

The employment scene on PEI
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Millwork operation expands and is looking for more workers

by Heidi Riley



Mark Steele, Vice President, says the company is growing quickly and is looking to hire ten to 15 more workers.

Chandlers Cabinets and Millwork has been in operation in Charlottetown for 65 years. Recently, the company moved to a new and larger location at the West Royalty Business Park.

Chandlers designs, manufactures, and installs cabinetry, moldings, paneling, and more for commercial and industrial clients.

The retail division of the business, **Chandlers Home Centre**, sells countertops of all types, including post formed, granite, and solid surface manufactured in-house. Chandlers also retails kitchen cabinets, hardware, moldings, stains, sinks, faucets, door handles, kitchen doors, and custom-made wood products.

Recent developments

The federal and provincial governments recently announced they are supporting Chandlers with loans that will help buy real estate and new equipment that will improve productivity. “We installed a new spray line that finishes wood and has it ready to assemble in seven minutes, as opposed to six hours,” says **Mark Steele**, Vice President. “A new laminating line was also added to the shop. A new conveyor and lift jacks for machines means less physical labour and handling is needed.”

Staff and hiring needs

About 70 people work at Chandlers. They have recently hired **15** full-time and **12** part-time workers. They are interested in immediately hiring **10** to **15** more people to work in the following positions:

- installers
- CNC (computer numerical control) operators
- general cabinet assemblers
- finishers
- custom assembly.

“For CNC operators, previous training is necessary,” says Mark. “For the other positions, general carpentry skills and previous experience in cabinetmaking are an asset. We are willing to train people with no experience. Of our present staff, 70 percent had no previous carpentry experience when they were hired. They were trained in-house.”

Skills shortage

“We are willing to train our installers and manufacturers because within the past 10 years there has been such a shortage of people with carpentry skills,” says Mark, who has 25 years of experience in cabinetmaking. “In-house training works in our favour because we train people in the way we want our products to be built.”

Business is growing

Chandlers has contracted a project at the new International Airport in the Bahamas. The project will begin this summer and will take about six months to complete.

“For this project, we are responsible for anything made of wood, including paneling, ticket counters, and baggage claim centres,” says Mark. “We manufacture the products here in Charlottetown and then ship everything to the job site.

“We will send our own staff to the construction site in the Bahamas so that we can control the installation process and guarantee a quality finished product.

“We want to do a good job to ensure that we will be given the chance to work on the next phase of the project, which will offer twice the amount of work.”

To apply, e-mail a resumé to msteele@chandlermillwork.com or fax 370-3244. Visit www.chandlermillwork.com

www.employmentjourney.com

