

# More CNC Machinists needed at Aerospace company

by Heidi Riley

CNC Machinists are in great demand on PEI and across the country. “I recently made a recruiting trip to western Canada, and found that there are no CNC Programmers or Machinists available to hire,” says **Dianne Griffin**, HR Manager, **3 Points Aviation**.

“We currently have 63 employees. Our company cannot expand and grow on PEI without help to get more people interested in a career in this industry. We currently have openings for three CNC Programmers and five CNC Operator/Machinists.

“To address this problem, 3 Points is collaborating with Holland College and UPEI to attract more people to the trades. It will take five to 10 years to develop the skills we need.”

3 Points Aviation is a Transport Canada approved facility which manufactures, repairs, and overhauls aircraft components. The company’s departments include manufacturing, programming, HR, front office and administration, quality control, shipping, sales, repair & overhaul, and research & development.

Jobs at 3 Points include Aircraft Maintenance Engineers with an M2 certification, CNC Programmers, CNC Machinists, Manual Machinists, and Repair and Overhaul Technicians.

## Hiring needs

“The Charlottetown facility has expanded to a 24/7 schedule, so we are presently recruiting across the country for more skilled trades people,” says Dianne. “Over the next six to eight months, we plan to add another 10 to 15 employees.

“These careers are not gender specific. We need women to get interested in this field and willing to take the training. They can do the job just as well as their male counterparts with the proper training and mentorship.

“This career is a sustainable opportunity to keep people on PEI making a good salary with lots of room for advancement. CNC Programmers and Machinists are in great demand by this company and by many other manufacturing firms.

“There is still a need for Manual Machinists, but we employ one Manual Machinist for every 10 CNC Machinists. CNC is the skilled trade to be in.

“We are also looking for people with previous experience in the aerospace industry with a minimum of five years of experience in this industry or in a similar industry.”

## Training for Machinists

Holland College has an agreement with NBCC that allows graduates of their one-year Precision Machining course to enter the second year of the CNC Machining program at NBCC. “We would be happy to hire more people who take this educational path,” says Dianne. “3 Points offers an apprenticeship program for those graduates.”



**HR Manager Dianne Griffin, 3 Points Aviation.**

For more about the **Precision Machinist** program at **Holland College**, visit [www.hollandcollege.com/programs/precision-machinist](http://www.hollandcollege.com/programs/precision-machinist)

For more about the **CNC Machining** program at **New Brunswick Community College**, visit <http://nbcc.ca/programs-courses/program-details?baseCurriculumId=7d54776b-649c-42c4-ae46-fd56c12ba46e>

For more about **3 Points Aviation**, contact **Dianne Griffin** at [dgriffin@3pointsaviation.com](mailto:dgriffin@3pointsaviation.com)

Visit [www.3pointsaviation.com](http://www.3pointsaviation.com) For the full interview, visit [www.employmentjourney.com](http://www.employmentjourney.com) and search **Precision Machinist** or **3 Points Aviation**.



# New car dealerships offer a wide variety of jobs with good wages

by Stacy Dunn

**PEIADA** is the only Automobile Dealers Association in Canada which has 100 percent membership of all the new car dealerships in the province. This self-funded, non-profit organization represents the 21 new car dealerships on PEI.

“PEIADA is the dealerships’ collective voice for sharing the opinions and needs of the automotive industry,” says **Darren Noonan**.

“The association meets regularly with the Government of PEI to give input on pending legislation affecting the automotive industry, and it protects the interests of dealers and tries to protect the interests of the consumer when new fees are introduced.”

## Sector at a glance

**Lisa Doyle-MacBain**, Executive Director of PEIADA, says new automobile dealerships on PEI have 574 full-time and 22 part-time employees, and an annual payroll of approximately \$14 million.

“The automotive sector is a significant contributor to the PEI economy. In 2016, PEI was the second-highest per capita in new car sales in Canada. There were 8,768 new motor vehicles sold, valued at \$287.1 million. Both numbers are all-time highs.

“Sales have increased by 7.7 percent seven years in a row. During that same time period, car parts and accessory sales have increased by 13.4 percent for a total of \$65.1 million.”

## Difficult position to fill

Darren says it’s a challenge finding good quality staff for all positions at the dealerships. “There’s a misperception that car dealerships just sell and fix cars,” he says. “It’s a big business supported by receptionists, car detailers, accounting, and human resources.

“Auto Technicians are no longer covered in oil and grease all day, as perceived 20 years ago. They have to be able to read vehicle computers to determine what the problem is.

“Technicians need to be comfortable with computers and have a mechanical skillset to be able to work in the industry.”

## Promotion in high school

In 2015, PEIADA formed a working group to promote the industry in high schools. “Students and parents need to consider automotive careers as rewarding. High school counsellors are welcome to send in students to talk to us,” Darren says.

“There are people working in the industry who earn over \$100,000 and there are technicians earning over \$80,000. I don’t think students know about the income potential of these jobs.”

## Scholarships available

Darren says enrollment in Holland College’s Automotive Technology program is low. “We have met with college officials to see how that could change.

“PEIADA offers four annual \$1,000 awards for auto technician students and one annual \$1,000 award for business students.”

For more information, call **Lisa Doyle-MacBain** at 902-566-3639 or e-mail [peiada@bellaliant.net](mailto:peiada@bellaliant.net)

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**Darren Noonan, President, PEI Automobile Dealers Association.**  
*Submitted photo*