees. “Although many of the health and safety requirements in a business can be managed by a skilled and knowledgeable EHS coordinator, we recognized that businesses sometimes require the depth of experience only a senior manager can bring to the table when dealing with critical health and safety or organizational redesign issues,” says Heather Phillips, President of The Clarkson Group. “Our team fills both of those roles at a fraction of the cost of having two or more full-time resources.” Phillips adds that because her staff manages programs for an number of industries, they are more likely to stay on top of new legislation and new safety solutions. “Companies cannot afford to fall short in their health and safety programs. A single accident can be devastating to both the company and its employees. Our goal is to create workplaces where we would be happy to have our loved ones work.”

For more than 50 years, Rockett Lumber & Building Supplies has been a trusted supplier of lumber and manufactured wood products to the building industry in Ontario, Europe and the US. Their quality floor & roof trusses, wall panels, wood stairs, mouldings, interior doors, complete jobsite materials packages and materials plus labour packages make them the supplier of choice for

projects big and small.

For further information about Rockett Lumber, contact Aldo Bartolini, Executive Vice President at 905-275-1800 or Stephen Rockett at 905-275-1800.

The Clarkson Group has consulting practice groups that specialize in Health and Safety, Change Management, and Operational Excellence including LEAN.

For further information about The Clarkson Group, please contact Heather Phillips at 647-478-3465.