

George Kallas**President and Founder, Metropolitan Fine Printers Inc. and Founder of CANstruction Vancouver.**

Born and raised in Pireaus, Greece, George and his family immigrated to Montreal, Quebec in 1961. Upon completing his education, he began building a successful career in aviation and telecommunications, moving west in 1970.

In 1977, George decided to pursue his interest in new technology and the visual arts: Metropolitan Fine Printers was born. Metropolitan quickly grew to become one of the leading high-end lithographers in North America.

Today, Metropolitan has earned an international reputation for its stellar craftsmanship. The company offers printing services ranging from complex nine-color art prints and annual reports to special finishes for unusual design ideas. With sales representatives in the Pacific Northwest, California, Hawaii and Vancouver, the family-run business now employs a team of 80 and is well positioned to serve a burgeoning North American clientele that includes top advertising agencies, corporations and specialty retailers. Annual sales exceed \$15 million.

Metropolitan is also an ardent believer in community involvement and corporate responsibility. The company was chosen as printer of choice and a proud Community Contributor for Vancouver's winning 2010 Olympic Bid. In addition, George is a director of the Hellenic Studies International Advisory Board and a member of the Hellenic Congress of BC, for which he helped raise \$500,000 to establish the first chair for Modern Hellenic Studies in North America at Simon Fraser University. His ongoing community endeavours and admirable corporate philosophy earned George a BC Ethics in Action Award, the first such award given to a printer. He also received the Award for Outstanding Achievement at the 2001 BC New Canadian Entrepreneur Awards and more recently was named one of the 10 most influential people in the graphic arts industry by *Print Action* magazine.

Most recently, Metropolitan embarked upon another innovative venture: the establishment of the Vancouver branch of *CANstruction*, an international charity event aimed at reducing hunger in communities. George was first captivated by the possibilities of *CANstruction* about five years ago when he viewed the New York exhibition of amazing structures constructed of canned foods. Founded by the Society of Design Administration in the United States, *CANstruction* brings together teams from the design and construction communities to create giant

structures out of canned foods. At the close of the public exhibition, the food is donated to local food banks.

In its first two years, the event raised more than 247,000 cans of food for donation to Greater Vancouver food banks.

When not working at Metropolitan or supporting an important community event, George relishes time with his family. His two children, Nikos and Penny, are already following in their father's footsteps. Nikos completed an economics degree from the University of Western Ontario and is now learning the ins and outs of the printing industry. Penny graduated from McGill University in Spring 2003 with a degree in economics, and has also joined the Met team.

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