



NEWS

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57
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For Immediate Release

PRINCE GEORGE SECONDARY SCHOOL RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION OF HAAS MINI MILL

Precision Machinery and Guide, a member of the BC Metal Manufacturing Advisory Group (BCMMAG), has generously donated a Haas Mini Mill to Prince George Secondary School (PGSS) for students to learn practical, hands-on skills in machine tooling, automation, and production. These skills can provide that vital 'leg up' when applying for jobs in metal manufacturing.

"Having computer skills and experience with hand tools definitely helps [in getting an apprenticeship], "says Josh Bergen, co-owner of Precision Machinery and Guide, "As does a good resume and cover letter." The \$15,000 donation includes a Haas Mini Mill and pre-engineered Fidget Spinner Kit, which provides everything the instructor needs for their first student project. "It's like an Etch-A-Sketch, "continues Bergen, "but more precise. This will give students and teachers an opportunity to learn rendering manufacturing techniques."

Comprised of local leaders in manufacturing, machine tool distribution and education, and, in partnership with the Construction Foundation of BC, BCMMAG is finding ways to draw attention to the CNC machining technology through initiatives at secondary schools. They want to increase interest in CNC Machining trades and reduce the increasing manufacturing skills gap in what is BC's fourth largest sector as a percentage of GDP.

"We are so thankful for this generous donation," says Doug Borden, School District No. 57's Career Technical Centre Coordinator, "not only for the donation, but for offering the training on how to use it. Precision Machinery and Guide is helping School District No. 57 navigate the manufacturing industry."

"There are companies out there who want to do something and just don't know how, "says Josh Bergen, "This is our 'how.'"

Background:

The BCMMAG is comprised of local leaders in manufacturing, machine tool distribution and education, who in partnership with the Construction Foundation of BC, are finding ways to increase the interest in the CNC machining technology through initiatives at secondary schools. The goals being, to increase interest in CNC Machining trades and reduce the increasing manufacturing skills gap in what is BC's 4th largest sector as a percentage of GDP.

The Construction Foundation of BC is a registered Canadian charity that was established in 2012. Since their inception, their fundraising campaigns have raised millions of dollars to outfit British Columbia's shop classes with new equipment, provide driver training to youth in and from care, connect educators with professional development opportunities, award worthy young

people with bursaries to continue their trades education, and provide much needed support to educational programs.

The following photos are located [here](#).

Photo 1: Doug Borden (Career Technical Centre Coordinator) and Kap Manhas (Assistant Superintendent)

Photo 2: Close up sample of what the Haas Mini Mill can do

Photo 3: Stefan Freudentheil from Precision Machinery and Guide with their Haas Mill donation

Photo 4: Doug Borden and Matt Murray (teacher) watching demonstration

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