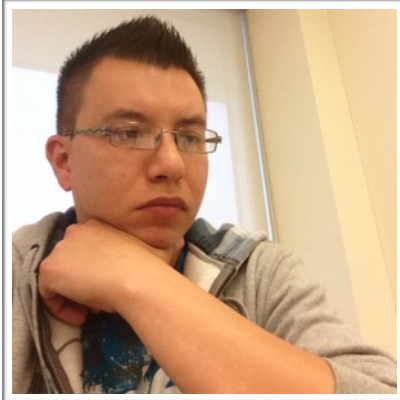


---

## Matthias Makurath - Kinonjeoshtegon (Jackhead) First Nation



When life gets you down, get “charged up” with a career in the electrical trade. That’s what Matthias Makurath did.

After a few of his friends got into the electrical trade at Red River, Matthias decided he would take the same plunge. “I had to go on a 3-year waiting list and that took some patience to wait for my application to be accepted,” he said. “It was sure challenging to wait that time out but I was pretty determined to get in there. It also helped that my mother encouraged me to go after this kind of trades training.”

Matthias finally did get his acceptance from Red River and he also secured employment and training funding from his community of Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation. He took the Pre-employment Electric course that focused on the fundamentals of the electrical trade such as wiring and the theory behind electricity. To his delight, he aced his course material and achieved almost 100% with his marks. “I did 1800 hours of on-the-job training following my first 5 months of schooling,” he recalls. “Then it was back for another 2 and a half months at school. This process was repeated three times so there was a lot of learning on the job and getting really established in my theory for the 4-year process of apprenticeship.

It was a gruelling 4 years learning and apprenticing but Matthias stuck with it and obtained his Electrical Diploma. Following graduation in the spring of 2016, Matthias landed a job with Power Up Electric and has been there ever since.

He credits his family and the Employment & Training office in Jackhead for supporting him through his schooling and apprenticeship. “I wasn’t that prepared financially and getting back into school at first,” he said. “But it was a good thing for me being single with no kids to pursue this career.”

Asked what he would advise youth today, Matthias was quick to respond: “I would say to youth that they should go after their dreams. Learn what you love to learn. Maybe consider the electrical trade as soon as you come out of high school if you’re good at math and don’t want to go to university.”

Matthias has applied to Keyask at the Hydro Electric dam in northern Manitoba in hopes of landing a higher paying job and the opportunity to work in the north. “I want to work my butt off while I’m young and start a good savings account,” he ponders. “Because someday I want to establish my own electrical business in my hometown area of Jackhead, Peguis, and Fisher River.

Matthias is well on his way to achieving another one of his dreams!