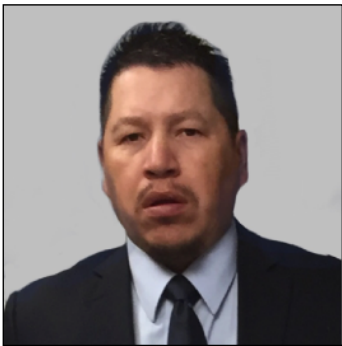

Terance Lacquette

O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation



Growing up in rural Manitoba and working hard all of his life was nothing new for Terance Lacquette. He was raised to be a working man and to build upon his carpentry skills at an early age in his community. But moving his family into the city of Dauphin, Manitoba over 5 years ago to start a new life? That was definitely something new and a big shift for this aspiring carpenter.

“I got sponsored by my home community of O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation to take the carpentry program at Assiniboine Community College,” he recalls. “It was one of the hardest things I decided to do going back to school after being away from it for 20 years. Going back into that classroom sure was a challenge.” But Terance was up for that challenge and obtained his diploma in the Carpentry Woodworking Program at the Assiniboine Community College Parkland Campus. He didn’t just complete the course program, he *excelled* in it and came through with a 96% average to attain the Co-op Midterm Award for Outstanding Performance based on practical and theory excellence. After completion of the program, Terance will be going even further to challenge his Red Seal certification because of his in-depth knowledge of the trade and his theoretical and applied knowledge of intricate carpentry skills. Other awards he received included the Dauphin Consumers Co-op Academic Excellence Award, Dauphin Consumers Co-op Cottage Project Award, and West Region Tribal Council Award. In the classroom, Terance took a leadership role with his peers offering help and advice with his many years of experience in the field.

Indeed, getting his “papers” was like a free ticket to greater opportunity and Terance didn’t waste any time after graduating at the very top of his class in 2013 before he started his own business, Lacquette Construction. “I immediately became my own boss and hired a couple of guys from back home to give them jobs to support their own families,” he said. “It’s important to give back and to help others”.

To top off his growing list of achievements, Terance is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, which honours alumni of the college in the Parkland Region who have distinguished themselves in both their chosen profession and the community. It recognizes the outstanding personal and professional achievements of the college’s finest graduates. What a fine testament to his commitment to quality work and service in the community.

“I’m certainly proud to be receiving this recognition for the hard work I’ve done,” he concludes. “But one of my finest achievements is being able to set my own schedule now so that I can coach Triple A Bantam hockey for Parkland. With over 20 years of experience in hockey development I’m also a scout for the OCN Blizzard.” The quality work that Terance’s construction firm is becoming known for is generating even more business as word gets out in the Dauphin area. Terance hopes to soon take his business back home to help other First Nations build quality homes for their communities. His advice to up-and-coming First Nation youth pursuing their dreams: “Don’t be afraid to make mistakes and don’t shy away from challenges. Mistakes are stepping stones to greater opportunities and to moving on up. What doesn’t break you will make you better.” Great words from his experience, no doubt.