

MAY 2006 **PRESS RELEASE**

THE GLOBAL GROUP TRIBUTES 40 YEARS OF BUSINESS & COUNTING...

“It all started with a quality chair the average person can afford,”

Saul Feldberg, Founder & CEO of The Global Group

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 11, 2006 —The Global Group celebrates 40 years of business May 2006 – founded in 1966 by Saul Feldberg and Bill Kemeny, Global created a revolution in the office furniture industry with six employees and a goal to manufacture an executive office chair that the average person could afford. As a result the “Executive” was born; a chair which sold for \$68.00 which effectively established the budget in the seating market.

“Looking back, I’m left with a feeling of being shot out of a cannon into a different era. We were still using tacks and a magnetic hammer, one which I still hold today,” said Saul Feldberg

The Global Group is the sixth largest furniture maker in the world and is one of the largest Canadian companies in North America, comprised of Global Upholstery, offering “Total Office Solutions”, Global Contract, focused on Contract Design office systems and Globalcare, dedicated to “Quality of Life” products specific to the Healthcare and Long-term/Acute care industries.

At the heart of Global is the desire to bring to market innovation, technologically advanced and affordable products that meet the needs of its users. Forty years later, Global has manufactured thousands of products in a multitude of styles with the same high quality and value as the original “Executive” chair. Global’s products have been the product of choice, by some of the World’s most prominent people, from the Pope to political leaders, top executives and celebrities.

THE TOTAL OFFICE SOLUTION

Offering a diverse range of products including office, reception, and task seating; laminate and wood veneer desking systems; metal filing and storage products; panel systems; plus ergonomic furniture and accessories – the all encompassing “Total Office” solution carries through to custom healthcare, salon and spa furnishings.

VERTICAL INTEGRATION

Offering the most popular features in a fully integrated office system that is simple to configure and easy to maintain. Evolve can meet any office requirement from reception areas to professional offices to teaming clusters. Segmented panels in standard widths and heights along with lower height panels, stack on glazed and pass-through modules facilitate interaction and teaming. Electrical and data are located in the base raceway with work surface monuments that provide desktop access for data/communications and electrical.



MAY 2006 **PRESS RELEASE****THE GLOBAL GROUP TRIBUTES 40 YEARS OF BUSINESS & COUNTING... (cont.)****SMART ERGONOMIC PRACTICES**

Global employs a Canadian Certified Professional Ergonomist with extensive experience primarily in office environments who provides advice and guidance throughout the life cycle of office furniture products and aids in educational activities and proactive advice on ergonomics in the workplace.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS EFFORTS IN TODAY'S OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS

Global was environmentally conscious before it was fashionable (and legally required). The company developed a proprietary process to recycle its wood and plastic waste and incorporate it in the frames of new furniture, saving energy and money in the process. The EVOLVE desking system is a leader in reducing and recycling waste featuring fabrics that are made from 100 per cent recycled polyester meaning less waste is going to landfills while offering fictional, attractive and economical office designs.

“From the beginning we had a dream – when applying for the company name, we applied for two names: Global and Universal. Universal was taken, so Global it would be,” reflected Saul Feldberg. “That said, I never visualized Global would attain the size or success it has today.”

Comprised of more than 8,000 full-time employees worldwide, the Global Group has established a genuine employee fellowship with over fifty nationalities and languages, now seeing second-generation sons & daughters of long-standing Global employees join its ranks. The Global Group recognizes that without the contribution and dedication of its people, it could not have succeeded. Global employees all over the world continue to work together in a rewarding environment to achieve the objectives the company was founded upon.

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THE GLOBAL GROUP — REFLECTING ON THE PAST 40 YEARS

SAUL FELDBERG — The 70-year-old, Polish-born Feldberg is a Holocaust survivor who emigrated to Canada in 1953. He worked as an upholsterer before launching Global Upholstery in 1966. “Office furniture in those days was a big luxury that the average person could not afford,” Feldberg says. “An American company, Cole Steel, was selling an executive high-back chair in fabric for \$280. For the equivalent of 10 chairs, you could get a fully loaded Pontiac Parisienne. Today you’d need 200 chairs.

“We came out with a junior executive line, Express, that we sold to the dealer for \$35, who retailed it for \$50 as a special. Suddenly, all the real-estate and car dealers who were sitting on old kitchen chairs were furnishing their offices with our executive tilter chair.”

Over the years, he has launched Global Contract, Teknion (now publicly traded and independently operated) in the mid- and high-end office niches, as well as GlobalCare (healthcare and long-term care) and Global Salon (spa and cosmetics salon).

From the fifth-floor terrace of Global’s glittering headquarters in Downsview, designed by signature architect Ray Moriyama (the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, the National War Museum in Ottawa), Feldberg is master of all he surveys: seven-million square feet of offices, showrooms, manufacturing plants and warehouses in the low-rise, light-industry area west of Dufferin Street between Finch and Highway 407.

“We are able to compete with China because of our speed to market and diversity of product line. We can manufacture and ship within as few as three days,” Joel Feldberg says. (Global has showrooms in every major city in Canada, quick-ship warehouse distribution centres in Toronto and Vancouver, and 29 showrooms and 19 distribution centres in the U.S.)

This advantage makes Global one of the few North American manufacturers – perhaps the only manufacturer – to compete successfully against the Asian manufacturers in venues such as Staples and Office Depot in both Canada and the U.S.

“Your local office-supplies store can’t stock 10 pink chairs, four grey chairs and six blue chairs, because they may not sell,” Joel Feldberg says. “But through Global, the store can offer more than just a simple black leather chair. Our distributors can custom order almost anything to arrive in a matter of days.”



MAY 2006 **BACKGROUND****THE GLOBAL GROUP — REFLECTING ON THE PAST 40 YEARS** *(cont.)*

Global's quick turnaround time has won the company several memorable jobs. For example, during a visit to the United States in 1988, John Paul II suddenly decided to detour to Philadelphia, where a local dealer made arrangements to supply 1,000 chairs in white leather. Three days before the event, the dealer backed down. Global got an urgent call and filled the order within 48 hours.

The Friday after the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, one prominent investment banking firm put out a call for 1,500 chairs and 1,200 desks. The following Sunday night, they were loaded off the Global trailers in New York and the firm's new office was up and running on Monday morning.

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